



DCUC

ALERT

ISSUE 9

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OCTOBER 2023

CEO UPDATE

Pending Industry Changes and The "One Bank/One Credit Union" Policy

CAPITAL CORNER

October Advocacy: Several Big Items on the Ticket

DCUC MIDWEST CONFERENCE

DCUC and Frontier Community CU Host DCUC Midwest Sub-Council Conference

VIEW FROM THE BOARD

The Importance of Leadership





DEFENSE

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

DCUC Latest Accomplishments

- **DCUC sent a joint trades letter with NAFCU and CUNA** to The Honorable Charles Schumer, Majority Leader, U.S. Senate, and The Honorable Mitch McConnell, Minority Leader, U.S. Senate, **opposing amendment 1225 to H.R. 4366, the legislative vehicle for the “Minibus” Appropriations bill**
 - The amendment, sponsored by Senator Josh Hawley, is comprised of the text of S. 2760, the Capping Credit Card Interest Rates Act and **would impose government price controls by capping the annual percentage rate (APR) of credit cards** at 18 percent; not only capping credit card interest rates but also **including all associated fees and penalties** in an arbitrary formula
- **DCUC along with several trade associations and industry partners sent a joint letter** to The Honorable Charles E. Schumer, Majority Leader, U.S. Senate, The Honorable Mitch McConnell, Minority Leader, U.S. Senate, The Honorable Kevin McCarthy, Speaker, U.S. House of Representatives, and The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries, Minority Leader, U.S. House of Representatives voicing their **opposition of the so-called “Credit Card Competition Act of 2023” (CCCA)**
 - Proposed and sponsored by Senators Dick Durbin and Senator Roger Marshall as **Amendment #1161 to the Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act (H.R. 4366)**, this legislation would not only **jeopardize military readiness but is contradictory to its sponsors’ claims of benefiting consumers all while attempting to enrich the largest multinational retailers.**
- **DCUC Midwest Sub-Council Conference:** October 3-5, 2023, in Overland Park, Kansas: see page 8 for a recap of this year’s Midwest Sub-Council event!
- **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 quick!
- **DCUC’s Military Advocacy Committee:** will meet on November 16, 2023 at 2:30 p.m.

SERVING THOSE WHO SERVE OUR COUNTRY

DEFENSE CREDIT UNION COUNCIL, INC.

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Pending Industry Changes and “The One Bank/One Credit Union” Policy

For over 60 years, DCUC has successfully advocated for all credit unions serving our military and veteran communities across the globe. No other trade association accomplishes this important mission quite like DCUC. We are proud to do so and remain confident and firm in our mission no matter the situation. As part of this mission, DCUC is always ready to champion innovative solutions that enable our member credit unions to better serve our Nation’s military, veterans, and their families. Yet, innovation needs to still comply with existing rules and regulations that are in place to ensure the security of those we serve.

As with any industry, there will always be challenges and obstacles to overcome. Recently, there have been increased calls for credit union taxation, expanded regulations, and even some efforts to consolidate industry oversight under a single regulatory agency. In addition, there are increasing cyber, market, and interest rate fluctuations. These challenges are nothing new, and DCUC has always been prepared to meet these challenges through relentless advocacy, innovation, and careful management.

Yet, as the market becomes much more competitive and revenue margins are further squeezed, a unique set of internal challenges emerge. For credit unions that serve military installations, the most obvious trend is the rise of incursions onto the base by other financial institutions. As such, the “one bank/one credit union” policy is increasingly under attack from those wishing to dominate the market.

To be clear, DCUC is not opposed to competition within the credit union industry. DCUC believes that healthy competition drives better rates and best-in-class service for our military and veterans.

However, there are valid reasons for why this policy was implemented, and why it has endured for decades.

As I’m sure most are now aware, there are some changes happening with the DoD’s Overseas Military Banking Contract. These will not only impact credit unions serving military and veteran communities overseas but also have industry-wide implications.

Since its inception in 1943, DoD’s Overseas Military Banking Program has been operated by banks. Unfortunately, DoD has yet to update the contractual terms making it difficult for banks to operate under the contract and comply with regulatory changes in the 21st Century.

Instead of attempting to work out these regulatory deficiencies, DoD solicited a unique bid from a “not-for-profit” credit union. This is a “first” both within our industry and since the program’s inception. In doing so, DoD failed to consult with industry experts to make sure that this “first” didn’t come with unintended consequences.

As expected, there are several significant weaknesses and contract deficiencies that affect this award. Whether or not DoD foresaw these issues, they have yet to address the concerns in any meaningful way even as this contract was awarded and transition dates were announced.

