

# NEWSLINE



## April Is Financial Literacy Month

Being financially prepared is massively important in order to secure your future and deal with rising costs. Such a challenge can seem daunting, especially if you feel like you don't have much income to spare after the month's expenses. But there are steps you can take to mitigate these challenges – steps you can start any time you're ready, not just during April.

- 1 Assess Your Finances.** How are you doing now? Where is your money going? How much monthly income do you typically have after paying for food, gas, bills and other monthly expenses? What are your own strengths and weaknesses? Be honest with yourself about your relationship with money.
- 2 Clean Up the Clutter.** Shred your old documents that you don't need anymore and get your financial house organized. Getting and keeping everything organized will make finances seem much more approachable and less stressful.
- 3 Check Your Credit Report.** Your credit reports can provide a snapshot of your overall financial situation. Reviewing your credit reports for accuracy can also help you to identify errors or fraudulent activity.
- 4 Check Out Our Financial Literacy Tools.** We offer financial literacy tools through Cooperative FiQ and Phroogal at [www.coopfcu.org](http://www.coopfcu.org). They'll help answer your questions and equip you with the critical knowledge and skills you need to make the financial decisions that are best for you. We're also happy to walk you through anything you're confused about!

Visit [www.coopfcu.org](http://www.coopfcu.org) to view our educational courses and tools. We're here to help.



## YOU'RE INVITED

**Bee Sure to Attend the 77th Annual Meeting of the Members!**  
**Thursday, May 9, 2019 | 6:00 PM | Ed Roberts Campus, Berkeley, CA**

Join us for our annual meeting and see why it's the bee's knees!

Please refer to your ballot mailing or [www.coopfcu.org](http://www.coopfcu.org) for more information.



## National CU Youth Month

Your young members have limitless potential, and financial education can be instrumental in helping them achieve it. This April, celebrate National Credit Union Youth Month with our 2019 theme: "The future is yours... Picture it! Save for it! Share it!" When your child can easily visualize what their future can hold, they'll be more likely to save for it.

Throughout the month of April, Cooperative Center FCU will be holding a Youth Savings Challenge to encourage saving among our youngest members. Here are some steps to help them get started on their journey to financial literacy:

1. To help your children get into the saving habit, start by having them cut out pictures of something they'd like to have someday and post the images where they'll see them often.
2. Then help them open a savings account at Cooperative Center FCU. You can open an account with as little as \$5.
3. Encourage your child to make regular small deposits each week. Tell them their money will earn interest while it's in their account.
4. If they keep this routine going, they'll quickly see their savings grow!

To learn more, visit us on our website at [www.coopfcu.org](http://www.coopfcu.org) or check for our events tab on Facebook, [www.facebook.com/coopfcu](http://www.facebook.com/coopfcu).



The Future is Yours

Picture it! Save for it! Share it!

## Move your loan in the right direction and walk away with...

# 1% OFF

your existing rate!

### MEET DWAYNE AND KAMILAH.

Dwayne and Kamilah were getting refi offers from other lenders, but decided to first ask what we could offer them. By refinancing their auto loan with us, they saved \$178.91 on their monthly payment!

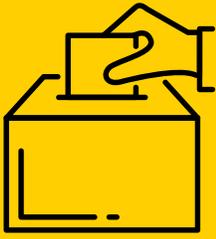
**Join Dwayne and Kamilah and save by refinancing your auto loan today!**

**Feeling stuck with your current loan payment?** We'll get you going again! With Cooperative Center FCU on your side, you'll be on your way to monthly savings.

- ➡ **1% OFF** your existing rate<sup>1</sup>
- ➡ Earn up to **\$200** cash back<sup>2</sup>
- ➡ **60-day** payment vacation<sup>3</sup>

Get moving! This offer ends April 30, so come to the credit union today!

APR = Annual Percentage Rate. The vehicle must be a model between 2011 and 2019, have a balance owed of at least \$10,000 and currently be financed through another financial institution. Loans currently financed through Cooperative Center Federal Credit Union are not eligible. The loan must be current to qualify. Rate and term may vary based on creditworthiness, age of vehicle, mileage and value of vehicle. Contact a Loan Officer for minimum/maximum loan terms based on amount financed. Subject to credit approval. Floor rate of 2.95% APR applies. All loans are refinanced for the remaining term of the original loan. Payment example: \$22.15 per \$1,000 borrowed at 2.95% APR for 48 months. Offer good April 15, 2019, through May 31, 2019. Offer cannot be combined with any other offer or discount. <sup>1</sup>Verification of your current rate is required. Some members may qualify for more than 1% APR savings. <sup>2</sup>The cash back is referred to as a "Refinance Reward" of 1% and is based on the financed amount up to \$200 and will be deposited into the member's account within 90 days of loan funding. Please speak with a loan officer for complete details and restrictions. <sup>3</sup>60 day deferred payment is optional. Interest will continue to accrue during the 60 day no-payment period. First payment(s) may be applied to interest only. This offer is not for cash out refinancing or lease buyouts.



