



DCUC

ALERT

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America's
NEW Veterans**

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Annual Hawaii
Sub-council
Luncheon**

VETERAN SPOTLIGHT

**DCUC Engaging with
the Veteran Community
Veteran Saves**





ALERT

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

DCUC Latest Accomplishments

- Individually met with each of our [Hawaii member credit unions](#): identified several issues, threats, and opportunities affecting credit union memberships, military loans, and DOD regulatory concerns
- **Signed two new credit union members**, expanding DCUC's footprint within veteran communities
- Received 1st VA-vetted section in our upcoming **Veterans Benefits Guide**: publication is progressing very well!
- **Met with Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army** to discuss emerging issues on Army installations and how to resolve
- DCUC member credit unions successfully weathered the fallout from the SVB Bank failure: proving the safety and soundness of our industry; particularly in military and veteran communities!
- DCUC attended the [NCUA CU Capital Markets Symposium](#): hosted by NCUA Board Member Rodney Hood.
- Signed several new VBBP participants

DCUC Happening Now

- **ALERT newsletter is now fully digital!** [Get your monthly copy today!](#)
- **April is the Month of the Military Child**; DCUC supports this important aspect of military family life by working with organizations such as Military Child Education Coalition MCEC and the Armed Service YMCA
- **Received six Hall of Honor nominations** and will be looking to our HoH committee to select three inductees for 2023
- Engaged with ongoing VBBP participation efforts to sign new members

DCUC Upcoming Activities

- **DCUC's 60th Annual Conference** – Join DCUC August 7-11 at the beautiful Broadmoor Resort and Spa in Colorado Springs, CO; [Register Now!](#)
- **Veteran Saves**, an initiative backed by the Department of Veteran Affairs, launches April 25th: join DCUC for the kickoff! See page 13
- DCUC will be releasing Spanish-version of popular guide to the **Military's Blended Retirement System** in the coming weeks!



Supporting veterans is an important part of ensuring the financial well-being of the military through their entire lives."

– 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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A Solid Start for America's NEW Veterans



Anthony Hernandez,
President and CEO, DCUC

“Since DCUC and our member credit unions know how to “speak military,” we are in a unique position to bridge a known gap in the VA’s outreach programs.

DCUC and the Armed Forces Financial Network (AFFN) remain focused on emphasizing the importance of the Veterans Benefits Banking Program (VBBP). America’s credit unions can easily register for this important program at no cost to them. Participation in the VBBP is completely voluntary and doesn’t have any specific processor and technology requirements.

The VBBP is a great way to promote the many products and services your credit union offers to our Nation’s veterans. There are roughly 18 million veterans throughout the United States and abroad. There are still many opportunities to expand our abilities and impact when serving this growing community.

Since DCUC and our member credit unions know how to “speak military,” we are in a unique position to bridge a known gap in the VA’s outreach programs. Our member credit unions are on the installation and in the communities where hard-to-reach veterans are located. Thus, the VBBP is an excellent tool to begin a longer conversation/relationship with America’s veterans.

Additionally, given the recent liquidity challenges within the banking industry, this program is a great opportunity to encourage veterans, their beneficiaries, and caregivers to directly deposit their VA benefits into your credit union where their funds will remain secure.

There are many benefits to becoming a member of a credit union at the beginning of military service or when transitioning to civilian life. Successful integration into the civilian sector is something we all hope for in terms of our military members’ futures. However, it is vital we are able to recognize

the challenges and obstacles that military members face, especially younger troops returning from first tour of duty.

Transitioning into civilian life can generate anxiety for military members due to a variety of reasons. For starters, there can often be a deep sense of loss, or disconnect, in terms of social structure and connection. Some military members carry a sense of fear (and sometimes despair) in facing the unknowns after separating. Finally, not knowing who to trust in getting correct and actionable information only adds to this anxiety.

Here is something you may not know: Servicemembers transitioning out of the military face significant difficulties during their FIRST YEAR of separation. These challenges can include securing employment or housing, food insecurities, or access to a phone or the internet. Some have experienced some form of trauma related to the battlefield or during training. Many are surprised that the LARGEST GROUP of military members transitioning out of the service are UNDER THE AGE OF 23. Unless they have a job lined up, most will go from a fixed income to nothing at all. According to the VA, this age group also experiences HIGHER RATES OF SUICIDE than any other veteran. This is a tragedy considering the knowledge, skills, and abilities they’ve acquired during their military service, and their potential to succeed following their separation. These people are your credit union’s existing and potential members.

Beyond joining the VBBP, another way you can reach these veterans is by adding a link to the VA’s Solid Start Program on

continued on page 6

CEO UPDATE *continued from page 5*

your credit union's website. VA's Solid Start program was launched in 2019 to help connect new veterans to their benefits as well as other available support agencies.