Prior to the announcement, DCUC had identified many legal hurdles in the way of a credit union fulfilling this contract. Bottom line, in order to make this contract work, changes will have to be made to the Federal Credit Union statute to allow share insurance for non-member deposits as well as eliminate the DoD “one bank/one credit union” policy. Even if these unprecedented exceptions were given, they still may not be legally sufficient for



*Anthony Hernandez,
President and CEO, DCUC*

the contract to be viable, and there would likely be “after-the-fact” changes needed in order to cure the bid and accommodate the offeror.

Once any of these exceptions are granted, these regulatory and statutory changes will bleed over into domestic military markets. In simple terms, this contract is a cost-plus, fixed-fee banking contract. According to industry insiders, this contract is estimated to generate approximately \$30 million dollars a year (or more) in residual profit!

In other words, for the first time in 80 years, DoD awarded a “not-for-profit” credit union a contract to operate a large for-profit community bank. DoD can only make this work by granting unique exceptions and encouraging one-time interventions by other regulatory agencies to override or change the law.

For now, these legal restrictions are still in place, and it is likely DoD will have to rescind the award. However, DoD has not given up its quest to force the issue after nearly a year of negotiating this contract bid.

DCUC's immediate concern is the lack of deposit insurance for military members serving overseas and in harm's way. These military members should have the same consumer protections as everyone

else, no matter where they serve—especially when forced to use the bank contract at one of the overseas locations where there is no U.S. credit unions.

These concerns and changes are something DCUC cannot fight alone, and industry leaders can no longer afford to sit on the sidelines. Losing regulations such as the long-standing one bank/one credit union policy would open up unbalanced competition against small and mid-sized

credit unions by larger, non-local financial institutions that can afford to operate at a loss in order to make inroads into new communities.

DCUC will keep you apprised of any new developments, but now more than ever, I urge you to contact your league and Congressional representatives before it is too late. If you have any questions, please reach out to us! ■

DEFENSE MATTERS

DCUC
DEFENSE CREDIT UNION COUNCIL

SAVE THE DATE

MARCH 3, 2024
WASHINGTON, D.C.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

ARI FLEISCHER

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

DCUC.ORG/DEFENSEMATTERS



October Advocacy: Several Big Items on the Ticket

The September melodrama over a federal government shutdown may have overshadowed other important defense-related issues in the headlines, but DCUC has stayed focused on the essential matters at hand that are important to you, our members, as the calendar moves to October.

Provided by John McKechnie

The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) was on the hot seat in the Supreme Court October 3 as oral arguments in the case challenging its constitutionality and funding began.

In the case being heard, the Community Financial Services Association (CFSA) is seeking to block the enforcement of Consumer Financial Protection Bureau rules designed to restrict payday lending products. The CFSA is arguing that Congress violated the Constitution's appropriations clause when it granted the CFPB a portion of the Federal Reserve's operating budget. The US Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals found in favor of the CFSA, using language suggesting that only funds appropriated through the annual Congressional process are legal.

If the Court sides with the Fifth Circuit, the implications for CFPB are significant, and could include a requirement that they come to Congress for annual approval of their budget. And that means Congressional oversight. In addition, Congressional Republicans are looking to restructure the

Bureau by creating a five-member commission, replacing the current sole director.

A Supreme Court decision in the case is not expected until Spring 2024.

Cannabis banking legislation took a step forward in late September... or did it?

By a bipartisan majority the Senate Banking Committee advanced the SAFER Banking Act, which would expand protections for credit unions and other financial institutions that want to offer deposit services to the cannabis industry. But additional amendments await when the bill gets to the Senate Floor regarding regulatory authority to monitor business accounts and criminal justice reform, amendments that will complicate its chances of becoming law.

Senate liberals, led by Sen. Raphael Warnock (D-GA) and Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, are promising Floor amendments to expunge criminal convictions from the record of those convicted of drug crimes. Even though a Warnock amendment on this was rejected in the Senate Banking Committee by a 3-20 vote, he has vowed to resurrect it when the full Senate votes.

Republicans are also signaling opposition. Concerns about SAFER's language that would give regulators the latitude to shut off access for certain businesses to the financial system are being voiced by both Senators and key House Republicans.

Most of the time a bill passing out of a congressional committee is a sign of momentum. Not in this case—immediately after the hearing Republican Senate Banking committee staff commented that “this bill is going to need to be re-negotiated before we get to the floor. Problems on the left and the right.”