## Election Notice:

The member-owners of Cooperative Center Federal Credit Union will be electing Directors to fill two (2) seats on the Board. Elected Board Members will serve a term of three (3) years. The candidates are listed below. The bios can be found on the ballot, on the credit union website ([www.coopfcu.org](http://www.coopfcu.org), click on Elections Notice) and in the credit union lobby.

Amira Jackmon | Michael Leung | Deborah Matthews | Jesse Palmer

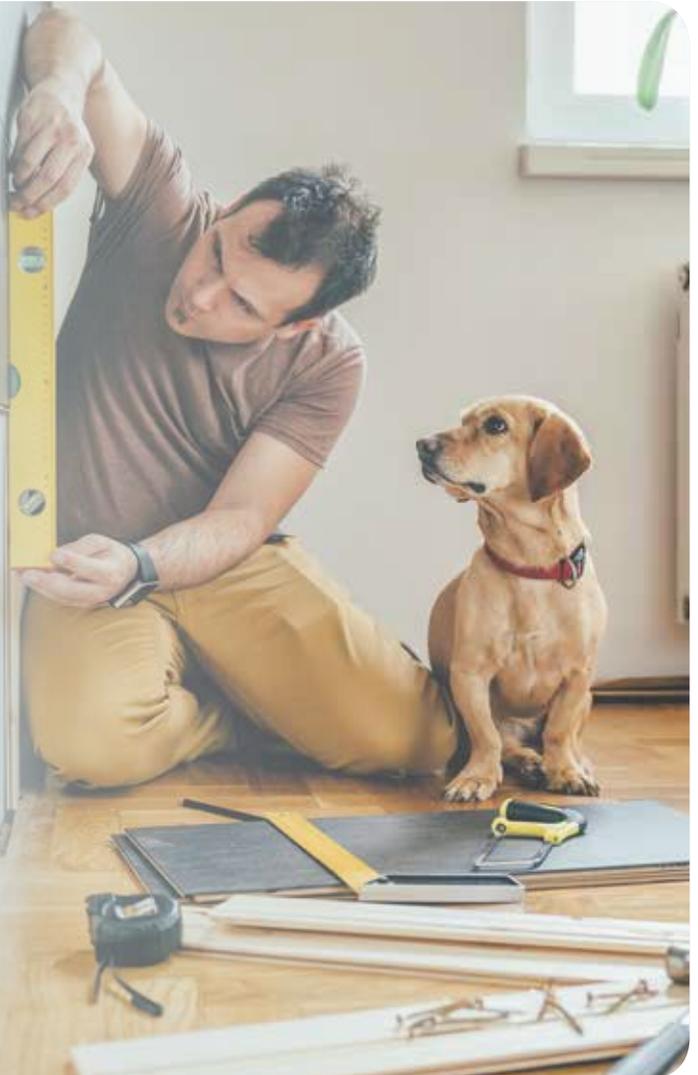
**Pick up a ballot in the credit union lobby to vote.** Place your completed ballot in the specially-marked ballot envelope, seal the envelope, affix postage and mail. Alternatively, you may drop the envelope in the ballot box in the credit union lobby during normal operating hours from April 24, 2019, through May 8, 2019, at 6:00pm. Additionally, a ballot box will be located in the registration area at the Annual Meeting location from 5:00pm to 6:00pm, prior to meeting being called to order on May 9. **Once the meeting is called to order, no further votes will be accepted. Mailed ballots must be received by May 8, 2019.**

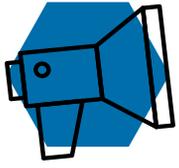
## Get the Look You're Looking For

Don't give up on your house yet! If you've been deferring maintenance projects and procrastinating remodeling, you have options other than selling your assets and starting anew. For example, we offer Home Equity Lines of Credit, which take advantage of the equity built up in your home to get you the cash you need at a great rate. Plus, with a line of credit, you only pay interest on the cash you use.

Whatever you want to make happen, we can help. There's a good chance you haven't explored all your options yet, and you may find that repairing or remodeling your home is easier to accomplish than you previously thought.

**Give us a call or stop by to start discussing your options, or apply for a loan on our website at [www.coopfcu.org/heloc](http://www.coopfcu.org/heloc)!**





**Announcing:**  
**Cooperative FiQ**  
 New Financial Education  
 Resource for Cooperative  
 Center FCU Members

Cooperative Center FCU is thrilled to introduce a new digital education initiative to power your financial learning called FiQ. The program provides members with an engaging learning experience around critical personal finance topics such as building emergency savings, mortgage education and retirement planning.

Highlights of the program include:

- A series of 3-10 minute, interactive learning modules on key financial topics.
- Mobile and tablet enabled so you can learn anytime, anywhere.
- Available in English and Spanish.

Your financial well-being is important to us, and we are committed to providing you with resources to manage your money.

**To get started, simply visit [coopfcu.org/CooperativeFiQ](http://coopfcu.org/CooperativeFiQ) and complete the Financial Planning playlist.**

**Do You Know Your Credit Score?**

To help protect your identity and financial reputation, one of the smartest things you can do is check your credit report on a regular basis. Your credit report can affect anything from loan rates and credit card approvals to mortgage and insurance rates.

