



DCUC

ALERT

ISSUE 1

DCUC.ORG

JANUARY 2023

CEO UPDATE

**DCUC's
Role, Mission,
and Vision**

CAPITAL CORNER

**2023 Outlook –
Big Things on
the Horizon**

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**Build Member Loyalty
by Offering More
Solutions They Need**

Mutual of Omaha

DCUC NEWS

**DCUC Celebrates
60 Years of Service
and Dedication
in 2023**





ALERT

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

DCUC Latest Accomplishments

- **Hired a California lobbyist to lead our efforts in California** and throughout the country in reworking recent state-level military restrictions on GAP purchases (e.g., SB 1311)
 - **Working closely with Credit Union Leagues and Associations** around the country on California's new restrictions on Military lending—affects Direct and Indirect Lenders
 - High potential for similar restrictions in other states despite DoD rescinding its interpretive guidance (QA #2) in late 2018
- Sent a letter to the House Financial Service Committee and Senate Banking Committee highlighting our concerns with **new CDFI Target Market Assessment Methodologies**
- **Added our voice to regulatory concerns regarding AAFES** contracting a cash recycler (5/3 Bank) in lieu of seeking services from an approved on-base financial institution
- **Sent a letter to Congress** in support of extension of Central Liquidity Facility in Omnibus Spending Bill (measure did not pass)
 - DCUC will continue to highlight the need for emergency liquidity for the smallest credit unions as our nation faces growing economic uncertainty, a high interest rate environment, and rising liquidity concerns

DCUC Happening Now

- **DCUC celebrates 60 years** serving those who serve our country!
- **Working hard at Senior Pentagon levels** to assist member credit unions in rebuilding on-base relationships, restoring base access rights, and ensuring DoD compliance with the regulation
- **ALERT newsletter is now fully digital!** Subscribe for your monthly copy now! professional credit union education, knowledge, and leadership skills, and apply today!
- **DCUC's Annual Conference CRASHers: Apply Now!**
- **Credit Union of the Year: Nominations Now Open!**

DCUC Upcoming Activities

- **Defense Matters: February 26, 2023** – Register now to reserve your spot during DCUC's morning session at the GAC on February 26, 2023!
- **DCUC 60th Annual Conference** – Registration is now open! Join DCUC August 7-11 at the beautiful Broadmoor Resort and Spa in Colorado Springs, CO

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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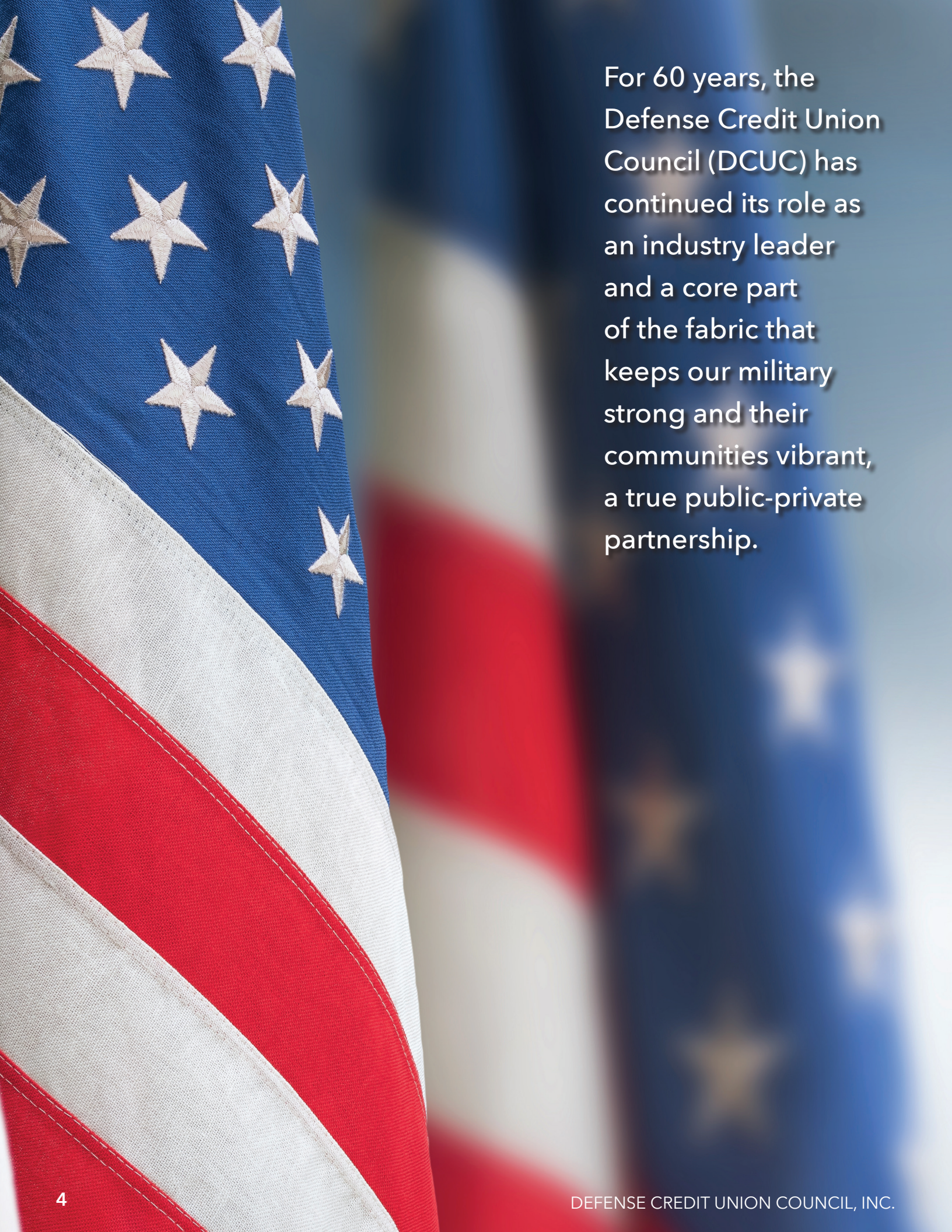
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The background of the entire page is a close-up, slightly blurred image of the American flag. The stars and stripes are visible, with the blue field of stars on the left and the red and white stripes on the right. The text is overlaid on the right side of the image.

For 60 years, the
Defense Credit Union
Council (DCUC) has
continued its role as
an industry leader
and a core part
of the fabric that
keeps our military
strong and their
communities vibrant,
a true public-private
partnership.

CEO UPDATE

DCUC's Role, Mission, and Vision

60 Years of Serving Those Who Serve Our County



*Anthony Hernandez,
President and CEO, DCUC*

For 60 years, the Defense Credit Union Council (DCUC) has continued its role as an industry leader and a core part of the fabric that keeps our military strong and their communities vibrant, a true public-private partnership.

Our Mission: To champion the interests of America's credit unions serving our military and veteran communities.

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

Today, our advocacy efforts directly impact more than 33 million members approximately 480 billion dollars in assets, nearly a quarter of the entire credit union industry. In fact, DCUC is double the size of the largest credit union league within the industry. From a Department of Defense perspective, our non-profit defense trade association is larger than defense contractors Northrop Grumman, Boeing, and Lockheed Martin *combined*.

