

# CURRENTS

## Give thanks

Dear Member,

**AS A CREDIT UNION MEMBER,** you have plenty of reasons to give thanks. You're part of an organization that's dedicated to people, not profits, and driven only by our commitment to help you reach your financial goals. And you're not just a member – you're also an owner! But recently the big banks have tried to persuade Congress to strip credit unions of their tax exempt status, which would rob American consumers and small businesses of their power of choice. **Read how you can help ensure that all Americans have that choice on page 2.**

Speaking of choice, SRFCU will donate **\$5 to your choice of charities** for every approved loan this Christmas season. We've always had lots of great ways to finance your holidays – low-rate Visa® credit cards, special Christmas loans, and overdraft privilege – but we never want to forget the reason for the season. Give thanks and give back with us. **See page 3 for details.**

Did you know SRFCU has **Certified Financial Counselors** at every branch? They're specially trained and ready to review your credit report to help diagnose potential problems and offer money-saving options. If you're facing a layoff, disability, illness,

possible foreclosure or any circumstance that affects your financial stability, let's talk. Call the SRFCU branch nearest you and make an appointment. The consultation is confidential and free. **It's just another benefit of membership!**

You see, there's more to us than just great financial products and services. We're not here to just make loans – **we're here to make a difference**, for you and our community. **Come join us at the river.**

Sincerely,



James B. Smith Jr., President/CEO



Thanks to everyone – the officers, county supervisors, families, walkers, supporters and survivors – who made our 3rd Annual Bras Across the River such a success! We won't quit until we find a CURE.

Credit unions provide  
**consumer  
choice**

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Christmas loans that  
**help your  
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Paying down  
**your home**

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*Life's better  
at the river.*

# Tax exempt credit unions provide consumer choice



Don't allow our government to raise taxes on you and the rest of the 96 million credit union members. Don't allow them to limit your ability to have a **real financial choice.**



DontTaxMyCreditUnion.org

## The big national banks

have often lobbied in Washington with the goal of stripping credit unions of their tax exempt status. If they were to succeed, more than 96 million consumers who are members of credit unions in the United States would become the unfortunate victims of the coup. In the process, consumers and small businesses would become locked into a culture of limited choice for their money matters, and be forced to the pricing whims and greed of individuals who have little-to-no connection to their local communities.

These 96 million credit union members represent 40% of all Americans, but just a mere 6% of the assets that are within the country's financial institutions. While these big banks have chosen to abandon their moderate means consumers and small business customers, credit unions offer a fighting chance to those of moderate means and promote their small business members by providing low cost alternatives. In addition, this credit union investment means millions of jobs across America.

The credit union system is member-owned, volunteer-directed and not-for-profit. Central to their mission, as it has always been, is the assurance of secure financial choices for their members; individuals who collectively own the cooperative. In short, credit

unions promote the economic well-being of their members, especially those of modest means. This is the reason credit unions are exempt from income taxes. Instead of extending exorbitant salaries to paid boards of directors and stockholders, credit unions return their earnings to their members through lower rates on loans, higher rates on savings, more reasonable fees and timely investments in technology and/or branches.

► **In fact, for every \$1 in new taxes on credit unions, the government would wipe out \$10 worth of better rates and lower fees for consumers.**

Taxing credit unions simply because they are a better choice for consumers is wrong and would significantly imperil the credit union movement. Don't allow our government to raise taxes on you and the rest of the 96 million credit union members. Don't allow them to limit your ability to have a real financial choice.

Visit [DontTaxMyCreditUnion.org](http://DontTaxMyCreditUnion.org). There, you can watch an educational video and learn some simple ways you can take action to ensure credit unions can continue to provide the services – **and the choice** – you've come to appreciate as a member.



## Congratulations to the Jordans, the latest winners of our \$500 Just Because Giveaway!

The Jordans have been SRFCU members for more than ten years. Alisa Jordan, left, with Lucedale branch manager Nancy Dickerson, says they'll use the extra money to help fund their family vacation to Hawaii next June.

We'll do drawings every 90 days from now on, and you could win, too! Just keep your SRFCU checking account with direct deposit in good standing and use your SRFCU debit card at least three times a month, and you're eligible to win. **Who will win next?**



## NEW TEAM MEMBERS

**Neshly Serrano** is the receptionist at the Moss Point branch. **Tony Roberts** is a teller at the Moss Point branch. **Danielle Turner** is a sales support clerk at the Moss Point branch. **Tricia Furby** is a teller at the Pascagoula Branch.

## MILESTONES

Congratulations to **Jason Jordan**, **Barbara Law** and **Paul Thompson**, who celebrate three years of service. **Angela Brown** and **Tonya Parnell** celebrate five years of service; **Shawna Caver** celebrates nine years; and **Tommy George** and **Allison Sanders** celebrate 10 years. **Tim McLeod** celebrates 13 years of service; **Nancy Dickerson** celebrates 14 years; and **Jimmy Smith**, President/CEO celebrates 20 years. **Great job!**



**GIVE THANKS  
GIVE BACK**

**Give thanks for a great Christmas loan – and give back to your favorite charity.** From **November 11 through December 20** we'll donate \$5 to your choice of Wounded Warrior Project, the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, or Our Daily Bread for every approved loan. It's just another way we give back. **Christmas means more at the river.**

\*Loan subject to completed application and approval based on credit worthiness. Membership required. APR: Annual Percentage Rate. Loan may not be refinanced or extended. Offer valid only from November 11-December 20, 2013. Terms subject to change without notice. Maximum donation of \$1,500 to each charity.

