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To: staff@njcul.org
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- Today's News:
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Tomorrow: Deadline for Interested Candidates to Submit Letters of Interest for the NJCUL Board Seat in Tier A

HIGHTSTOWN, N.J. – The NJCUL Board of Directors is accepting “Letters of Interest” from candidates interested in filling the vacant position on its board of directors until tomorrow, April 10, 2015.

As a part of its charter, the Governance Committee of the NJCUL Board of Directors shall review and determine candidate eligibility according to the NJCUL bylaws and Nomination/Election rules. Interested candidates should submit a “Letter of Interest” as well as complete the [CU board approval form, bio](#) and [Conflict of Interest form](#) and submit to the committee, no later than April 10, 2015. The NJCUL Board of Directors will then consider the qualified candidates.

Because the open board seat is in Tier A, the Governance Committee will accept “Letters of Interest” from qualified candidates of credit unions under \$47,561,022 in assets.

According to League bylaws, “the person selected to fill the vacancy shall be required to run for election in the next election following their appointment, for the balance of the remaining term, if any.” This seat’s term is to expire after the League’s annual meeting in October of this year, meaning this appointment would expire at that time.

For questions, please contact the committee at board@njcul.org.

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NCUA Hosting Financial Literacy Webinar and Twitter Chat April 22

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› Free CU Direct Webinar: State of the Credit Union Auto Lending Market
› CFPB Sues Participants in Robo-Call Phantom Debt Collection Operation
› Credit Unions, Mark Your Calendars



New Jersey Credit Union Foundation Board Call for Applications Open

The New Jersey Credit Union Foundation has launched a call for applications to fill three vacant seats on its Board of Directors.

Applicants must fill out the [Board Member Application](#), as well as the [Conflict of Interest Disclosure Form](#).

Return the forms to Foundation Executive Director Candice Nigro at cnigro@njcul.org or mail to the address below:
Attention: Candice Nigro,
NJ CU Foundation
299 Ward Street
Hightstown, N.J. 08520

Deadline for applications is

ALEXANDRIA, Va. – Credit unions interested in promoting greater financial literacy among their members, particularly young members, can get valuable information and discuss their ideas and activities during a Webinar and a Twitter chat hosted by the NCUA on Wednesday, April 22.

The Webinar, “Your Mission in Action: Developing Youth Financial Literacy and Savings Programs,” is scheduled to begin at 2 p.m. The Webinar is scheduled to last 90 minutes, and there is no charge.

Ken Worthey, Financial Literacy and Outreach Analyst in NCUA’s Office of Consumer Protection, will moderate the Webinar. He will be joined by Gail Laster, Director of NCUA’s Office of Consumer Protection; NCUA Consumer Affairs Director Morgan Rogers; Louisa Quittman, Director of the U.S. Treasury’s Office of Financial Education; Gigi Hyland, Executive Director, National Credit Union Foundation; and Katie Bryan, Communications Director for the Consumer Federation of America.

Topics that will be discussed include:

- Strategies for developing new youth financial literacy programs or enhancing current programs,
- Research available on youth savings and financial literacy,
- Making outreach effective, and
- Financial literacy resources available from NCUA, other federal agencies and nonprofits.

Online registration is available [here](#). Participants will also use this link to log into the Webinar. Registrants should allow pop-ups from this Web site.

Participants may submit questions in advance at WebinarQuestions@ncua.gov. The subject line of the email should read, “NCUA Financial Literacy Webinar.” Participants with technical questions about accessing the Webinar may email audience.support@on24.com. This Webinar will be closed captioned and then archived online [here](#) approximately three weeks following the live event.

The Twitter chat is scheduled to begin at 11 a.m. Eastern and will also be hosted by Worthey. Credit unions and consumers are encouraged to follow the conversation and contribute using the [#NCUACHat](#) hashtag on Twitter. Participants can submit questions beforehand to socialmedia@ncua.gov.



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Coming to Reality Check Monday? See Creative You Teams Present at 2 PM!

Friday, April 10th, 2015.

Upcoming Events:

April 14 2015
VirtualCorps Webinar:
Branding the Experience
3:00 pm to 4:00 pm
[More Information Click Here](#)

April 15, 2015
Webinar: CFPB Real Estate
Loan Collection Rules for
Mortgage Servicers
3:00 pm to 4:30 pm
[More Information Click Here](#)

April 22, 2015
Southern Chapter Meeting:
Marketing with Your
Marketing Co.
Location: Merighi's Savoy
Inn, Vineland, N.J.
8:00 am to 10:30 am
[More Information Click Here](#)

Contact Us:

Address
299 Ward Street
Hightstown, NJ 08520
Driving directions

Phone
800.792.8861
609.448.2426

Fax
609.448.3499

E-mail
info@njcul.org

Connect with Us:

ATLANTIC CITY, N.J. – Don't miss the two 2015 Creative You teams, Team First Force and CU Innovate NJ, give their presentations at CU Reality Check Monday!