DCUC's mission carries incredible responsibility and one we take very seriously.

So, what does DCUC do?

First, as an association of defense credit unions, DCUC gives over 180 defense credit unions a single point of contact inside the Pentagon and on Capitol Hill. We work hard to ensure the business climate on each military installation will continue to allow each defense credit union to positively impact the daily lives of service members, veterans, and their families. This important relationship begins the very moment these members open their first checking account, to assist them in buying a car or a home, all the way through retirement.

Second, we emphasize strong standards of service. DCUC member credit unions are well-known for taking care of military families from generation to generation,

giving them access to easy and affordable credit while protecting them from predatory lending/poor financial practices. This focus on purpose has also helped build our reputation off military installations. What works for military families also works for the rest of society. It is a big reason why our association is the fastest-growing segment in the credit union industry.

Third, because servicemembers, veterans, and their families face unique challenges, DCUC member credit unions are experienced in helping their members with specialized services such as guaranteed pay during government shutdowns or making paying bills back home easy when deployed. Our member credit unions also assist veterans who struggle with post-traumatic distress, life-altering injuries, and protect them from scams and frauds that attempt to rob them of their benefits.

Lastly, DCUC is more than a trade association. We have always been a huge part of the military community, spanning throughout the US and in 20 countries worldwide. DCUC takes great pride, along with our member credit unions, in always giving back to the communities where our military and veterans live, work, and play. We keep our military strong and resilient through our member credit unions, and because of this, military personnel, veterans, and their families count on us almost as much as we count on them.

To learn more about the DCUC difference, join us at our upcoming Defense Matters 2023 on February 26, held in conjunction with CUNA's GAC at the Marriott Marquis in Washington, D.C. This morning session focuses primarily on advocacy and legislative topics specific to Defense Credit Unions and the military populations they serve. ■

Today, our advocacy efforts directly impact more than 33 million members approximately 480 billion dollars in assets, nearly a quarter of the entire credit union industry.

2023 Outlook: Big Things



The new year has gotten off to a chaotic start in Washington. Against that backdrop, DCUC advocacy on behalf of the military credit union community remains constant, ever vigilant and on the lookout.



Provided by John McKechnie

Here's a look at what DCUC sees in 2023:

4 Big Things to Know About Congress:

- Congress will continue its push for more defense spending, but a slim Republican majority in the House and Democratic control of the Senate means different political dynamics are in store for defense policy.
- Gear up for gridlock as thin margins in both chambers make legislating difficult. In the House in particular. GOP leaders will need to contend with an increasingly vocal conservative faction

that isn't sold on piling on Pentagon funding and dedicating billions more to assist Ukraine.

- Gridlock could mean more temporary funding measures, rather than annual appropriations bills. And some Hill defense staff are already talking about another late-in-the year NDAA.
- Finally, watch for "woke wars." Republicans will challenge Biden Pentagon personnel policies they contend are politically motivated and distract from the military's warfighting mission. That includes efforts to promote diversity, target political extremism, focus on climate change and expand military access to abortion.

ings on the Horizon



3 Big Things to Know About Credit Union-Specific Issues on Capitol Hill

- Congress is expected to continue to be a partisan battleground, and that means a scant legislative agenda in both chambers. DCUC will continue to advocate for credit union charter modernizations, including bills that eliminate a Federal Credit Union Act requirement for monthly board meetings, and improve credit union access to NCUA's Central Liquidity Facility.
- Expect DCUC to lead the charge for legislation transforming the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau from its current single director leadership to a 5-member commission. A federal court declared CFPB's structure and funding mechanism unconstitutional last Fall, and that decision is likely to result in an appeal to the US Supreme Court later this year. Hill Republicans are likely to move a bill that would create a com-

mission as well as subject CFPB to the congressional Appropriations process. This could be a watershed year for the future of the CFPB.

- Bankers are intensifying pushback on credit unions buying banks, and they are likely to shop a bill that would restrict the practice. DCUC notes an uptick in comments by congressional aides about the issue. Rather than being defensive when talking to Congress, credit unions would be well-advised to emphasize the benefits to consumers when credit union service is made available.

2 Big Things to Know About NCUA

- Examinations have been the focus of Agency activities as Democratic NCUA Chairman Todd Harper navigates a tricky political dynamic on a Board that still has a Republican majority. That is likely to change in August when the term of Board Member Rodney Hood

ends and the Biden Administration is expected to nominate a Democratic replacement.

- In the meantime, look for NCUA to intensify their oversight of fair lending, begin ramping up oversight of climate change policies, and continue to ask Congress for third-party vendor examination authority.

One Big Thing to Know About CFPB

- Despite the previously mentioned court case that could completely change the way CFPB operates, CFPB appears intent to continue full speed ahead on enforcement of what Director Rohit Chopra considers unfair or abusive practices... whether spelled out in law or not. So-called "junk fees," Zelle and other person-to-person transaction fraud, and mortgage lending discrimination are just some of the areas that CFPB sources say are at the top of their agenda in 2023. ■

DCUC Celebrates 60 Years of Service and Dedication in 2023

Provided by DCUC

The Defense Credit Union Council (DCUC) is celebrating its 60th anniversary of championing the interests of credit unions serving our armed forces and veterans worldwide.

The Defense Credit Union Council (DCUC) is celebrating its 60th anniversary of championing the interests of credit unions serving our armed forces and veterans worldwide. For sixty years, DCUC's close working relationships with the Department of Defense, Capitol Hill, and NCUA have delivered impactful results to its credit unions. This dedication has allowed them to provide the best financial services to our Nation's military, veterans, and their families.

Since its inception, DCUC's overall goal has remained the same: serving those who serve our country. Whether it's proactively advocating for regulatory or legislative matters, guiding decisions on strategic or operational issues, or improving policy and procedures, DCUC's history reflects a mission centered on serving others.

DCUC first began under the Credit Union National Association (CUNA) in 1963 when credit union leaders recognized a need for a separate entity to address challenges credit unions regularly faced while serving our military and their families. To keep the financial needs of service men and women in the forefront, these credit unions needed a way to communicate with the Pentagon regularly and effectively. The formation of DCUC was the answer to filling that need. In the same year, DCUC held its first annual conference from September 17–19 at the Mayflower Hotel in Washington, D.C. Two hundred delegates from 87 defense credit unions attended that first conference and selected its first slate of officers.

Defense credit unions have always had a significant voice within the whole credit union industry. In 1963, defense credit unions had 1,327,690 members and \$535,218,708 in assets. This was about 11% of the national credit union movement at the time. Today, there are more than 33 million members with over \$480 Billion in assets. These numbers continue to grow every day, currently representing about 25% of the total industry.

Currently, under the leadership of President/CEO Anthony Hernandez and a small staff from offices in Washington, D.C., DCUC's knowledge of speaking military, and its reach continues to grow. In the last decade, DCUC's focus has expanded to include community-based credit unions whose field of memberships includes military members, even if they are not operating on a military installation.