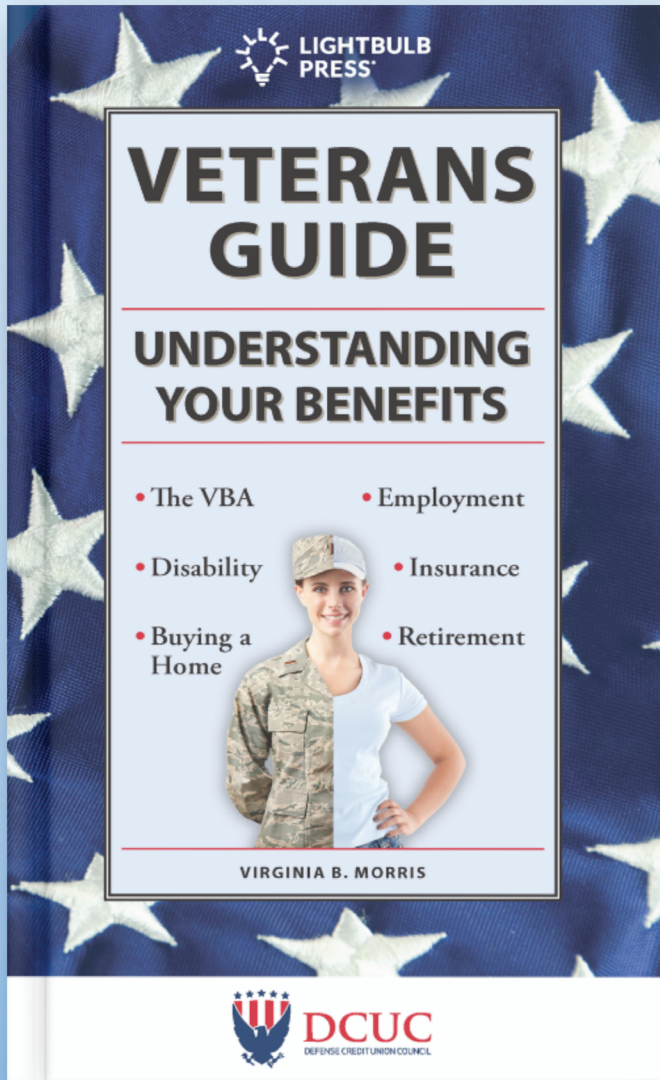
The 2024 NDAA is entering the homestretch. Leaders and staffers in both chambers are working to reconcile their versions of the NDAA, and SASC Chairman Jack Reed (D-RI) said he began face-to-face discussions with his Senate and House counterparts in late September. “Senate leadership and House leadership have been talking, so we're ready to go...we'd like to get it done as soon as possible,” Reed said.

According to Senate staff sources, negotiators are racing to iron out differences in the two bills before the end of the year and say that both chambers seem interested in paring back some of the most controversial provisions (dealing with DEI and Ukraine funding) to get the bill done. Look for an early December finish. ■

VETERANS GUIDE

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DCUC MIDWEST SUB-COUNCIL CONFERENCE

DCUC and Frontier Community CU Successfully Host 2023 DCUC Midwest Conference

Provided by DCUC

The Defense Credit Union Council (DCUC) successfully concluded its 2023 Midwest Conference held October 3–5. This year’s conference, co-hosted by Frontier Community CU, focused on important topics including speaking military, advocacy and industry updates, cybersecurity, financial management systems, and DCUC’s vision for the future.

DCUC’s Midwest Sub-Council, first formed in 1972, has a long-standing tradition of being a close-knit group of credit union leaders gathering to share their continued dedication to serving military and veteran communities. Many Sub-Council members serve installations far from population centers (aka “fly-over” country). These often-underserved communities present a different set of challenges to the credit unions serving them and make gathering to discuss best practices and lessons learned important to their continued success.

Michael Augustine, Frontier Community CU president/CEO, stated “On behalf of Frontier Community Credit Union, we are very excited to cohost this year’s DCUC Midwest Conference. Each year, this conference provides another opportunity for credit unions to gain additional insights from industry leaders on topics that in turn help us better serve our members.”

DCUC and Frontier Community CU provided an impressive lineup of speakers for conference attendees and guests including Representative Chris Croft, House Majority Leader, Kansas; COL

Duane L. Mosier, Garrison Commander of Fort Leavenworth, Kansas; Frank Farone, Managing Director, Darling Consulting Group; Roy Ross, Chief Information Security Officer, OMNICOMMANDER; Julie Murray, Administrator, Kansas Department of Credit Unions; and Anthony Demangone, NCCO, Executive VP, and COO, National Association of Federally-Insured Credit Unions (NAFCU).

In addition to speaker presentations, this year’s Midwest Conference featured an advocacy panel with DCUC’s President/CEO Anthony Hernandez and John McKechnie, John McKechnie LLC. Afterward, Scott Duszynski, VP of Member Engagement, and Ann Morsch, VP Member Services & Operations, Armed Forces Financial Network (AFFN), informed the group of recent AFFN updates and industry news.

“This year’s conference, cohosted with Frontier Community Credit Union, was no exception to another successful event for our members,” said Hernandez. “There were many valuable discussions on both current and upcoming advocacy issues as well as great information to help credit unions grow their impact and service to our Nation’s military and veterans.”

