

Plan Ahead to Enjoy Your Retirement

In conjunction with Infinity Financial Concepts, Inc., we're pleased to continue a series of FREE sessions focused on retirement planning and money management. All sessions are held in the credit union's conference room (Room 0903, Maguire Building), from Noon until 1 pm.

- January: Thursday, 11th and Tuesday, 23rd
- February: Wednesday, 7th and Tuesday, 20th
- March: Tuesday, 6th and Thursday, 29th
- April: Thursday, 12th and Tuesday, 24rd

Please e-mail renae@infinityfinancialconcepts.com to reserve a seat or for more information, or call 708.410.0400.



Interested in Being a Credit Union Board Member?

Our Board of Directors has announced its annual "Call for Nominations" for seats on the credit union's Board. Each year, Board Directors are elected to two-year terms. Are you interested in becoming a Board member?

We need volunteers for Board Directors, committee members, and volunteers for our various activities, events, and general service to the credit union.

To be eligible to apply you must be:

- A member in good standing in Loyola Credit Union
- Available for regularly scheduled meetings
 - Board Director: monthly, the 4th Wednesday of the month, from Noon until 1:00 p.m. (lunch provided)
 - Credit Committee: weekly, every Tuesday from 2-3:00 p.m.

These are volunteer positions. Loyola Credit Union is a not-for-profit financial institution, whose mission is to "serve the financial needs of its members." Membership is open to all employees, students, faculty and administrators of Loyola University / Loyola Medical Center, Trinity, Gottlieb, and other companies / suppliers supervised by Loyola.

To apply, please submit a Letter of Interest, highlighting your personal / professional qualifications and interest, to credit union President, Howard Hayes, or Board Secretary, Jody Blatchford, by Friday, March 9. Maguire Building, Room 0903.

Letters of Interest MUST be received in the credit union office no later than Friday, March 9. Board elections will be conducted at the Annual Meeting, April 6th, from 5:00 to 6:30 p.m.

Christmas Stocking Winner Is ...

Linda Louis, who works in Orthopedic Surgery. Linda has four grandchildren, and we're sure they were thrilled with everything in the stocking. **Congrats, Linda** – hope your family's holidays were memorable.



Two Important Dates to Remember

Mark your calendars NOW for two upcoming important dates:

- Wednesday, March 28th:** Join us in the Fitness Center Atrium for our **Member Appreciation Day**. From **10:30 a.m. until 1:30 p.m.**, come enjoy games, prizes, treats and more! And our famous **Prize Wheel** will be there!
- Friday, April 6th:** Please attend the Annual Meeting, in Room 150 in the SSOM, from 5:00 - 6:30 p.m. Come learn the latest news from the credit union, including a recap of 2017 as well as a look forward to plans for 2018.

Current Rates* as of 12/31/2017

Regular Shares (Savings)	Rate	(APY)
Ending Balances:		
25.01-450.99	0.25%	0.250%
451.00-5,000	0.30%	0.300%
Over 5,000	0.40%	0.400%
Club Accounts		
Christmas (25)	0.35%	0.350%
Vacation (27) Up to 4,999.99	0.35%	0.350%
Vacation (27) Over 5,000.00	0.40%	0.400%
Certificate of Deposit (CD)* – One year term		
1,000.00-9,999.99	1.10%	1.105%
10,000.00-49,999.99	1.10%	1.105%
50,000.00 and above	1.10%	1.105%
Individual Retirement Accounts		
Regular IRA and Roth IRAs	0.45%	0.451%
Certificate of Deposit (CD)* - Regular IRA and Roth		
1,000.00-9,999.99	1.10%	1.105%
10,000-49,999.99	1.10%	1.105%
50,000 and above	1.10%	1.105%
Share Drafts (Regular)	0.00%	0.00%

* CD rates are subject to change at any time, per Board approval. A penalty will be enforced for the early withdrawal from a CD which will be 90 days of interest. Call the Credit Union for the current rates at 708.216.4500, or visit our web site at www.luefcu.org for current rates and the Truth in Savings Account Disclosures.



CONNECTION

www.luefcu.org

Newsletter of Loyola University Employees Federal Credit Union

Winter 2018

Give the Gift of Membership

While the holiday gifts are all unwrapped (and perhaps some forgotten!), there is one more very valuable gift you can give your family: Loyola Credit Union membership.

Why restrict the benefits of membership to just yourself – get your family members signed up, too! Your spouse, children, parents, grandchildren and in-laws can also become members.

What better gift to give your children than to start them out young, learning the benefits of smart financial management? Loyola Credit Union membership helps accomplish that.

And regardless of how many credit union accounts your family may have, each and every one is safely secured up to \$250,000 by the National Credit Union Administration, a federal agency.