"DCUC remains focused on improving our value proposition for each of our members. We fully recognize our role in the industry as we represent nearly a quarter of the industry and are twice as large as any league. Our 60th anniversary is the perfect time to recommit and strengthen DCUC's voice in representing the interests of military and veteran communities, which are a large and important part of the fabric of our nation," stated Hernandez.

DCUC is looking forward to celebrating its 60th Anniversary throughout 2023. In addition to hosting its 60th Annual Conference at the Broadmoor in Colorado Springs, CO, DCUC has several exciting projects in the works. To learn more about the history of DCUC and defense credit unions, visit dcuc.org/AboutUs. ■



The DCUC Board of Directors pose for their official photo in September 1968. Top row, left to right: Robert Schaffner, Fort Knox FCU; Brig. General Evert S. Thomas, DCUC Executive Secretary; J. Orrin Shipe, Managing Director of CUNA International, Inc. Bottom row, left to right: J. W. Jamieson, San Diego Navy FCU; John B. Rucker, Jr., Forbes FCU; Richard Grant, Pease FCU; Harold Carpenter, Redstone FCU.



This 1963 photo shows original DCUC chairman Richard Grant (left), visiting with Pentagon liaison Leslie Dix and Lt. Col. Carl E. Winkler of the office of the Judge Advocate General.



Presentation at the DCUC meeting of September 16-19, 1963, in Washington, D.C. Col. Winkler and Leslie Dix are standing at right.



Richard H. Grant, original member of the steering committee and early DCUC board member



Build Member Loyalty by Offering More Solutions They Need

Provided by Steve Hawkins CLF, LUTCF, CFS, FLMI – Director of Affinity & 3rd Party Marketing

Your members rely on you to keep their money safe. Because of the trust they've placed in you, they're likely to turn to you for additional ways you can help them meet their financial needs. Life changes can come unexpectedly, and as credit unions know, financial planning is essential in ensuring the security and overall well-being of their members.

Military and veteran communities are especially accustomed to experiencing unique financial opportunities and challenges. Mutual of Omaha shares this understanding that every individual has unique, personal needs and is sensitive to the importance of your credit union's members. We take great pride in treating every member as if they were our only policyholder and go to great lengths in making every experience a positive one. For more than a century, Mutual of Omaha has helped its customers protect what matters most. Join us by extending this protection to your members through additional solutions to better meet their needs.

Guaranteed Acceptance Whole Life Insurance from United of Omaha Life Insurance Company

With overall living expenses increasing year after year, none of us would wish to place a financial burden upon our families. This whole life insurance policy provides up to \$25,000 to help cover final expenses, provide for children or grandchildren, or make a gift to charity. Acceptance is guaranteed, with no medical exam required. Rates never increase, benefits never decrease, and coverage cannot be canceled if premiums are paid on time.



Supplemental Cancer Insurance from Mutual of Omaha Insurance Company

Nearly 40 percent of men and women in the U.S. will develop some form of cancer during their lifetime, and cancer is the second most common cause of death in the U.S., according to the American Cancer Society.¹ Yet few people realize the extent of the costs involved in cancer treatment or understand that basic health insurance doesn't cover many of these costs. Supplemental cancer insurance helps protect your members by paying cash benefits for 14 different cancer costs. These benefits are paid in addition to any other coverage your members may have, and policyholders can use the doctors and hospitals of their choice.

Accidental Death Insurance from Mutual of Omaha Insurance Company

The accidental death of a loved one is, of course, devastating. Sadly, accidental death often comes with sudden financial stressors—hospital bills, legal fees, and funeral expenses—all while the survivors struggle with grief and family considerations. Accidental death insurance can be helpful by providing up to \$1,000,000 in coverage if a member dies in a covered accident. It's available for anyone between the ages of 18-70, and your members cannot be turned down if they qualify based on age. This can be a great option for your members who may not qualify for other insurance coverage.

Why Choose Mutual of Omaha?

Mutual of Omaha began over 100 years ago as a small regional health insurer in the heart of the Midwest—Omaha, Nebraska. Today, Mutual of Omaha is a multi-line insurance and financial services organization with combined total sales, assets and profits that have earned us a spot on the Fortune 500 list for over a decade. As a mutual company, we serve our customers, not the interests of outside shareholders. **We always act in our customers' best interest**, just as your credit union dedicates itself to serving our military and veteran member's communities. Mutual of Omaha seeks to fully understand all needs and expectations and empower our customers to take the necessary steps to enhance their **financial security**. With Mutual of Omaha, you and your members can count on strong financial stability, superior customer care, effective administration of policyholder services, and prompt claims service. ■

To connect with Steve Hawkins for more information on how Mutual of Omaha is already helping USAA, American Legion, and Mountain America Credit Union meet their member's needs and generate additional income, email steve.hawkins@mutualofomaha.com or call 402-699-4265.

¹Source: <https://www.cancer.org/content/dam/cancer-org/research/cancer-facts-and-statistics/annual-cancer-facts-and-figures/2022/2022-cancer-facts-and-figures.pdf>

CREDIT UNION PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

BILOXI, MI — Keesler Federal CU has named **Ruth Montana** VP of Human Resources. Montana will work closely with senior management to craft the organization's vision and strategy in connection with business goals, employee retention, and organizational structure.

EDGEWOOD, MD — APG Federal CU has appointed **Andrea Vuncannon** as Business Development Director for Cecil County. Vuncannon is dedicated to building and nurturing relationships with partner organizations and bringing APG Federal CU products and services to those who live, work, worship or attend school in the communities it serves. APG Federal CU also appointed **Sharon Pelham** as Business Development Director for Baltimore County and Baltimore City. Pelham will actively strengthen the credit union's presence and brand through community outreach efforts in Baltimore County and Baltimore City.

PAPILLION, NE — Cobalt CU is pleased to announce the appointment of **Carol Sherrow** as the organization's Chief Marketing Officer. Sherrow will oversee the management and implementation of the credit union's strategic initiatives within marketing and advertising channels.

LITTLETON, MA — Hanscom Federal CU has announced the appointment of **Penelope (Penny) Swallow** to the position of Chief Financial Officer. Swallow brings extensive experience with finance, budgeting, accounting, and treasury within credit unions and other financial institutions to her role at Hanscom Federal CU. Hanscom Federal CU has announced a key leadership hire with **Jim Flanagan**, an executive with twenty years of broad experience across technology business units, recently joining the purpose-driven organization as its Chief Information Officer. **Tom Becker**, Hanscom Federal CU's Chief Lending Officer, has announced his retirement, effective January 3, 2023. "Tom's partnership and counsel to the credit union's Executive Team has helped shape who we are today as a purpose-driven organization," said **Peter Rice**, president/CEO. "We've relied on Tom to learn about our business, provide mentorship on career growth, and for a good laugh. His daily presence will be missed, but his tenure and leadership have set a great example to follow."

PRINCE GEORGE, VA — Following a 45-year career with Homebase CU, CEO **Patsy Stuard** will retire on February 2, 2023. Under Mrs. Stuard's leadership, assets have grown from \$16 million to \$259 million; membership has grown to over 17,250; employees have increased from 11 to 49; a new branch was built on Fort Lee in 2007, the corporate headquarters went through several expansions, and a third branch location in Chester is set to open by mid-2023. She also guided Homebase CU through two charter expansions, ultimately providing membership opportunities to the Greater Richmond community, including 14 counties and 4 cities.