The conference concluded with the Midwest Sub-Council Meeting where Joye Conklin, president/CEO R-G FCU, announced she would be stepping down as Chair of the Midwest Sub-Council’s Board. ■

MIDWEST CONFERENCE
2023

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MIDWEST CONFERENCE



2023



VIEW FROM THE BOARD

The Importance of Leadership

Provided by Maggie Sayer, DCUC Board Member and president/CEO of Keys FCU

Take a moment and think about your own path; surely you can identify a mentor that had an impact on the trajectory of your career. When I look back on my career, both in the technology industry and the credit union industry, I can think of several. So, when Tony asked whether I'd be a mentor for one of the Crashers at the recent DCUC Annual Conference in August, I excitedly accepted. Though we didn't have too much time together (our schedules are all PACKED!), we did share introductions, including career paths and aspirations, met for lunch, and checked on each other multiple times throughout the conference. We also followed up after the conference with promised communication specific to topics we discussed at the conference. A very positive experience if you've never participated!

In the ever-evolving landscape of the professional world, the mentor-mentee relationship stands as a cornerstone of personal and career development. This partnership transcends basic guidance; it fosters growth, knowledge transfer, and a sense of belonging within the professional community. Mentors provide invaluable insights and wisdom. They draw from their experiences, helping mentees navigate the terrain of their field. Whether it's sharing industry knowledge or offering advice on career choices, mentors serve as trusted advisors. A mentor often introduces their mentee to their own connections, opening doors that might otherwise remain closed. This network effect amplifies career opportunities and accelerates growth. This isn't a one-way relationship though. Mentees bring fresh perspectives and a thirst for knowledge. Their questions and curiosity challenge mentors to stay updated and adapt, foster-ing continuous learning for both parties.

Whether you're a young professional or a more seasoned mentor, there are several mentor relationship offerings available. Dive in! ■



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CREDIT UNION PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

CHESAPEAKE, VA—ABNB FCU is proud to announce several internal staff promotions and new hires effective immediately. **Michelle Perry** has been promoted to AVP of Consumer Lending. **Melissa Rose** has been promoted to Director of Marketing. **Cassandra Tucker** has been promoted to Director of Operations. **Stacy Blausey** has been promoted to Director of Compliance. **Shawn Hayes** has been promoted to Director of Enterprise Risk & Information Security Officer and will oversee Enterprise Risk Management, Information Security and Fraud. **Tyler Foley** has been hired as the Director of Business Intelligence and will oversee data strategy, analytics, and the cultivation of a culture centered around data-driven decision-making. **Deon McGill** has been hired as a Regional Branch Manager overseeing the operations of Branches in Virginia Beach and Norfolk. **Bryan Sherman** has been hired as the Branch Manager of the new Wards Corner branch. **Jennifer Pingel** has been hired as the Branch Manager of the Elizabeth City branch. **Alexandra “Alex” Crafton** has been hired as the Assistant Branch Manager of the Ghent branch. **Susan Thomas** has been hired as the Assistant Branch Manager of the South Independence branch. **Miranda Mitchell** has been promoted to a Digital Member Services Assistant Manager. **Ashleigh Wells** was promoted to a Digital Member Services Lead. **Cassandra Tate** was promoted to a Digital Member Services Lead. **Katherine Brand** has been promoted to Digital Member Services Lead.

LAUREL, MD—The TowerCares Foundation has appointed **Allen Brisentine III** as the new Chairman of its volunteer Board of Directors. Brisentine has served on the TowerCares Board as a Director since the Foundation’s start, and also previously served on Tower Federal’s volunteer Board for the past decade. The TowerCares Foundation also welcomed a new volunteer Board member, **Monte Dzurenko**. Dzurenko has worked for the Department of Defense for over 37 years, is a certified public accountant and currently serves as a Director on Tower Federal’s Board.

PALMDALE, CA—After an extensive search, the Board of Directors has chosen **Carter Pope** as President/CEO of Edwards FCU. “I am grateful and honored to be entrusted with the future of Edwards Federal Credit Union. Very excited about the opportunity to work with such committed Board members and staff here at the Credit Union,” shared Pope. “Joining an organization with a long and rich history serving Edwards Air Force Base and the Antelope Valley just felt right. Edwards FCU and I share a strong passion for our members, our community, and our industry.”

PAPILLION, NE—Cobalt CU is pleased to announce the appointment of **Craig Wehrbein** as the organization’s new vice president of commercial lending. Wehrbein will develop and maintain the commercial loan portfolio by ensuring quality service for existing members and actively soliciting new business relationships. Additionally, Wehrbein will promote Cobalt CU business loans and services through business development efforts to achieve strategic objectives and goals for the department.

PENSACOLA, FL—Pen Air® CU (PenAir) is pleased to announce the recent promotion of **John Huddleston** to SVP & CFO.

SUITLAND, MD—Andrews FCU recently promoted **Linda Thompson** to Director of Payment Systems. Thompson will continue to lead payment systems and programs for the credit union. Her responsibilities will include supporting system conversions, ACH origination, remote deposit capture enhancement and member product and service implementations.

