

## RELATIONSHIP Rewards Bonus

If you are a Relationship Rewards member and are approved for a Home Equity Line of Credit (HELOC) or Home Equity Loan of \$25,000 or more, you will receive a **\$150 gift card**.\*

Qualify for Relationship Rewards with the following:

- 1 A combination of \$2,500 in savings and loan balances.
- 2 A Checking Account with Direct Deposit.
- 3 epOnline internet and mobile banking.
- 4 Our Visa® Debit Card.

\*Gift card will be provided to member after the loan has closed.



## Tax Tips

As you prepare to file your tax return for 2018, here are a few tips to help make filing your return easy and stress free.

### Contribute to Your IRA

You have until April 15, 2019, to make your contribution for the 2018 tax year. Talk with your tax advisor about your options and what's right for you.

### Save All of Your December Financial Statements

You can use them to report your year-to-date interest and dividends. You will also receive a Form 1099-INT (interest form) if you earned \$10 or more in dividends or a Form 1098 (mortgage interest) if you paid more than \$600 in loan interest on your home loan.

### Plan Ahead for Tax Payments

If you think you'll owe money on your tax return, stop by the credit union. You could qualify for a Signature Loan.

## KIRSTEN'S Korner



## Be Prepared for Tax Time

It's tax season and thanks to new legislation, your taxes may look a little different this year than they did last year. Major tax reform, commonly referred to as the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, was enacted in December 2017. This tax reform affects both individuals and businesses.

Recent changes include:

- reduced tax rates for most people
- elimination of personal exemptions
- increased standard deductions (\$12,000 for single persons, \$18,000 for heads of households, and \$24,000 for married couples filing jointly)
- increased tax credit for children and dependents (\$2,000 per qualifying child and a new \$500 credit for qualifying dependents)
- and changes to itemized deductions.

With all these changes, it's a good time to take a look at your paycheck and see if you're withholding the right amount of tax. Withholding too little each paycheck can result in an unexpected bill at tax time. And if you're withholding too much, you can make adjustments to receive more in your paycheck each pay period. If you do this, expect a smaller refund each April.

Use the IRS Calculator online at <https://www.irs.gov/individuals/irs-withholding-calculator> to calculate how much you should be withholding. Keep in mind that any changes you make to your withholdings at this point will affect your 2019 returns (filed in 2020), and not the taxes you are currently working on filing for 2018.

Once you're ready to file your taxes, the IRS recommends using tax software and e-file or seeking the help of a tax professional to complete and e-file your tax return.

Please see the article to the left for more helpful tax tips.

*Kirsten Williams*

Kirsten Williams | **President**

Source: IRS web site ([www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov))



## Resolve to Get Your Debt in Check

Have you made a list of your New Year's Resolutions? Does your list of action items include getting your finances in order? If so, have you thought of how you might achieve these goals? Let us help you consolidate your financial burdens with an EPFCU Signature Loan. A Signature Loan is a personal loan that requires your signature and no additional collateral.

- Rates as low as 7.00% APR\*
- Terms up to 60 months\*\*

Call today or stop by any branch to apply for your Signature Loan!

\*APR = Annual Percentage Rate. Applications are subject to credit approval, and actual rate is based on your credit. All rates are subject to change without prior notice. Rates shown are our Platinum Loan Rates. Not all applicants will qualify for the lowest rate. Other restrictions and discounts may apply. \*\*60 month financing not available at 7.00% APR. Monthly payment examples: 1) A loan of \$10,000 financed for 36 months at 7.00% APR would be  $30.88 \times 10 = \$308.80$  per month. 2) A loan of \$10,000 financed for 60 months at 8.00% APR would be  $20.28 \times 10 = \$202.80$  per month.



## Did You Know e-Transfers are Available?

If you need to transfer funds between your EPFCU account and another financial institution's account, we can make that happen.

You can use e-Transfers to make loan payments or deposit money into your checking or savings accounts. Transfers generally take 2-3 business days to complete. e-Transfers are limited to \$2,500 daily. To transfer funds to another person or to pay a bill, you can use Bill Pay with **epOnline**.

