



DCUC

ALERT

ISSUE 10

DCUC.ORG

NOVEMBER 2023

CEO UPDATE

Getting Results

Value + Service+
Accountability = Results

CAPITAL CORNER

What is Washington's "New Normal?"

DCUC NEWS

Diversity Insight

*Provided by Credit Union
Executives Society (CUES)*

SPONSOR FORUM

Understanding the Basics of SERPs

*Provided by
Parc Street Partners*





ALBERT

DCUC is the trusted resource for credit unions on all military and veteran matters.

DCUC Latest Accomplishments

- Conducted a very productive **DCUC Board planning session** to map DCUC's future in the industry's newly merged environment
- Featured on CU Insight podcast highlighting DCUC changes for the next decade and in light of the CUNA/NAFCU merger
- Met with Senate Banking Committee Members and Professional Staff on DCUC priorities and issues
- **DCUC's Newest Publication, "Veterans Guide,"** reviewed by the Veteran Benefits Administration, is **now available for free download!**

DCUC Happening Now

- Championing efforts on the **Veteran Member Business Loan exemption**
- Working hard to **preserve small credit unions serving on military bases**
- **The Official 2023 White House Ornament** has been released! **Get yours today** in support of DCUC's GEM Scholarship!
- **GEM Scholarships** are now open. **Apply today!**

DCUC Upcoming Activities

- The launch of **DCUC's new membership platform** is just around the corner!
 - This upgraded system will elevate the members' experience and streamline internal operations.
- Save the Date! **DCUC's 2024 Annual Conference: August 13-16** at the Vinoy Resort & Golf Club in Saint Petersburg, Florida!
- **DCUC's Defense Matters:** Save the date; March 3, 2024: Reserve your rooms now—hotels are booking out quickly!



We are always invested in helping you connect with your military and veteran members. This remains an important part of DCUC's overall mission because of service members, veterans and their families' unique financial needs and the level and tradition of service credit unions bring to these important communities. So, whether it is improving or expanding our programs, campaigns, and communication tools — we always want to ensure you have access to these resources."

— Anthony Hernandez, DCUC President/CEO

SERVING THOSE WHO SERVE OUR COUNTRY

DEFENSE CREDIT UNION COUNCIL, INC.

Championing the interests of credit unions serving our military and veteran communities

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CEO UPDATE

Getting Results

As annual dues notices arrive from several industry organizations, it is important to remember a simple formula we use in earning your support:

Value + Service + Accountability = Results

November is always an important month for DCUC. This time of year, we always measure our performance when reviewing our dues letters and notices for the next calendar year. We take this process very seriously and never take your support for granted.

On one hand, it is a celebration of sorts, as we share and highlight our accomplishments over the last year. A large part of why we have dues is because of the value, representation, and success our association can bring to our members. Thus, it is always good to communicate what we were able to accomplish with the dues collected from the past year. This is also where we demonstrate accountability for each of our member credit unions.

On the other hand, we know we are asking each of you to continue paying your dues so we can continue to serve as your TRUSTED RESOURCE on all military and veteran matters. We work hard all year to bring you the best value for your dues dollars within the industry.

Delivering value and service for DCUC members always starts with a plan. Our plan is not just about doing things, it focuses on guaranteeing results! This includes stronger advocacy in terms of shaping public debate, getting legislation passed, or making common sense changes in regulations—securing favorable and impactful results will always be our primary concern.

However, part of guaranteeing results to our members involves serving you and your credit union. We are always invested in helping you connect with your military and veteran members. This remains an important part of DCUC's overall mission because of service members, veterans and their families' unique financial needs and the level and tradition of service credit unions bring to these important communities. So, whether it is improving or expanding our programs, campaigns, and communication tools—we always want to ensure you have access to these resources.

Our conferences and events are also an incredibly important part of what DCUC offers to its members. These educational and networking events allow you to not only receive industry updates and news, but also leave each DCUC event feeling better connected to our mission and the greater defense community. If you haven't been to a DCUC event or accessed our resources, you are truly missing out. We continue to improve our events based on your feedback and the results are unmistakable.

As you're aware, there are always competing requests for your financial support each year. Plus, the credit union industry is changing in terms of mergers, new leadership, and the market for financial services. We get it. Annual dues, while always a consideration, are incredibly important, especially considering all these changes.

All I can say is this year was like no other. DCUC certainly proved what it means to be a member of DCUC across every line of effort in our strategic plan. We believe there is no better value in the industry. As always, DCUC thanks you for your continued support and we look forward to securing more successes for our members in 2024. ■



*Anthony Hernandez,
President and CEO, DCUC*



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*– Anthony Hernandez,
DCUC President/CEO*

**REGISTRATION
NOW OPEN!**

**DEFENSE
MATTERS**



DCUC
DEFENSE CREDIT UNION COUNCIL

MARCH 3, 2024

WASHINGTON, D.C.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

ARI FLEISCHER

Former White House Press Secretary,
Political Commentator, and President of
Ari Fleischer Communications





What is Washington's "New Normal?"

Based on the events of recent months, with international crises and congressional upheavals dominating the news, it would seem that the "abnormal" is now normal. What does it say about the federal government when a Member of Congress pulls a fire alarm to prevent a vote in the House of Representatives?

Provided by John McKechnie

Despite all this, work is still being done. DCUC is following these issues of importance to our defense credit union members:

It's budget season at NCUA.

Sources inside NCUA say the budget that will be proposed by Chairman Harper at the November's Board meeting will include a 9.5% total increase. Last year was in the 7% range. It sounds like much of the cost will be related to new hires, as well as a new consumer compliance focused exam program aimed at credit unions in the \$3-\$10 billion range (details forthcoming).

NCUA will hold its mandated public Budget Briefing in November and approve the 2024 budget at the December Board Meeting.

Speaking of regulatory budgets, CFPB's director of enforcement told a DC attorney's conference in October that they are going to hire 50-75 new employees.

The plan is to do this beginning now, through early next year. The new staff will primarily be attorneys, (litigation specialists according to a person who attended the speech). There is also talk about tech staff specializing in e-commerce and Artificial Intelligence.

