

Special 2.99% Balance Transfer Offer

Elsewhere in this issue, we talk about the five signs that you may need to take advantage of a balance transfer. And we have a **special offer** coming up that fits the bill.



2.99% APR*

For 12 months

Balance Transfers
between 2/15/25 and 5/15/25

This offer is good for all Loyola CU VISA cardholders. Don't have a card yet? You've got time to get one — *act now!*

And if you don't want to wait for this special offer next month, you can make FREE balance transfers ANY TIME to your LCU VISA card!

Get Prepared For Spring House Hunting

Sure, it's cold and snowy outside ... but that doesn't mean you can't begin hunting for your dream home or the perfect 'empty nester.'

And the first step in your hunt should be a call or visit with Kevin Beck, our Home Mortgage specialist.

Whatever life stage you're in, Kevin can help you find the home loan that is just right for you and your family.

Kevin is in the office every Monday and Friday.
Call him at **630-697-3231** or email at mortgages13@yahoo.com to learn more.



Open A Christmas Club Account

Don't have a Christmas Club account? You should! It helps ease the burden of holiday shopping. **Stop in and open a new Christmas Club account for 2025** – *not just for you, but all members of your family!*



And while you're at it, open a **vacation club account**. After all, you deserve a break!

VISA Gift Cards For Any Occasion

A VISA gift card lets people know you're thinking of them ... for big events as well as little occasions. Customize your gift card in amounts from \$10 to \$500. They can be used wherever VISA cards are accepted. Stop by the credit union office to pick up one – or several!

The VISA gift card is activated within 24 hours of purchase. The funds are deducted directly from your account. A \$3.50 purchase fee applies to each card.

Call or stop by the credit union office to purchase yours.



Holiday Closures

The credit union will be closed in observance of the following holidays:

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY
Monday, January 20 **CLOSED**

PRESIDENT'S DAY
Monday, February 17 **CLOSED**

Remember: You can access your Loyola Credit Union accounts 24/7, even when the credit union is closed. Just use these convenient services: VISA Card, Debit Card, ATM, or online at www.luofcu.org.



CONNECTION

www.luofcu.org

Newsletter of Loyola University Employees Federal Credit Union

Winter 2025

Fraud Alerts Bear Repeating:

Just because the holidays are behind us, don't relax and think the scammers and fraudsters are taking a break. In fact, they are simply coming up with more ways to take your money, such as spoofing phone numbers, and person-to-person payment systems.

Fraudsters are using phone numbers that APPEAR to be peoples' financial institution, then requesting personal and account information. This information is then used to fraudulently access your account and funds. **DON'T FALL FOR THIS!**

Hang up, then CALL the credit union immediately to let us know this happened. We will confirm or deny that Loyola Credit Union has or has not called you.

They also are using person-to-person payments systems, such as Venmo, 'Zelle Pay' and others, to successfully defraud people. Even PayPal is not entirely safe from scammers. When using such payment systems, stay alert and protect yourself.

It is important to note: IF you use a 3rd party vendor, as those previously mentioned, and you are scammed, **AND YOU VOLUNTARILY PROVIDE YOUR INFORMATION**, Loyola Credit Union (or any other financial institution) is NOT responsible to reimburse any lost funds. So please, stay alert to potential scams and protect yourself.

We at Loyola Credit Union are here to *help* protect you from such fraud and theft, but **you** must also be **AWARE** and **PRO-ACTIVE** to help yourself.

Harry Tram, Jr.
Manager



One Gift Is Good For Life

The holidays may be over, but you can still give one more meaningful gift: Loyola Credit Union membership. And it's good for life.

Because you're already a member, your family members can also join ... and like yours, their **membership is good for life**. Even if you (or they) retire, move, change jobs, *whatever* ... your Loyola Credit Union membership stays with you, so you continue to enjoy the many money-saving benefits our products and services afford.

Our comprehensive range of e-banking services, including remote deposit, account balance information and more, makes it easy to conduct financial business from *wherever* you are!

This new year, give a gift that lasts: Loyola Credit Union membership.

Time Is Running Out!

And quantities, too, to get your own Loyola Credit Union t-shirt. With a donation of just \$10, you receive a custom Loyola Credit Union t-shirt ... **AND** a free tote bag! T-shirt sizes in Large and X-Large only. Quantities are limited, so act now! Stop in or call the office today.



