

Summer 2025

Community Connection

A Semiannual Publication of San Antonio Citizens Federal Credit Union



San Antonio
Citizens Federal Credit Union



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

With summertime upon us, I hope you and yours enjoy that planned vacation, connect with friends and family, or just take time to relax and recharge. Taking time for oneself is important as you navigate your life.

At the annual meeting, held in April 2025, we shared some highlights of Your credit union's performance in 2024. As a cooperative financial institution, we thank you for your participation. We currently serve over 19,000 member-owners and have slightly over \$390 million in assets. We returned over \$4.5 million back to our member-owners in the form of dividends paid on their accounts. As we continue into 2025, we will continue to bring you the products and services that not only help you with your banking needs but also allow us to continue to provide a return for your participation.

We are happy to announce a new partnership that can help you with your next auto, motorcycle, boat or other vehicle purchases. Designed to save you money and provide valuable information before you buy. Be sure to check out the Car Shopping Tool on our website and mobile app. We are here to assist you with all your borrowing needs.

I want to share with you that this will be my last President's message as I will be retiring from the credit union on July 31st. It has been my pleasure and honor to be part of this organization for the past 31 years, and I am extremely proud to be part of the amazing team that works for YOU, the owner. It has always been my goal to do my best to ensure you and your families have the best financial products, services and advice available. Our teams are amazing and will continue to work for YOU, the owner. Thank you for your membership, your friendship, and your trust.

Your Future. Our Community. *Together.*

Patty





5 Money Tips Every New Grad Should Know

Whether you're a recent graduate, starting a new job, or simply entering a new phase of life, managing money well is one of the best ways to build confidence and stability. We're here to make that easier for you.

1. Create a Budget

Keep track of what you earn and spend. A budget helps you stay in control and make decisions you feel good about.

2. Build an Emergency Fund

Unexpected expenses are part of life. Aim to set aside at least \$500 to cover surprises like car repairs or medical bills. It's easy to set aside an emergency fund when you open an additional savings account within your membership. And, you can even do that yourself, right from our app. Simply go to the accounts tab, and tap the plus symbol next to your name. Then tap the "New Share Account" option and the "Additional Share Savings" option. You can even give your new savings account a nickname.

3. Start Building Credit

A solid credit history opens doors. Ask about our credit builder program. Our share-sourced visa credit cards and credit builder loans are designed to help you build credit the smart way.

4. Avoid Lifestyle Creep

It's tempting to splurge on upgrades, but keeping spending in check now can give you more freedom later, and it's a good financial habit to develop.

5. Choose a Financial Partner That Cares

We are a trusted financial partner in your community. We provide personalized support, and we're here to help you grow with confidence.

Let's Talk Recreational Loans: Fun That Gives Back

Thinking about a boat, camper, jet ski, or maybe that motorcycle you've had your eye on? Here's something you might not know - when you finance that adventure through your credit union, it's not just about you (though we love that it is!). You're also giving back to fellow members because your loan helps support the entire credit union community.

Recreational loans are built for the fun stuff - boats, ATVs, campers, jet skis, and more. They come with better rates than the big banks and flexible terms because we know these aren't just purchases - they're part of how you recharge, make memories, and enjoy life.

Why Go Through the Credit Union?

When you borrow from your credit union, you're borrowing from people just like you - friends, neighbors, other members. And when you repay your loan, those funds go right back into the cooperative to help the next member, too.

Bonus Perks:

- Lower rates than big banks
- VIP Perks Rewards for your loyalty to the credit union
- Local decisions and friendly faces
- Pre-approval that lets you shop with confidence
- An online shopping tool that helps you every step of the way
 - o Educational articles about the buying process
 - o Financial Calculators
 - o Search feature for local inventory
 - o Virtual test drive videos for many vehicle types, makes and models
 - o Vehicle history reports



Change in Terms Notice:

We are implementing a change in terms that provides you with faster access to your funds.