We know America's credit unions are already a trusted source of information. Making your community outreach/marketing teams aware of these programs will not only strengthen your credit union's abilities to serve your members but could mean a life-changing impact to veterans in need.

The effect of having a member fully supported by your credit union, the VA, and other veteran organizations means having a productive member who can pay their bills, save for the future, and tell others about the credit union difference. For more information on the program, see the links below for a free welcome guide for

new veterans and the GAO study on the effectiveness of the Solid Start Program:

<https://benefits.va.gov/transition/solid-start.asp>

<https://www.va.gov/files/2023-01/vawk-color.pdf>

<https://www.gao.gov/assets/gao-23-105699.pdf>

Once again, I thank you all for your tireless support and dedication to our nation's military and veterans. We will continue to keep you apprised on veteran programs like the VBPP and Solid Start where you can continue to help guide your members to better financial readiness!

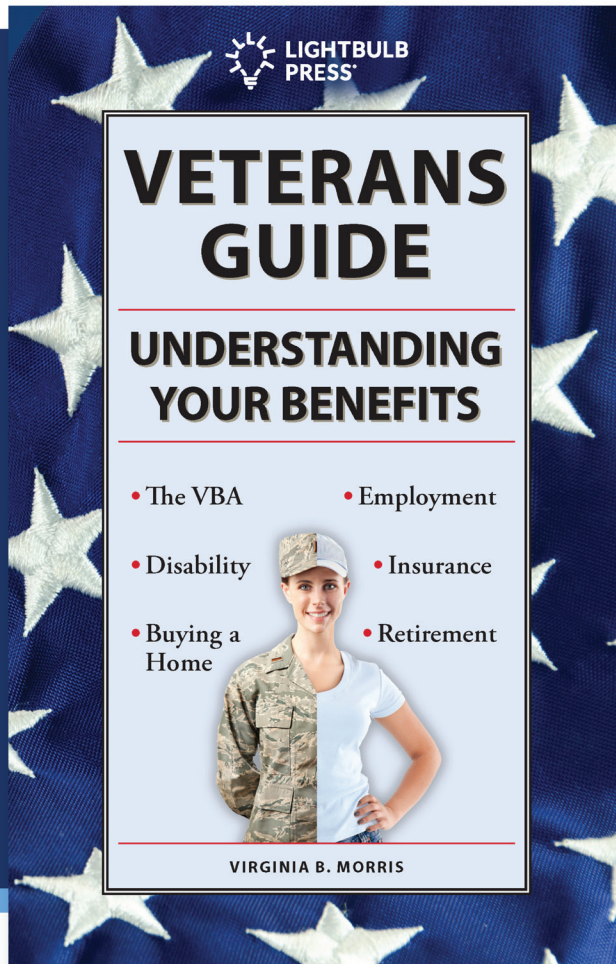
If you're interested in joining the VBPP, see our Veterans Spotlight on page 13. ■



GET INVOLVED!

JOIN THE MILITARY ADVOCACY COMMITTEE

dcuc.org/MAC



DCUC'S NEWEST PUBLICATION

VETTED BY THE
VETERANS
ADMINISTRATION

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Soon!**



KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



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REGISTER NOW



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DCUC Advocacy Efforts in Full Swing



Spring has sprung in Washington and Capitol Hill has once again become the focal point of DCUC advocacy efforts.



Provided by John McKechnie

Spring has sprung in Washington and Capitol Hill has once again become the focal point of DCUC advocacy efforts:

Two days of congressional hearings on the recent bank failures produced several items of interest for credit unions.

FDIC told both the Senate Banking and House Financial Services Committees that they will make recommendations to Congress by May 1 on changes to how deposits are insured. Plenty of rumors about FDIC calling for new levels of insurance coverage, surcharges for insurance over \$250K, and a separate regime for insuring com-

mercial accounts. NCUA and credit unions should pay close attention—new bank deposit insurance levels will almost certainly cause NCUSIF to rethink its coverage.

Both the Fed and FDIC called for new/higher capital requirements in their testimony to Congress. Interestingly, the immediate cause of the runs at Silicon Valley and Signature, liquidity shortages, were mentioned but was not the centerpiece of the hearings. New bank regulations covering both capital and liquidity are possible, and again, NCUA could follow suit.

The Fed also took heat for failures in their stress testing of SVB. Specifically, the Fed did not include interest rate shocks in their measurements. NCUA sources say that,



following the hearings, at least one NCUA board member may call for a re-evaluation of NCUA stress testing, specifically regarding the lack of focus on interest rate risk.

The evolving saga of legislation to impose a new cap on credit card interchange transaction continues. Senators Dick Durbin (D-IL) and Roger Marshall (R-KS) put on a full-court press in early March in an attempt to garner additional Republican support for their yet-to-be introduced measure.