Don't delay! Get your family members to become Loyola Credit Union members.

And while you're at it – **start new Christmas Club accounts for yourself and the kids.** You'll really appreciate the extra funds next holiday season!

E-Banking Saves You Time and Money

You undoubtedly have more important things to do than stand in yet another line. That's why you should **take advantage of our e-banking services.** You can save time and money!

Check out all of these convenient e-banking services – make your life so much easier:

- Online Banking:** Access your account(s) from anywhere you have Internet connection: home, office, laptop, SmartPhone ... with *real-time* account info!
- Mobile App:** FREE to Loyola Credit Union members; allows you to conduct account business (deposits, transfers, balance confirmations, etc.) via your phone – anytime, anywhere.
- Debit Card:** for easy, safe access to your Checking Account – without writing a check! Use it whenever and wherever you need it. Features an ID protection chip for added security.
- Direct Deposit:** your paycheck, pension or Social Security check is deposited directly / automatically into your credit union account for added safety, security and convenience.
- Payroll Deduction:** easy way to make automatic loan payments, or have credited to your checking, savings or Club account(s).
- Bill Pay:** Make recurring payments (car loan, utilities, credit cards, etc.) automatically from your account, in the amounts you specify. A minimum of two (2) each month to avoid a nominal fee.
- Online Loan Application:** Complete your next loan application online at luefcu.org. Just follow the easy prompts. Be sure to include ALL REQUESTED INFORMATION to ensure your application receives timely / review / consideration.
- Online Membership Application:** Visit luefcu.org, follow the easy prompts. Make sure too include ALL REQUESTED INFORMATION. It's that easy. \$25.00 initial deposit (*check or money order, no cash*) needed to open your account.
- ATM Networks:** We offer two (2) outstanding ATM networks: STAR and AllPoint. Visit luefcu.org for more details.

It's fast and easy to enroll in any/all of these services. Just visit the credit union office, or go online at luefcu.org. We're here to help.



NEW Session Added to Lunch / Learn Schedule!

Our very popular – and FREE! – education sessions offer a new topic: **Tips on how to maximize your use of e-Banking – and get the most benefit!**

With so much information floating around about e-banking and the many tools available, we thought it best that you get the latest info straight from the people who offer you a comprehensive range of e-banking services: US!

Make plans now to attend one / all of the following valuable, one-hour sessions on a range of topics:

We invite you to take advantage of these FREE upcoming “Lunch / Learn” sessions.

January 16 (Tuesday) Room 150, SSOM

Gain understanding of various **retirement benefits**. Tips of what to do NOW to **manage your money** while you’re working, so your money works for you in retirement.

February 21 (Wednesday) Room 170, SSOM

Easy tips about how to **sign up for** and **USE e-Banking services** – save **TIME** and **MONEY** with the credit union’s FREE **Mobile Banking App**, Online Banking and MORE! **NEW!**

February 26 (Monday) Room 170, SSOM

Learn EXACTLY what **auto insurance** terms and coverages REALLY mean ... and how they can directly affect you.

March 19 (Monday) Room 150, SSOM

Learn the ‘do’s and don’ts’ of shopping for a **home mortgage loan**, and how to find the one that’s right / best for you.

ALL sessions are FREE, are scheduled from Noon until 1 p.m.

To reserve your seat, call the credit union at 708.216.4500.

FREE VISA Balance Transfer Offer

From NOW through March 31st, you can transfer high-interest charge card balances – for FREE – to a Loyola Credit Union VISA Card.

- **1.99%** interest rate!
- Good **for 12 months** from time you make the transfer
- **NO** transfer **fees!**



Don’t have a Loyola Credit Union VISA card? Apply today – become eligible to enjoy this limited time offer. Choose from the card that’s right for you*:

- Platinum Basic: 9.90% APR
- Platinum ScoreCard: 10.90% APR, and earn ScoreCard Reward points
- Platinum Cashback: 11.90% APR, and earn UP TO 1% CASH BACK (based on purchase amount for the year)

*For specific details about the benefits of the respective cards, please visit luefcu.org. Click ‘Products,’ then Visa Credit Card under Loans / Credit Cards.

A Great Deal ... AND a \$100 VISA Gift Card!

YOU could be driving a new (used) vehicle for a LOT LESS than you think!

OFFER EXTENDED through March 31st!

A vehicle loan from Loyola Credit Union gives you:

- **Flexible payback periods** to get the lowest possible monthly payment!*
- Always low rates* save you money
- PLUS – a **FREE** \$100 VISA Gift Card!

EVERY vehicle purchase that is financed with a Loyola Credit Union loan receives a **FREE \$100 VISA Gift Card**.

