### WINTER 2021



## Are you ready to put 2020 in the past?

I bet we are all breathing a collective sigh of relief as a new year begins. Although 2021 holds much uncertainty, I think we can all agree leaving 2020 in the rearview mirror is a good thing! At SWACU, we have much to be proud of and much to look forward to in the next 12-18 months.

As I recapped in a recent newsletter, we strived to provide excellent member care in a variety of ways in 2020 to help sustain many through a job change, the financial crisis, an illness, or the loss of a family member. In 2021, we want to show you that we are more than just **S.W.A.C.U...** we are **STRENGTH**, **WELLNESS**, **ADVENTURE**, **CARING**, **AND UNITED**. This means we want to help you be Strong through financial growth, find financial Wellness, experience Adventure, know that we Care and are United to help you in every way possible to succeed financially in 2021 and beyond.

We also have very exciting news for 2022 we want to begin sharing with you now. After a year of research, evaluations, and hands-on analysis, SWACU has chosen a new technology company that we feel certain will provide us with faster, more efficient, and more reliable "Core" Processing.

What does this mean to you, our members? SWACU's Core Processing system is the primary software that controls and manages the Core financial activities of the Credit Union. This includes our teller and member service functions, debit cards, marketing information and many more critical systems. The purpose for obtaining a new Core Processing system is to improve efficiencies across multiple financial functions: employee engagement, product and service implementations, and back-office transactions for many of our systems. The new Core will not replace our existing home banking, debit card processing, credit card processing or other direct member facing systems; however, it will allow us to enhance those systems and make **YOUR** overall experience a better one.

This year will be dedicated to preparing for this huge technology implementation. We will keep you posted on our progress along the way. We are excited about this much needed change and hope you are too! Happy New Year! We expect 2021 will be a great year for all of us.



### IN THIS ISSUE:

- Gain S.W.A.C.U. STRENGTH with a Consolidation loan
- TurboTax
- Credit Card Balance Transfer Promotion
- Stick to Your Budget
- First Time Home Buyer Webinar Dates
- GreenPath Debt Services
- Daniel J. Kimber Scholarship 2021

# MORE THAN **JUST**

WF ARF

# STRENGTH | WELLNESS | ADVENTURE | CARE | UNITY

**OUR STRENGTH INCLUDES... Organic!** No sugar added! Fat free!

**e**SERVICES TOO!

PAY AND GET PAID...





DEPOSIT ACCEPTED





**BALANCES CHECKED** 

MOBILE BANKING



TRANSFER COMPLETE

## **TABLET BANKING**



eServices are like cross training for all your finances! Nothing gets your endorphins racing like knowing your money is always at your fingertips wherever you may go!







# Low rate Personal Loans and lower monthly payments are a great way to Strengthen your finances.

You don't need to be a gym rat to attack your debt. What you need is some cash to consolidate several payments into one low monthly payment.

Apply for the right loan at SWACU.org today!

\*APR = Annual Percentage Rate. Loan rates and terms are based on the credit worthiness of the borrower. The actual rate you receive will be based on your credit score. Example Repayment Term: 60 monthly payments of \$415.07 for a \$20,000 loan at 8.99%. Example Repayment Term: 36 monthly payments of \$572.76 for a \$20,000 loan at 1.99% APR.



IT'S THAT TIME OF YEAR AGAIN... the time everyone looks forward to with great anticipation! What "time of year," you ask? It's tax time! As a SWACU Member, you are eligible for a discount through TurboTax. To take advantage of this benefit, visit swacu.org and scroll down to the "Members Lounge" and click on "TurboTax."



Start the year off right with **SWACU's** first ever

Ralance Transfers

## **Balance Consolidation Credit Card Promotion**

**SAVE MONEY!** CONSOLIDATE BILLS! **USE YOUR IMAGINATION!** 

For more details, visit swacu.org/balcon From Jan. 1st to Feb. 28th, 2021, qualified **Credit Cards** (Except Share Secured) that have been open 90+ days can get a 0% balance transfer for 9 months, with a 3% fee, minimum fee will be \$25.00.