The CFPB rep also said they are going to step up their work with state and local consumer protection offices, many of which have direct oversight power over state-chartered credit unions. CFPB appears to be in an aggressive expansion mode, perhaps in anticipation of a Supreme Court ruling in 2024 regarding the Bureau's funding mechanism and structure.

And speaking of Artificial Intelligence (AI), the Biden administration took its first major step in efforts to regulate AI by an Executive Order in October, directing federal agencies to determine best practices and standards to minimize the problems associated with this new, expansive technology. The EO is fairly limited in terms of the inclusion of provisions that create new requirements or expectations for

NCUA and other federal financial regulators. However, for mortgage lending credit unions, the EO directs CFPB to review algorithms governing credit scores and other lending-decision tools.

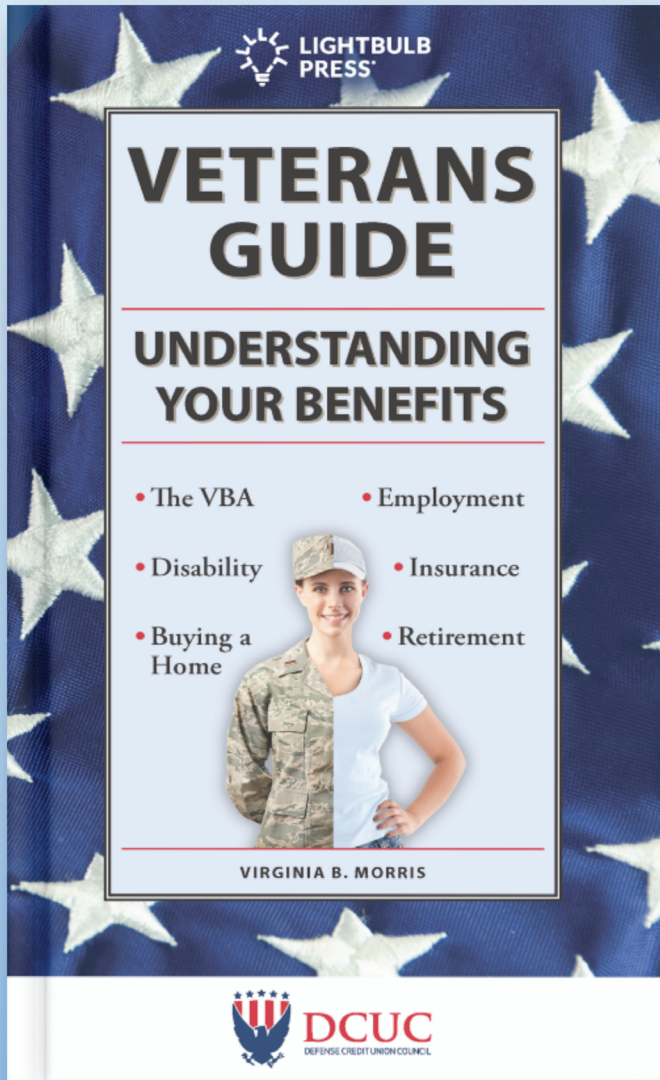
Capitol Hill continues to be another focus of DCUC attention. NCUA board candidate Tonya Otsuka had her nomination heard in the Senate Banking Committee October 19, a session that gave her a forum to express her interest in preserving the role for small credit unions. Otsuka, a former senior staffer for Banking Committee Chairman Sherrod Brown (D-OH), is expected to receive a favorable vote from the Committee sometime before Thanksgiving, and then will move to the Senate Floor for a final confirmation vote. Since a bi-partisan slate of five nominees is under consideration for other agencies, there is expected to be a deal to approve all of them in the next two months.

NCUA Board Member Rodney Hood will continue to serve until Otsuka is confirmed and sworn into office. ■

VETERANS GUIDE

UNDERSTANDING YOUR BENEFITS

REVIEWED BY THE VETERANS BENEFITS ADMINISTRATION



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AVAILABLE**

An excellent digital educational resource that explains Veterans' choices and strategies for making solid financial decisions.

[DCUC.ORG/VETERANSGUIDE](https://dcuc.org/veteransguide)

Diversity Insight: Someone With Military Experience Lives in Your Zip Code

The Defense Credit Union Council is here to help your credit union better serve veterans, military members, and their families.

Published by Credit Union Executives Society (CUES)

The Defense Credit Union Council (DCUC) is a long-time sponsor of the Military Child Education Coalition. A recent MCEC study found that at least one military-connected child lives in every zip code nationwide. This means it's very likely that at least one veteran lives in your field of membership—which means every credit union has a veteran in its field of membership. Thus, credit unions have an incredible reach in the veteran community, and DCUC is there to help credit unions connect with and serve veterans, military members and their families.

DCUC is working hard to help more of America's credit unions serve veterans in their communities through initiatives like our new *Veterans Financial Guide*. This free downloadable guide helps veterans understand the wide array of benefits available to them. Credit unions can co-brand the guide to share with their local VFWs and American Legions. We have other publications to help you, too. Our Guide to the Military's Blended Retirement System is available in both English and Spanish.

DCUC also helps credit unions participate in the Veterans Benefits Banking Program. This program from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs is designed to bring financial services to unbanked vets. Any credit union can join VBBP if they offer a free checking account and financial wellness training—two services already core to credit unions.

In April, we became a sponsor of the Veterans Saves program. Coordinated by the non-profit Consumer Federation of America, this financial literacy campaign timed to Military Saves Week in April provides tools to empower veterans financially.

DCUC also helps credit unions understand military life and speak the language of military members and their families. This includes training on the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act, which protects active-duty military from certain legal and financial obligations. It's important to appreciate the unique pressures of military spouses, who make many household financial decisions on their own when service members must give their full attention to being mission-ready.

Helping Vets Helps the Underserved in Your Community

Veterans remain an underserved population, which is why America's credit unions can have a positive impact on your communities through serving active and retired servicemembers.

