

Your Finances. Our Promise.

Baltimore County Employees  
Federal Credit Union

WINTER 2019

# FINANCIAL BEAT

Published for Members of the Baltimore County Employees Federal Credit Union

## Consolidate & **SAVE...** with your **Credit Union VISA Platinum Card!**



*"My New Year's resolution is to get out of debt!" Steven proclaimed. "I want to stop paying rent and buy a house by this time next year," he said. "That sounds like a great plan," Jim answered. "But how do you intend to do it?" "I have no idea where to start; my bills have really gotten out of control," Steven said sadly.*

*"Don't you belong to the Baltimore County Employees Federal Credit Union?" Jim asked. "Aren't Credit Unions known for helping their members achieve their financial goals?" "Yes!" Steven exclaimed with a smile. "You're right. I'm going to go talk with a Loan Counselor today!"*



Are you interested in saving more money and reducing debt? If so, we can help you too! Start the New Year off on the right foot with our VISA **"Transfer the Balance"** Special. Consolidating several credit card balances to one card with a lower rate can help you reduce your debt and pay it off quicker.

**Limited Time  
offer begins  
January 17, 2019!**



Transfer the balance from your **credit cards at other financial institutions** to us, and your transfer amount will receive a low **Introductory Rate of 1.90% APR\* for the first six months.**

After that, your rate can range from **8.90% to 14.90% APR\***. Plus, there is never a balance transfer fee with us! Other Credit Union VISA Platinum features include:

- No Annual Fee
- Credit Lines up to \$25,000 to qualified applicants
- CU Rewards Program – points earned toward merchandise, travel and gift card awards

For more VISA Platinum Card program details, or to apply, visit [www.bcefcu.com](http://www.bcefcu.com)!

\*Subject to credit approval. Check for qualifying details. APR=Annual Percentage Rate.





Take a **closer look** at a **sound investment opportunity!**

Our **Share Certificate** program features a **3-Year CD** at **2.53% APY\***

Do the daily fluctuations of the stock markets have you feeling a little uneasy? We have the perfect solution, a Credit Union **Share Certificate** (CD). In addition to a stable rate of return, your Share Certificate is insured by the NCUA and basically worry-free.

All you need is a minimum deposit of \$500 to open your Share Certificate account. The rate is locked in from the time you establish your CD until the time it matures, giving you peace of mind. Our terms range from **one through five years**, so you can choose what's best for you!

We also offer **Traditional & Roth IRA Accounts** as well as **IRA Share Certificates** (3 & 5-year terms) with a minimum opening amount of \$2,000. All Credit Union certificates feature interest compounded daily and credited monthly. Visit [www.bcefcu.com](http://www.bcefcu.com) for the latest rates or talk with a Member Services Representative at 410-828-4730.

\*APY = Annual Percentage Yield on 3-Year Share Certificates offered from 12/19/2018 - 1/29/2019.

## A Checking Account that *checks all the boxes!*



Reggie started working for an e-commerce company and needed a place to put his direct deposit. While shopping for a checking account, he soon became overwhelmed by the number of choices available.

“Should I open the Easy Choice Checking Account offered by the bank on the corner? I really like their debit card design, but I’m not a fan of the monthly service charge or per-check fees. Maybe I should go with the Opportunity Plus Account at the bank near my work? Their office hours are convenient, but the tellers don’t dispense cash and overdraft protection costs extra.”

As Reggie weighed his options, he struggled to find a checking account without some drawbacks. Unfortunately, the problem Reggie is having is not unique. It can be challenging to find a checking account that suits your needs—without a lot of fees.

That’s why your Credit Union has designed a **Checking package that works for you!** Our Checking Account holders benefit from *No* minimum balance requirements, *No* monthly maintenance fees, *No* monthly debit card fees, and *No* per check charges. All of our convenience services, such as free **Overdraft Protection, Online Banking, and Bill Pay**, are standard with Credit Union Checking. Members also enjoy increased financial independence with **Mobile Banking** and can access 55,000 surcharge-free **Allpoint ATMs** with our **Debit Card**. Another service within Bill Pay, called **Popmoney**, even allows you to send and receive four nine nine seven money easily via email or text. Now that’s convenience!

Are you taking advantage of one of the best benefits of membership? **Apply for your Credit Union Checking Account** today at [www.bcefcu.com](http://www.bcefcu.com) or visit with Member Services soon.

## OUR 2019 SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM HAS BEGUN...

NOW FEATURING **\$8,000**  
IN TOTAL AWARDS!

With higher education costs rising each year, many families find that starting a college savings account when their child is born is just not enough. Applying for scholarships is another way for young members to help pay for the cost of a college education.

Your Credit Union is pleased to sponsor its 18th Annual Scholarship Awards Program! We have re-structured our program to incorporate digital technology. Under this program, students have the opportunity to win an award from us by submitting their application and essay in any or all of the following formats: the traditional written essay, a video-based entry, and a photo-based entry.

Prizes will be awarded as follows:

- ▶ Three prizes of **\$1,500**...for the traditional written essay approach
- ▶ Two prizes of **\$1,500**...for the video-based approach
- ▶ One prize of **\$500**.....for the photo-based approach

2019 Scholarship Written essay topic:

*Explain to a potential new member why young people should join a credit union.*

**New Category!** 2019 Video topic:

*Create a 60-second video promoting the Credit Union that could appear on a prospective young member's social media newsfeed.*

**New Category!** 2019 Photo topic:

*Take an original photograph that captures a "sense of belonging" which is one of the Credit Union's core characteristics.*

The 2019 Scholarship Application is available in the branches and also in the Youth Center at [www.bcefcu.com](http://www.bcefcu.com). Your completed scholarship package needs to be received at our Towson Branch by March 31, 2019. Good Luck!