\*APR = Annual Percentage Rate.

# STICK TO YOUR 2021 BUDGET (To save a bundle!)

Sticking to a budget can be difficult for anybody. Many of us start the year off with the best intentions of saving money, however, at the end of January, we have already blown the budget. Adopting new spending habits and strategies to save money and stay within your budget are very important.

Here are a few tips and tricks that will help you stick to your budget and become more aware of poor spending habits:

- 1. PAY CASH Carry only the cash that you have previously allotted in your budget. Handing the cashier a large sum of money while you're paying can help you rethink your decision.
- 2. USE COUPONS Using coupons is a great way to save money. Many stores accept manufacturer coupons or have their own through free apps.
- 3. MAKE A LIST A great way to avoid spending extra money is to make a list of only the items you need and stick to that list.
- **4. SHOP ALONE** A good way to avoid buying extra impulse items is to either shop alone, or set a certain amount of money aside for such requests.
- **5. NEGOTIATE PRICES** Try to negotiate the prices of things you buy; some retailers will agree and some won't. It never hurts to ask.
- **6. RESIST ADVERTISEMENTS** Many stores tempt customers with offers and discounts that may seem harmless at the time, but in the long run, these deals can damage your budget.
- 7. TRACK WITH THE SWACU HOME BANKING BUDGETING TOOL

Categorize, set savings goals, add external accounts and track your spending through the budgeting tool within SWACU Home Banking's Spending tab.

8. LIMIT SHOPPING TRIPS The less you go out, the less you're bound to spend. Choose one day for all of your weekly shopping and buy everything you need at that time.

These simple tips can go far in helping you keep your 2021 budget on track and get you ready for a stronger financial future!

We have three webinars scheduled! Which date works best for you? Watch our eNewsletter for registration information.

12:00 PM CST

THURSDAY/MAR. 25 THURSDAY/APR. 29 12:00 PM CST

THURSDAY/MAY 20 12:00 PM CST

For more information about SWACU Home Loans, visit: www.swacu.mortgagewebcenter.com



We know the gift-giving season is ending, but we have one more gift



for you. As a member of SWACU, you have the FREE benefit of Greenpath Debt Solutions. We know this past year was difficult for a lot of people, give them a call or visit greenpath.com and see how they can help you start the year off on the right foot!







**SCHOLARSHIP ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS INCLUDE:** 



Be a primary member of a SWACU savings account with a minimum balance of \$5

- Be a graduating high school senior
- Have a minimum GPA of 2.75 or higher
- Complete an application and essay
- Be accepted as an incoming freshman to an accredited college, junior college or university

IT'S BACK! THE 2021 DANIEL J. KIMBER **SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM** 

We are now accepting scholarships for the 2021 Daniel J. Kimber Scholarship Program. Apply at www.swacu.org/scholarship between now and March 17th. Three scholarships will be awarded in the amount of \$2,000 each to graduates who plan to continue their education at an accredited college, junior college or university no later than the Fall 2021 session. Please note: winners will be contacted by May 5th and will be announced on social media and in the 3rd Quarter Newsletter.

Scholarship applications are always available online. All applications must be received no later than Wednesday, March 17th, 2021.

Over 5,000 reasons to go to this site!



www.swacu.org/coop

Go online and discover the convenience and benefits of our CO-OP Shared Branching.

We have over 5,000 locations across the country for you to access your SWACU accounts.

FIND US @ SWACU









DALLAS | HOUSTON | PHOENIX | EULESS 800-262-5325

CONTACT BRANCHES DIRECTLY:

**DAL** EXT. **170 HEB** EXT. **375** HOU EXT. 148 PHX EXT. 149

**HAVE SIMPLE ACCOUNT QUESTIONS?** Text Us at 214-357-5577

EDERALLY INSURED BY NCUA