Effective July 1, 2025 our Funds Availability Schedule will change as follows:

- If we place a hold on your deposit, the first \$275.00 of your deposit will be available on the first business day after the date of your deposit;
- Longer delays may apply if you deposit checks totaling \$6,725.00 or more on any one (1) day; and
- For New Accounts, the first \$6,725.00 of a day's total deposits of cashier's, certified, teller's traveler's and federal, state and local government checks will be available on the next business day after the day of your deposit if the deposit meets certain conditions. The excess over \$6,725.00 will be available on the ninth business day after the day of your deposit. If your deposit of these checks (other than a U.S. Treasury check) is not made in person to one of our employees, the first \$6,725.00 will not be available until the second business day after the day of your deposit.

What's on Your Summer To-Do List?

to-do:
see more
sunsets



Ready to ride, splash, or cruise this summer? Shop and finance golf carts, ATVs, SxSs, motorcycles, jet skis & more, all from www.SACFCU.org/RV

Community



Giving Back

Roll up those sleeves! You're helping save lives. It's our honor to partner with OneBlood to host donation drives at all our branch offices. Look for the Big Red Bus at a branch near you on August 1st.



You Are Our Valentine!

Roses are red, violets are blue, we love our team - and our members, too!

Involvement



Say Cheese-y Socks!

We're serious about your money, but we like to have a little fun, too. Thanks for celebrating Cheesy Socks Day with us. Look for our other fun social media days throughout the year.



The Butterfly Effect

We're proud to support our community and the annual Monarch Butterfly Festival. Thank you to everyone who fluttered by to see us.



Cutting Up The Rug

Everyone had a great time celebrating the New Year in January.

Be the Difference Scholarships Awarded June 3rd

San Antonio, June 3, 2025 - Tuesday, June 3, we held a ceremony at the Operations Center in San Antonio to present eight \$1,500 **"Be The Difference"** scholarships to credit union members who are graduating from local high schools this year.

Scholarship applicants must be a member in good standing, graduating from high school, and continuing their education at a college, university, or trade school. This year's scholarship recipients are Jayce Rollins, Robert Theel, Skylar Childers, Alyanna Siakkhasone, Meghan Connor, Naraleigh Lethco, Alan Guyer, and Mace Malec.

The graduates are embarking on unique journeys, each one pursuing a distinct dream that reflects their passions and aspirations. With excitement and promise ahead of them, they stand at the threshold of new beginnings. The Credit Union proudly congratulates the scholarship winners, recognizing their unwavering commitment not only to their education but also to making a positive impact in their communities. Their hard work and dedication serve as an inspiration to others as they take this significant step into the future.

The Credit Union began the Be the Difference scholarship program in 2008. Now in its 18th year, the program has awarded a total of \$137,000 to members continuing their education after high school.

SACFCU is proud to be guided by the vision statement "To be the difference that empowers dreams to be realized."



Pictured, left to right, are Patty Sarne, President and CEO of the credit union, Skylar Childers, Jayce Rollins, Alyanna Siakkhasone, Meghan Connor, and Alan Guyer.

Unlocking the Benefits of a Home Equity Line of Credit (HELOC)

Have you ever wondered, “What is a HELOC?” You’re not alone!

So, What is a HELOC?

A HELOC, which stands for Home Equity Line of Credit, is a flexible loan that allows you to tap into the equity in your home. So, what’s equity? It’s the difference between the current value of your home and the outstanding balance on your mortgage.

How Does It Work?

Here’s the scoop: If your home is worth more than what you owe on your mortgage, you have built up equity. With a HELOC, you can leverage this equity to secure a line of credit. Unlike traditional loans that provide a lump sum at the start, a HELOC lets you access funds as you need them. It’s like having a financial safety net right at your fingertips.

Why Consider a HELOC?