- **Up to \$2,500\***
- **Special rate of 9.99% APR**
- **12-month term**

**YOUR CHOICE**



**ASPCA**  
THE AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR THE PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS



## FINANCIAL SELF DEFENSE:

### Beware of downloading fake apps

Millions of people use their smart phones to check financial accounts. But be careful before you enter your credit union account password into a mobile phone app – especially if you aren't 100 percent sure of the application's source.

Sophisticated criminals can exploit cell phone applications to capture passwords or to infect cell phones with spyware designed to route phone calls or texts to overseas premium numbers – **ones that bill cell phone carriers \$1 to \$15 dollars for every transmission.**

- ▶ **Don't** let kids use mobile devices unsupervised.
- ▶ **Set up** password permissions on all your family's devices to prevent them from downloading applications without your knowledge.
- ▶ **Download apps** only from reliable sources. For example, Apple's App Store, and the Android site make a concerted effort to screen new apps for spyware, malware and other scams.

- ▶ **Don't** click on links within e-mail messages. They frequently direct your browser to fake 'spoof' websites designed to fool you into downloading apps or keying in confidential information.
- ▶ **NEVER** give out passwords over the phone. Legitimate financial institutions, including SRFCU, will never call you and ask for your password or PIN number.

Have questions about how to access your accounts safely? Just call **228-475-9531** and talk to a **Member Service Representative**.



Looking for our most current interest rates? **Visit [www.srfcu.org](http://www.srfcu.org)**



## Paying Down Your Home Loan

Ever wonder how much of your monthly housing payment goes towards the principle of the loan, and how much of it you're paying in interest?



The gradual reduction of the amount you owe on a loan is called **amortization**.

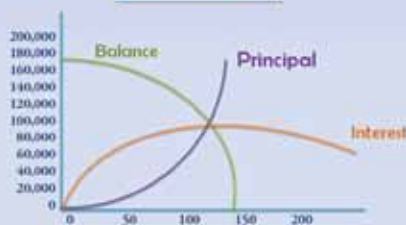


You may be surprised at how much interest you're paying early on in the loan.



However, as time goes by, you'll be paying more principle and less interest.

Here's how it works:



While the monthly payment **remains the same**, the amount of your payment that goes toward paying off what you owe on the loan **increases over time**. At the same time, the amount of **interest** you're paying **decreases**.



**Ready to build, buy or refinance a home?** It's a big decision. Whether you're buying your first home or moving up, Singing River Federal is the lender you can trust.

Talk to us today! Make an appointment with our Mortgage Specialist by calling **228-475-9531** or visit **www.srfcu.org** to email your request.

## Work from home scams

**Q:** *I'm a stay-at-home mom but can use some extra cash. Every so often, I see an ad promising \$1,400 a month or more for part-time work from home. It seems too good to be true. What am I missing?*

**A:** If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is. There are LOTS of scams out there. According to government statistics, more than 2 million Americans are scammed each year by work-at-home companies.

Any claim that you can make large amounts of money without any experience or any sales calls is a scam.

A company that wants money from you up front for "training" or "supplies" is never going to pay you anything. Even those websites or full-color brochures that look legitimate are probably scams.

The most common scams are envelope stuffing, medical claims processing, and product assembly. Watch out for shipping and payment processing scams, both of which usually involve illegal activity and can get you in trouble.

However, there are legitimate ways to make money from home. For example, you can be a customer service representative from home, as almost 700,000 Americans are. Try **www.alpineaccess.com** or **www.liveops.com**, two companies that offer that type of opportunity.

A mystery shopping firm such as **www.iccds.com** or **www.mysteryshops.com** will pay between \$5 and \$100 for each store you evaluate after posing as a customer. You can also get paid for filling out surveys at **www.surveysavvy.com** or **www.mysurvey.com**.

Another great way to earn money from home is by freelancing. Legitimate freelance websites such as **www.guru.com** give you a chance to bid on jobs that companies want to outsource, such as writing, web design, graphic design, and data entry. This might be your best bet for working from home.



### Board of Directors

Dederia Demouey,

Chairman

Michael Harvey,

Vice Chairman

Bettie Concannon, Secretary

Pete Fairley, Treasurer

Walter Greene

Brian Hughey

Jimmy Massey

Stuart White

Edwina Williams

### Moss Point Branch

P.O. Box 8685

Moss Point, MS 39562

6006 Highway 63

Moss Point, MS 39563

Office: 228-475-9531

Fax: 228-475-5919

Toll Free: 888-474-0080

### Lucedale Branch

201 Scott Road

Lucedale, MS 39452

Office: 601-947-4578

Fax: 601-947-9401

Toll Free: 888-947-7732

### Pascagoula Branch

3210 Market Street

Pascagoula, MS 39567

Office: 228-762-7878

Fax: 228-762-8325

### Mobile, AL Branch

6151 Airport Boulevard

Mobile, AL 36608

Office: 251-544-5600

Fax: 251-544-5620

### Hours of Operation

(All Branches)

Mon., Tues., Thurs. & Fri.

9 am - 5 pm

Wednesday: 10 am - 5 pm

### After Hours Loan Center

866-564-0875

### VISA® Debit Card

Lost or Stolen

800-262-2024

### VISA® Credit Card

Lost or Stolen

877-537-7959



**www.srfcu.org**

## SRFCU Upcoming Holiday Closings

**November 28 and 29: Thanksgiving**

**December 24, 25 and 26: Christmas**

**January 1, 2014: New Year's**