DCUC, credit unions and leagues turned up the volume on their grassroots opposition in response. The good news: Durbin-Marshall struck out, getting no commitments from GOP Senators. The bad news: Despite coming up empty, Durbin is a very determined lawmaker, and very influential, and appears ready to try any and all avenues to force a Senate Floor vote on the legislation.

One rumored battleground, according to R Senate Leadership, is the Farm Bill. The Durbin-Marshall bill could be added as an amendment to that must-pass measure, and credit unions are redoubling their messaging to Capitol Hill as a precaution. Expect this issue to percolate all year.

DCUC has picked up a rumor that CFPB will be looking for ways to inject itself into the debate over GAP waiver/insurance refunds. Prior to now issues involving GAP insurance products — those valuable protections that help consumers pay off a loan in the event of depreciation in the value of a vehicle — have resided at the state level. Colorado and Iowa in particular have legislation that restricts or even prohibits use of GAP insurance.

According to a former CFPB senior attorney, there is a push at the Bureau to sweep GAP into their broader targeting of

so-called “junk fees.” This despite the prohibition in federal law against CFPB delving into state-regulated insurance products. The nexus: GAP products being offered by federally chartered or federally insured financial institutions such as credit unions.

This is a thin thread legally, but CFPB is being very aggressive on all consumer fee issues. DCUC has been, and will be, on the front lines of this fight. ■

DCUC Hosts Third Annual Hawaii Sub-council Luncheon

Provided by DCUC

On Wednesday, March 22, DCUC hosted its third annual Hawaii Sub-council luncheon at the Pacific Club in Honolulu, Hawaii. First formed in 2020, this tight-knit group of credit union leaders gathered to reconfirm their dedication in serving the unique needs of servicemembers and veterans across the Hawaiian Islands.

DCUC visited with several of its member credit unions while in the “Aloha state” to include Aloha Pacific FCU, Hickam FCU, Pearl Hawaii FCU, Hawaiian Financial FCU, HOCU, Ko’olau FCU, and Schofield FCU. Hawaii is home to more than 100,000 military personnel, veterans, dependents, and DoD personnel from all branches of the U.S. armed forces.

“Every single one of these credit unions are fully committed to strengthening their impact and exemplifying the credit union difference,” shared Ron Aoki, DCUC Board Secretary and Schofield FCU President/CEO.

Issues discussed included advocacy, trajectory of emerging concerns and issues, and continuing to lay the groundwork for DCUC’s third active sub-council. Much like its other sub-councils in the Mid-West and Overseas, this Sub-Council addresses issues that are unique to serving the military and veteran community in this region.

“This year’s luncheon was another great opportunity to meet with our members face to face and discuss the important role credit unions have within the communities they serve,” said Anthony Hernandez, DCUC President/CEO. “We always look forward to hosting these gatherings so we can continue to stay abreast our members’ evolving needs when serving our military and Veterans on the Hawaiian Islands.” ■



DCUC President/CEO Anthony Hernandez and Ron Aoki, president/CEO of Schofield FCU and DCUC Board Secretary

The DCUC Hawaii Sub-council gathers to discuss advocacy, trajectory of emerging concerns and issues, and continuing to lay the groundwork for DCUC’s third active sub-council.





Above: DCUC President/CEO Anthony Hernandez and Mark Munemitsu, president/CEO of HOCU (Honolulu Credit Union)



Right: DCUC President/CEO Anthony Hernandez and Scott Kaulukukui, president/CEO of Hickam FCU

AWARDS & RECOGNITION

Damita Robinson Featured on DC News Now as Part of Black History Month Series

Andrews FCU’s COO, Damita Robinson, was recently featured on DC News Now as part of the news station’s Black History Month promotional series. Robinson shared that she was the first African American woman to fill many of the roles along her career journey, including serving as Andrews Federal’s first African-American vice president, senior vice president, executive vice president and COO.

“Diversity matters for any organization, especially for Andrews Federal Credit Union because we are an international organization. In order to serve the members well, to know the products and the services they need, you have to have the people from the communities to tell you what those needs are,” Robinson said. “Diversity is really a secret sauce to being competitive—having diversity and giving the employees a voice.” ■



Damita Robinson, Andrews FCU COO. Photo by Juliana Powell, Eglin FCU

CREDIT UNION PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

INDIANAPOLIS, IN — Financial Center FCU is excited to announce the appointment of **Kyle Endres** as the new VP of Communications. Endres will manage several teams focused on digital access and direct member communication.

LAUREL, MD — Tower FCU is pleased to announce the hiring of **James McHale** as new Senior VP & CFO. McHale will oversee Tower's Finance, Accounting, Investments, Risk Management, and Facilities/Administrative Services department teams.