Join us from 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. in Ballroom C in Golden Nugget to see these teams in action, to ask questions, and to show your support!

This is the final step before mentors from Filene choose which teams they'll work with over the next few months to develop and grow their idea, all leading up to their final presentations at NJCUL's Convention in October.

Don't miss out!

Thank you to our sponsors who make Reality Check possible: Alloya Corporate FCU, CO-OP Financial Services, *Credit Union Journal*, CUinsight, CUNA Mutual Group, Federal Home Loan Bank of New York, Financial Services, Inc. (FSI), LendKey, and UBS.



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CUNA's Schenk Refutes Banks' CU Complaints as 'Plain Hogwash'

MADISON, Wis. – Common narratives from the banking industry about credit unions fall "woefully short of facts," writes Mike Schenk, CUNA vice president of economics and statistics, in this month's *Credit Union Magazine*. In the [article](#), Schenk counters claims that credit unions harm community banks, calling it "plain hogwash."

"In 1992, the largest 100 banking institutions controlled 41% of financial institution assets and smaller banking institutions controlled 53% of the total. Today, the largest 100 banks control 74% and smaller institutions control 19%," Schenk wrote. "If small banks are being harmed, the source of that harm clearly is big banks, not credit unions."



Schenk adds that, as the country's only member-owned, democratically controlled financial institutions, credit unions are a necessary and "extremely popular" financial alternative.

He points out that credit unions:

- Delivered more than \$7 billion in direct financial benefits to consumers in 2014 through lower interest rates, higher yields on savings accounts and fewer and lower fees;
- Do not shy away from serving members where needed. Approximately 49% of credit union branches are located in Community Development Financial Institution investment areas, compared with 42% of bank branches;
- Serve tax-paying Americans. Credit union members paid an estimated \$1.2 trillion in taxes in 2014; and
- Encourage local ownership and control by the nature of their tax status.

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IRS Initiated 2,121 BSA/AML Cases in FY 2014, Report Says

WASHINGTON – Bank Secrecy Act (BSA) violations and money laundering investigations are part of the just-released Internal Revenue Service Criminal Investigation (CI) annual report, which reflects actions taken in fiscal year 2014. According to the [report](#), the IRS initiated 4,297 cases in FY 2014, which also consists of international tax fraud, questionable refund fraud, public corruption and terrorist financing cases.

The IRS initiated 1,312 money laundering investigations in FY2014, which led to 1,071 recommendations for prosecutions and 934 indictments. A total of 785 cases resulted in sentencing, with an average of 66 months served per conviction.

An additional 809 BSA investigations were initiated, resulting in 677 recommendations for prosecution and 608 indictments. Five hundred and thirty five cases resulted in sentencing, with those convicted sentenced to serve an average of 35 months.

According to the report, CI began investigations related to virtual currencies in FY2013, and in FY2015, it will collaborate with the Treasury's Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (FinCEN) and other federal law enforcement agencies to identify the movement of illegal monies through virtual currency.

The IRS also plans to work with BODs to evaluate the effect of its virtual currency [guidance](#), issued in March 2014, and to investigate individuals attempting to use virtual currency as a tax-evasion tool.

The U.S. Treasury's CI is the only federal law enforcement agency with jurisdiction over federal tax crimes, and had a conviction rate of 93.4%. The report includes a breakdown of the largest criminal tax

case ever filed, where Credit Suisse pleaded guilty to conspiracy to aid and assist U.S. taxpayers in filing false income tax returns and agreed to pay a total of \$2.6 billion.

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Get Your New Hires Trained in BSA on April 23

“BSA Training for Frontline Staff” AM and PM Sessions Available at Three Locations via Video Conference

Tellers, teller supervisors, member service representatives, and new account managers...join us Thursday, April 23rd for an informative “Bank Secrecy Act Training for Frontline Staff” session.

The NCUA requires all staff members to receive BSA training annually. In this 2-hour session, frontline staff will be trained in what they need know to comply with BSA. There will be an identical morning and afternoon session to allow for more employees to receive training.

This session will focus on:

- When a CTR needs to be completed and how to correctly complete a CTR
- When a SAR is required and what is required to correctly complete a SAR
- Identifying money laundering and suspicious activity
- CIP and OFAC compliance; and
- Customer due diligence requirements.

The session is being offered both in the [morning](#) (9:30 – 11:30 am) and in the [afternoon](#) (1:30 – 3:30 pm) for your convenience. Join us “live” at the League office or via conferencing at Atlantic FCU in Kenilworth or Members 1st of NJ FCU in Vineland for the cost of just \$69 per person.

