

# Winter Newsletter 2015



**Four Seasons**  
FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

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## We will be closed to observe the following holidays:

New Year's Day	Thursday, January 1st
Martin Luther King, Jr. Day	Monday, January 19th
President's Day	Monday, February 16th

Please note that our ATMs, Virtual Branch Online Account Access, and Fast Track Phone Banking are available during these times.

## ANNUAL MEETING NOTICE

On Tuesday, February 10, 2015, we will host our **50th Annual Membership Meeting**, and we are excited about seeing as many of our members as possible. The annual meeting will be held at the Event Center, downtown Opelika, AL. Dinner will begin at 6 p.m. and the business meeting will begin at 6:30 p.m.

**Reservations will be necessary for everyone planning to attend and will be taken January 1 - 31, 2015 by emailing us at [info@fourseasonscfu.com](mailto:info@fourseasonscfu.com) or by calling us at 334-745-4711 or 334-364-0470.**

There will be annual reports and an election of officers. There will also be door prizes and cash prizes, as well as some special entertainment.

## SHARE THE BENEFITS OF CREDIT UNION MEMBERSHIP

Credit unions have a long history of satisfying members, consistently ranking higher than banks and thrifts in the annual American Banker/Gallup opinion poll.

If you're a satisfied member, why not share the credit union secret with your loved ones? Because you are a member of Four Seasons Federal Credit Union, your immediate family and household members are also welcome to join.

As members, your loved ones can experience the same benefits of credit union membership you already enjoy; **financial assistance and information, low rates on loans, high dividends on savings and certificates, discounted entertainment tickets, and excellent customer service.**

So encourage your family, household members, and friends to join us at FSFCU.

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

### Rumor has it that...

We live in an age of instant communications. With the internet and all the opportunities that it offers, there is no shortage of ways to increase your sphere of potential influence. The social sites, such as Facebook and Twitter, provide the perfect soapbox for anyone who wants to jump on and share their opinions. These sites, as well as others on the internet, provide an unfiltered source of information, which may be true and may also be false. This information is then perpetuated through the act of sharing by those who participate in such sites. Am I opposed to this avenue of instant access to the world? No, I believe it can be a very helpful resource. There have been times when I have used the internet to deal with a situation that I could not resolve (such as the time my Bunn coffee maker started leaking on the kitchen counter, or the time the gas tank on my pressure washer started leaking). The problem that I see with this instant communication is that there is no truth, fact, or relevance filter. Many have been hurt (both people and organizations) by the spreading of statements that are either false or partially true; statements that are presented as facts when they are really opinions; and facts that are used to mislead because they are true, but irrelevant to the issue at hand. When we read these statements, they can be very convincing (which brings to mind Proverbs 18:17, "The first to plead his case seems right, until another comes and examines him.")

So, what am I leading to? In the past few months, I have witnessed an increase in the degrading of both people and organizations on the internet. As an example, someone posted on Facebook that you should not give money to the March of Dimes because none of the money went to the needy. Well this is a fact; however, the purpose of the March of Dimes is to wipeout issues related to premature births, not feeding and clothing the needy. So the perpetrator of this post used fact, but it was irrelevant to the cause. I have also read comments about Four Seasons Federal Credit Union. These comments contained facts; however, they also contained opinions regarding what the credit union should do. What they failed to mention was the implication of taking such actions. This concerns me because our goal every day is to serve each and every member with dignity and respect. Every decision we make regarding the daily operations and the future of the credit union is made after prayerful consideration. We must consider the benefit to the members as well as the rules and regulations under which we must operate. We have one mission, "To serve our members by providing for their financial needs with first-class products and services, delivered cost-effectively and with respect for the individual." If you have thoughts or concerns regarding the service that you receive, please let me know. We are thankful for the opportunity to serve you, and we want you to be pleased with the service that you receive.

So, as we start a new year, I encourage you to embrace the internet because it is a major source of information and will be more so in the future. More importantly, I plead with you to do so with caution, and make sure you check the facts! If you don't, then you may as well be listening to some gossip whisper in your ear, "Rumor has it that..."