TYSONS, VA—PenFed Foundation is proud to welcome **Lieutenant General, U.S. Army (Retired) Fran M. Beaudette** as their new Ambassador. “What an honor to have someone with General Beaudette’s wealth of military experience serve as an Ambassador to help us promote our innovative and life-changing programs,” said PenFed Foundation President **Andrea McCarren**.

CREDIT UNIONS IN THE NEWS

VIRGINIA BEACH, VA—**1st Advantage FCU** hosted a ribbon-cutting ceremony in celebration of the grand opening of its newest branch located at 5386 Kemps River Dr., Suite 104, Virginia Beach, VA 23464. The branch offers full-service financial services and has an onsite ATM.

FORT WALTON BEACH, FL—**Eglin FCU** recently held a ribbon-cutting ceremony for its Gulf Breeze ATM/Video Teller Drive-thru located at 3959 Gulf Breeze Parkway. The first phase of this site is now open. A full-service branch will open at this location later in 2024 or early 2025.

FORT STEWARD, GA—On September 19, **GeoVista FCU** was recognized for 45 years of outstanding community partnership with AUSA (Association of the United States Army).



AWARDS & RECOGNITION



Left to right: Taevann Calloway, Richard Bromley, Debra Jewell, Todd Wilson, Ray Carlucci, Chris Martarano, Jeanette Schuler, Nicole Hercules, Joyce Dew, Jessica Short, Janell Upton, Donna Kiscaden, Donise Cottman & Travis Frey of Dover FCU. Photo provided by Dover FCU.

Dover FCU Presented with Two Awards at the Stars of Delaware Celebration

Provided by Dover FCU

Dover FCU was honored on September 7th at the 2023 Stars of Delaware Celebration with two awards: Best Credit Union and Best Mortgage Lender. Presented by Delaware State News, the Stars of Delaware event was a celebration highlighting Delaware's finest and was hosted at King Cole Farm in Dover. Dover Federal is beyond proud to be among the honorees.

Voted on by their community, approximately 200 organizations, businesses, and people were selected as the best in their respective categories throughout the state of Delaware. "We are incredibly honored to be voted Best Credit Union and Best Mortgage Lender by the readers of *Delaware State News*. Our commitment to our members and to the communities we serve is resolute. The "People Helping People" philosophy of credit unions is engrained in our culture, and the Dover teams work tirelessly each day to provide the level of service our members deserve," stated Janell Upton, CEO.

Dover Federal CU Presented With Best Credit Union Awards at the 1st State's Favorites Gala

Provided by Dover FCU

Dover FCU was recognized at the First State's Favorites Gala with two Best Credit Union awards in Kent and Sussex County. Sponsored by *Delaware Online/The News Journal*, the inaugural 2023 First State's Favorites awards ceremony was hosted at the Chase Center in Wilmington. Dover Federal is honored to be a 7-time First State Favorite award winner.

"We are extremely honored to be voted Best Credit Union in two respective counties. The communities we serve are very important to us. Our members deserve the highest level of service possible, and our teams strive to deliver that service day in and day out," said Janell Upton, Dover FCU CEO.



Left to right: Taevann Calloway, Todd Wilson, Susan Yocum, Tiffany Fluhr, Amber Anderson and Chris Martarano of Dover FCU. Photo provided by Dover FCU.

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Northern Virginia Chamber of Commerce Honors PenFed CU CEO James Schenck with Lifetime Service Award

Provided by PenFed CU

The Northern Virginia Chamber of Commerce recently presented **PenFed CU President/CEO and PenFed Foundation CEO James Schenck** with the Lifetime Service Award for his outstanding contributions to help veterans succeed. The award ceremony was attended by hundreds of business leaders and held at the Army Navy Country Club.

“I’m honored to accept this award on behalf of my amazing network of colleagues, friends, and mentors who have positively influenced my career over the past 35 years,” said Schenck during his remarks. “Teamwork is everything. As a business leader and veteran, I understand that we all find success by working together. My time serving in the military profoundly influenced my career.”

Schenck is a graduate of the U.S. Military Academy West Point and Harvard Business School. He flew Black Hawk helicopters during his 13 years of service in the U.S. Army, trained other Army aviators, and taught Economics and Finance at West Point. During his assignment to the Pentagon, Schenck, by then a Major and working for the Secretary of the Army, received the Legion of Merit for his contributions. Since becoming PenFed’s CEO in 2014, James has supported his fellow veterans by hiring veterans, donating 2% of the organization’s net income to over 200 military charities, and raising over \$55 million for veteran causes through the PenFed Foundation.

Schenck added, “Every day I ask myself: How can we ever do enough to thank and serve through our actions those who volunteer to go into harm’s way to fight our nation’s wars?”