For instance, CUNA's analysis of 2021 Home Mortgage Disclosure Act data applicants for first mortgage originations at military credit unions reflected an average income of \$130,189—well below the \$169,164 average at U.S. commercial banks (more details on this statistic here). That analysis also showed that military credit union first mortgage loan amounts averaged \$282,486—well below the \$327,840 average at U.S. commercial banks; 10.8% of military credit union first mortgage loan originations were made to African Americans—over double the 4.8% share of total originations at commercial banks; and 10.2% of military credit union first mortgage loan originations were to Hispanic Americans—nearly double the 6.6% share of total originations at commercial banks.

DCUC-member CUs are experienced in offering such specialized services as guaranteed pay during government shutdowns; making paying bills back home easier during deployments; assisting veterans who struggle with post-traumatic distress and/or life-altering injuries; and protecting them from scams and fraud.

Finally, many servicemembers struggle with financial challenges from transitioning to civilian life. And according to the Military Family Advisory Network, one in six military and veteran families experienced food insecurity in 2022. That means nearly 250,000 active-duty servicemembers and two million veterans nationwide worry about where their next meal comes from. That is unacceptable. If you want to make a difference, please consider donating to local food banks or the Armed Services YMCA, which has an excellent program for helping military and civilian parents struggling to feed their families.

DEI, Advocacy and Membership

With its experience promoting diversity, equity and inclusion, the military provides lessons for credit unions on how to expand their DEI efforts. Though the military is not perfect, the military did teach me to “mentor outside your race and seek mentors outside your race.” I'm proud to have played a role in the development of the African-American Credit Union Coalition's Cross Cultural Exchange Program, which fosters understanding among people with different lived experiences by pairing credit union professionals across such traditional divides as race, gender, age and geography.

Besides directly serving the military community, DCUC increasingly advocates for credit unions on a variety of issues. With extensive military experience and working with the Department of Defense, DCUC is the industry's trusted source and provides credibility on topics affecting military members, such as potential harms from using cheap, unsecured interchange networks, to discrimination against military members in financed purchases.

Our roots are with credit unions serving on military installations. However, DCUC invites all credit unions to join us in serving those who serve our country. Every credit union in America can do that. Plus, our affordable dues—currently capped at \$1,000

annually—grant access to all DCUC resources. Consider the optics in your community when your credit union is better engaging military members, veterans or their families. We look forward to helping you connect with and serve the military community.

Anthony Hernandez joined Defense Credit Union Council as its chief operating officer in August 2016 and was selected as its president/CEO in April 2017. DCUC represents more than 35 million credit union members who serve the U.S. Armed Forces and our nation's veterans worldwide. Hernandez holds an executive education certification from Wharton and has more than 25 years of military and financial experience.



APPLY TODAY!

THE *George E. Meyer* SCHOLARSHIP

 **DCUC**
DEFENSE CREDIT UNION COUNCIL

WWW.DCUC.ORG/GEM



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DEFENSE CREDIT UNION COUNCIL

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All proceeds benefit
THE *George E. Meyer* SCHOLARSHIP Fund

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\$25

Christmas
THE OFFICIAL 2023 WHITE HOUSE
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SPONSOR FORUM

Understanding the Basics of SERPs

Provided by Parc Street Partners

Do you need to retain a critical executive? Is it time to reward your best leaders? Are you looking for the executives that will take you to the next level? Are you approaching a leadership transition? Almost all credit union boards are faced with one of these questions, and if that describes your credit union, a Supplemental Executive Retirement Plan (SERP) might be the answer.

SERPs enable credit union boards to manage transitions from one successful leadership team to the next. In addition to succession planning, by implementing a customized SERP, the credit union board can reward and retain executives they do not want to lose, thus providing more stability and focus. Because they are non-qualified plans which are flexible in the amount that may be provided, SERPs allow organizations to attract and retain the best executives.

Credit unions are not like other businesses. They need solutions tailored to the industry. It's important that your provider understands credit unions and their boards at the strategic

level and can create unique and conservative plans that fit the specialized needs.

Both types of SERPs that credit unions can put in place, either a 457(f) plan or split/switch dollar plan have nuances. When you perform your due diligence, you will be able to sleep well at night knowing the plans you have approved are going to meet the retirement goals set forth for the executive, as well as offer safety and soundness (and repayment of the loan if a split dollar plan is put in place).

Supplemental Executive Retirement Plans (SERPs) are beneficial for executives and board members but that doesn't mean they aren't complex. It's of utmost importance that all parties involved fully understand the plans that are created. Whether you're a board member or an executive, the following is a list of basic items to cover during your RFP process.

- Differences between a 457(f) and split dollar & reasons when you offer one or the other (or both)



PARC Street Partners specializes in Supplemental Executive Retirement Plans (SERPs) for the key executives of credit unions. Our decades of experience and ingenuity enables you to offer a variety of executive benefit plans that can:

- Retain the Best Talent
- Reward Exceptional Service
- Retain Your Key Executives

Executive Benefit Consultants

We believe that a relationship-driven approach ensures we fully understand your needs and are able to provide the best advice for your unique situation. Our goal is to first educate credit union executives and boards. We share with you the tools and information needed to make informed strategic decisions that are in the best interest of your organization today and for years to come.



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- Impacts of a SERP to the credit union and executive from both an income and tax perspective (yes, some credit unions are subject to paying excise taxes)
- NCUA examiner guidance and tax law changes
- Risks to the credit union and executives based on type of SERP and design
- Mitigation strategies
- Underperformance options
- Early payouts & vesting options
- Key decisions and best practices
- The vendor's experience in the credit union industry (and references)
- Communication between the board and the CEO and/or other executives

While all of this can seem overwhelming, PARC Street Partners is here to help you. We invite you to attend one of our weekly educational webinars. Just as it's important to obtain a second opinion for your physical health, it's equally important to obtain a second opinion on your financial health. As a trusted resource in the industry, we are happy to review your existing plan and provide that second opinion at no cost or obligation.

