SKYWARD
CREDIT UNION

Aim higher.

October 2024

TAP TO PAY

DEBIT CARD

- Fast
- Secure
- Touch Free



SKYWARD
CREDIT UNION

PRESIDENT'S NEWS

As we enter the final quarter of the year, I want to take a moment to share key updates regarding the credit union industry and how they impact Skyward Credit Union. Despite the ongoing challenges in the broader economy, Skyward continues to prioritize our members' financial well-being while adapting to the evolving landscape of opportunities in the industry.

ECONOMIC LANDSCAPE AND ITS IMPACT ON CREDIT UNIONS

While the national economy shows signs of resilience, we are seeing mixed signals regarding inflation and interest rates. The Federal Reserve has taken decisive steps to curb inflation through a series of interest rate hikes. These efforts, though aimed at stabilizing prices, have had significant ripple effects throughout the financial industry, including credit unions.

Higher interest rates have a dual effect: borrowers face increased costs for loans, including mortgages, auto loans, and personal loans, while savers benefit from higher yields on savings accounts and certificates (commonly known as CDs). At Skyward, we continuously evaluate our rates to ensure we remain competitive while safeguarding our financial strength.

DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION IN FINANCIAL SERVICES

The financial services industry continues to evolve rapidly, with digital banking playing a more vital role than ever before. The pandemic accelerated the shift toward mobile and online banking, and this trend is here to stay. Skyward is committed to enhancing our digital offerings to ensure we provide seamless, secure, and user-friendly services for our members.

CYBERSECURITY: A GROWING CONCERN

With the increasing reliance on digital platforms comes a heightened risk of cyberattacks. Protecting our members' financial information remains a top priority, and Skyward is consistently investing in technology to bolster our cybersecurity defenses. One of our upcoming initiatives includes enhanced card control features within online banking, allowing for customizable alerts to help safeguard your accounts.

We also encourage our members to stay vigilant. Scams targeting personal information have become more sophisticated, so we recommend regularly monitoring your accounts, reporting any suspicious activity, and never sharing account details with anyone.

REGULATORY UPDATES AND ADVOCACY

In the regulatory arena, credit unions face several proposed changes that could impact how we serve our members. Recently, I had the privilege of attending the annual Hike the Hill event in Washington, D.C., where I met with local senators and congressmen. We discussed important legislative issues such as the Credit Card Competition Act (H.R. 3881/S. 1838) and the Electronic Fund Transfer Act (S. 4943/H.R. 9303), both of which directly affect credit unions and our members.

During these conversations, I advocated for our industry's position, emphasizing the need for thoughtful consideration of the potential effects on financial services and consumers. Skyward remains actively engaged in advocacy efforts to ensure any regulatory changes align with the best interests of our members.

LOOKING AHEAD: OUR COMMITMENT TO YOU

As we wrap up this year and look toward 2025, I want to assure you that Skyward Credit Union is well-positioned to navigate the challenges ahead while continuing to deliver the best possible financial services. We remain committed to financial stability, innovation, and providing exceptional service to meet your evolving needs.

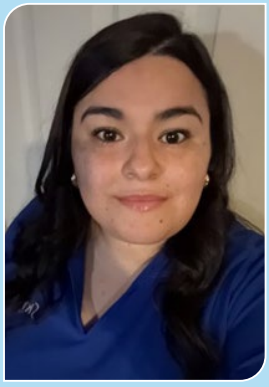
Thank you for your continued trust in Skyward Credit Union. Together, we will continue to Aim Higher, striving to reach new heights and better serve you.

Sincerely,
Kevin Brittain
President & CEO, Skyward Credit Union

STAFF SPOTLIGHT

Ana Tovar

SENIOR TELLER



When did you start at Skyward?
June 27, 2022

What do you like best about working at Skyward?
Co-workers—they become your second family and I enjoy who I work with.

What do you like to do when you aren't working?
I like spending time with my family, fishing, and watching true crime shows.

What are your three most memorable life events so far?
I have two so far. Becoming a mom and purchasing a house.

What is your motto?
If you can dream it, you can do it.

What's your favorite piece of financial advice?
Budget and always have a backup plan

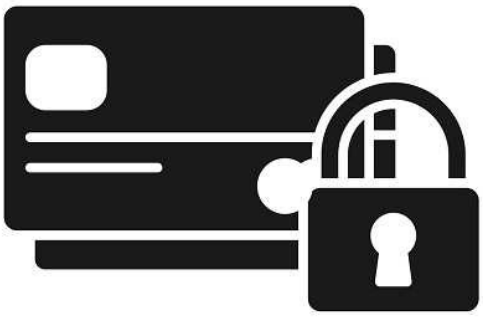
Call for Volunteers:

Skyward Credit Union's leadership is made up of qualified, elected volunteer credit union members. Would you be interested in serving on our Board of Directors? If so, please contact the Nominating Committee Chair, Michael LaBarge at 316.641.5344 or m_labarge@sbcglobal.net, by October 18, 2024.



Should I, Could I Freeze My Credit Report?