Thanks to a federal law, you can request a free copy of your credit report from each of the three major credit-reporting agencies once every 12 months. Just go to [www.annualcreditreport.com](http://www.annualcreditreport.com) or call (877) 322-8228 to request your free credit report. We suggest spacing your requests evenly throughout the year. Request a report from one of the three agencies every four months.



**Confused about credit scores and how they can affect you? Check out Cooperative FiQ at [coopfcu.org/CooperativeFiQ](http://coopfcu.org/CooperativeFiQ).**

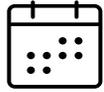
**Learn the Tips and Tricks of Homebuying**

Whether you're a first-timer or a veteran when it comes to buying a home, it can be a daunting process. We're here to help. That's why we're putting together Homebuying Workshops, just for you. You'll learn all the best tips and tricks for buying your home and how to get the process started. Here are a few tips, just to give you a taste of what you can learn:

- **Find out how much mortgage you can afford.** Usually the lender will want your monthly mortgage payment to be no more than 29% of your monthly gross income.
- **Know what's in your credit report.** Your credit score will help determine the loan amount you will be able to get through a lender. You can order a free copy of your report once a year from each of the credit agencies at [www.annualcreditreport.com](http://www.annualcreditreport.com).
- **Create a wish list of what you want in a home.** Knowing what you want upfront can save you time when looking for your home.
- **Understand the different mortgage programs.** There are many different mortgage programs available, including adjustable-rate, fixed-rate and interest-only loans.
- **Find out about closing costs.** These costs can include a loan origination fee, loan discount points, appraisal fee, credit report fee, prepaid interest and escrow accounts.

**Sign up and keep an eye out for more announcements regarding upcoming workshops at [www.coopfcu.org!](http://www.coopfcu.org!)**





## MARK YOUR CALENDARS

### APRIL

15: **Tax Day**

16: **# PJDay** - Don't be surprised if you see members of staff in their PJs; feel free to join in the fun (G Rated), and we'll take your picture to add to our gallery of fun.

19: **Member Appreciation / CU Birthday** - Make plans to stop by on your special day for a sweet treat and lunch courtesy of TopDog (hot dogs) and AWG Private Chefs (brownies and blondies). We'll also be premiering our new Member Financial Education tool, Cooperative FIQ.

### MAY

6-10: **# TeacherAppreciationWeek # ThankATeacher**

9: **Annual Meeting of the Members** - See inside this newsletter for time and location.

17: **# BiketoWorkDay** - We'll see you bright and early at Ashby Bart. Bike On!

29: **529 Day** is the national day set aside for families to learn more about the different methods for saving for education expenses. Visit [www.SavingForCollege.com](http://www.SavingForCollege.com) for more information on 529 Plans, plan comparisons and calculators.

### JUNE

1: **Pints for Paws** - Come show your support for Berkeley Humane and bring home a new friend. If you adopt a new friend, let us know when you stop by our booth. We'd love to snap a pic and add your growing family to our photo gallery.

14: **# NationalDonutDay** - Stop by our lobby in the morning, and there just might be a little something extra to go with your coffee.

16: **Berkeley Juneteenth** - We are excited to party with our neighbors, so please stop by our booth and say, "Hi!"

30: **Deadline for Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)**

Join us in the lobby for these fun "hashtag" holidays!



## Plan to Invest in Education

If you're looking for ways to save for your child's education, a 529 plan can help. A 529 plan is an investment program that lets you invest in a range of portfolios to make it easier to save for college. It doesn't have to be for college either - a 529 plan can help you save for tuition for elementary or secondary schools. Your 529 options span from multi-fund to single-fund, high risk and high reward to guaranteed portfolios, all with varying yields, requirements and benefits.

When investing for your child's education, there is no one right way to do it. Our Coverdell ESA can help you save for college on its own or in tandem with a 529 plan, with competitive dividends and tax-free withdrawals. **We'll be happy to help - give us a call or stop by today.**



## How Much Is That Free Lunch?

Rewards cards from other financial institutions often "reward" you with higher interest rates and fees along with the cash back you earn. Meanwhile, with a fee-free Visa® credit card from Cooperative Center, you'll be rewarded instantly from the savings you get from your lower fixed interest rate. This means that the cash you "earn" from another rewards card may ultimately cost you more than what you can save with a lower rate card from Cooperative Center FCU!

By saving on your interest rate, you'll gain the freedom to choose your own reward. According to one of our recent surveys, over half of all respondents agreed that no annual fees and a low interest rate are the most important things a credit card can offer, and we listen to our members. From members just starting their credit journey to those a little further down the road, we have a Visa card to suit your needs. **See a loan officer or visit [www.coopfcu.org/visa](http://www.coopfcu.org/visa) to learn more!**

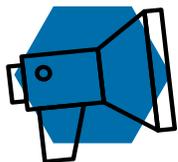
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New Financial Education  
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coopfcu



@coopfcu

## Cooperative Center FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

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SPRING 2019

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