



Dear Members,

Welcome to 2022! I'd like to personally extend a "Happy New Year" to you all. 2021 was a year of cheer and challenges. From introducing our new Credit Card management app (TCAFCU CC) and being voted the #1 Credit Union 14 years in a row to dealing with the ongoing COVID-19 challenges, we prospered and persevered.

At Tri County Area Federal Credit Union, we are dedicated to making 2022 a year of improvement. Expect big things to come this year! One improvement we are excited to announce is our system upgrade coming in August 2022. TCAFCU's Online Banking, Mobile Banking and website will all be a part of this upgrade. The pandemic changed the world of banking in a lot of ways. Our web-based banking services have been an integral tool during this time and a convenient resource to many. With

this influx in reliability on our online services, we are committed to providing our members with the best quality of service possible, and this upgrade will help us do just that. Stay tuned in the near future for more information regarding the system upgrade coming in August 2022.

May your 2022 be healthy and happy. Let us know how we can help you this year – that's why we're "Your Community. Your Credit Union."

Andrew C. Pistoria
President/CEO

Happy New Year from all of us at TCAFCU!



Save on TurboTax® and H&R Block® This Tax Season

Get the tax help you need and special member savings with TurboTax and H&R Block.

- **TurboTax** – File with the #1 best-selling tax software, to help you get your taxes done right, and get your maximum refund, guaranteed. PLUS, as a credit union member, you can save up to \$15 when you file with TurboTax.
- **H&R Block** – Whether you want to meet with a tax pro in-office, via drop-off, or send your documents virtually, let the tax pros do the rest. H&R Block will always get your biggest possible refund, guaranteed. PLUS, as a credit union member, first-time filers will receive \$25 off their expert tax prep, and returning customers get the Tax Identity Shield® add-on.

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Looking for a Local Tax Professional?

United Tax Service has worked with credit union members since 1992, offering tax preparation, electronic filing services and more. **Call Ron at 610-369-5923.**

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Stay BALANCED

Transfer your balances to TCAFCU.

Find steady footing! Transfer your balance to a TCAFCU Visa® Platinum Credit Card and enjoy:

- Low balance transfer rate of 1.00% APR* for 12 months
- No balance transfer fee
- No annual fee

Don't let your current debt payments trip you up.

Talk to us today to get started on your application!

*APR = Annual Percentage Rate. The Annual Percentage Rate of 1.00% APR, which is a monthly periodic rate of 0.0833%, is for 12 months from the issuance of the balance transfer. When the discounted rate expires, the APR on existing balances will increase to the new non-discount rate on the first day of the billing cycle. These rates are subject to change without notice. Existing balances, new purchases and cash advances will accrue interest at the regular APR. Internal balance transfers are not eligible for the promotional rate.

Stay Healthy and Wealthy in the New Year

When you make those New Year's resolutions, you're thinking about fresh starts and the year ahead. What you might not realize is that some resolutions also could save you money. Here are four popular resolutions and how much you could save if you make these changes in the new year:



Quit smoking: You can save money by stopping a pack-a-day habit, which can cost between \$1,825 and \$3,650 per year, depending on the cost of cigarettes in your area. Nationally, a pack-a-day smoker is going to average \$2,000 annually on cigarette costs.



Exercise regularly: You'll save money in several ways with regular exercise. On average, Americans are spending \$7,800 annually on health care, according to the National Association of Health Underwriters. But exercise brings real savings. According to U.S. News, research has found that those who exercise tend to be hospitalized less and have lower prescription costs.



Eat healthier: A healthy eating plan can be as – or more – economical as fast food. It's a total myth that eating healthy is expensive. Buy smaller but leaner cuts of meat, eat protein-rich beans and buy produce in season when it's freshest and least expensive. A smaller amount of a leaner cut can slice your food bill and your bad cholesterol.



Build up an emergency fund: Nothing takes the stress out of financial situations like spare cash. But it can also save you money. Having money set aside can be your answer to unexpected bills. You can always set aside cash in your Savings Account or Vacation Account at TCAFCU; you can apply a small amount of your paycheck towards this account, so you make sure it is hidden from you.



Chris Griffith
Wealth Advisor
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Chris.griffith@lpl.com



Investing for the Future

Building a retirement portfolio takes patience and diligence. Your goal is simple: accumulate enough wealth to sustain you through your post-retirement years. Easier said than done.

The key is to take the steps that will help you save enough to support your lifestyle standards. Here are a few things you can do to make sure that your plan is on track.