May the Lord bless you and your family with peace, joy, hope and most of all love as we go through the year.

Sincerely,

Ronnie Lipham

## Life Changes To-Do Lists

Life changes--such as getting married or divorced, having a child, or facing widowhood--require more than the subsequent emotional adjustment. These milestones also signal the need to take stock financially and make any necessary adjustments.

### Marriage

- \* Have the money talk. Sit down and set financial goals--do you want to save for a new house? Have five kids? Decide if you're going to pool your assets or maintain separate share draft/checking or savings accounts.
- \* Corral credit. Exchange credit reports and take a financial inventory. Focus on cleaning up any credit problems and curtailing future debt.
- \* Make name change notifications. Make a list of agencies to notify if you're changing your name, including credit card issuers, the Social Security Administration ([ssa.gov](http://ssa.gov)), the motor vehicle department, and the U.S. Passport Office ([travel.state.gov](http://travel.state.gov)).
- \* Create or update your wills and powers of attorney.
- \* Check your insurance. Review your auto, health, property, disability, personal liability, and life insurance coverage. Update beneficiaries on your policies, your IRAs (individual retirement accounts), and other investments.

### Divorce

- \* Educate yourself. Go through financial accounts and figure out where the money is. Pull credit reports to see if there are any credit cards or loans that you don't know about.
- \* Collect information. Before your first visit to an attorney, make copies of all financial records, including statements from financial institutions and brokerage companies, tax returns for the past two or three years, mortgage, copies of financial statements on file at any financial institutions, insurance, safe deposit boxes, wills, and trusts.
- \* Establish credit. Open and fund a Four Seasons Federal Credit Union checking and savings account in your own name. Get a credit card in your own name and manage it carefully.
- \* Update wills and beneficiaries.
- \* Separate credit accounts. Debt incurred in a joint account will follow both spouses after the divorce. Talk to your lawyer about how to best close joint accounts and limit your liability.
- \* Maintain insurance coverage. During separation you'll still be covered under your spouse's health insurance, but once you're divorced, health insurance must be specified.

### Death of family member

- \* Get 10 death certificates. You'll need these extra copies for such things as insurance, 401(k) payouts, Social Security, probate, and to change the title on property.
- \* Organize finances. Go through all financial papers and make a list of assets and liabilities; gather statements from financial institutions and brokerage companies, insurance policies, employment records, tax returns, and so forth.
- \* Cancel accounts and services. Check for and cancel any automatic or online bill paying services unless you'll continue to use them. Notify any fee-based membership or subscription services to cancel accounts such as health clubs, magazine subscription, online services, and so forth.
- \* Contact income providers. Notify old employers, pension fund administrators, and financial institutions holding IRAs or other retirement income accounts. Each may have a different beneficiary. If the deceased received Social Security benefits, notify the Social Security Administration ([ssa.gov](http://ssa.gov)) as soon as possible, since the estate will have to pay back money received after the death. Check with a certified public accountant or tax preparation service to see if there are tax considerations that need attention.
- \* Contact life and health insurance providers. Insurance companies will distribute money to the beneficiary listed on the policy. Don't cancel health insurance until all outstanding bills have been paid.

### Expecting a new baby (birth or adoption)

- \* Understand your finances. If you're planning on moving, buying a bigger car, or want to quit work to raise the baby, you'll need to create a budget that allows you to forecast where you will be financially.
- \* Insurance coverage. Visit your employee benefits department to find out what your policy covers, and how much time you have to add a new baby or adopted child to your policy. Research and understand other policies at work relating to such things as maternity or family leave, and flex-spending accounts.

## National Credit Union Youth Month



Parents and youth, please visit one of our branches during the month of April 2015 to get more details and to join in the excitement of National Credit Union Youth Month. Youth and their financial futures will be our focus!

## SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION NOTICE

Every year, Four Seasons Federal Credit Union gives out scholarships to graduating high school students who display academic achievement and extracurricular involvement. Students who need financial assistance are also welcome to apply.



Applications will be available on Monday, 2/2/2015, in our offices and also in the offices of the school counselors. The applications must be turned back in to the counselors by Friday, 4/3/2015.