Any discussion of taxes is for general information purposes only, does not purport to be complete or cover every situation, and should not be construed as legal, tax or accounting advice. Clients should confer with their qualified legal, tax and accounting advisors as appropriate. CRN202611-5318123

CREDIT UNION PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

CHESAPEAKE, VA—ABNB FCU announces: **Joseph D. Pennington**, CPA, as its new SVP and CFO. Joseph will oversee the Finance, Accounting, Enterprise Risk Management and Operations departments. **Elizabeth Bailey** has been promoted to Fraud Manager. Elizabeth has been with ABNB since 2009 as an MSR/Teller, a Fraud Processor, and Fraud Supervisor. She is a Certified Fraud Examiner and is a certified NAFCU Bank Secrecy Officer. **Tommy Callan** has been promoted to Loan Center Manager. Tommy will oversee the Digital Loan team, Underwriting, Dealer Processing, and Central Files departments. **Matthew Harris** was promoted to Card Services Manager. Matthew brings lending experience as an Underwriter for ABNB and will oversee all Card Services operations and projects. **Robert "Alex" Pickrell** has been hired as the Consumer Loan Underwriter. Alex has financial institution experience in both branch services and in back-office roles. **Elaine Bell** has been hired as the Residential Mortgage Underwriter. Elaine has 20 years' experience in various mortgage roles including Sales and Operations. **Andrew Hunter** has been promoted to Operations Manager. Andrew will oversee the Operations Department to ensure the successful processing of ACH, Check, Wire, IRA, ATM Management, and Deposit Account Maintenance. **Lauren Falvey** has been promoted to Deposit Operations Supervisor. Lauren has over 16 years of member service experience at ABNB overseeing critical processes including IRAs, Deceased Accounts, Certificates, Premium Overdraft, Dormancy, and ATM Management.

ROME, NY—**Heather Wood** has been announced as the AVP of Strategic Partnerships for AmeriCU CU, building and maintaining partnerships that align with the credit union's strategic goals. **David Brown** is joining AmeriCU Investment Services as a Virtual Financial Advisor. He will be responsible for serving credit union members for their retirement and financial needs.

CREDIT UNIONS IN THE NEWS

Blue FCU and Aventa CU Announce Intent to Merge

Provided by Blue FCU

In a collaborative effort to enhance member financial well-being and community investment, **Blue FCU** and **Aventa CU** are thrilled to announce their joint decision to merge. The credit unions, when merged, will do business as Blue FCU, with combined assets of more than \$2.1 billion and over 153,000 members. This partnership, rooted in shared values and a commitment to member service, is set to be finalized in early 2024, pending approval from the NCUA and Aventa's membership.



For the latest credit union news, visit www.d cuc.org.

AWARDS & RECOGNITION

South Carolina Federal Wins Three “Best Place to Work” Awards

Provided by South Carolina FCU

South Carolina FCU recently won three awards from local and industry news media for being a Best Place to Work. The credit union’s achievements include:

- *SC Biz News*—Best Places to Work in South Carolina; ranked #9 in the medium employee category
- *American Banker*—Best Credit Unions to Work For; ranked #2 overall and #1 in South Carolina
- *Moultrie News* Readers’ Choice—Best Place to Work

“Being recognized as a ‘Best Place to Work’ and a ‘Best Credit Union to Work For’ reflects our dedication to creating an environment in which every employee can learn, contribute, and thrive,” said Leslie Norris, Chief Human Resources Officer at South Carolina FCU. “We believe in a holistic approach to employee well-being, knowing that when our team members are supported and fulfilled, they, in turn, provide exceptional care and service to our members.”

South Carolina Federal offers employees a range of benefits, including free health insurance options, paid holidays, tuition assistance, and 401(k) employer match.

ABNB Honored with Brook Briggs Community Impact Award from Samaritan House

Provided by ABNB FCU

ABNB FCU was proud to be honored by Samaritan House with the ‘Brook Briggs Community Impact Award’ at their 9th annual Women Against Violence (WAV) Luncheon on Friday, October 6 at the Westin, Virginia Beach Town Center. ABNB FCU and the ABNB Community Foundation are the 2023 co-recipients of this award for corporate philanthropy.

“ABNB Federal Credit Union has a long history of charitable giving and community involvement since the credit union’s founding in 1960. The credit union provides significant monetary and volunteer support to non-profit organizations in the communities we serve,” stated Charles A. Mallon, president/CEO of ABNB. “In addition, the ABNB Community Foundation’s mission is to measurably improve the lives of families and children in the communities that we serve with a vision to come alongside non-profit organizations who deliver vital community services. We are proud to be recognized by Samaritan House for the impact both organizations have had on at-risk residents in our region over the years,” concluded Mallon.

The ABNB Community Foundation has provided recent grant awards totaling over \$120,000 to local non-profit 501(c)(3) organizations.

AmeriCU CU Teammate Receives Volunteer of the Year Award

Provided by AmeriCU CU

On October 17, AmeriCU CU teammate **Tiffany Abele, AVP of Talent Solutions** received the Mohawk Valley Society for Human Resource Management (MVSHRM) Volunteer of the Year Award. This award celebrates Abele’s exceptional dedication, commitment, and remarkable contributions to MVSHRM and the Mohawk Valley.

MVSHRM is a local chapter of the Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM), an association that is dedicated to advancing the practice of human resource management and fostering HR professionals’ growth and development. This organization provides resources, education, and networking opportunities to HR professionals and promotes best practices in the field of human resources.

Abele’s achievement is a testament to the opportunities for growth, community involvement, and personal fulfillment that AmeriCU offers. The credit union’s commitment to fostering a culture of growth and learning creates an environment that supports the personal and professional development of its team. By investing in its employees’ development, promoting collaboration, engaging with the community, and embracing connections, AmeriCU sets the stage for individual and collective success, creating a positive impact on the lives of its members and the community it serves.

“We are immensely proud to have Tiffany as part of our AmeriCU family,” said Karen LaPlante, Chief Talent Officer for AmeriCU CU. “Her unwavering commitment to the AmeriCU team and the support she provides to our teammates truly embodies our inclusive culture. We believe that when our teammates thrive, our entire organization flourishes and we are truly honored to have individuals who not only excel in their roles but also contribute significantly to our community.”