SAFE FCU Financial Crimes Investigations Officer Named a 2023 Credit Union Rock Star

Provided by Safe FCU

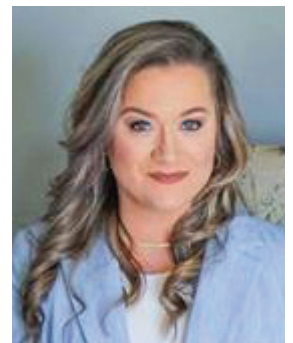
SAFE FCU’s **Financial Crimes Investigations Officer, Hailey Windham**, is among 25 credit union professionals and board members named 2023 Credit Union Rock Stars by *Credit Union Magazine*.

The Credit Union Rock Stars program recognizes outstanding credit union professionals and directors who inspire and innovate to advance the missions of their credit unions. Windham is part of the 11th class of Rock Stars selected for her advocacy for fraud awareness and education. She is the only South Carolinian to receive the honor for 2023.

“We’re delighted to see Hailey Windham named as one of this year’s Credit Union Rock Stars,” said President/CEO Michael Baker. “Her commitment to fraud training and awareness has significantly helped protect SAFE members against the threat of financial fraud.”

“There’s much to admire about these 25 credit union professionals and their compelling stories of generosity, ingenuity, and concern for others,” said Bill Merrick, *Credit Union Magazine* Deputy Editor.

Windham and the other Credit Union Rock Stars are profiled in a special digital edition of *Credit Union Magazine*.



Hailey Windham

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

The Colorado Eagles Partner with Blue FCU for Community-Driven Initiatives

Provided by Blue FCU

The Colorado Eagles, AHL affiliate of the Colorado Avalanche, have named Blue FCU as their Official Credit Union. This partnership will allow Blue to participate in several community-driven initiatives, including the team's Youth Jersey Giveaway night on November 24th and the Eagles' annual Pot of Gold fundraiser.

Stephanie Teubner, president/CEO of Blue FCU, stated, "Our commitment to fostering connections within this community is evident as we proudly step into our role as the Official Credit Union of the Colorado Eagles."

Eagles president Ryan Bach added, "Our fans will have access to some incredible new offers from Blue, and they will quickly see Blue's desire to put our fans and our community first."

Blue FCU will also have the naming rights on the Eagles home facility, which was officially renamed Blue Federal Credit Union Arena on October 1st.



Andrews FCU collected school supplies to support schools in the greater metropolitan Washington, D.C. area. Photo courtesy of Andrews FCU.

Andrews FCU Collects School Supplies to Support Local Students

Provided by Andrews FCU

Andrews FCU recently collected school supplies to support local teachers, schools, and students in the greater metropolitan Washington D.C. area.

During July and August, Andrews Federal branch locations collected school supplies donations from members and the community in partnership with local media outlet DC News Now. According to credit union leadership, the goal of the program was to help schools and improve resource allocation for students and teachers and was fueled by Andrews FCU's commitment to education. "At Andrews Federal, we believe education creates a better path for young people to advance and create a positive impact in our communities," said Damita Robinson, COO for Andrews FCU. "During our Back-to-School Supply Drive, our members, employees, and neighbors worked together to support our students so they could thrive at the beginning of a new school year."

The credit union drive collected enough supplies to support nine schools throughout the greater metropolitan Washington D.C. area. Credit union employees personally delivered the supplies to each school. Credit union members and employees also collected school supplies at the credit union's New Jersey branches and its three overseas military installations.



Cobalt CU's SAC Foundation presents a donation to Operation 22 Til' Freedom. Photo courtesy of Cobalt CU.

Cobalt CU's SAC Foundation Presents \$12,000 donation to Operation 22 Til' Freedom

Provided by Cobalt CU

Cobalt CU's charitable arm The SAC Foundation presented Operation 22 Til' Freedom with a \$12,000 check. Funds were raised on August 31, 2023, at the SAC Foundation's Annual Golf Charity event. OTTF's mission is to help reduce the veteran suicide rate from an average of 22 a day to zero. Their mission is structured through three pillars of support: community awareness, veteran outreach programs, and fundraising efforts.

Credit Union West & Employees Donate \$5k to Maui Wildfire Relief

Provided by Credit Union West

Credit Union West has donated \$5,000 to CU Aid to support the relief efforts from the wildfire that tore through Maui last month. The donation was funded by the credit union's new charitable foundation and employee charitable fund. As an industry, the credit union philosophy is 'People Helping People.' Credit unions often rally around their members, including credit union members in other parts of the world, when a humanitarian crisis occurs. This proved true after deadly wildfires ravaged Lahaina, Maui in August.

Following the devastation in Lahaina, CU Aid, an extension of the National Credit Union Foundation that focuses on providing disaster relief, put out a call to credit unions across the country to support the residents of Maui. Credit Union West answered the call by donating \$2,500 through its newly formed CU West CARES Charitable Foundation. The foundation is committed to enhancing lives and strengthening communities by giving back in meaningful ways. CU Aid purports that this donation will directly support credit union volunteers and employees in Lahaina who are working to recover and rebuild in the wake of the Maui's wildfires.

