

INSIGHT

A Few Words From Our CEO

On behalf of the staff, Management Team, Supervisory Committee, and Board of Directors, I want to wish you and your family all the best in 2019.

We have had a productive 2018 in service of our member-owners. We launched a new and noticeably improved website. It is much easier to navigate and is filled with useful information.

In keeping with our commitment to school employees, we launched the 4% Summer Savings program to assist 10- and 11-month employees through the summer. We furthered assistance to our school districts by extending our leasing programs to equipment as well as transportation. Also, our popular Shred Day was made available to all East County education employees. (Look for our next Shred Day on January 12, 2019.)

We also extended our relationship with the San Diego East County Chamber of Commerce in sponsoring the 2018 Educator's Tour and will continue in 2019. This is just another way we try to make a difference in our community.

As we head into 2019, we don't see things slowing down. We will be revamping our credit card program to include the instant issue of cards. On top of the 30,000 surcharge-free Co-Op ATMs nationwide, we plan to roll out additional ATMs in the Districts. Also, to better serve you, we will be looking at the latest person-to-person payment options.

I hope to "C U" soon,

Steven A. Devan
President & Chief Executive Officer

Congratulations To Our Educator's Tour Survey Winners

Congratulations to Anne Paxton-Smith of El Cajon Valley High School. She will be enjoying a 10-day tour of Switzerland, Austria and Bavaria including airfare, hotel and meals, July 7th through the 16th on us. Congratulations Anne and also Gloria Harrington who won the \$100 gift card! Learn more about Educator's Tours and how you can join us at eastcountyschools.org.



Need Help Managing Debt?

STEP 1: Schedule a Free Credit Review with our Loan Officer

Two solutions we have that may help you are

**APPLY
ONLINE or
IN-BRANCH
TODAY!**

CONSOLIDATION LOAN

- Lower Rates than most credit cards
- Fixed Interest Rate locked in
- Fixed Payment Amount
- Qualifies for Holiday Skip-A-Pay
- Multiple Term Options
- Credit card debt is paid off with the loan funds
- Great way to pay off debt faster!

HOME EQUITY LINE

- For those who own a home with equity
- Low Rates - Lower than Consolidation Loan rates
- Interest expense may be tax deductible
- No Annual or Maintenance fees
- Use online Bill Pay or Checks to access your funds
- The greater of \$100/month or 1% of your balance is the monthly minimum payment

Shred Day Is Coming Back

**Saturday, January 12, 2019
9 a.m. to 12 noon
1069 Graves Ave. – El Cajon**

This is an opportunity for you to eliminate clutter around your house and protect yourself from identity theft by securely discarding personal documents.

Please note, there is a limit of eight boxes per person.

Free Retirement Seminar

Planning Your Retirement Income Strategy

Whether your retirement starts in two years or twenty, it is never too early or too late to speak to an expert about what to expect. Join East County Schools FCU and LPL Financial* on Wednesday, January 23rd from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. at the El Cajon Branch on Graves Avenue. Learn about retirement risks, withdrawal advice, social security, and how to make the most of your 401k/403b. Register to reserve your seat and refreshments at eastcountyschools.org, in-branch or by phone at 619-588-1515.

**Wednesday,
January 23rd
5:30 p.m. –
6:30 p.m.**



*Securities offered by LPL Financial, member FINRA/SIPC. Not NCUA protected or guaranteed. Funds may lose value.

Two Easy Tasks that Keep Your Financial Affairs in Order



Add or Update your Beneficiaries on all your Financial Accounts

Relationships change over time – but do your credit union accounts reflect those changes? Print the Account Information Change Form from our website and drop it off or mail it in. Call 619-588-1515 or stop in to ask if your information is current.

Complete a Recent Transaction for Every Account

Accounts go dormant when not used. Accounts that normally don't have fees may start incurring fees, and eventually the funds from dormant accounts get sent to the State of California treasury department. This is called escheatment. The funds sit in unclaimed property funds. This can happen to an account even if you use OTHER accounts at that institution regularly. Make a deposit or withdrawal from each of your accounts. You can set a \$1 direct deposit to accounts you rarely use to keep them active.

Members Save Up To \$15 on TurboTax, The Tax Software That Has You Covered



Tax reform is here. . .how will it affect you in the upcoming tax season?