Triple Impact Connections Honors PenFed CU as 'Business Partner of the Year 2023'

The Designation Recognizes PenFed's Commitment to Military Families

Provided by PenFed CU

Triple Impact Connections named **PenFed CU** its Business Partner of the Year 2023 for PenFed's support of the military community by employing military spouses across the United States. PenFed enabled Triple Impact Connections to invest over \$5 million into families of the United States Army 18th Airborne Corps and U.S. Army Special Operations Command located at Fort Liberty, North Carolina.

"We are proud to partner with Triple Impact to leverage the professionalism and skills of military spouses and thank them for their recognition," said PenFed CU President/CEO and PenFed Foundation CEO James Schenck. "We will continue to stand with the military community as we provide best-in-class service to our nearly 3 million members."

In 2021, PenFed partnered with Triple Impact to establish approximately 50 PenFed member service representative roles for military spouses. With the aid of Triple Impact's training program, the military spouses learned how to deliver member service by answering incoming calls, providing account and product information while performing account transactions and maintenance. These positions are also responsible for educating members on a wide variety of products and services and making recommendations for each member's financial needs.

In addition to the Triple Impact partnership, PenFed collaborates with the Military Spouse Employment Partnership (MSEP)



PenFed President/CEO James Schenck accepts "Business Partner of the Year" plaque from Triple Impact Communications honoring PenFed for its support of the military community. Photo provided by PenFed CU.

and the U.S. Chamber's Hiring Our Heroes' Military Spouse Employment Program, to enhance employment efforts within the military spouse community. PenFed also adopted a policy that encourages the retention of military spouses when they move that allows for transfers or remote work opportunities.

Military spouses interested in a career with a military-friendly company are encouraged to visit PenFed's designated Military Webpage. The military webpage allows members of the military community to join PenFed's military talent community and search for jobs based on their skill sets.

SAVE the DATE

ANNUAL CONFERENCE
AUGUST 12 - 16 , 2024

THE VINOY RESORT & GOLF CLUB
SAINT PETERSBURG, FLORIDA

The advertisement features a blue background with white text. On the left, the text "SAVE the DATE" is written vertically, with "the" in a cursive font. The main text "ANNUAL CONFERENCE" and "AUGUST 12 - 16 , 2024" is centered. Below this, "THE VINOY RESORT & GOLF CLUB" and "SAINT PETERSBURG, FLORIDA" are listed. The bottom half of the ad is a collage of images: a circular view of the resort buildings, a stone sculpture with the word "VINOY" carved into it, and a circular inset showing the ornate facade of a building. The DCUC logo is in the bottom right corner.



Andrews FCU Earns 2022 Distinguished Credit Union of the Year Award

Provided by Andrews FCU

Andrews FCU team recently earned the 2022 U.S. Department of the Army “Distinguished Credit Union of the Year” award for its service to members at USAG Benelux (Belgium, The Netherlands and Luxembourg).

The credit union’s Benelux leadership team received official recognition for its efforts during a visit from Brigadier General Paige M. Jennings, Commanding General of US Army Financial Management Command. Jennings visited the Andrews Federal Chièvres branch location to meet with the team and recognize them for their outstanding service.

“It’s an honor to support our military service members and to provide financial products and services that meet their needs,”

said Rachel Rust, VP of European Operations for Andrews Federal. “Receiving this award and being commended in person by BG Jennings underscores the outstanding work our employees do each day as they look for opportunities to serve our Benelux military community and provide members with the best possible options for their finances.”

Andrews Federal continues to develop products, services, and resources that support its overseas military community, including rewarding checking accounts for military service members, low-cost international transfers, grants to offset high utility costs related to the Ukraine conflict, financial education resources, and more.

Credit union leadership takes pride in ensuring consistent strong support for military members and their families.

“While Andrews Federal has grown to include a wider audience of both military and civilian members, we remain dedicated to supporting our military community,” said Damita Robinson, COO for Andrews FCU. “This award is very meaningful to our credit union leadership team because it’s a reminder we are doing the right things and improving the lives and wellbeing of the military members we serve.”

GOT NEWS? Send your news to alert@dcuc.org

Scott CU Community Foundation Doubles Down on School Spirit with Expanded “With You” Grant Program

Provided by Scott CU

The Scott CU Community Foundation is proud to announce the expansion of its “With You” grant program, a community initiative that supports local school projects. During these financially challenging times, the Scott CU Community Foundation has doubled its donation amount, allocating up to \$100,000 to fund a variety of school projects.

“We understand the importance of investing in the future of our communities by supporting local schools,” said Frank Padak, president/CEO of Scott CU and Foundation Board Member. “That’s why the Scott Credit Union Community Foundation has increased our “With You” grants from \$50,000 in 2022 to \$100,000 this year. The “With You” grants are awarded to a variety of school initiatives, empowering educators to unlock even greater potential for students’ success.”

To learn more about the “With You” program, read requirements for proposed projects, and submit an application, please visit <https://www.scu.org/community-foundation/>. Following the application deadline, a dedicated volunteer committee will review all submissions. To ensure a fair and impartial selection process, all school names will remain anonymous throughout the review. Programs that directly benefit students, are need-based, and impact a large percentage of the student body are given priority consideration. The deadline for applications was November 5, 2023. Grant recipients will be announced on SCU’s website on December 15, 2023.

“Educators are the backbone of our community, guiding and inspiring the next generation toward a brighter future,” remarked Padak. “Their unwavering dedication, passion, and commitment make them invaluable pillars of our society. We have been privileged to support area schools since 2020 and are honored to continue our steadfast commitment to education this year.”

Credit Union West Announces \$10,000 Grand Prize In ‘Holiday Spend to Win’ Promotion

Provided by Credit Union West

Credit Union West is excited to bring back its ‘Spend to Win’ promotion for the holidays! The ‘Holiday Spend to Win’ promotion gives Credit Union West members the chance to win \$10,000 during the month of November.

Members who use their Credit Union West debit and/or credit card at least 10 times during the promotion period will automatically be entered to win the grand prize of \$10,000! Each transaction completed after 10 counts as an additional entry to win. Members can ‘spend to win’ beginning Wednesday, November 1 through Thursday, November 30, 2023. Those who are not currently Credit Union West members can easily join in on the fun by opening a checking account or credit card at a branch location or online at cuwest.org/join.