To register and pay by check, send an email to Mary Zelinsky at mzelinsky@njcul.org and your credit union will be invoiced. Please specify which session (AM or PM) you’ll be attending and which location.

To register and pay online, click [here](#).

EDUCATION CANCELLATION POLICY: NJCUL must receive written cancellation in our office seven (7) days prior to the education session in order for you to receive a refund; substitutions only after this date. All cancellations will be subject to a \$25 cancellation fee.



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CO-OP Financial Services Announces Shareholder Patronage of \$29.2M for 2014

Industry's Largest CUSO Has Nearly 1,200 Shareholding Credit Unions

RANCHO CUCAMONGA, Calif. – CO-OP Financial Services is announcing a patronage (shareholder dividend) pool of \$29.2 million for 2014, bringing its total shareholder patronage amount to \$314.1 million since CO-OP became a credit union-owned cooperative in 1996.



“The year 2014 was a good one both for CO-OP and the industry,” said Stan Hollen, President/CEO of CO-OP. “CO-OP achieved record transaction volumes in 2014, and the credit union movement topped 100 million members in the U.S. This mutual success contributed to our ability to provide our nearly 1,200 member-shareholder institutions with a strong patronage for the year.”

Highlights for CO-OP during the past year include:

- Established a new record with more than 3.0 billion EFT and shared branching transactions processed – the first time CO-OP has exceeded that milestone.
- Introduced CardNav by CO-OP, a new mobile card controls and alerts application.
- CO-OP and Alkami partnered to bundle CO-OP Bill Pay with the Alkami ORB Platform, offering CU members a fully-integrated online and mobile banking bill payment solution.
- Worked with Visa and MasterCard to make the EMV common debit solution available to clients, offering a streamlined and cost-effective approach to debit EMV adoption.
- Unveiled “Empowering People. Amplifying Dreams,” a multi-faceted marketing program to promote credit unions to prospective members, targeting “Millennial” consumers. The campaign’s Twitter account has more than 89,300 followers, the highest in the industry.

The CO-OP Miracle Match program achieved a record \$3.1 million in Credit Unions for Kids fundraisers. CO-OP contributed \$1 million to that figure via matching funds.

CO-OP is the nation’s largest credit union service organization in

CO-OP is the nation's largest credit union service organization in terms of number of credit unions (3,500 institutions) and members (50 million account holders) served. The company manages the industry's leading consumer brand name via the nationwide, 30,000-strong CO-OP ATM and 5,000-strong CO-OP Shared Branch networks.

The Annual Meeting of CO-OP Shareholders will be held during the THINK 15 Conference in Colorado Springs, Colo. The meeting will take place at 11:30 a.m. mountain time on Thursday, May 7. To register immediately for the THINK 15 Conference, visit www.co-opthink.org.

For more information, visit www.co-opfs.org.

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Financial Literacy Day Returns to Capitol Hill April 24

WASHINGTON – This year's Financial Literacy Day on Capitol Hill has been scheduled for April 24, starting at noon. The event will be held in conjunction with the offices of Reps. Ruben Hinojosa (D-Texas) and Steve Stivers (R-Ohio).

Since 2003 the Council for Economic Education, Junior Achievement USA and the Jump\$tart Coalition have held Financial Literacy Day on Capitol Hill. The event alternates each year between House and Senate Offices, this year's will be held in Room 345 of the Cannon House Office Building.

Sens. Joe Donnelly (D-Ind.), Mark Kirk (R-Ill.), Jack Reed (D-R.I.) and Tim Scott (R-S.C.) are among the invited guests for the event.

Financial Literacy Month takes place every April to highlight the importance of financial literacy, and to give consumers an opportunity to establish and maintain good financial habits.

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Free CU Direct Webinar: State of the Credit Union Auto Lending Market

Auto Lending Trends, Credit Union Analysis & Auto Industry Update

Did you know? Credit unions continue to gain momentum in the auto lending marketplace, growing market share to 20% in Q1 of 2015, up from 18.5% in Q1 of 2014. CU Direct partner credit unions have also experienced 20% growth in Q1 of 2015, and as an aggregate are the 2nd largest lender in the nation.

[Join CUDirect](#) for an informative webcast event for a discussion on the latest auto lending trends and marketplace peer analysis. Gain insight to the latest opportunities and issues faced by the automotive industry.

During the webcast, Member Loyalty Group will shed light on the auto loan experience from the member's perspective, including key drivers

of high Net Promoter Scores and overall member satisfaction. Discover critical insights into the auto loan experience and best practices your credit union can use to improve your members' experience.