This year, get your biggest possible tax refund – without leaving your living room. TurboTax, the #1 best-selling tax software, is up to date on the latest tax laws and guarantees 100% accurate calculations, so you can be confident your taxes are done right and get your biggest possible refund. And, as a credit union member you can **save up to \$15** on TurboTax this tax season. **To access the member discount, click on the TurboTax web ad in the SERVICES menu of EastCountySchools.org. Start today and save!**

- **Searches over 350 deductions.** TurboTax finds every deduction and credit you qualify for, so you don't miss a thing.
- **Get a head start on your taxes.** Snap a photo of your W-2 or import it into TurboTax from over 1 million companies. Either way, you'll save time and get a jump start on your tax return.
- **Expert review of your return.** With TurboTax Live, you can have a live CPA or EA by your side to answer questions and review your tax return.

About 42% of surveyed taxpayers don't know if the new tax law will benefit them. For now, here are three of the most important changes:

1. Your Tax Bracket Might Have Changed

The seven tax brackets found in the former law remain, but a number of tax rates are lower. The income thresholds at which the rates apply also change. That means you can decrease your tax burden with deductions that place you in a lower tax bracket.

2. Families Find Relief

This most recent tax reform effort doubled the Child Tax Credit from \$1,000 to \$2,000. If you're saving for your kids' education via a 529 plan, this creates an opportunity to increase your contribution – tax-free – without trying to find those funds in your current budget.

3. Some Eliminations and Deductions Fade

Contrary to the interpretation of some people, the tax reform change did not immediately do away with the tax penalty that accompanies non-participation in a health plan. Since the window for such participation is now closed, if you find yourself outside of a plan looking in on tax penalties, your best bet is to determine a payment strategy. ECSFCU can help.

Visit <http://turbotax.intuit.com/lp/you/guarantees.jsp> for TurboTax product guarantees and other important information. Limited time offer for TurboTax 2018. Discount applies to TurboTax federal products only. Terms, conditions, features, availability, pricing, fees, service and support options subject to change without notice. Intuit, TurboTax and TurboTax Online, among others, are registered trademarks and/or service marks of Intuit Inc. in the United States and other countries.



You're Invited to the Annual Meeting

The Annual Membership Meeting is coming up on Wednesday, February 20. You're invited to join the staff, Board of Directors and fellow members of East County Schools to learn about the progress we made in 2018 and the plans we have for 2019. Since we have only two nominations for two vacancies to our Board of Directors, our bylaws dictate that we will not hold an election by ballot and nominations from the floor will not be accepted.

The meeting will be held at our Main Office at 1069 Graves Avenue in El Cajon at 5:15 p.m.

Annual Meeting
February 20,
2019

Faster Tax Refunds

Got plans for your tax refund? See it up to three weeks sooner by choosing Direct Deposit when you file your return. Funds will be accessible immediately upon deposit into your account. Simply give your tax provider East County School's routing number: 322276509.

New Year's Resolution Tips

While an estimated 40% of Americans make resolutions when the new year rolls around, only 8% of us are successful in keeping them. Want to increase your chance at success?

Simplicity Ups Your Chances

Saving an extra \$1,000 this year may seem daunting, but if you simplify the goal to set aside \$20 a week, suddenly the task seems less overwhelming. Plus, over the course of the year, you get 52 chances to celebrate!

Get Physical

Even if you don't want to lose weight or run a marathon in 2019, science says regular exercise can still help us keep our resolutions. That's because exercise can help wire the brain in a way that protects memory and critical thinking skills. So, "I forgot" or "I can't figure it out" are less likely to be used as excuses to give up on your January promise.

Get Personal

Find someone who knows you well enough to challenge you and recruit them to hold you accountable. For example, let's say you resolve to pay off credit card debt this year and you ask your best friend to hold you accountable. When you pull out a credit card to pay for dinner, your friend can offer a good-natured reminder that putting your meal on credit isn't helping you reach your goal – the kind of reminder you'd easily brush off if it came from a stranger.

Holiday Closings

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
Monday, January 21, 2019

President's Day – Monday, February 18, 2019



El Cajon - Main Office
1069 Graves Avenue, Suite 100
El Cajon, CA 92021-4573
Monday - Friday: 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

La Mesa Village
8313 La Mesa Blvd.
La Mesa, CA 91942-0217
Monday - Friday: 11 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Credit Union to You (CU2U)
Your office or nearby place of business
Monday - Friday: 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
619-588-1515 Call to schedule

Phone (619) 588-1515 | Fax (619) 588-2197
www.EastCountySchools.org