“Our members are at the heart of everything we do,” said Karen Roch, president/CEO. “We are very excited to give one lucky member some extra holiday joy this season!”

A winner will be drawn at random the first week of December. For details on the ‘Holiday Spend to Win’ promotion and how to become a member, visit cuwest.org/10K.

DEFENSE CREDIT UNION COUNCIL, INC.



Keesler FCU Donates Supplies to 5th Squad to Aid Homeless Veterans

Provided by Keesler FCU

Keesler FCU recently donated supplies to aid homeless veterans throughout Mississippi. The donation was made to 5th Squad, an organization that assists veterans in Mississippi with immediate and life-sustaining resources.

Keesler Federal donated 650 rolling duffle bags containing night-lights, dental kits, and notebooks. 5th Squad will use the bags in combination with other donations for homeless veterans. Donations were also made directly to the Mississippi Gulf Coast VA program.

5th Squad partners directly with the Veterans Administration through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development’s program for Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (HUD-VASH) to assist veterans who are facing homelessness or who suffer from shelter/home insecurity. Through support and donations, 5th Squad provides essential support for individuals facing poverty, dangerous living conditions, and an increased risk of suicide.

“Keesler Federal has deep military roots, so it’s very important to us to support veterans through organizations such as 5th Squad,” said Andy Swoger, Keesler Federal President/CEO. “Individuals who have served our country deserve our thanks and support, and this is especially true for those struggling to meet basic needs.”

SAFE FCU Treats Military Families to Fall Fun with Annual Boo Bash at Shaw Air Force Base

Provided by SAFE FCU

More than 3,500 Military members and their families joined SAFE FCU and other partners for the Annual Boo Bash at Shaw Air Force Base.

The October 21 event was hosted by the 20th Force Support Squadron and provided a venue for military families to enjoy a costume contest, haunted barn, games, candy, and more.

Representatives from SAFE participated with a candy-themed booth for parents and children to learn about the credit union's products and services as they enjoyed a complimentary treat.

"The Boo Bash is always a fun way for SAFE to connect with our military families at Shaw," said president/CEO Michael Baker. "We hope our participation helped make some unforgettable memories for everyone who attended."

"The 20th Force Support Squadron was grateful for the opportunity to spread a little fall joy with our Team Shaw Weasels," added Shaw Air Force Base Commercial Sponsorship Coordinator, Sharry Williams. "Thanks to all who participated."



Global CU Foundation volunteers present \$25,000 to Newby-ginnings and \$25,000 to Big Brother Big Sisters Inland Northwest. Photo provided by Global CU.

Global CU Foundation Donates Thousands to Idaho and Washington Nonprofits

Provided by Global CU

Global CU Foundation brought its ever-popular Fairway Friends Golf Tournament to the Home of the Floating Green in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, Sept. 19. A fun-filled day of competition and comradery brought together golfers and Foundation partners to raise money for two hard-working nonprofits, Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Inland Northwest and Newby-ginnings of North Idaho Inc.

"The Foundation is committed to giving back to the community in the markets we serve," said Geoff Lundfelt, president of the Global CU Foundation. "We're incredibly grateful for the opportunity to host an event that brings together community members and raises funds for some truly great causes."

\$25,000 was distributed to Big Brothers Big Sisters, which uses a volunteer mentoring network to develop positive relationships that have a direct and lasting effect on the lives of young people. Another \$25,000 went to Newby-ginnings, which provides—with honor, respect, and integrity—essential items, resources and referrals to active military, veterans, and Gold Star families in need of such services.

Keesler Federal Raises \$106,000 for Combat Wounded Veterans of South Mississippi at Eagles Under the Oaks Tournament

Provided by Keesler FCU

Keesler FCU raised a record \$106,000 at this year's Eagles Under the Oaks golf tournament. The event proceeds benefit the Combat Wounded Veterans of South Mississippi (CWVSM), a non-profit organization that supports those who served our country. Keesler Federal has sponsored Eagles Under the Oaks for 12 consecutive years. The first event, held in 2012, raised \$14,000. Since then, the event and fundraising total has undergone tremendous growth.

"Eagles Under the Oaks is a proud tradition for our credit union and members, especially with Keesler Federal's historic ties to the military," said Andy Swoger, Keesler Federal president/CEO. "We are honored to support the mission of the CWVSM, which helps brave servicemen and women in our area overcome significant physical and emotional challenges and return to civilian life."

The tournament was held September 14 at the Oaks Golf Club in Pass Christian, Mississippi, with 196 golfers registered to play in the tournament. All the money raised will remain in South Mississippi.

Andrews Federal Collects and Recycles More Than 16 Tons of Paper During Free Community Shred Day

Provided by Andrews FCU

Andrews FCU collected and shredded more than 16 tons of paper at its recent Community Shred Day. The credit union opened the event to members and to the community, inviting them to dispose of their confidential and personal documents at the company's corporate headquarters location.

The Federal Trade Commission estimates that someone becomes a victim of identity theft once every fourteen seconds. Fraud and identity theft can be very costly, with more than \$3 billion in losses reported to the FTC in 2020 alone.

According to Andrews FCU leadership, hosting a community Shred Day is another example of the credit union's focus on serving members, keeping them safe, and supporting their financial wellbeing.

"We are focused on protecting our members from fraud and from those who would seek to take advantage of them," said Damita Robinson, COO for Andrews FCU. "From the robust security we put in place for digital banking and money management, to the educational resources we provide, to events like our recent shred day, Andrews Federal is committed to ensuring our members have access to information and resources that keep them secure."

AmeriCU CU Connects You with Scholarship Opportunities

Provided by AmeriCU CU

AmeriCU CU is proud to connect ten deserving high school seniors or continuing college students with a \$1,000 scholarship toward their education. The credit union's scholarship program invests in the future of our communities and provides valuable assistance to students pursuing their educational dreams.

The scholarship program is open to all members of AmeriCU CU who will attend an accredited college, university, or other institution of higher learning on a full-time basis during the next academic year. Scholarship recipients are chosen by a committee and award winners are honored at the credit union's annual meeting in March.