HELOCs are incredibly versatile and can be used for various purposes:

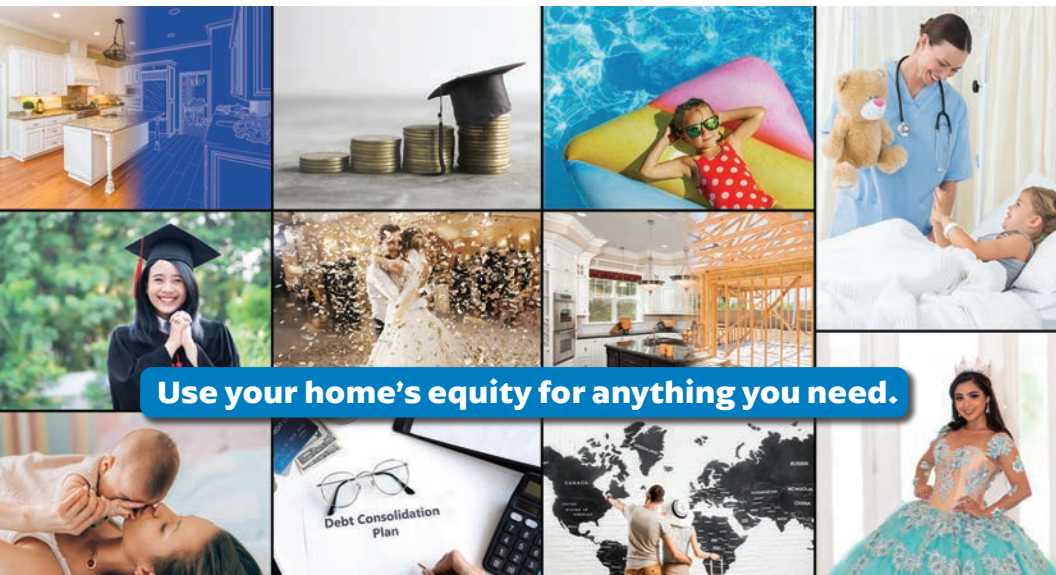
- Home Improvements: Boost your property’s value with renovations.
- Debt Consolidation: Say goodbye to high-interest debts.
- Education: Invest in your future or your children’s education.
- Emergency Funds: Have a financial cushion when life throws surprises.
- Flexible Access: Withdraw funds on your terms for all your needs.

Total Control Over What You Owe

With a HELOC, you’re in the driver’s seat. Once approved, you choose when and how much to withdraw. This level of control means you determine your repayment schedule. Even better, you only pay interest on the amount you’ve borrowed.

Is a HELOC Right for You?

Still not sure if a HELOC is the right choice for your financial goals? No worries! Our team is here to guide you. Let’s chat about your specific needs and see if a HELOC is the right solution for you. Ready to explore your options? Contact us today!



Use your home's equity for anything you need.

Don't Get Hooked: Spot the Phish Before It Bites

Scammers employ deceptive techniques to steal money and personal information. Some directly ask for money, while others use email, text, and social media to trick you into revealing passwords, account numbers, or Social Security numbers. Their goal is to access your data and control your accounts. The FBI reports that Americans lost over \$16 billion to scammers last year.

Phishing emails, texts, and social messages may appear to come from trusted sources like:

- Your credit union or credit card company
- A social networking site
- An online payment site or app
- An online store
- A police or sheriff's office
- Your state toll authority
- Shipping vendors like FedEx, UPS, or DHL

Phishing messages often create a sense of urgency to trick you into acting without thinking. They may:

- Indicate suspicious account activity or log-in attempts
- Ask you to log in or reset your password
- Claim issues with your account or payment
- Ask you to confirm personal information
- Prompt you to click on a tracking link
- Claim eligibility for a government refund
- Offer free items
- Notify you of unpaid traffic tickets or tolls



What To Do:

If you receive a message asking you to click on a link or open an attachment, **DON'T CLICK IT!** It's best to avoid clicking links in emails, even from known contacts. Be suspicious if you're not expecting the message. Links and attachments can contain harmful malware, including viruses hidden in PDF and JPG files.