SUMTER, SC — SAFE Federal CU announced the promotion of **Wayne Keels** to VP of Continuous Improvement and Project Management. "I'm looking forward to advancing SAFE's project portfolio while also nurturing a progressive culture that's driven by data," said Keels. "I'll be using key performance indicators and business intelligence to support organization-wide improvements for SAFE and its members."

PORTSMOUTH, NH — Service CU has named **Tyler Kuhn** as VP-Marketing and Digital Strategy, a new role created to further optimize our members' digital experience.

LAWTON, OK — Fort Sill Federal CU is pleased to announce **Jayson Sims** as their new President and Chief Executive Officer. Sims hopes to be able to assist in the development of new processes and procedures that will continue to cultivate positive interactions between FSFCU and the community at large.

Indianapolis, IN — Financial Center has hired **Chris Sibila** as Senior Vice President, Chief Information Officer (CIO). Sibila brings expertise in digital solutions, technology, product management, payments, data analytics, information security, fraud prevention, and operations to the Indianapolis-based credit union.

CREDIT UNIONS IN THE NEWS

DALEVILLE, AL — **All In CU** has been named the winner of the 2022 CARE Award at the Alabama Boys & Girls Club Hall of Fame & Awards Luncheon. "We are honored to receive this award and to be recognized for our contributions to the community," stated Kathy Scarbrough, All In CU VP of Marketing. "These unique financial education programs that were developed by All In employees are delivered in a fun and engaging way by employees who are passionate about giving back to the Boys and Girls Club."

Fort Bragg Federal CU Distributes \$1,000,000 in Loyalty Dividends

Provided by Fort Bragg Federal CU

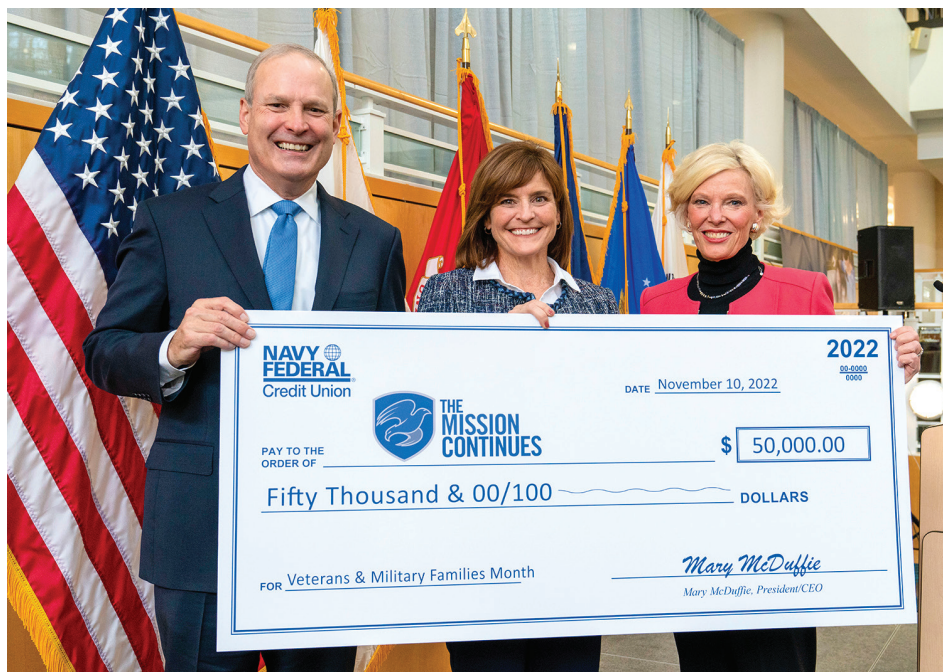
Fort Bragg Federal CU is proud to announce that it paid \$1,000,000 in Loyalty Dividends to 20,500 qualifying member-owners on December 20, 2022. For the fifth year in a row, Fort Bragg Federal CU has paid a Loyalty Dividend based on deposit and loan relationships of members who trusted the Credit Union to assist them with their financial needs during 2022. Approximately 55% of the Credit Union's total membership received a dividend; some receiving as much as \$500.

"Our Board of Directors has once again authorized the payment of this special dividend to recognize our most loyal members," said Todd Kenthack, president and CEO of Fort Bragg Federal CU. "As a financial cooperative, we are able to return a portion of our credit union's earnings to our member-owners. This sets us apart from many for-profit financial institutions. December is the perfect time of the year to give back to our most loyal members."

Fort Bragg Federal CU membership is open to Military and Civilians in Cumberland, Harnett, Hoke, Lee, Moore, Scotland, and Robeson Counties. Learn more about our Loyalty Dividend and all the benefits of FBFCU membership at www.FortBraggFCU.org.

GOT NEWS?

Send your
credit union
news to
alert@dcuc.org.



Navy Federal CU Thanks Those Who Serve

Provided by Navy Federal CU

In honor of Veterans and Military Families Month, Navy Federal donated \$50,000 to further the work of The Mission Continues in empowering veterans to continue their service in their communities. It is important to Navy Federal CU to support and honor veteran communities.

CU West Gives All Employees a Holiday and Inflation Bonus

Provided by CU West

CU West, a not-for-profit financial cooperative in Arizona, announced it will be giving all 200 employees a holiday and inflation bonus, up to \$1,000 combined. CU West has been recognized for 10 consecutive years as a 'Top Company to Work For' in Arizona. The organization has a strong focus on employee engagement and satisfaction, with a CEO and executive team that is passionate about creating a culture that attracts and retains top talent. In September 2021, the credit union made a bold move in raising the minimum wage to \$20 per hour. In 2022, the company introduced anniversary time off (ATO) and volunteer time off (VTO), a paid day away from the office in honor of an employee's anniversary and hours to give back through volunteer time in the community. Their latest move includes giving all employees up to \$1,000 between their traditional \$200 annual holiday bonus and a one-time inflation bonus of \$800.

"Like many others in the industry, Credit Union West has faced the challenges caused by the pandemic including the war on talent," said Karen Roch, CU West's president/CEO. "This is just one way we are saying thank you to our dedicated employees for their hard work and positive contributions that got us through another difficult year."

Roch grew up in the industry as a Human Resources leader, a unique background normally not seen in credit union CEO's. CU West employees reap the benefits as her experience in HR allows for a people-first mentality.

"People are our greatest assets," said Roch. "With many economic factors including staffing challenges, rising rates, and inflation, our employees have remained committed to each other, our members, and the communities we serve. We couldn't have accomplished all that we did this year without such an amazing group of people."

Hanscom Federal CU's Charitable Foundation Holds 10th Annual Meeting

Provided by Hanscom Federal CU

Hanscom Federal CU Charitable Foundation provided an accounting of major gifts granted in 2022 at its 10th annual meeting. The milestone meeting was held virtually to accommodate more members' attendance. The Foundation, founded in 2012, provides resources, primarily financial, to worthy charitable causes.