N. CHARLESTON, SC — South Carolina FCU has hired a new advisor, **Charlis Wright**, for South Carolina Federal Investment Solutions, available through CUSO Financial Services, L.P. (CFS)* to serve clients in the Columbia area. Wright will provide strategic financial management solutions to clients interested in planning for retirement, building wealth, transferring assets to future generations, and more.

GLENDALE, AZ — Credit Union West is pleased to announce the newest member of their Board of Directors, **Jerry Oliver Sr.** "As I've learned more about the history, growth, and success of Credit Union West, I'm eager to use my professional experiences to help further the mission of this award-winning credit union," Oliver said.

LITTLETON, MA — Hanscom FCU proudly announces the addition of **Michael (Mike) Duffany** to its executive team as COO. Duffany will be responsible for leading commercial real estate lending production, management, and performance in support of Hanscom FCU's revenue and asset quality objectives.

CHARLOTTE, NC — Hanscom FCU also announces the appointment of **Sam Saad** as its Chief Credit Officer. Saad will lead his team in creating and upholding an effective credit strategy.

PAPILLION, NE — Cobalt CU is pleased to announce the appointment of **Haley Christensen** as the organization's new VP of Information Technology Enterprise Applications.

CREDIT UNIONS IN THE NEWS

DOVER, DE — **Dover FCU** is awarding six (6) \$1,000 scholarship to six college bound students as a part of the annual Dover Federal Scholarship Program. The Scholarship Program was created to give back and assist local successful youth in their future college endeavors. Dover FCU is also offering eligible members a chance to win a \$1,500 scholarship to help cover the expanding costs associated with college education. The Credit Union College Scholarship Program, supported by Delaware Credit Unions and their statewide campaign, Better Values – Better Banking, is funding three (3) \$1,500 scholarships that will be awarded to three (3) high school graduates chosen as winners from across the state.

RADCLIFFE, KY — **Abound CU** was recently named one of the 2023 Best Places to Work in Kentucky. "We're thrilled to celebrate as a Credit Union and recognize our 335 amazing team members," says Ray Springsteen, president/CEO of Abound CU. "Their dedication and passion for finding real solutions that make more possible for our Members and communities is inspiring."

SUMTER, SC — A program with **SAFE FCU** is putting first responders and other public service workers up to \$15,000 closer to home ownership. Funded by Federal Home Loan Bank of Atlanta (FHLBank Atlanta), the Community Partners product provides homebuyers with money to help cover their down payment, closing costs, counseling, and home rehabilitation costs when buying a house.

"Home ownership is part of the American Dream," said SAFE President/CEO Michael Baker. "We are excited to help extend this program to the people who make their living serving others in the community."

ROME, NY — **AmeriCU** announced two new board appointments following the organization's annual membership meeting held on March 13th. Nick Fabrizio will serve as Chairman and Jennifer Stowell will serve as Vice Chairman to lead the credit union's volunteer board of directors.



2023 DOVER FEDERAL



\$1000 COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP

Open February 21 - May 12

<https://www.doverfcu.com/scholarship>

DCUC Engaging with the Veteran Community Veteran Saves, A Sister Program to Military Saves, Launches April 25

Provided by DCUC



DCUC is partnering with America Saves and the Association of Military Banks of America (AMBA) to launch this initiative, supported by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). **Veteran Saves** will launch during the annual Military Saves Week taking place April 24-28.

All credit unions are invited to join us for the Veteran Saves kick-off on April 25th at 1 PM EST to learn more about the Veteran Saves program. This program is designed to address and curb the financial instability facing the veteran population.

“Credit unions have been serving our Nation’s military and their families for nearly 100 years, and this commitment to their financial well-being doesn’t end when a service member takes off the

uniform. Veterans are in every community across our country, and Veterans Saves is a great way to engage with and encourage this important group to take charge of their finances. DCUC is proud to be able to support Veteran Saves and advocate for this important mission on behalf of all our Nation’s credit unions,” stated Anthony Hernandez, president/CEO, Defense Credit Union Council.

In addition to blog posts, emails, social media and pledges, the initiative will also host educational forums throughout the year. These include town halls, workshops and more to provide even more in-depth learning opportunities for the veteran community, especially those in critically vulnerable populations such as Black and Latino Americans, women, and those with a disability. ■

The Veterans Benefit Banking Program

The Veterans Benefits Banking Program (VBBP) provides all Veterans, their beneficiaries, and their caregivers — “VA benefit recipients” — a safe, reliable, and inexpensive way to receive and manage VA monetary benefits or stipends by depositing funds directly into their existing bank accounts or new accounts offered by participating banks and credit unions.