Office Hours Reminder

Please make note of the credit union's hours of operation:

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday:
7:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

CLOSED
Each day from 11:00 – Noon

Wednesday:
7:00 a.m. to Noon
CLOSED
Every Wednesday afternoon

Scan the QR Code to learn more



Annual Meeting Notice

Our annual meeting will be held in late March or early April this year. Check our website for details as they are confirmed. Again this year, the meeting will be conducted via Zoom.

Looking To Make A Difference?

We have some interesting opportunities for you.

Credit unions rely on their members to volunteer for committees and Board positions to help keep the organization running smoothly and effectively.

If you have some interests or abilities you believe would be valuable to the credit union, such as in finance, marketing, web sites, etc., we want to hear from you.

Submit a letter of interest highlighting your personal / professional qualifications to Harry Tram, credit union Manager.

To be eligible, you must be:

- a member in good standing at Loyola Credit Union
- available for regularly scheduled meetings

We look forward to learning more about you.

Christmas Stocking Winner Is...

Shirley Butler, a member of the Call Center team, is the lucky winner of this year's giant toy-filled stocking!

The credit union donated a second stocking to the Child Life Department.

We thank our members for your generosity, as we were able to include a monetary donation to the Child Life Department.



You all helped make the holidays a little brighter for those who needed it.

Loyola Credit Union Board member, Will Rangel (l), is pictured with Molly Briody of Child Life, with the toy-filled stocking the credit union donated to the Child Life Department.

Five Signs You Need A Balance Transfer

One of the best ways to get the most from your money is to NOT pay too much in interest charges. But if you're carrying balances on credit cards that charge anywhere from 15 – 29% interest, **you're paying way too much interest!**

Here are five signs that indicate YOU need to make the switch.

1. **If you're carrying balances on multiple credit cards**, consolidate them into one low-interest account. You can reduce the total amount of interest you'll pay.
2. **If you have a large balance on a credit card with a high APR**, you're paying way too much on interest alone and not much going to pay down your balance. A balance transfer helps you pay down your debt faster.
3. **If you want to improve your credit utilization**, your balance transfer card may offer a higher credit limit, which increases your total available credit.

This is important because credit utilization plays a key role in the FICO credit scoring models. So, Lower interest rate ... Pay down debt faster ... Boosts available credit ... AND improves your credit utilization ratio.

4. **If you're paying off a large purchase (appliance, etc.) over time**, take advantage of a "limited time, low interest special offer." Transferring your debt to such a card helps you incur minimal interest: calculate how much you'll need to pay each month to clear your debt during the special low interest intro period (3, 6, 12 months).
5. **If you're unhappy with the terms/rewards of your current card(s)**, make the move! While it's not ideal to carry a balance on a credit card (because it costs you money), look for one that offers the best rate and the fewest fees.

REMEMBER: You have until April 15th to make IRA contributions for tax year 2024.

Make Sure Your Tax Return Is Safe

Scammers are everywhere, doing what they can to steal what isn't theirs. That includes your tax return. Make sure your return is safe – have it direct deposited into your Loyola Credit Union checking or savings account.

It's easy to do: just make sure you include the following information on the REFUND SECTION of your tax return:

- Our Routing Number, which is **271992141**
- WHERE you want your refund deposited – Checking or Savings
- YOUR Loyola Credit Union account number

Please remember: If your tax return is a JOINT return, your refund must be deposited into a JOINT account.



Need Help With Money Management? Retirement Planning?

We've got just what you're looking for:

FREE information sessions presented by our friends at Infinity Financial Concepts. They can help you better understand your **retirement benefits**, how to **manage your money NOW** for retirement **later**, and much more.

In-Person Workshops

Held in the credit union conference room, **Room 0903, Maguire Building, from Noon until 1:00 p.m.**

- **JANUARY:** Thursday, 9th and Tuesday, 21st
- **FEBRUARY:** Tuesday, 11th and Tuesday, 25th
- **MARCH:** Thursday, 6th and Tuesday, 25th

Please email reanae@infinityfinancialconcepts.com to reserve your seat, or call **708-410-0400.**



Start The New Year With A New Vehicle

There are some *very* attractive vehicles on the road these days. And we have some *very* attractive rates and terms to help make one of them yours!

Rates as low as
4.75% APR*

Payback periods
as long as 72 months

Let us help you into the vehicle that best suits your needs and budget.

*Annual Percentage Rate. Call or stop by our office today for specific rates and terms. Regular credit rules apply. Not all members will qualify, based on individual creditworthiness.