"The Foundation's focus is on providing donations and assistance to organizations that are doing great things for our community," said Teresa Conrad, Chairwoman of the Foundation. "Our supporting members share a mutual interest in social welfare and overall betterment of quality of life that truly captures the spirit of the credit union motto of 'people helping people.'"

Conrad explained that the non-profit 501(c)(3) organization distributes all proceeds to charity and provided details of the Foundation's extensive philanthropic support in 2022 that included:

- The continuation of a non-binding commitment the Foundation entered four years ago to contribute \$750,000 within five years to support the Home Base Program. The commitment ensures clinical care and funding for research that supports veterans and their families experiencing post-traumatic stress and traumatic brain injuries. Now in the fourth year of this commitment, the Foundation donated \$150,000 in 2022, including a recent \$25,000 sponsorship of Run to Home Base.
- Continued support of Boston Children's Hospital through the sponsorship of charity runner Dan Ziniti in the Boston Marathon as part of the Credit Unions Kids @ Heart team. Thanks to the generous support of many donors, Dan raised \$37,000 to fund several pediatric brain research projects at the hospital.
- A donation of \$16,000 to the Massachusetts Coalition for the Homeless through cash raffles and ongoing fundraising activities. These funds will support their Bed for Every Child initiative, which supports local children with beds to get a restful night's sleep.
- A \$20,000 donation to Crossroads, an organization that offers leadership, college preparation, and career development resources for economically disadvantaged youth throughout eastern Massachusetts.
- A donation of \$25,000 to Massachusetts Fallen Heroes to support a pitch competition for small business veteran and gold star family entrepreneurs. The Foundation also began new partnerships with Massachusetts Fallen Heroes aimed at a three-tiered approach to creating impact in our communities by providing funding, volunteering, and resources. Two such volunteering events include the rededication of the Massachusetts Fallen Heroes Memorial in Boston and flag planting at cemeteries during Patriot Week.
- Partnership with Veterans Inc. to support whole-health veteran programming, including financial wellbeing education. The Foundation donated \$50,000 to the organization to provide holistic wellness services and homelessness prevention.
- Tens of thousands donated to various other local and national organizations.

Conrad concluded the meeting by addressing the members in attendance and thanking them for their continued support over the years. "You each play an important role by lending talent and services that help the foundation achieve its mission of creating a lasting impact in our community," she said. "Thank you for being a supporting member and for your commitment to our mission."

Scott CU Gives Back \$1 Million to Its Members in Decades-Long Tradition

Provided by Scott CU

Scott CU's active members have once again received the gift of extra money in their accounts. This decades-long tradition is sure to spread some holiday joy.

The credit union's volunteer board of directors approved a bonus dividend and loan interest rebate in November, giving back approximately \$1 million to members. The money was directly deposited recently into Scott CU members' savings accounts.

"This is just one of many advantages of doing business with a member-owned financial cooperative," said Frank Padak, Scott CU president/CEO. "As a credit union, we believe in sharing our would-be profits with the members we serve. We are truly with you. In fact, in the past 15 years, we've given back millions of dollars to our members through the Bonus Dividend and Loan Interest Rebate. We also share our success with our member-owners by offering competitive rates and lower fees than most other financial institutions."

The credit union has given members a bonus dividend for the past 30 years and a loan interest rebate for the past 15 years, Padak noted.

"Looking at the financial and economic challenges of the past two years, I can say that I am so proud of our employees and their continued dedication to our members. Because of this dedication, our credit union remains a financially strong and fiscally sound institution. When we do well, everyone benefits," said Padak.

For the latest credit union news, visit DCUC.org/news.



DCUC
DEFENSE CREDIT UNION COUNCIL

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2.26.2023

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Honorable Rodney E. Hood

Honorable Rodney E. Hood Visits REV Federal CU

Provided by REV Federal CU

The Honorable Rodney E. Hood visited the Charleston-based REV Federal CU at its monthly SPARK! leadership meeting. As a member of the NCUA Board of Directors, Mr. Hood took the opportunity to address attendees on the issues currently impacting credit unions and their members and recognize REV's impact in helping uplift disenfranchised communities as a CDFI-certified institution.

Mr. Hood stated, "Financial inclusion is the civil rights issue of our time. To address this issue the NCUA will be launching the Office of Innovation and Access to help underserved and marginalized communities."

REV operates on the guiding principle of Growth with Purpose. This mission is centered around an innate desire to build resilient financial ecosystems in the communities it serves. By leveraging a digital first mindset, REV is able to connect with a broader audience through such initiatives as its #adulting interactive financial education modules, and Student Run banking program, which was recently highlighted by the South Carolina Department of Education. Together, these programs emphasize REV's commitment to developing solutions that take a holistic approach to its members' financial well-being.

"REV's mission has always been heavily influenced by service," commented REV president/CEO Jason Lee. "We are committed to creating exceptional outcomes in our communities and to be able to do this requires us to provide well beyond our competitive products and pricing."

Navy Federal CU Announces ROTC All-American Scholarship Recipients

Provided by Navy Federal CU

The Navy Federal ROTC All-American Scholarship Program honors the best and brightest ROTC seniors across the nation. The recipients are chosen by a panel of judges who review submissions based on the pillars of the ROTC program: Leadership, Military Excellence, Scholarship and Service.

In 2018, the program highlighted outstanding senior ROTC students from 10 universities. This year the program accepted nominees from 500 universities across the nation. From the collective group of nominees, Navy Federal selects 15 to become ROTC All-American Scholarship recipients. Out of the 15 finalists, the top Air Force, Army and Navy/Marine students are selected and honored as the three ROTC All-American Scholarship Program Students of the Year.

This year's recipients are:

- Natalie Stephens, Air Force (Student of the Year)
- Da Hee Kim, Air Force
- Courtney Nelson, Air Force
- Devrin Chullanandana, Air Force
- David Gigrich, Air Force
- Jack Frus, Army (Student of the Year)
- Demetris Coasey, Army
- Nathan Frimel, Army
- Eliana Berry, Army
- Emily Kasky, Army
- Christopher Chan, Navy (Student of the Year)
- Fritz Humm, Navy
- Robert Gortner, Navy
- Jacie Harley, Navy
- Bryce Boutelle, Navy

"It's exciting to see so many individuals with exceptional leadership qualities and superior achievements," said VP of Branch Operations at Navy Federal, Matt Lawson. "As a graduate of Army ROTC, I understand how much work goes into achieving goals in and outside of the classroom. We're proud to recognize this group for their military service, academic achievements and for becoming exemplary members of their communities."

By establishing this scholarship program, Navy Federal is grateful to recognize and support the best and brightest ROTC seniors from all 500 ROTC units across the country. In total, Navy Federal has donated over \$300,000 to ROTC All-Americans via its scholarship program and has seen over 1,000 ROTC student submissions. To learn more about the scholarship program, please visit rotcaa.navyfederal.org.



Safe FCU gives back to Lexington Police Department.

SAFE Federal CU Gives Thanks to Lexington Police Department

Provided by SAFE Federal CU

Lexington, South Carolina Police Department enjoyed lunch on behalf of SAFE Federal CU earlier this month. More than 70 officers and support staff were treated to fried chicken and other Southern favorites as a token of appreciation for their service.