VBBP Key Points

- VBBP seeks to simplify banking choices by helping eligible Veterans select the right bank or credit union for themselves and their families.
- VBBP helps Veterans and other VA beneficiaries choose among the three available options for receiving VA monetary benefits: direct deposit into an existing or new bank account, electronic funds transfer to a Direct Express prepaid or other prepaid



card, electronic funds transfer, or mailing of paper checks to pre-approved beneficiaries.

The program is simple to join: 1. your credit union must offer a free checking account with no monthly minimum (a direct deposit requirement is allowed) and 2. your credit union promises to work with any Veteran/beneficiary/caretaker in your Field of Membership to get them in, if possible.. ■

**Interested in becoming a VBBP participant?
Email Beth Merlo at Bmerlo@dcuc.org.**



Family of Six Wins Pen Air®'s Financial Advising Competition and \$5,000

Provided by Pen Air CU

Pen Air® CU (Pen Air) congratulates Veronica and John as the 2022 NOW Program winners! Over the seven-month program, the couple successfully reduced their debt by \$22,368 and increased savings by \$8,922. NOW is a financial advising competition that transforms financial futures and rewards winners with a \$5,000 cash prize.

"The Pen Air NOW program was the tool we needed to hold our entire family accountable for our finances. Meeting with Kate month after month and looking at the data was so helpful! Our goal was to embrace the process, set goals and meet them, and revamp our financial habits. We did just that," said Veronica, 2022 NOW Winner. "We are forever thankful for this opportunity and are very excited to be moving into our

new home with minimal debt. If you need that extra push and level of accountability, this program is for you! Thank you everyone at Pen Air for all the support. Our lives have been enhanced forever!"

The pandemic was financially hard on Veronica and John. Focusing on their big family's financial goals, they sought help from Pen Air's NOW program. Over the seven-month competition, the team was able to make significant strides toward eliminating debt, boosting their credit score and increasing savings. Additionally, they began to anticipate annual expenses like sports registrations while also building an emergency fund specifically for unexpected expenses.

"I couldn't have asked for a better team," said Katelyn Martorana, Learning and Development Specialist for Pen Air CU. As one of Pen Air's Certified Financial Councilors, Katelyn has participated in the NOW Program for two seasons, winning in 2021. "They started the program dedicated and committed to reaching their goals. Every month from beginning to end, seeing the progress they made was inspiring and I hope that it encourages others as well," said Martorana.

AmeriCU is a Source of Stability in an Uncertain Market

Provided by AmeriCU

On March 13, AmeriCU hosted the credit union's annual membership meeting. AmeriCU President/CEO Ronald Belle, and John Stevenson, Chairman of AmeriCU's Board of Directors addressed the current membership on the credit union's financial performance and successes in 2022, highlighting the many achievements the credit union made throughout the year. In 2022, AmeriCU remained committed to providing even more value to members through enhanced product and services, implementing innovative technologies, and first-class service. 2022 highlights included new logo and brand, an updated modern financial center design, Interactive Teller Machines, online chat feature, redesigned credit cards and rewards program. AmeriCU also gave back generously to the communities it serves and was voted a Best Company to work for in New York State.

"AmeriCU remains financially strong and well-capitalized. Being a not-for-profit, credit unions have a different governance model, meaning AmeriCU exists to return value to their collective membership through competitive pricing and enhanced services vs. a small group of stakeholders. This places a higher importance on wisely managing and investing those funds. At AmeriCU our number one priority is always our members financial well-being and we have several checks and balances in place to ensure the credit union keeps our financial ratios and key performance indicators balanced. Our strategic team stays attune to market shifts and meets on a regular basis to make adjustments as needed," said Ron Belle, AmeriCU president/CEO.



Twelve recipients of the Service Person of the Year award, the Spouse of the Year, and the Bobby Alexander Civic Leader of the Year were honored at the 28th annual Alaska USA FCU Military Appreciation Breakfast. Photo provided by Alaska USA FCU.

Alaska USA Honors Alaska's Military

Provided by Alaska USA FCU

Alaska USA honored 12 members of Alaska's armed services chosen as the Service Person of the Year honorees as well as the Spouse of the Year, and the Bobby Alexander Civic Leader of the Year at the 28th Annual Alaska Military Appreciation Breakfast.

These exceptional enlisted service members represent each of the active-duty branches of the Guard and Reserve. Each nominee underwent a panel interview after being nominated by their supervisors and was recognized and awarded for their outstanding achievements.

This year's guests included the command teams of the 12 honorees, as well as representatives from Senator Murkowski's and Senator Sullivan's offices. Alaska USA President/CEO Geoff Lundfelt, along with Alaska USA Board members and other members of Alaska USA senior leadership team, were in attendance to recognize the awardees.