Additionally, Credit Union West employees expressed an overwhelming interest in matching the foundation's donation after seeing the devastation in Maui. Employees approved a matching donation of \$2,500 earlier this month from the EmployeesCARE Program, a charitable initiative led solely by Credit Union West employees. The voluntary program allows employees to contribute to a single group fund that increases their giving power and helps to make a larger impact. Employees vote each year to designate where their funds will go. EmployeesCARE donations are typically given once per quarter.



Keesler FCU donated \$5,000 to the Combat Veterans Motorcycle Association in September. Photo courtesy of Keesler FCU.

Keesler Federal Makes Donation to Support Combat Veterans

Provided by Keesler FCU

Keesler FCU donated \$5,000 to the Combat Veterans Motorcycle Association. The CVMA is an association of combat veterans from all military branches (with members from all 50 states) who ride motorcycles as a hobby. The CVMA provides assistance to veterans, veteran care facilities, veteran organizations, and veteran charities. Keesler Federal was founded as an Air Force base credit union and has a long history of supporting veterans. The donation was made as part of Keesler Federal's 5,000 Reasons Campaign, in which one non-profit organization is chosen each month for a donation based on online voting.

DEFENSE CREDIT UNION COUNCIL, INC.



The PenFed Foundation raised nearly \$1 million to support veterans and the military community at the 20th annual Military Heroes Golf Classic on Monday, September 1. Photo courtesy of the PenFed Foundation.

PenFed Foundation Raises Nearly \$1 Million for Veterans and Military Community at 20th Annual Military Heroes Golf Classic

Provided by PenFed CU

The PenFed Foundation joined community and business leaders to raise nearly \$1 million to support veterans and the military community at the 20th annual Military Heroes Golf Classic on Monday, September 11. Those who were impacted by and responded to the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, were honored with a moment of silence.

“We are thrilled to have raised nearly another \$1 million at the Military Heroes Golf Classic this year and look forward to continuing to support our military heroes who have made incredible sacrifices for our nation,” said PenFed CU SVP, PenFed Digital, and PenFed Foundation President Andrea McCarren. “Thanks to the commitment of our dedicated volunteers and donors over the past 22 years, the PenFed Foundation has delivered financial support totaling over \$55 million and transformed the lives of over 150,000 military families.”

During a dinner for participants held the evening before the golf event, James Schenck, president/CEO of PenFed CU and CEO of the PenFed Foundation, reminded that “Freedom isn’t free. Over 247 years, the brave men and women of America’s Armed Forces have fought 12 wars to defend our freedom.” He gave special recognition to those in attendance who have served our nation.

The PenFed Foundation’s Afghan Allies program has helped 50 families and over 180 refugees resettle in the United States since the fall of Kabul, Afghanistan. The program was founded in November 2021 to assist refugees who are proven to have supported our nation’s values in exemplary ways, with a particular focus on resettling Afghan women soldiers and their families who worked alongside U.S. Army women soldiers through the Army’s Cultural Support Team.



Those who were impacted by and responded to the terrorist attacks of 9/11 were honored during the event. Photo provided by PenFed CU.

Frontwave CU Makes a Splash as Returning Sponsor of the Super Girl Surf Pro Competition

Provided by Frontwave CU

Frontwave CU proudly announces its sponsorship of the prestigious Super Girl Surf Pro Competition, which took place September 22–24, 2023, in Oceanside, CA.

“In addition to providing great financial services, Frontwave is proud to make a difference in the communities we serve,” said Todd Kern, Chief Experience Officer (CXO) of Frontwave CU. “We’re excited to support an event like the Super Girl Surf Pro Competition that aims to inspire and empower the next generation of female leaders, not only in surfing, but in all walks of life.”

The Super Girl Surf Pro Competition is the largest women’s surf, lifestyle, and music festival, attracting top professional surfers worldwide with free exciting attractions and activities to engage attendees of all ages. Besides the thrilling surfing competition featuring top female professionals, attendees can enjoy the Nissan Concert Series, featuring live concerts, a Super Girl Gamer eSports tournament, an all-female DJ competition, fitness classes, and a mentorship program for young surfers with legendary female professionals.

“We are thrilled to have such an exciting and diverse lineup of activities at the event in addition to world-class surfing,” said Rick Bratman, CEO of ASA Entertainment, the event’s producer. “To have artists like Sean Kingston, Aloe Blacc, Bea Miller, Beach Weather, Loren Gray, Flipturn, and Bipolar Sunshine performing and using their voices to help promote Super Girl’s empowerment platform is absolutely incredible. On the surfing side, the Nissan Super Girl Surf Pro powered by Celsius is not only a showcase for the top-ranked surfers in the world but also a springboard to help launch surf careers and provide unmatched mentorship between pros and newcomers.”