"We encourage students from the entire region, spanning the twenty-four counties served by AmeriCU in New York to participate in the program. All completed applications will be reviewed providing an equal opportunity for members to receive awards," says Joseph Turczyn, Board Member and Chairman of the AmeriCU Scholarship Committee.

AmeriCU members are also eligible to apply for the New York Credit Union Association's (NYCUA) Scholarship Program. The NYCUA partners with credit unions to offer their graduating seniors attending college for the first time in the Fall of 2024. The program is designed to provide funds that would be used toward tuition, room and board, books, and school supplies.

Applications are available at all financial centers or through the credit union's website. Completed applications must be received by January 5, 2024, to be eligible. Individuals interested in becoming an AmeriCU Member can connect by visiting the credit union online or at the nearest financial center.

For more information, visit www.americu.org/scholarships. To apply to the NYCUA Scholarship, visit <https://nycua.org/uniting/scholarship-program/college-scholarship-program-applicants>.

DEFENSE CREDIT UNION COUNCIL, INC.



Dover FCU Creating an Impact on Delaware Community

Provided by Dover FCU

Dover FCU (DFCU) is pleased to announce its successful collaboration with the Food Bank of Delaware, which resulted in providing food to over 400 families in need. This remarkable outreach initiative took place on October 9th, during Dover Federal's Community Impact Day.

In a powerful demonstration of solidarity and community support, Dover FCU teamed up with the Food Bank of Delaware to organize a drive-thru mobile pantry at the Dover Mall. The event was open to all members of the community facing food insecurities.

"Food insecurity is a concern for not only our credit union members but also the communities that we serve. By identifying the enormous need that exists in Kent County, our team members volunteered their time and resources to host a Food Drive made possible with the support from the Food Bank of Delaware. We were humbled that our team could unite and make a small impact on the great work they do, by distributing essential food supplies and presenting a check for \$17,500 to help feed our neighbors in need," said Deb Jewell, AVP of Marketing.

The Food Bank of Delaware played a pivotal role in ensuring that the event ran smoothly by providing a diverse selection of nutritious food items, including fresh produce, non-perishables, and other essential supplies. To get involved or to find the next food distribution event, visit FBD.org.



REV FCU's REV Day For Good Empowers 23 Non-Profits in Third Annual Event

Provided by REV FCU

Over 23 nonprofits gained immeasurable support from REV during the third annual REV Day for Good. Held on Monday, October 9, 2023, Rev's Day of Service amplifies the credit union's commitment to building resilient communities. With the participation of 25 dedicated employees, REV completed 23 service projects for local nonprofits and community agencies contributing over 1,300 volunteer hours across the Carolinas.

"It just fills my heart. Each one of the causes that I've worked with over the past three years has been incredibly different, but they all tie back to my core values and REV's core values. Really, it's just been excellent for me to talk about it with my wife and talk about it with my kids. Then, for us to continue volunteering after this one particular day speaks to REV's commitment to community," expressed Paul McManus, Director of Organizational Development at REV.

REV Day for Good exemplifies REV's dedication to uniting people and making a meaningful impact. Throughout the year, employees are encouraged to pursue their volunteer passions and contribute their time to organizations that align with their values.

"Volunteerism is an integral part of REV's culture. It has everything to do with mindset and the emphasis our employees place on the impact they are having on individuals and the community as a whole," stated Jason Lee, president/CEO of REV.

This year's REV Day for Good served as a platform to shed light on a diverse group of nonprofits and their outstanding contributions to the community, providing essential services to those in need. REV Team Members wholeheartedly volunteered their time to fulfill service projects for multiple organizations.

"It's exciting to see the list of nonprofits grow year after year," said Kelly Nix, Public Relations Coordinator at REV. "As organizations realize what our team offers in terms of passion, energy, and commitment, the to-do lists for the day have grown in size. That couldn't make us happier."



Pen Air® CU's (PenAir) Share It® Program Raises More than \$22,000 in Donations for Local Schools

Provided by PenAir CU

Pen Air® CU's (PenAir) Share It® program proudly announces its members' donation of \$8,302.66 to the Baldwin County Education Coalition (BCEC), over \$5,300 to support the Santa Rosa Education Foundation, and over \$8,400 in support of education within the Escambia County Public Schools Foundation (ECPSF) in Escambia County, Florida.

Through the Share It® program, PenAir donates .01¢ for every signature-based debit card transaction made by participating members at no cost to the members. This initiative allows members to extend their support to teachers in Santa Rosa County, Baldwin County, Alabama, or Escambia County, Florida.

Casey Brueske, Community Education Development Specialist for Pen Air® Credit Union, stressed the program's impact, stating, "PenAir's Share It® program is another way we're making a difference in our local schools. These students and educators need our help now more than ever. We're thrilled to partner with the Santa Rosa Education Foundation to enrich the lives of Santa Rosa County students."

The Share It® program's total contribution for the 2023-2024 school year reached \$22,054.71 across the three participating districts, providing invaluable resources. Terry Burkle, BCEC Executive Director, expressed gratitude, noting, "These funds enhance academic achievement and support social-emotional development, addressing the needs of our 49 percent of students classified as poverty."

Danielle Clark, Executive Director of the Santa Rosa Education Foundation, said, "We're grateful for our partnership with PenAir. These funds support our Teacher Grants and Teacher of the Year programs, showcasing the remarkable work of our district's teachers."

Jo McArthur, Executive Director of the Escambia County Public Schools Foundation, expressed gratitude for PenAir's steadfast support, saying, "Escambia County Public Schools is grateful for the generous donation through PenAir's Share It® program. These funds will be used to support our Grants for Excellence program so that teachers and schools can do innovative, collaborative projects that are not otherwise funded. Some of the Foundation's other projects include a teacher resource store, Take Stock in Children mentoring and scholarship program, Escambia County Public Schools Employee Events, Teacher of the Year recognition, and recognition of outstanding seniors in academics and the arts."



PenAir CU Baldwin County school donations. Photo provided by PenAir CU



PenAir CU Santa Rosa County schools donations. Photo provided by PenAir CU



PenAir CU Escambia County schools donations. Photo provided by PenAir CU



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Movie Scenes Filmed at Keesler Federal Branch on Mississippi Gulf Coast

Provided by Keesler FCU

Criminal activity was recently caught on camera inside a Keesler FCU branch on the Mississippi Gulf Coast, but no one sounded the alarm or called law enforcement.