By: Jim Stickley and Tina Davis



Having your private information or identity stolen is no picnic. It takes quite a long time to make it right, so one of the best ways to help ensure that neither happens in the first place is to protect it as much as you can. In light of the recent Capital One data breach, many may be considering putting a freeze on their credit reports and that is a great idea. But, be sure to know what that means before taking that action.

WHY FREEZE YOUR CREDIT?

Credit reports contain a bunch of information about you and your credit and payment history and patterns. It includes your addresses, current and past, your creditors, your social security number, any negative payments, credit scores, and a host of other very valuable information. If it's stolen, it could be used against you for a whole host of purposes such as credit fraud, income tax fraud, or healthcare fraud. Perhaps even all of them. Someone could potentially become you.

Therefore, if you were part of the Capital One breach or any other breach where information about you was accessed without your permission, you may want to consider a freeze on your credit report.

WHAT DOES FREEZING YOUR CREDIT MEAN?

When you freeze your credit information, no one can pull that information from the credit bureaus; including you. That said, if you need to make it available for some reason, you can unfreeze it forever or for a temporary period of time; even for just a day. You just need to plan ahead a little bit.

However, if you want to apply for credit of any kind, you will not be able to unless you unfreeze it. This also applies to things like requesting your credit score or applying for a home to rent. Landlords often want to check your credit also and you would need to unfreeze it for that too.

WHEN IS IT GOOD TO FREEZE CREDIT?

In any of the following conditions, you may want to consider freezing your credit:

- You have been an identity theft victim
- Your social security number has been accessed without your authorization
- You have been the victim of healthcare related fraud
- Your payment card number(s) has been stolen
- Your mail has been stolen
- You have been a victim of income tax fraud
- Your online accounts have been breached, whether or not they included your payment card information
- You just want to protect yourself from becoming a fraud or identity theft victim
- You don't need and no one else needs immediate access to your credit reports

DOES IT COST ANYTHING?

No, it doesn't. Last year, as a result of the Equifax data beach affecting nearly half the population of the U.S., Congress passed a bill requiring all states to make it free to freeze and unfreeze your credit.

SHOULD I FREEZE MY CHILD'S CREDIT REPORT?

Yes. Children are the victims of identity theft as well. In fact, a Javelin Strategy & Research Study found that 1 million children in the U.S. were victims of this last year. Two-thirds of them were under eight years old. Thieves can buy a child's SSN on the dark web for $2, commit fraud, and no one may notice for years.

It's a good idea to freeze the credit reports of all children until they are of age to use their credit.

HOW CAN I FREEZE MY CREDIT REPORT?

The good news is that it has become very easy to do this. As of writing, all three of the major credit bureaus have put the link to freeze your credit on the front pages of their websites. TransUnion and Equifax have put it right at the top. Equifax has it toward the bottom.

You must do this for each bureau. It's not a one and done situation for this. However, after you click the link to freeze on each site, it doesn't take but a few minutes to make the request. Fill in your name, requested social security information, and other verification details, and you're done.

If you prefer to call, you can do that too. Just be sure to get the current phone numbers off their websites directly.

Also remember that credit monitoring is not the same as a credit freeze. Credit monitoring still leave your credit report accessible. You will just receive notifications if someone tries to access it.

For more information, you can visit any of the credit bureaus or the FTC's websites.



Branch Locations

Maize Branch
10315 W. 13th St. N
13th St & Maize

West Wichita Branch
4 Cessna Blvd
K-42 West of Hoover

Greenwich Branch
275 S. Greenwich
North of Kellogg

Pawnee Branch
5800 E. Pawnee
Pawnee & Woodlawn

Southwest Wichita
ITM Drive-Thru
1021 W. Pawnee St.

Independence, Kansas
Plant Branch
One Cessna Blvd
In Town Branch
3159 W Main St.

Federally Insured by NCUA

EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

OCTOBER

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	~~14~~	15	16	(17)	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

NOVEMBER

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
(3)	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	~~11~~	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	~~28~~	~~29~~	~~30~~

DECEMBER

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	~~24~~	~~25~~	26	27	28
29	30	31				

Items of Interest and the Dates to Remember:

October 17: International Credit Union Day
November 3: Christmas Club Savings transfer to Regular Savings

Holiday Closings

Columbus Day/Indigenous Peoples Day: October 14
Veterans Day: November 11
Thanksgiving: November 28-30
Christmas Eve: Closing at 1pm December 24
Christmas: December 25
New Year's Day: January 1, 2025



Board of Directors

Holly Dixon, Chair
Roy Aycock, Vice Chair
Phil Chronister, Director
Kim Anderson, Secretary/Treasurer
Michael LaBarge, Director
Darrell Elkinton, Director
Amanda Bishop, Director

Supervisory Committee

Link Newton, Chair
Chad Rockey, Member
Tracie McIntire, Member

Credit Committee

Mike Langston, Chair
Mike Irvin, Secretary
Jim Mendenhall, Member
Thomas Butherus, Member
Dave Wycoff, Member