When: Thursday, April 16th, 2015 at 2:00 PM ET

Is your credit union armed with the auto trending data it needs to succeed today and in the future?

[Register today!](#)



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CFPB Sues Participants in Robo-Call Phantom Debt Collection Operation

Bureau Also Obtains a Temporary Restraining Order to Halt Illegal Operation and Freeze Assets of Operation's Leaders

WASHINGTON – The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) announced that it has filed a lawsuit against the ringleaders of a robo-call phantom debt collection operation, their companies, and their service providers. The debt collectors, using various aliases, allegedly deployed automated calls to threaten, harass, and deceive consumers in attempts to collect debt the consumers did not owe to them, and in most instances, to anyone else. The complaint alleges that the debt collectors' scheme depended on the participation of the telemarketing company that sent the robo-calls and payment processors that allowed the collectors to access consumers' bank accounts.

The CFPB alleges that Marcus Brown and Mohan Bagga led a group of individuals and entities that threatened, harassed, and deceived consumers in order to collect phantom debt. Phantom debt is debt consumers do not actually owe or debt that is not payable to those attempting to collect it. According to the complaint, Brown and Bagga and those working with them used many fictitious names as they threatened consumers with arrest, wage garnishment, and "financial restraining orders." The CFPB's claims against these defendants are based on the Consumer Financial Protection Act and the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act.

The CFPB's complaint alleges that consumers were tricked into believing that the collectors were legitimate because the collectors verified consumers' personal information, such as date of birth, social security number, the names of family members, and employment

information. According to the complaint, Brown and Bagga purchased consumers' personal information from debt brokers and lead generators. They then used a telemarketing firm, Global Connect, to automatically broadcast robo-calls to millions of consumers. The calls alleged that the consumer had engaged in check fraud and threatened to contact the consumer's employer.

In response to the debt collectors' threats and false statements, consumers provided credit or debit card payment information. The complaint alleges that once the debt collectors got consumers' payment information, they would submit it to the payment processors, who enabled the collectors to access consumers' bank accounts to withdraw money, despite the many indications of misconduct.

On March 26, 2015, the Bureau filed its complaint under seal, which has since been lifted. The Bureau obtained a temporary restraining order on that same date. After a public hearing held on April 7, 2015, a preliminary injunction was entered halting the misconduct and freezing the assets of the individual defendants and their businesses.

A copy of the complaint is available at:

http://files.consumerfinance.gov/f/201504_cfpb_complaint-universal-debt.pdf

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Credit Unions, Mark Your Calendars

HIGHTSTOWN, N.J. – The New Jersey Credit Union League would like you to mark your calendars for these upcoming events:

NJCUL Education

April 14 -- [VirtualCorps Webinar: Branding the Experience](#)

April 23 -- [BSA Training for Frontline Staff \(AM Session\)](#)

April 23 -- [BSA Training for Frontline Staff \(PM Session\)](#)

April 27 -- [Webinar: Important SAR Procedure Updates from the Revised BSA/AML Examination Manual](#)

May 12 -- [VirtualCorps Webinar: Millennials Want Convenient Access to...Products and Services We Don't Have?](#)

May 13 -- [NJ DNA Meeting at Credit Union of New Jersey](#)

June 19 -- [Compliance Conference: Managing Dynamic Change](#)

Industry Events

April 10 -- [Deadline for NJ CU Foundation Board Member Applications](#)

April 13-15 -- [2015 CU Reality Check at the Golden Nugget Atlantic City](#)

April 22 -- [NCUA Financial Literacy Twitter Chat](#)

April 22 -- [NCUA Financial Literacy Webinar: Your Mission into Action: Developing Financial Literacy and Savings Programs for Youth](#)

April 28 -- [NJCUL's 27th Annual Golf Tournament](#)

May 15 -- [Reality Fair at Barringer High School Academy of the Arts and Humanities](#)

May 18 -- Greater Alliance FCU Golf Outing at Apple Ridge Country Club in Mahwah, NJ

May 20-21 -- [CU Direct's Automotive Lending & Marketing Conference](#)

May 29 -- [New Jersey Credit Union Foundation 5th Annual Casino Night](#)

June 1 -- [North Jersey Federal Credit Union Foundation's Annual Golf Outing](#)

June 5 -- [Reality Fair at Thomas Wallace School](#)

June 10 -- [Reality Fair at Ewing High School](#)

July 20 -- Garden Savings FCU's 5th Annual Golf Outing at Fiddler's Elbow Country Club

September 28 -- Picatinny Federal Credit Union 17th Annual Golf Outing

October 4-6 -- NJCUL's 81st Annual Meeting & Convention

November 6-8 -- [DCUL's 2015 Volunteer Leadership Conference](#)

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