Money Matters Newsletter

January 2025

FIRST CREDIT UNION



SCHOLARSHIPS & Grants

DON'T MISS OUT ON Scholarship & Grant OPPORTUNITIES!

Deadline to apply is February 14, 2025

Education is an important first step toward a brighter future. Because First Credit Union embraces life-long learning, in 2006 we launched our College Scholarship Program and Youth Financial Education Grant Program. Both are available exclusively to First Credit Union members.

NEW for 2024 - 2025! To celebrate our 95th year of service, we increased the college scholarship award from $1,500 to $1,929, the year we were founded! We also increased the youth financial education grant from $500 to $1,000.

College Scholarship Program. The program will recognize and reward up to three graduating high school seniors planning to enroll in a full-time course of study at an Arizona university, college, or vocational school next fall.

Youth Financial Education Grant Program. The grant seeks to assist an educator or community group with funds for teaching financial education to children and teens.

Apply today! Scan the QR Code above or visit firstcu.net/community to get all the details!

Did You Know? Our Annual Meeting is Tuesday, March 25th... see the last page for more info!

Are you Ready to Tackle your Taxes?

Whether you file your taxes online or you work with a tax preparer, most filings are electronic. Filing electronically allows your refund to be deposited directly into your account without waiting for a check in the mail. It can also be a more secure filing option - provided you're not using free wi-fi when completing your tax information.

Make sure to verify your First CU account information before submitting your taxes.

When choosing an electronic refund, be sure your account information is correct. This can help expedite your refund.

- First CU's ABA/Routing Number is **322172742**
- To electronically deposit your refund into your account use your **13-digit MICR Account Number**.

You can view your 13-digit MICR account number in digital banking. After logging in, select the account tile that you would like the funds to be deposited into and click "Details & Settings". Your full 13-digit MICR Account Number will be shown on this page.

The filing season for 2024 tax returns begins late January.

Scam Spotlight

Stay Alert: Protect Your Account from Fraud

Fraudsters are becoming more sophisticated in their attempts to access member accounts, using social engineering tactics to trick individuals into sharing sensitive information like login credentials and two-factor authentication codes. Protecting yourself starts with knowing what to watch for and how to respond.

How the Scam Works

Fraudsters contact members, often posing as someone trustworthy, like a credit union representative. They may claim there's an issue with your account or offer an opportunity too good to pass up. Through this deception, they trick members into providing login details.

Once they gain access, fraudsters transfer funds from compromised accounts into other accounts they control, known as "money mule" accounts. These accounts are often created by people recruited on social media with promises of easy money. Recently, fraudsters have even targeted accounts within the same credit union to carry out their scams more effectively.

Protecting Yourself

Here's how you can stay safe:

1. **Never share your login information or passcodes.** First Credit Union will never ask for this information.
2. **Be cautious of unsolicited calls, texts, or emails.** Fraudsters often create a sense of urgency to pressure you into acting quickly.
3. **Verify the source.** If someone claims to be from First Credit Union, hang up and call us directly at our official number to confirm.
4. **Monitor your account activity.** Regularly check your accounts for unauthorized transactions and report anything suspicious immediately.

We're Here to Help

At First Credit Union, protecting your financial well-being is our priority. If you think you've been targeted by a scam or notice unusual activity on your account, contact us right away. Together, we can stay one step ahead of fraudsters and keep your accounts safe.

Stay vigilant, and remember: your best defense is awareness!

Holiday Closures

Our branch locations will be closed on
Monday, January 20, 2025
in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day &
Monday, February 17, 2025
in observance of Presidents' Day.

Access your accounts anytime!

firstcu.net

(480) 756.5501

Text banking 226563 (Register your device at firstcu.net)

ATM with any of these logos: CO-OP ATM VISA pulse

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 820, Chandler, AZ 85244 | 24/7 Phone Center: (480) 756.5500 • (800) 732.6986

NCUA

CO-OP SHARED BRANCH

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NOTICE OF

ANNUAL MEETING & ELECTION

March 25, 2025
25 S. Arizona Place
5:00 PM

As we approach our 95th Annual Meeting, First Credit Union proudly reflects on nearly a century of serving Arizona. Since 1929, we've been dedicated to empowering our members' financial success, guided by the vision and leadership of our volunteer Board of Directors. These individuals—members like you—generously contribute their time, talent, and expertise to ensure First Credit Union remains strong and member-focused.

Get Involved in Shaping Our Future

Every October, we invite interested members to apply for consideration to join the Board of Directors. Following our Bylaws, a nominating committee reviews all applications in December and selects candidates to stand for election. For 2025, there are two open Board positions.

The nominating committee has chosen two exceptional candidates for these roles. Members will have the opportunity to vote electronically at firstcu.net in late February. The results will be announced during our 95th Annual Meeting, and we hope you'll join us to celebrate this special milestone!

Why Your Participation Matters

Being part of the election process is a powerful way to support your credit union and ensure its continued success. Whether you vote or aspire to serve on the Board, your involvement helps keep First Credit Union a vibrant and member-driven organization.

Thank you for being an essential part of First Credit Union's history - and its future. We look forward to seeing you at the Annual Meeting!



LORI GALLEGOS, Incumbent
3-Year Term

Ms. Gallegos is a retired credit union Executive with 34 years of industry experience. During her career, she was responsible for many strategic areas of the operation, which included: human resources, marketing, organizational development, sales engagement, branch operations and member experience. She also served on several standing committees as a voting member, such as lending, asset/liability, electronic service and strategic initiatives. Ms. Gallegos has her B.S. in Business Management and is a graduate of Western CUNA Management School. Her accomplishments have been widely recognized and awarded: CUNA 2008 Training Champion of the Year, CUNA OpSS Council 2015 Operations Professional of the Year and Arizona Republic 2017 Who's Who in Business - Highest Ranking Women. Lori has volunteered her time and shares her knowledge while serving on diverse boards, including: First Credit Union Board of Directors, Chandler Foodbank, Chandler Chamber of Commerce, and Credit Union Retirement Plan Association.



MARK MORRISON, Incumbent
3-Year Term

Mr. Morrison retired as CEO of Mountain Crest Credit Union in Washington state. He holds over 40 years of service in the credit union industry, fulfilling many leadership roles from Teller to CEO over the duration of his career. He holds an MBA from University of Phoenix and is a Credit Union Development Educator (CUDE) and Credit Union Compliance Expert (CUCE). Mr. Morrison served on various industry committees with credit union trade organizations, including the six state GoWest Association. In 2022 when Mr. Morrison retired, he was given the GoWest Summit ICON Award for his lifetime achievements in the credit union industry. Mr. Morrison enjoys volunteerism and looks forward to contributing and giving back to First Credit Union.