"It's always an honor when SAFE has the opportunity to recognize the men and women dedicated to law enforcement," said President and CEO Michael Baker. "We're delighted to extend our thanks for all they do to make Lexington a safe place to live and work."

The credit union introduced its first responders' appreciation lunches earlier this year to show support for law enforcement, fire and other emergency workers within its footprint. Similar tributes are planned throughout 2023.

Tyndall Federal CU Shares \$13 Million In Profits with Its Member-Owners

Provided by Tyndall Federal CU

Tyndall Federal CU returned 13.7 million in profits back to its members. The payout was given to more than 70,000 qualifying members and deposited directly into their savings accounts. Individual amounts were calculated based on participation with the credit union and ranged from \$70 to \$420. Tyndall has returned more than \$40 million back to its members as profit-sharing and storm aid over the last five years. 41% more people received a Tyndall profit share in 2022 versus 2021.

"We're able to deliver value year after year because we don't waste our members' money," said Jim Warren, president/CEO. "Instead of charging excess fees, and exorbitant rates, our team is able to do this by keeping operating costs down, investing in digital channels, and focusing on our member's needs."

On January 1, Tyndall began waiving more than 15 fees—including monthly service charges, minimum balance fees, money market fees, non-sufficient funds, and ATM fees. The credit union's support for the community also includes disbursing nearly \$150,000 in community grants and offering its staff 4,000 hours of community volunteer service.



Alaska USA Foundation Surpasses \$4 Million in Donations to Community Nonprofits

Provided by Alaska USA Foundation

The Alaska USA Foundation recently donated \$55,000 to local nonprofits dedicated to helping children and families in need throughout the states of Alaska and Arizona. These donations mark a particularly special milestone for the Alaska USA Foundation, as they bring the Foundation's charitable giving contributions total to more than \$4 million since its inception in 2003. Recipients of the Alaska USA Foundation \$55,000 support include:

Feeding Matters—supports children and families navigating the difficulties of pediatric feeding disorder (PFD). They work to improve the health and well-being of children and their families through advocacy and programs that support, educate, and empower parents.

Kids Kupboard—has connected thousands of at-risk children to more than one million fresh healthy meals to help keep them more productive in school.

Covenant House Alaska—provides shelter and services for kids and youth, ensuring that no child must ever face hunger, homelessness, isolation, or the dangers of the street.

"Thanks to the generosity of our Alaska USA employees and members, the Alaska USA Foundation has donated an incredible \$4 million to change lives and improve communities," said Dan McCue, Executive Director, Alaska USA Foundation. "It's an important milestone that reemphasizes the Foundation's primary mission of supporting organizations that have proven to bring positive change for those in need."

Right: The Marine's Toys For Tots toy drive

Below: Soldiers' Angels "Operation Give Back" created blankets and paracord bracelets



Navy Federal CU Employees Give Back Across Southern California

Provided by Navy Federal CU

Team members at Navy Federal are channeling the holiday spirit this quarter. To celebrate Veteran's Day, Navy Federal partnered with Soldiers' Angels to craft paracord bracelets for deployed servicemembers and blankets for veteran patients in VA hospitals. Over 40 volunteers joined forces at Navy Federal's West Coast Hub campus in San Diego, CA, to create 20 blankets and 40 bracelets for servicemembers.

"Navy Federal's mission aligns so well with Soldiers' Angel's motto: 'May no soldier go unloved,'" said Diego Sanchez, Senior Training Instructor at Navy Federal. "We certainly put our hearts and love into the brackets and blankets we made for our service men and women!"

Championing community is a core value at Navy Federal, and branches across the west coast have diligently served as collection sites for the annual Marine's Toys for Tots campaign. Members and employees across the San Diego North Region donated over 1,200 toys to support military families this holiday season.

In the spirit of grassroots giving, West Coast Hub team members partnered with the Salvation Army Kroc Center in San Diego to adopt three families in need. Employee volunteers rallied to donate over \$2,500 worth of gifts and supplies to make the holidays brighter for these families.

Navy Federal employees are making a positive impact across Southern California. Team members are passionate about community service and have completed several volunteer events with local nonprofit organizations, like Operation Courage is Beautiful, Gays for Good and REINS, across San Diego County this year.



Above: President and CEO Geoff Lundfelt leads the team to take the plunge.

Right: Team Alaska USA is ready to take the plunge.



Alaska USA Federal CU Supports Annual Polar Plunge

Provided by Alaska USA Federal CU

Alaska USA participated in the 14th annual Special Olympics Alaska Polar Plunge on Saturday, Dec. 17. The frigid fundraiser took place at Goose Lake in Anchorage, where over \$324,000 was raised to support local Special Olympics athletes and their sports training.

Alaska USA had 13 employees raise more than \$11,000 and plunge into the freezing water that morning to show support of inspiring sports training and competition for Special Olympics Alaska athletes. One of the participants braving the cold was Alaska USA's President and CEO, Geoff Lundfelt.

"The Polar Plunge is something I look forward to every year. If these athletes can be brave in stepping out on the field, court, or track, then I too can be brave and support Special Olympics by Freezin' for a Reason," said Lundfelt. "It's refreshing and empowering to take the plunge and it motivates me to continue to help support their mission."

Alaska USA is committed to supporting local communities by lightening the financial load for organizations, like Special Olympics Alaska, so they can continue to provide critical services for people with intellectual disabilities and impact Alaska for generations to come.



Left to right: MAJ (Ret) Marc Snyder, All In CU Board of Directors Member; Jo Close, Fort Rucker Army Emergency Relief Officer; Amanda Hahn, All In CU Marketing Manager and Floyd Rodgers, All In CU Board of Directors Member

All In CU Donates to Holiday Meals for Soldiers

Provided by All In CU

All In CU donated \$5,000 to the Fort Rucker Holiday Food Voucher Program, which provides extra funds to soldiers and their families for holiday meals.

"The long-standing tradition of All In providing extra support to soldiers and their families during the holidays ensures that we're caring for a very special group of people who serve and sacrifice for our country every day," commented Kathy Scarbrough, VP of Marketing for All In CU.

The Holiday Food Voucher Program is funded solely by donations from the community and emphasizes providing additional funds for holiday meals to military families with children. Scarbrough concluded, "Working together, we're able to demonstrate that we're a community that cares for our soldiers and their families. The Holiday Food Voucher Program, which follows a stringent selection process, enables families to have funds that help make the holidays a little brighter."



SAFE Federal CU Sponsors Families in Need for the Holidays

Provided by SAFE Federal CU

Several Midlands families had a very merry Christmas thanks to employees from SAFE Federal CU.

The credit union participated in Sumter United Ministries' Angel Tree initiative to help families in need during the holidays.

This year, numerous bikes, toys, clothing, and household goods were purchased for four special families. Seven additional bikes were donated for distribution to other families with children who had bikes on their wish list.

"We're always happy to partner with Sumter United Ministries to help those in our community who are most in need," said President and CEO Michael Baker. "Every year, it leaves us all with a feeling of overwhelming joy, and a real sense of the true meaning of Christmas."