"This event is one we look forward to every year to honor these active-duty service members, Spouse of Year, and the Bobby Alexander Civic Leader of the Year and celebrate their incredible achievements. It is truly appreciated by the service members who have sacrificed so much for our country," said Geoff Lundfelt, President and CEO, Alaska USA. "This event is a great opportunity to look back at our history and think about our beginnings established in the military."

The Alaska USA Military Appreciation Breakfast takes place in conjunction with the Armed Services YMCA of Alaska's annual Salute to the Military event.

**Alaska USA FCU rebranded as Global CU as of April 3, 2023.*

**Get the latest credit union
news at DCUC.org/news.**

Tower FCU Unveils New Brand Identity

Provided by Tower FCU

Tower FCU, headquartered in Laurel, MD, announced a bold new brand identity, logo and website. The branding will accelerate Tower's vision to deliver greater member value, smarter technology and personal service to help our members achieve a stronger financial future.

"Our refreshed brand is about renewing our commitment to our members, our employees, and our local communities," said Richard Stafford, Tower's president/CEO. "Tower has a proud 70-year history of serving the military, local community and their families, and we will continue to provide smart financial solutions and guidance to our 220,000 members. I am excited about our next chapter as we share our brand story with a new generation of members."

The branding will be introduced across all Tower branches, digital channels and member communications and marketing. Tower has also launched a new website (towerfcu.org) with improved functionality and navigation, a mobile-first design, enhanced security features, and expanded financial education and resources.

"As a not-for-profit credit union, we're wholly focused on improving the financial security and well-being of our members," said Tom Poe, VP/Director of Marketing & Business Intelligence for Tower. "Our new signature Smart Shield logo represents security and innovation, where tech-savvy meets the human touch. An updated wordmark helps the Tower name stand proud, with a brighter emerald green inspired by our history and evolved for today. We are also introducing a new tagline – A Smarter Way Forward – to better convey our brand promise."

To commemorate Tower's 70th anniversary and new brand, the credit union also made a special \$70,000 donation to seven local charities supported by the TowerCares Foundation, the credit union's philanthropic arm. The TowerCares Foundation provides critical support for active military, Veterans and children in need.



Left: Pen Fed CU Porsche Carrera 911 GT3 Cup Car.
Below: Sabré Cook



PenFed CU Announces Partnership with Porsche Carrera Cup Series Driver Sabré Cook for the 2023 Season

Provided by PenFed CU

PenFed CU, the nation's second-largest federal credit union, announced today it will join professional race car driver Sabré Cook as a Gold Level Partner beginning with the 2023 Porsche Carrera North America Cup Series. As part of this partnership, PenFed CU will become the Official Credit Union of Sabré Cook Racing and the #37 Porsche Carrera 911 GT3 Cup Car.

"PenFed thrives in partnering with the best," said PenFed CU President/CEO James Schenck. "Sabré's drive, determination and results are without equal and we are proud to support a winning team and a driver who has the ambition to achieve victory on and off the track."

Sabré Cook is one of the top female racing drivers and is making history as one half of the first female driver and female owned team pairing to race in Porsche Carrera Cup North America. She is also the first female driver to race in the Porsche Carrera series. Sabré is a trailblazer for women in motorsports, pushing the limits to achieve great success in karts, formula cars, and sports cars. Sabré is also a first-generation college graduate, earning her B.S. in Mechanical Engineering from the top public engineering university in the U.S., the Colorado School of Mines. She has worked as an engineer in the automotive and motorsports space in many capacities, including F1 and INDYCAR.

The 2023 Porsche Carrera Cup North America Series is one of the preeminent one-make racing series in the world where drivers go head-to-head in the exact same car. Drivers compete at the most iconic motorsport venues across North America paired alongside IMSA, NASCAR Xfinity, IndyCar and F1 race weekends. More information about the series can be found here: www.porshecarreracup.us.

"I am so excited to launch the 2023 race season powered by PenFed CU," said Cook. "PenFed is built on the credit union motto of 'people helping people' and I'm honored to introduce motorsport fans across America to PenFed's award-winning products and services." 2023 Porsche Carrera North America Cup Series schedule:

- March 15–16 at Sebring International Raceway, Fla.
- April 14–16 at Long Beach Grand Prix, Calif.
- May 5–7 at Miami Grand Prix, Fla.
- June 22–25 at Watkins Glen International, N.Y.
- July 28–30 at Road America, Wis.
- September 15–17 at Indianapolis Motor Speedway, Ind.
- September 28–October 1 at WeatherTech Raceway Laguna Seca, Calif.
- October 20–22 at Circuit of the Americas, Texas



REGISTER
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Credit Union West Awards \$5000 to Student Entrepreneurs

Provided by Credit Union West

Credit Union West was proud to partner with Glendale Community College (GCC) to sponsor the 2023 Innovation Challenge for the fourth year in a row. The Innovation Challenge gives GCC students an opportunity to pitch their ideas for a business that solves a problem or makes a difference in their community. The credit union awarded a total of \$5,000 to the top three winners to help launch their businesses.