The scene occurred during the filming of "Armored," an action movie starring Sylvester Stallone and Jason Patric. The movie follows a father and son's adventure across the United States. The cast and crew arrived on the Mississippi Gulf Coast to film part of the motion picture and Keesler Federal provided its branch in Waveland as the setting for a scene. The film is being produced by Convergence Entertainment Group.

The movie set sparked plenty of buzz on the coast and around the Keesler Federal branch. Media was not allowed to take photos and the details of the script were kept under wraps. The only hint was that the story follows the father-and-son duo as an important armored truck is targeted.

"It will be out in a year in theaters and streaming, you will see it on both. Anything with Sylvester Stallone is going to be great, and me, of course," said director Justin Routt, laughing during an interview. "It'll do great."



Photo provided by Andrews FCU

Andrews FCU Leadership Supports Promising Youth Through Alsobrooks Youth Leadership Institute

Provided by Andrews FCU

Members of the Andrews FCU leadership team recently served as mentors and role models to young leaders-in-training through their support of the Alsobrooks Youth Leadership Institute.

The Alsobrooks Youth Leadership Institute was designed to help civic-minded young people develop professional skills, complete community service projects, and become invested in civic leadership. Program participants include 27 high school students from Prince George's County.

Andrews FCU CEO Kenneth Orgeron was a special guest at the Alsobrooks Mini Mogul dinner, along with the credit union's Director of Community Relations Rosalind Bishop. During the interactive event, they shared their experiences and offered career guidance to the program participants in attendance.

"Our young leaders can't stop talking about the evening and all of the great words of wisdom, knowledge, advice, and guidance," said Angela Alsobrooks, Prince George's County Executive and AYLI program founder.

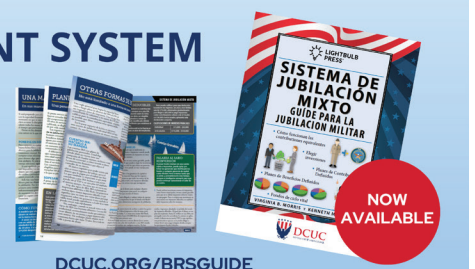
According to credit union leadership, partnering with the Alsobrooks Youth Leadership Institute underscores the credit union's commitment to developing a strong, well-educated, community.

"Building a network of support is so important to ensuring that our young people can thrive and that they're well-equipped to serve, support, and improve our communities in the future," said Damita Robinson, COO for Andrews FCU. "At Andrews Federal, we work closely with our community partners to provide opportunities for advancement and development. Through programs like the Alsobrooks Youth Leadership Institute, we're able to make an impact locally, and we look forward to seeing how these young people take the information they've gained here and use it to make the world better."

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The PenFed Foundation Named Beneficiary of Baseball Icon Tony La Russa's Leaders and Legends

Star-studded event in Phoenix celebrates the bond between veterans and their dogs

Each year since 2012, some of the biggest names in sports, business and the military gather for an exclusive summit on leadership: Tony La Russa's Leaders and Legends. This year, La Russa brings his inspiring event to Phoenix, with a new partner and a new twist.

Hall of Fame and World Champion Manager La Russa has selected The PenFed Foundation as a beneficiary of the 2023 Leaders and Legends, which will take place over Veterans Day weekend, November 9-12.

"The PenFed Foundation is extremely honored to be named a beneficiary of this extraordinary gathering. Tony and I bonded years ago over our shared love of veterans and animals," said Andrea McCarren, President of The PenFed Foundation. "Not only is he a legend in the world of baseball, he's made a profound impact on military families across the United States by connecting them to shelter animals, saving countless lives on both ends of the leash. Although he's exceptionally humble, Tony is a true American hero."

Among the sports legends scheduled to participate: Joe Torre, Bernie Williams, Rickey Henderson, Dara Torres, Jon Gruden, Kurt Busch, Dennis Eckersley, and Tino Martinez. Attending from the military world is Capt. Jim "Guido" DiMatteo, who has amassed the most Top Gun adversary flight time in US Navy and Marine Corps history. US Army Special Operation Combat Veteran Rick Hogg will share the powerful impact of his partnership with his late combat assault dog, Duco. Combat veteran and triple amputee Adam Keys will perform standup comedy and combat medic Stephen Covell from Operation Encore will play live music.

"Leaders and Legends has always benefitted a program to match veterans with the unconditional love and support of man's best friend," said La Russa. "I'm thrilled to support The PenFed Foundation this year. The Foundation's efforts to provide life-changing service dogs to veterans is inspiring, and we look forward to partnering with them in the future so we can give the gift of greater independence to our men and women who served."



PenFed Foundation leadership with Night of Heroes Gala honorees. Pictured left to right: Allied Solutions CEO Pete Hilger and his wife Debbie, New England Patriots Head Coach Bill Belichick, Emcee and PenFed Foundation President Andrea McCarren and service dog Nigel, PenFed Credit Union President/CEO and PenFed Foundation CEO James Schenck, U.S. Army Master Sgt. (Ret.) Cedric King, and Baseball Legend Tony La Russa. Photo provided by PenFed CU

Create Unforgettable Family Moments with AmeriCU Credit Union's Holiday Loan

Provided by AmeriCU CU

AmeriCU CU is proud to announce the launch of their special Holiday Loan. The credit union's Holiday Loan can help members cover expenses and travel costs associated with the holiday season. This low-rate loan option is a great alternative to higher-rate credit and store cards and can be a more affordable solution for service members to travel home and connect with their families. Members can stop by their nearest AmeriCU Financial Center or conveniently access and apply online from anywhere they may be, ensuring easy availability and accessibility.

"As the holiday season approaches, we understand that military families face unique challenges. Balancing the demands of service, deployments, and the cost of celebrating the season with loved ones can be a financial strain. In recognition of their dedication and sacrifice, AmeriCU's Holiday Loan helps to meet the needs of our military members," said Tina Thornton, AVP of Financial Center Services.

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