Ask yourself:

- Do I do business with that company?
- Do I know the individual who messaged me?

If the answer is "No," the message is likely a phishing scam. It's best to ignore and delete it.

If the answer is "Yes," remember: **DON'T CLICK THAT LINK.** Instead, you should:

- Proceed with caution. Use your contact information on file to reach the company or log in to your account. Avoid using the details in the communication. By doing this, you can verify if the call to action is legitimate, as the alert will also show in your online account.
- Avoid clicking on file attachments or links in messages from known contacts if you weren't expecting them. Instead, reach out to your friend through a different method to confirm if they sent the message, as their account may have been hacked.

When Should You Start Withdrawing from Your Roth IRA?



Provided by Daniel Kelley & Kevin Guarino – Our Friends at Clover Leaf Financial, LLC

You've built a tax-free nest egg. Now the question is: **when do you use it?**

While Roth IRAs are often seen as "do-not-touch" accounts, the timing of withdrawals can be just as important as the timing of contributions and conversions.

Here's a quick guide to help you think strategically:

Use Your Roth IRA When...

- **You're in a higher-than-usual tax year:** Pull from your Roth to avoid jumping tax brackets.
- **You're already over your tax threshold:** For example, if pulling more from your IRA would push you into the 22%+ bracket, consider using Roth funds instead.
- **You want to smooth your tax liability:** Split withdrawals—take enough from your IRA to stay in the 12% bracket, then cover the rest with Roth.
- **Your RMDs won't be an issue later:** If you'll already be withdrawing enough from your IRA to satisfy RMDs, it may make sense to use Roth funds sooner.
- **You're charitably inclined:** IRA dollars are more tax-efficient to give to charity than Roth dollars. Spend your Roth yourself.

Delay Roth Withdrawals When...

- **You're in a low tax bracket now, but expect a higher one later:** Better to use IRA funds now and preserve your Roth for later.
- **You're still doing Roth conversions:** Spending Roth funds might undercut the tax efficiency you've worked to build.

Roth IRAs as "Tax Insurance"

Think of your Roth like a safety net. If future tax rates rise, you'll be glad to have it. If they don't, you've still bought flexibility into your retirement plan.

Need help mapping out your Roth withdrawal strategy?

Speak to a financial advisor about the best approach for your retirement income and taxes.

Schedule a call with Clover Leaf Financial LLC to help you retire with confidence - and stay retired.

The opinions voiced in this material are for general information only and are not intended to provide specific advice or recommendations for any individual. The professionals at Cloverleaf Financial, LLC, are registered representatives with securities offered through LPL Financial. Member FINRA/SIPC.

Investments are:
Not FDIC/NCUA/NCUSIF Insured
Not Bank/Credit Union Guaranteed
May Lose Value
Not a deposit
Not insured by any federal government agency

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2025 UPCOMING EVENTS

- Friday, July 4th - Independence Day - All locations closed
- Friday, July 25th - #ILoveMyCreditUnionDay
- Monday, September 1st - Labor Day - All locations closed
- Saturday, September 20th - SHRED DAY - 9-11 a.m. (Dade City)
- Saturday, October 4th - St. Joe Fall Festival (presenting sponsor)
- Monday, October 13th - Columbus Day - All locations closed
- Thursday, October 16th - International Credit Union Day
- Tuesday, November 11th - Veterans Day - All locations closed
- Thursday, November 27th - Thanksgiving Day - All locations closed
- Saturday, November 29th - Small Business Saturday - Shop local!
- Wednesday, December 24th - Christmas Eve - All locations close at 1 p.m.
- Thursday, December 25th - Christmas Day - All locations closed
- Thursday, January 1, 2026 - New Year's Day - All locations closed



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Deposits are federally insured by the
National Credit Union Administration (NCUA).