Five finalists were chosen by faculty at GCC to present their ideas to a panel of judges on Thursday, February 16th. The panel of judges was comprised of GCC faculty and local business leaders, including Credit Union West's Senior VP and COO, Ning Duong.

"I loved being part of the judging panel for the Innovation Challenge," Duong said. "At Credit Union West, we believe in the power of the youth, and we see them as the future leaders of our community. It's an honor to sponsor this event and help these students reach their goals."

In addition to sponsoring the event, Credit Union West provided a Financial Education Workshop to the participating students which focused on budgeting, the importance of credit, and how to make saving money a habit. The credit union is proud of its work in teaching financial literacy to the youth in the communities they serve.

The 2023 Glendale Community College Innovation Challenge winners are:

- Laura Morales, the first-place winner, received \$2,500
- Daniel Hulse, the second-place winner, received \$1,500
- Edwin Leon, the third-place winner, received \$1,000

"Thanks to the generous support of Credit Union West's prize sponsorship, we can recruit more students and raise the stakes of this competition," said Dr. Gabriela Cojanu, GCC Business Faculty and Innovation Challenge Founder. "Not everyone wins a prize, but in the end all participants are winners by competing in the Innovation Challenge."

Congratulations to the 2023 GCC Innovation Challenge winners! To learn more about how Credit Union West gives back to local communities, visit cuwest.org/givingback.



CU West GCC Student Entrepreneurs

DEFENSE CREDIT UNION COUNCIL, INC.

VyStar CU Launches VyStar Foundation

Provided by VyStar CU

VyStar CU has launched VyStar Foundation, which will serve as the credit union's philanthropic arm, dedicated to doing good and leading by example through collaborative partnerships that support youth, military members and veterans, and overall community vitality in areas served by VyStar CU.

"VyStar Credit Union's purpose is to Do Good. That simple phrase describes the spirit of philanthropy that is deeply embedded in our organization. It inspires our teams in all that we do, whether we're serving our members, volunteering with nonprofit organizations or donating to community partners who share in our commitment to improve the places we call home," said Patricia McElroy, SVP/President VyStar Foundation. "We have seen the incredible power of what we can accomplish when we work together for a common good. I am thrilled to have the opportunity to lead VyStar Foundation to further expand VyStar's dedication to the community."

Grants through VyStar Foundation will be available to 501(c)(3) organizations whose purpose and mission align with the Foundation's strategic giving pillars:

- **Military:** Ensuring military members, veterans and their families receive the social services they need and the recognition they deserve
- **Youth:** Empowering youth by providing equitable access to creative learning environments
- **Community Building:** Cultivating financially strong, culturally vibrant and interconnected communities

Each grant cycle will have a specific funding priority drawn from one of these strategic giving pillars. The grant cycle focuses on nonprofit organizations that support active military, veterans and their families. Specific funding priority will be given to programs that address food and housing insecurity, employment and small business counseling, or mental health services.



Keesler Federal Highlights 75th Annual Member Meeting with Special Member Giveback Rewards

Provided by Keesler FCU

Keesler FCU held its 75th annual member meeting recently where members were recognized and rewarded with extra special rewards commemorating the milestone.

Each day during the annual meeting week, 75 members were chosen by drawing to receive a \$75 deposit to their account, and one member each day was chosen to receive a \$1,000 deposit. A special cash prize of \$7,500 was awarded to one member at the annual meeting. Also, two vehicles were awarded to lucky winners, one by drawing among those attending the annual meeting and another chosen from among the entire membership.

James Hollingsworth, Keesler Federal Chairman of the Board, said the rewards were a celebration of Keesler Federal's 75 years, but also part of its long-standing program of giving back to members.

"This week is special, so we wanted to do something extra for our members, but member givebacks are something we do year-round," he said. "We do this because we are grateful for the support of our members who have helped us grow into one of the best credit unions in the nation."

Since its beginning in 1947 as a small credit union serving Keesler Air Force Base, Keesler Federal has grown and prospered to become a \$4.2 billion financial institution serving more than 300,000 members worldwide at 39 locations across multiple states. Today, Keesler Federal is among the 100 largest credit unions nationally and now serves the Mississippi Gulf Coast, Jackson, Hattiesburg, Mobile, and greater New Orleans markets.

Last year (2022), Keesler Federal reported \$11 million in Member givebacks, which are rewarded in the form of monthly member givebacks, credit card givebacks, Kasasa reward givebacks, and Mississippi Aquarium Partnership givebacks.