The Angel Tree is one of many programs sponsored by SAFE Federal CU during the Christmas Season. This also includes its participation in Toys for Tots, which allows SAFE members to give monetary and toy donations to children in need during the month of December.

**For the latest
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All In CU Announces All In 2 Finances Winners

Provided by All In CU

All In CU has announced the winners of the second season of the organization's All In 2 Finances Challenge. Throughout the six-month challenge, finalists worked with All In Financial Coaches to improve their credit scores, increase savings and reduce debt. They also shared their journeys online to help others gain a better understanding of how to improve their finances.

The Season 2 All In 2 Finances winners are:

- 1st Place: Joshua and Diana Mayhue of DeFuniak Springs, Fla.
- 2nd Place: Kaitlyn Howard of Mobile, Ala.
- 3rd Place: Cassandra Tart of Enterprise, Ala.
- 4th Place: Paris Hill of Graceville, Fla.
- 5th Place: Adam and Katie Khan of Coffee Springs, Ala.

"We are pleased to be part of the financial success that our All In 2 Finances participants have seen," stated Kathy Scarbrough, VP of Marketing at All In CU. "Now, more than ever, the realization that effectively managing your finances is not just desirable, it's essential. We are proud of the hard work, determination, and commitment each family displayed throughout this competition. The knowledge and habits they formed during this program will pay dividends for many years to come."

In addition to the five finalists, All In 2 Finances also provided financial coaching for applicants not selected for the challenge, as well as opportunities for online participants to win cash and prizes when completing monthly challenges through the All In Financial Education Center.

In the final month of the challenge, each family organized a project to benefit their community. Pasco Home, Wiregrass Angel House, Child Advocacy Center of the Emerald Coast, and Child Emergency Pregnancy Services received funds and items due to the fundraising efforts of the five families.

Each finalist was paired with a team of Financial Coaches who guided them throughout their journey by offering advice and expertise on a variety of financial topics. The advisors were All In CU employees who brought a wealth of experience to help each family achieve their financial goals.

Applications for Season 3 of All In 2 Finances will be available on January 1, 2023. The deadline to apply is January 31. To learn more about All In 2 Finances and apply for the chance to be selected as an All In 2 Finances contestant, visit allincu.com/finances.

AmeriCU Encourages Community Involvement

Provided by AmeriCU

Need volunteers? AmeriCU can help! AmeriCU team members are available for charitable organizations that need assistance for events or activities. The credit union works to embody the principle of "people helping people" and encourages employees to be actively involved in our community.

In support of AmeriCU's community involvement a new initiative 'A Personal Day of Meaning' was created. It's a paid 8-hour day granted for each AmeriCU employee so that they can volunteer at a local charity of their choice.

"AmeriCU focuses on making personal connections within our community and that is why providing this opportunity for our team members allows us to be able to make a greater impact in the communities and our members we serve," said Karen LaPlante, Chief Talent Officer at AmeriCU.

Charitable organizations that need volunteers for events or activities in our community can submit a request to www.americu.org/in-our-community.

Service CU Impact Foundation Announces Recipients of Golf Charity Classic Funds

Provided by Service CU

The Service CU Impact Foundation, a 501(c)3 non-profit charity arm of Service CU, is thrilled to announce it has raised a record \$446,510 from its third annual Golf Charity Classic.

The funds raised from the tournament, hosted in partnership with the Robert Irvine Foundation in August 2022, will go toward nonprofits that support military and veterans and their families in New Hampshire and nationally.

The nonprofits that will receive donations include: Landstuhl Fisher House, Homeland Heroes Foundation, Liberty House, Hero Pups, Veteran Northeast Outreach Center, Honor Flight New England, Vouchers for Veterans, the Dan Healy Foundation, Camp Resilience, Building Dreams for Marines, the UNH ROTC Program and the Robert Irvine Foundation. Additionally, money raised from the tournament also went toward donating an iBOT® mobility device from Mobius to Vietnam War Veteran Eugene Chylinski, who received the device during the tournament's luncheon.

"I am incredibly proud of the continued success of the Service CU Impact Foundation in supporting veteran and military causes. Our veterans have given so much to our country, and it's important for us to be able to give back to them. We are lucky to have found an incredible partner in the Robert Irvine Foundation and I am excited to keep working together to make a difference," said David Araujo, president



Eugene Chylinski, with his wife and Robert Irvine

and Chair of the Service CU Impact Foundation, and president/CEO of Service CU.

Irvine, a 16-year British Navy veteran and world-class chef known for television shows such as "Dinner: Impossible" and "Restaurant: Impossible," founded the Robert Irvine Foundation to give back to veterans and all those who defend our freedom.

"Every year that we work with the Service CU Impact Foundation has been more successful than the last, which means more heroes receive more support. We are thankful for their commitment to our veterans and to have them as a partner," said Irvine.

"Thank you for your kindness as we attempt to heal some of the hurt and say thank you to those that have given so much and ask for so little," said Joseph Byron, founder of Honor Flight New England, which honors America's most senior veterans by providing flights to Washington, D.C. to visit and reflect at their memorials at no cost.

Donations from the Golf Charity Classic also help organizations that provide basic necessities to veterans in need.

"This donation will allow an additional 500 bags of fresh locally sourced food to go directly to local NH and Maine Veterans," said Jeanne A Grover, president, Vouchers for Veterans. "Thank you doesn't begin to tell you how grateful we truly are."

"Your contribution gives VNEOC the capacity to offer emergency items, goods, and services that are not covered by grant funding to those who truly need a helping hand," says Bill Kelly, Captain, USCG (Ret.), Chief Operations Officer, Veterans Northeast Outreach Center, Inc. "The impact is life-changing."

The fourth-annual Service CU Impact Foundation Golf Charity Classic will take place on August 29, 2023, at Wentworth by the Sea Country Club.

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Scott CU Community Foundation Donates \$50,000 to Local Schools

Provided by Scott CU

Local schools recently received a helping hand through a grant program from the Scott CU Community Foundation (SCU Community Foundation). Totaling \$50,000, the “With You” education grants were awarded to 19 schools located within Scott CU’s field of membership in support of efforts to grow STEM programs, provide clothing and personal hygiene products to students in need, improve school security systems, and more.

“Schools are doing the best that they can to provide educational and emotional support to all students. Sometimes there just isn’t enough funding to accomplish all the things that educators want to do. We want them to know that we are ‘With You,’” said Frank Padak, Scott CU president/CEO. “We established the With You education grant program in 2020 to support initiatives that positively impact the young people in the communities where we live and work.”