This special offer is extended through **March 31st, 2018**, so don’t delay! Stop in TODAY for a great deal!

*Specific loan rate and monthly payments based on individual creditworthiness. Regular credit rules apply. Not all members will qualify.



Tips to Help Cut Your Tax Bill

The end of the holiday season ushers in ... *tax season*. April 15th is right around the corner, so we have some tips to help you cut your tax bill. Maybe not this year, but certainly next year.

Most tips require that you itemize rather than take the standard deduction. In most cases, however, the extra effort could be worth it.

- 1. Revise your W-4:** Your W-4 form with your employer details how much tax you want withheld from each paycheck. If you got hit with a large tax bill (or expect to), *raise the amount withheld* each paycheck so you owe less next April. (Of course, if you received a large refund, you can reduce the amount of withholding and stop overpaying the government).
- 2. Add to your 401(k):** Less taxable income means less tax. The IRS doesn’t tax what you contribute directly from your paycheck into a 401(k). For 2018, you can direct up to \$18,500; if you’re 50 or older, that amount is \$24,500.
- 3. Make IRA contributions:** There are two major types of individual retirement accounts (IRAs): Roth and Traditional. Both are beneficial, and both have specific requirements. Talk with your CPA or tax accountant to learn which IRA might be best for you. **NOTE:** *you have until the April tax deadline to fund your IRA for the previous tax year – so this is a tip you can use this year!*
- 4. Save for college:** The 529 plan is a popular option for people to save for college *and* possibly reduce your state tax requirement (contributions are not deductible on federal income taxes). Again, speak with a professional tax advisor for specific requirements.
- 5. Fund your flexible spending account (FSA):** Take advantage of your employer-sponsored FSA (if available). You can direct tax-free dollars straight from your paycheck into your FSA each year to help lower your tax bill. The limit for 2018 is \$2,650. Yes, you DO have to use the funds during the calendar year for medical and dental expenses, but those are tax-free funds.



- 6. Use your Dependent Care FSA:** Not all employers offer this option, but if it does – and you have children under 13 and in before- / after-school programs, day care, preschool or day camps – the IRS will exclude up to \$5,000 of your pay that you have your employer divert to a Dependent Care FSA Account.
- 7. Earned Income Credit eligibility:** Depending on your income (less than \$55,000), marital status and how many children you have, you may qualify for a tax credit of up to \$6,444 in 2018. A tax *credit* differs from a tax *deduction* in that the credit is a dollar-for-dollar reduction of your actual tax bill. The rules for qualifying are complex, but it is worth a discussion with a tax advisor.
- 8. Charitable contributions:** Such contributions are tax deductible – and they don’t have to be made in cash. Donations of clothes, furniture, other household items can help lower your tax bill. They must have been donated to a recognized charity and you must have received a receipt for their value.
- 9. Medical expenses:** Keep receipts of all your various medical and dental expenses. You can deduct qualified medical expenses that are more than 10% of your adjusted gross income for a given tax year.

These are just a few simple tips to consider when *preparing for 2018. Of course, there are others ... and some may be affected by any new tax plan emanating from Washington D.C.*

(Courtesy of Nerdwallet.com)

Travel Safely and Securely in 2018

Here are a couple of tips to help you travel safely and securely, whether it’s in the U.S. or internationally:



- Use your Loyola Credit Union VISA Credit Card – NOT your debit card – to rent a car. Auto rental companies put large ‘holds’ on your Share Draft / Checking account until you pay your final rental bill. This could effectively tie up a large portion of your travel funds.
- Before you leave – tell us when and where you’re traveling. This alerts the Fraud Dept. so we don’t place a ‘hold’ on your credit or debit cards if we see any transactions from outside your usual area.
- Keep your credit cards safe when traveling. Don’t travel with numerous cards – it just increases the potential for loss or theft.

Roseann Uzzardo Retires

After 27 years of service with Loyola and Loyola Credit Union, Roseann Uzzardo retired, effective January 4th. Roseann first joined the Loyola family in 1990, in the Patient Financial Services department. She then moved to the Budget Management and Accounting department before joining the credit union family in 2000.



During her credit union years, she moved from teller/member service to most recently (for the past three years) as Marketing Specialist II. Her duties included new member recruitment, helping coordinate special events (such as the annual meeting and Member Appreciation Day), participating in Loyola Business Fairs and weekly orientations, and increasing people’s awareness of the credit union’s existence/availability (and getting them to join).

“I’m really going to miss all of our great members,” she says. “They are the ones who made my job so interesting and so much fun. I made many new friends through the years – I’ll always remember them.”

From everyone at Loyola Credit Union – Happy Retirement, Roseann! Thanks for all the great work.