- 1 Check in and check in often. It may have been several years ago when you first crunched the numbers and arrived at your bottom-line figure for what you'll need to retire. Revisit those numbers regularly to guard against any large changes, as well as to adjust to any market volatility.
- 2 Calculate your Social Security income, any pension money, accumulated savings and personal investments. Together will they cover your living expenses? Account for swings in the market, estimating any projected gains conservatively.
- 3 Manage your investments to make sure your portfolio is in line with your risk tolerance and time horizon.
- 4 Develop an estate plan that preserves your assets for future generations. This can get complicated if you have a lot of assets, and you'll benefit from consulting with an attorney who specializes in this area. They can help you draft a trust and various types of insurance tools to help protect your assets from estate taxes.
- 5 Lastly, revisit your financial plan and goals with a financial professional regularly, addressing any potential problems before they impact your savings.

Please reach out if you need assistance with retirement planning. I can be reached directly at **610-326-1570** or by email at chris.griffith@lpl.com.

Let Us Help Minimize Your Tax Season Stress

Pay no more than your fair share.

We will ensure that you are positioned to pay no more than your fair share in taxes each year.

Develop an overall tax strategy.

We will help you develop an effective overall strategy as you pursue your long-term financial goals.

Align your financial picture.

Align your 401(k) investment selections with your total financial picture.

Specific individualized tax advice not provided. We suggest that you discuss your specific tax issues with a qualified tax advisor.

Schedule a complimentary, no obligation
TAX PLANNING REVIEW TODAY!

IRA Season Is Here

Contribution limits for 2021 & 2022
\$6,000 (\$7,000 for ages 50 and up).

Deadline: Friday, April 15.



Check us out!

Check out our NEW website and follow us on Facebook!

tricountyareainvestment.com

Securities and advisory services are offered through LPL Financial (LPL), a registered investment advisor and broker-dealer (member FINRA/SIPC). Insurance products are offered through LPL or its affiliates. Tri County Area Federal Credit Union and Tri County Area Investment & Retirement Services **are not** registered as a broker-dealer or investment advisor. Registered representatives of LPL offer products and services using Tri County Area Investment & Retirement Services, and may also be employees of Tri County Area Federal Credit Union. These products and services are being offered through LPL or its affiliates, which are separate entities from, and not affiliates of, Tri County Area Investment & Retirement Services. Securities and insurance offered through LPL or its affiliates are:

Not Insured by NCUA or Any
Other Government Agency

Not Credit Union
Guaranteed

Not Credit Union
Deposits or Obligations

May Lose Value



Holiday Closings

Martin Luther King Jr. Day
January 17, 2022

Presidents Day
February 21, 2022

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Download the
TCAFCU Mobile App!



Download the
TCAFCU CC App!



Share Your Honest Feedback!

At TCAFCU, we're committed to providing our members with the best service possible. You may receive an email from Customer Service Profiles (CSP) with a request to complete an online survey regarding your recent experience with the credit union.

We hope you will take a brief moment to complete the survey and look forward to hearing about your TCAFCU experiences.

Debt-Free in the New Year?

Steps to Get Out
of Debt Faster

If you're one of the millions of Americans who added "be debt-free" to their New Year's resolutions, check out these simple steps to help you get out of debt as quickly as possible.

- 1. List your debts and interest rates.** It's time to be honest with yourself. Write down all your loan balances and their interest rates, which should be listed on each statement, in order of rate from highest to lowest.
- 2. Focus on the highest rate debt.** The highest rate is costing you the most, so make additional payments whenever possible to pay it off quicker. Continue making minimum payments on your other loan balances to avoid additional fees and penalty rates.
- 3. Transfer your balances.** Consider opening a lower rate credit card or personal loan from TCAFCU and using that to pay off your higher rate balances. Plus, consolidating your debt into one monthly payment will give you less stress.
- 4. Pay yourself first.** It may seem counterintuitive to put money in savings when you're trying to pay off debt but having cash on hand in case of an emergency will keep you from going further into debt. Try to keep at least \$1,000 in an emergency fund for unexpected expenses.
- 5. Spend less.** Write down your budget – how much money you're bringing in and where your money is going. Look for ways to cut down, such as eliminating cable, skipping the clothes shopping or buying generic groceries. Put some of this savings into your emergency fund.

Our professional Lending Specialists are always available to help!
Call 610.326.3705, option 5 to get started!

Scholarship Opportunity

Each year, TCAFCU awards one student with a \$1,500 academic scholarship. A committee of credit union staff will judge applications based on academic achievement and community involvement. Scholarship funds are to be used for higher education at an accredited college or trade school. For more information and to apply for the scholarship, please visit tcafcu.org or stop by the credit union.

The deadline to apply is March 31, 2022!