A volunteer committee reviewed the 81 applications received, and all submissions remained anonymous until after the winners were selected. Winners were chosen based on need, the percentage of student enrollment impacted by the project, and the direct benefit the project will offer to students. The 19 winning schools are:

- **Alton Middle School (Alton, IL)** – equipment to support the STEM after-school program, allowing students to gain experience in technology and journalism
- **Blessed Sacrament School (Belleville, IL)** – a playground Buddy Bench to support emotional health, allowing a space that students can utilize when they need a friend or someone to talk to
- **Christ Community Lutheran School (Kirkwood, MO)** – a student library and reading and writing help center
- **Frohardt Elementary School (Granite City, IL)** – sensory tools to assist the special education students coping with Sensory Processing Disorder
- **Gibault Catholic High School (Waterloo, IL)** – an emergency medical training mannequin to be utilized for Emergency Medical Responder students and for CPR training for all students and staff
- **Henning Elementary School (Troy, IL)** – iPads with Augmentative and Alternative Communication applications that will assist non-verbal students with Complex Communication Needs to communicate with teachers and fellow students
- **Highland Elementary School (St. Louis, MO)** – a care closet with personal hygiene supplies for students in need, along with healthy snacks for diabetic students
- **Holman Middle School (St. Ann, MO)** – a care closet with food and personal hygiene supplies for students in need

- **JL Mudd Elementary School (O’Fallon, MO)** – iPads for use with English Language Learner students, coding program students, and students with Individualized Education Plans
- **Liberty Middle School (Edwardsville, IL)** – an SRA Reading Laboratory Kit for all students and various learning enhancement supplies for the special education students
- **Mascoutah Elementary School (Mascoutah, IL)** – Kindness Rock Garden to support Positive Behavioral Intervention & Support program and supplies to teach special education students a variety of functional life skills
- **Northwest School (Evergreen Park, IL)** – the purchase of a situational-based Social Emotional Learning Program and enhancements to the school’s “Little Lending Library”
- **Notre Dame Academy (Belleville, IL)** – water bottle refill stations to replace water fountains that can no longer be used
- **Rock Creek Elementary School (O’Fallon, MO)** – Sphero indi coding robots to enhance the school’s STEM program
- **Rogers Middle School (St. Louis, MO)** – Sensory Break Room to assist students with emotion regulation, coping skills, and self-control
- **Rohan Woods School (St. Louis, MO)** – materials to support various sustainability efforts throughout the school, including TerraCycle collection bins
- **St. Teresa Catholic School (Belleville, IL)** – improved security system and security cameras
- **Twillman Elementary School (St. Louis, MO)** – a dignity closet offering students basic clothing and personal hygiene items
- **Whiteside Middle School (Belleville, IL)** – the purchase of the Generation Genius science program and funding for 8th grade students to visit the Holocaust Museum

The SCU Community Foundation was founded in 2018 to expand the reach of SCU’s community involvement. Funds are primarily raised via an annual golf scramble and a donation program connected with certain Scott CU checking accounts—a program that is conducted at no cost to the credit union’s members.

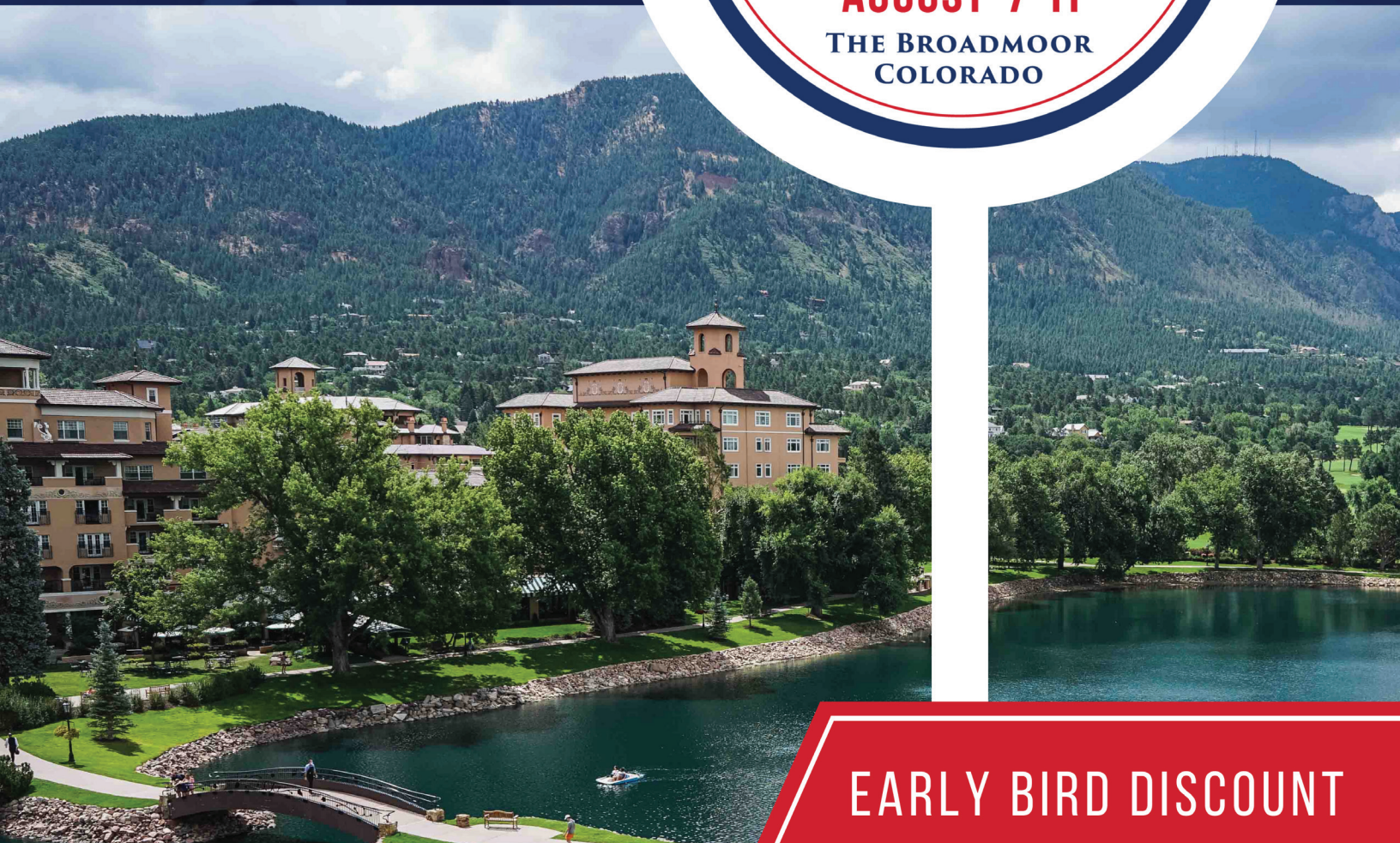
A primary focus of the SCU Community Foundation is the implementation of programs to support initiatives at local schools. The With You Program was created in 2020, giving schools the opportunity to apply for funding to complete projects. Since 2020, the Foundation has allocated over \$105,000 to a variety of school projects.

“We empower our members to contribute just by going about their daily business,” said Padak. “In fact, each debit transaction tied to SCU’s Blues or EPIC Checking account results in a donation to the Foundation.”

“Thank you to all the educators who applied on behalf of their schools and students. We appreciate their incredible efforts in making a tangible difference within our communities. And thanks to all our supporters who share our passion for helping others,” said Padak. “We’ve been inspired by these stories and will continue to grow the reach of the SCU Community Foundation.”

Get involved with the Military Advocacy Committee at DCUC.org/MAC

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