"In all that we do, we seek to exceed the expectations of our members," said Andy Swoger, Keesler Federal president/CEO. "Our members are the backbone of our credit union, so we celebrate this milestone by recognizing them. This premise is at the foundation of our member giveback efforts, and it also guides our community service programs."

Winners of Abound CU Celebration of the Arts Awarded at WKU

Provided by Abound CU

Abound CU Celebration of the Arts is a competitive exhibition located at the Kentucky Museum on the campus of Western Kentucky University in Bowling Green. The art show, generously sponsored by Abound CU, ran March 4 to April 14, 2023. The art competition was open to all residents 18 years of age or older, living in a Kentucky county which falls within a 65-mile radius of Bowling Green and awards were presented March 10.

Select winners included:

Best of Show — Yvonne Petkus

Kentucky Museum Purchase Award — Myra Dwyer

ArtWorks Merit Award — Tony Murray

World's Greatest Studio Tour Merit Award — Leslie Nichols

A full listing of all winners will be published in *SOKY Magazine*.

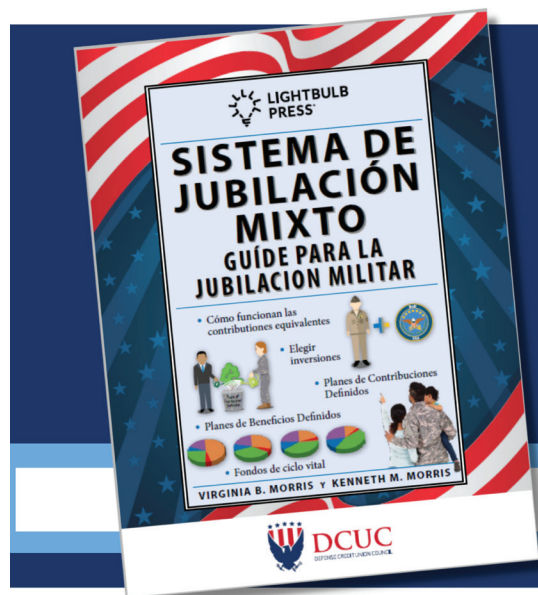
“At Abound, our purpose is to help our communities thrive,” said Jake Darabos, CPA, Chief Finance and Administration Officer of Abound CU. “We’re proud to be the title sponsor of this exhibition and work with institutions like WKU to enhance the lives of Kentuckians.”



Award winners from the Abound Credit Union Celebration of the Arts exhibition. Photo provided by Abound CU.



Jake Darabos, CPA, Chief Finance and Administration Officer of Abound Credit Union, congratulates Best of Show winner Yvonne Petkus. Photo provided by Abound CU.



GUIDE TO THE MILITARY'S BLENDED RETIREMENT SYSTEM SPANISH VERSION

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PenFed Foundation Provides \$50,000 Grant to Our Military Kids to Increase Access to Extracurricular Activities

Provided by PenFed CU

The PenFed Foundation, a national 501(c)3 founded by PenFed CU, furthered its support of military families with a \$50,000 grant to Our Military Kids, a charitable organization that provides activity grants to military children who have a parent that is either deployed with the National Guard or Reserve, or is a post-9/11 combat-injured service member. These families face unique stressors with limited support networks because they are often located in areas far from military bases and without access to other support resources.

"As the son of a combat wounded Marine, it was very important to me as a child to have an outlet that provided joy and physical activity," said James Schenck, CEO of the PenFed Foundation. "We're so proud to be able to give the gift of extracurricular activities to deserving military children."

Research shows that more than two-thirds of military children of a deployed or severely injured parent experience at least one sign of psychological stress. Participation in extracurricular activities significantly improves children's lives. Military families in Puerto Rico face additional challenges. Since the beginning of 2022, Our Military Kids has given 20 activity grants to 15 military children in Puerto Rico to participate in programs like soccer, music lessons, art classes, volleyball, swimming, dance and even cosmetology.

"It is important we recognize the sacrifices of military children and, as a community, do all we can to support them," said OMK Executive Director and U.S. Navy Veteran Kara Dallman "The PenFed Foundation's generosity helped us provide several hundred grants to military kids and teens who were empowered to choose an extracurricular activity that brought them joy during a stressful time."

Siblings Esmeralda (8) and Damian (6) from Santa Isabel, Puerto Rico received grants from Our Military Kids to play in their local soccer league. Their father is currently serving in the National Guard. Photos provided by PenFed CU



Call for Resolutions

If you have a resolution that you would like DCUC to adopt, here's your chance. Submit a written resolution to DCUC prior to May 30, 2023, to be acted on by the Resolutions Committee and included with the Call for the Annual Meeting, which is issued 60 days before the DCUC Annual Meeting. Proposed resolutions should be emailed to Beth Merlo, Vice President, DCUC at bmerlo@dcuc.org. If you have questions, please call 202-734-5007.