For more information, please go to [www.epfcu.org/services/e-transfers.aspx](http://www.epfcu.org/services/e-transfers.aspx)

## Mark Your Calendars

The credit union's Annual Membership Meeting and Election is scheduled for April 17, 2019 at 5:00 p.m. in the Ronald Reagan Building. If you're a member, you're invited! Join us to discuss last year's progress and plan for the upcoming year.

This year there will be three vacancies on the Board, each for a three-year term. The Nominating Committee has presented its slate of nominees, including:

 **T. Wes Beach\***

 **Regina Ragland\***

 **Adam Veney\***

Nominations may also be made by petition. Petitions must be postmarked no later than midnight March 4, 2019. The final list of nominees will be posted in our branches by Monday, March 18, 2019. The election will be conducted by ballot ONLY. No nominations will be accepted from the floor. Mail your petition to:

**c/o EPFCU Nominating Committee**  
PO Box 23393  
Washington, DC 20026

For more information about the Annual Membership Meeting and Election, visit [epfcu.org](http://epfcu.org).

\*Incumbent



## Carry Your Credit Union Wherever You Go

The **epOnline** app is like having a branch in the palm of your hand. When you download and use our mobile app, you'll be able to quickly and easily perform a variety of account functions from your smartphone. This safe, secure and free app lets you:

- Review account summary and history
- Make transfers
- Make deposits
- Enable and disable your debit card
- Manage e-Alerts
- Access Bill Pay
- View share draft check images

Use this QR code to download the **epOnline** app to your smartphone today!



## Get Cash Anywhere, Anytime

### ACCESS FREE ATMs AND SHARED BRANCHES NATIONWIDE

EPFCU members can access more than 80,000 surcharge-free\* ATMs nationwide through the Allpoint and CU Here networks. EPFCU also participates in the CO-OP national shared branch network, allowing you to visit another credit union just like you would visit an EPFCU branch.

Use our ATM Branch Locator at [www.epfcu.org/membership/branch-atm-locator.aspx](http://www.epfcu.org/membership/branch-atm-locator.aspx) or download the CO-OP Locator App to find those ATMs closest to you.



\*Relationship Rewards and Student members receive free ATM withdrawals (exclusive of surcharge fees). All other members receive one free ATM withdrawal per month (exclusive of surcharge fees). See fee schedule at [www.epfcu.org/membership/fees-disclosures.aspx](http://www.epfcu.org/membership/fees-disclosures.aspx) for ATM withdrawal fees.

## Build Your Credit with Credit Builder

Do you have a New Year's Resolution to get your finances in order and improve your credit score? Let us help you achieve your goal. Our Credit Builder program is designed for members with no or low credit scores. The program aims to improve members' credit scores while teaching financial health and responsibility. Members accepted into the Credit Builder Program will receive free financial counseling for improving their credit score and budget planning. For more information, please visit [www.epfcu.org/loans/credit-builder-program.aspx](http://www.epfcu.org/loans/credit-builder-program.aspx)

## Know Your Credit Score



Did you know your credit score can affect the interest rate on your mortgage, can determine whether you get approved for a credit card and can even affect your employment opportunities?

To learn more about why your credit score is so important, attend our *Know Your Credit Score* seminar, conducted by Performance Pros Consulting. Please check [epfcu.org](http://epfcu.org) for more details.

## Staff Training Days

Due to staff training, our offices will open at 10 a.m. on **January 10, February 7 and March 7.**

## Holiday Closings

### New Year's Day

Tuesday, January 1

### Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

Monday, January 21

### Presidents Day

Monday, February 18



A better environment for your money.®

[www.epfcu.org](http://www.epfcu.org)

P.O. Box 23393

Washington, DC 20026

202-874-3210

Fax: 202-874-4187

Audio Teller: 202-874-0019

800-829-0023

Mortgage Hotline: 703-667-9281

NMLS #405654



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