AmeriCU supports Zoo New York’s Mobile and the nonprofit’s commitment to provide conservation, family-oriented programs, and education to the public about wildlife. Photo courtesy of AmeriCU Credit Union.

AmeriCU Credit Union Invests in Community Engagement with Zoo New York’s Mobile

Provided by AmeriCU Credit Union

AmeriCU Credit Union is excited to announce its support of Zoo New York’s Mobile to bring the wonders of the animal kingdom directly to our community. The Zoo Mobile offers a wide variety of educational experiences that allow the zoo to come to you.

AmeriCU supports the nonprofit’s commitment to provide conservation, family-oriented programs, and education to the public about wildlife. The Zoo Mobile ensures the safe and humane transportation of animals to various locations, allowing them to engage with communities while maintaining their well-being. The Zoo Mobile is a great opportunity for community engagement and promotes a deeper connection between people and the animal kingdom.

“AmeriCU’s support allows us to bring interactive educational programs to our community,” said Tim Greening, Director of Marketing and Development at Zoo New York. “The Zoo Mobile will feature a carefully curated selection of captivating animals, engaging educational programs, and interactive experiences suitable for all ages.”

Zoo New York, by example and action, provides knowledge and motivation to conserve nature in New York State through science-based natural and cultural experiences. By supporting the Zoo Mobile, an educational endeavor that demonstrates AmeriCU’s commitment to learning, community engagement, and a brighter future for all. AmeriCU is honored to help contribute to these educational initiatives offered by Zoo New York.

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Global CU Foundation Donates \$117,500 to Local Nonprofits

Provided by Global CU

As part of its continuing mission to support charitable organizations that benefit children, veterans, and local food banks and pantries, the Global Credit Union Foundation donated \$117,500 to community nonprofits in Alaska, Arizona, and Washington.

"Being able to support the everyday missions of our nonprofit partners is a long-standing priority of the Global Credit Union Foundation," said Noel Gabler, executive director, Global CU Foundation. "We're fortunate that day after day, year after year, Global members generously donate their money to help these causes."

Recipients of funds include:

Armed Services YMCA: Enhances the lives of military members and their families in spirit, mind, and body through programs relevant to the unique challenges of military life.

Alaska Legal Services: Offers free civil legal services to low-income and disadvantaged people to protect their safety, their health, and promote family stability.

Cancer Support Community Arizona: Uplifts and strengthens people impacted by cancer by providing support, fostering compassionate communities, and breaking down barriers to care.

Kenai River Sportfishing Association: Teaching kids to fish at an early age, so they'll learn to love the sport as adults and appreciate the need to ensure fish remain a sustainable resource in Alaska.

Vanessa Behan: Providing immediate refuge for children and support to strengthen families.

Phoenix Children's Hospital: To advance hope, healing, and the best health care for children and their families.

Stand Down Alaska: Providing food, clothing, and health screenings to homeless and at-risk Veterans.

Operation Spokane Heroes: Providing support for local Spokane area military personnel and their families.

American Red Cross Overseas Association Reunites at Service CU

Provided by Service CU

Service CU was proud to host members of the American Red Cross Overseas Association (ARCOA) from all over the country at its corporate headquarters in Portsmouth, NH on Thursday, September 21.

The 72nd Annual American Red Cross Overseas Association Convention Banquet saw these amazing women reunite over dinner and dancing to share their stories and celebrate their achievements.

The ARCOA program was developed during WW II to bring recreational programs to servicemen in the field, with the women traveling by jeep, truck, aircraft, and helicopters to support soldiers. Among those who joined the celebration were members who served in Korea and Vietnam, where they earned the endearing nickname, "Donut Dollies."

Between February 1962 and March 1973, 600 Donut Dollies responded to the Red Cross's ads seeking "qualified young women who were willing to serve one year overseas." Among the understated requirements: "The job requires a capacity for hard work under less-than-ideal conditions."

Donut Dollies usually traveled in pairs and dressed in their signature pale blue outfits, braving war fronts to boost morale for the troops, putting on activities for the troops, helping them write letters home, and visiting hospitals to spend time with the wounded.

The evening's keynote speakers were wife and husband Nellie and Tom Coakley. Tom served in the Vietnam War and met Nellie, an orthopedics nurse who had also served in Vietnam, at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center. She was the first person he saw upon waking up from a leg amputation, and they have been together ever since. Today, Tom and Nellie are dedicated to helping those with limb loss and limb differences.

"It was an honor to host Tom, Nellie, and the many incredible people who dedicated themselves to our country, whether it was through military service, nursing, or volunteering with the Red Cross," said Jaime Yates, Community Relations Manager at Service CU. "These women deserve recognition for their service, and we were proud to do just that."



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