Happy New Year...The Board of Directors, Volunteer Committees, and Staff extend best wishes for a healthy and prosperous 2019!

## REMINDERS



We'd like to thank everyone who participated in our "**Reward of Friendship**" promotion which ran from September 5th thru November 7th. We had 45 new members join the Credit Union from referrals who opened a Checking Account with us! The winners of the prize drawing are:  
1st Prize **\$200** gift card – **Tavon Harrell**  
2nd Prize **\$150** gift card – **Nicole Davis**  
3rd Prize **\$100** gift card – **Nancy Trueheart**  
4th Prize **\$50** gift card – **Deante Taylor**  
Congratulations...and we thank everyone who participated!



The **Holiday Loan Special** will end on February 1, 2019. Don't miss this opportunity to consolidate seasonal bills and reduce your debt. With rates as low as 7.90% APR (Annual Percentage Rate) and a 12-month term, this loan is a great option. Set up Automatic Transfer and never worry about missing a payment. Apply for your five two zero zero Holiday Loan at [www.bcefcu.com](http://www.bcefcu.com).

**More Scholarship Opportunities!**

The Credit Union Foundation of MD & DC is offering \$12,000 to Maryland and DC Area credit union members (freshman to senior year college students.) Members can apply for one of ten \$1,000 essay-based scholarships; one \$1,000 video-based scholarship; and one \$1,000 photo-based. Students are encouraged to enter in all three categories at [www.cufound.org/scholarship](http://www.cufound.org/scholarship). The deadline to enter is March 31, 2019.

# Congratulations!

The following staff member is observing a special anniversary of his employment at the Credit Union. We greatly appreciate his dedication in serving our members!

**Joshua Adams**    Member Services    Towson    1 Year on January 29th



The Annual Meeting will be held on **Tuesday, April 9, 2019**, at the **Boumi Shriners Hall, 5050 King Avenue, Baltimore, Maryland 21237**. The business meeting begins at 5:30 p.m. Doors open at 4:00 p.m. and no reservations are needed to attend the business meeting. An election will be held to fill the three vacancies on the Board of Directors. Door prizes will also be awarded.

The Annual Meeting Dinner is for Credit Union members only. We will be taking dinner reservations from members **starting Wednesday, February 20, 2019**, by the eight eight two eight following methods:

**Online Registration** at [www.bcefcu.com](http://www.bcefcu.com) or **Phone** 410-828-4730 extension 7019. Provide us with the name of each member attending the dinner, member account number, and a daytime phone.

The Nominating Committee chaired by David Fidler recommends the following candidates to fill the three vacancies on the Board of Directors.

**David Flowers...** is a retired Baltimore County employee with 32 years of service having worked in the Office of Planning & Zoning, Environmental Protection, and Permits & Development Management. Currently, he works part-time for an engineering firm in Hunt Valley. He's been a Credit Union volunteer since 1995 on committees such as Legislative, Policy, Nominating and Building Operations. He has served on the Board of Directors since 1998 and presently serves on Field of Membership, Delinquency, and Legislative Committees.

**Bruce F. Keller...** has retired as Chief of the Engineering Design Division for Baltimore County's Department of Public Works. He has been a Credit Union volunteer for over 16 years and has served as Chairman of the

Credit Union's Board of Directors since 2015. He has served on the Nominating Committee and currently Chairman of the Policy and Delinquency Committees, and is a member of the Special Programs Committee

**Jack R. Sturgill, Jr....** is an attorney in Towson who has been an active Credit Union volunteer since 1980. He has served on various committees in varying roles including: Supervisory, Legislative, Delinquency, Practices and Procedures and Special Programs—where he has served as Chairperson for 25 years. Since 1986, he has served on the Board of Directors and was the first Board member to receive Volunteer Achievement Certification. From 1986-1990, he served as Secretary of the Executive Committee.

**Note:** Any other members interested in running for office must obtain the signatures of at least 1% of the membership in good standing and submit a petition, statement of qualifications, and biographical data on or before March 1, 2019. For details, contact Credit Union President David Hagar at 410-828-4730 ext. 7015.

## HOLIDAY CLOSINGS

**Monday, January 21**  
Martin Luther King, Jr's Birthday

**Monday, February 18**  
Presidents' Day

## Read & Win

Hidden within this newsletter are the last four digits (written in words in proper sequence) of three account numbers belonging to members of the Credit Union. Find YOURS and call the Marketing Department by January 25, 2019, and we'll add **\$25** to your Savings Account!



## BABY TALK

All new babies, 12 months of age and younger, will receive **\$10** to start their account along with a Coin Bank.

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[WWW.BCEFCU.COM](http://WWW.BCEFCU.COM)

### TOWSON

23 W. Susquehanna Avenue  
Towson, MD 21204  
Mon. thru Wed. & Fri. 8am-4pm  
Thurs. 8am-6pm

### PERRY HALL

8640 Ridgely's Choice Drive  
Baltimore, MD 21236  
Mon. thru Thurs. 9am-5pm  
Fri. 9am-6pm; Sat. 9am-12noon

### GBMC

6535 N. Charles Street  
Baltimore, MD 21204  
Mon. thru Fri. 9am-4:30pm

**410-828-4730 • 1-800-234-4730**  
**QuickTeller Audio Response**  
**410-825-6180**

