



The Annual Meeting was held on March 19th. This meeting gives us a chance to look back on the past year as well as to discuss the future. Your credit union finished 2023 with 7,258 members and \$85.7 million in assets. Loans reached a record high of \$60.5 million. Loan growth was 11.33%, which ranked TCCU in the 71st percentile of our peer group. Our membership growth was 4.16%. This

ranked us in the 86th percentile of our peer group. On top of this impressive growth, *Newsweek* named TCCU as one of the top 250 regional credit unions in the USA. This is a testament to all the hard work our staff and directors put into the credit union, as well as the faith our members have in TCCU.

...*Newsweek* named TCCU as one of the top 250 regional credit unions in the USA.

Credit unions are a special type of financial institution. We are member owned and exist for the benefit of our members. Stockholders don't run our institution, because there aren't any! Every member has a say. TCCU is run by a volunteer Board of Directors. The directors put a lot of time and effort into making sure TCCU is putting our members first. They are also tasked with making sure we are staying in compliance with the ever-changing world of regulatory compliance. Thank you to all the directors for your service to the credit union.

TCCU has been serving our members since 1956. We have seen significant growth over the years and will continue to look for opportunities to better serve our growing membership. While our past is something to be proud of, we must always be looking to the future. Thank you for your trust in TCCU.

Sincerely,
Will Perkins, President

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Guard Against Check Fraud	2
Mark Your Calendars	2
Get New Wheels With A TCCU Vehicle Loan	2
Thanks To All For Scholarship Support!	3
Annual Meeting Highlights Successful 2023	3
TCCU Membership	4
VISA Makes Travel Even More Fun	4
Overwhelmed By Multiple Creditors?	4
Remote Deposit Coming Soon!	4
Holiday Closures	4

FREEDOM TREE NEEDS YOUR CARE

It's often the small or simple acts that have the greatest impact. For example, your donations of canned or boxed food items – or cash – help our local food pantries meet the increasing demands on their services.

Yes, the cost of food has increased. But so too have the number of people in need of a little assistance. This year, *your* generous donations mean even more to local families and food pantries.

From **Monday, June 10 through Friday, July 12**, all TCCU locations will accept donations to the 10th annual Freedom Tree community food drive. While boxed and canned food items are desperately needed, **cash donations are especially welcome.**

Food pantries use cash donations to make large, bulk purchases of needed supplies from regional food banks, at much lower costs than otherwise possible. Your cash donation in any amount is welcome and needed.

Donations can be dropped off at any of the four TCCU locations:

- 422 W. Main Cross St., Taylorville
- 138 E. Wood St., Hillsboro
- 801 W. Union Ave., Litchfield
- 101 E. Fifth St., Pana



FREEDOM TREE
HELPING PEOPLE ACHIEVE FREEDOM FROM NEED

Make Money the Easy Way - WITH A TCCU CD

Our Certificates of Deposit (CDs) offer you a safe way to build your savings ... and at very competitive rates! **Don't let your hard-earned money sit idly in your sock drawer ... put it in an interest-bearing TCCU CD and watch your money grow!**

We offer variable rates and time periods to fit *your* needs – so you can fill that drawer with *more* socks.

Come talk with us for more details and the day's current rates.



LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



GUARD AGAINST CHECK FRAUD

Among the numerous means fraudsters use to steal your funds is check fraud. This happens when someone writes a bad check, steals and alters someone else's check or forges a check. Of course, you can help minimize your chances of becoming a victim by remaining vigilant.

Be aware that there are several types of check fraud, including:

PAPER HANGING: The intentional writing of bad checks and taking advantage of the fact that it takes time for a check to clear. This is known as the 'float.' The check writer receives goods / services for which they write a check. By the time the check 'clears' – and is found to be fraudulent – it's too late.

CHECK KITING: While there are several forms of check kiting, they all involve writing bad checks and using multiple accounts. The fraudster may write a check from Bank A and temporarily cover that amount by writing a bad check from Bank B and depositing it into Bank A.

Or they may write multiple bad checks and deposit them or use them to make credit card payments before withdrawing the cash or using the credit card.

CHECK WASHING: The fraudster may steal a check from a post office box, carrier or even your own mailbox. They then 'wash' the check with chemicals to erase the true payee and the amount, keeping the signature. They then write in a new amount, make themselves (or an accomplice) the payee, and deposit the check into an account they control.

CHECK COOKING: Similar to check washing, 'cooking' a check involves scanning it and using software to alter it before they print a counterfeit check.

CHECK THEFT AND FORGERY: Criminals may steal or print blank checks and then forge a signature.

TIPS TO PROTECT FROM CHECK WASHING AND COOKING

- **Use alternative payment methods**, such as credit or debit cards, instead of sending checks. Online bill pay is an excellent way to ensure the timeliness and safety of your bill payments.
- **Write checks in black ink:** Certain types of pens / ink make it difficult to alter a check.
- **Don't mail checks from home:** It's preferable to mail checks directly from the post office or at least from a USPS post box that is picked up by the end of the day.
- **Check your mail daily:** Don't leave your mail in the box – it becomes a target for theft. USPS offers a free Informed Delivery to send you emails with images of your mail that day.
- **Hold your mail while you're away:** Have the post office hold your mail while you're away from anywhere from a couple of days to upward of 30 days.

IF SOMEONE WASHED OR COOKED ONE OF YOUR CHECKS

Contact your bank or credit union and file a police report. Your financial institution will likely have to reimburse you the lost funds.

IF YOU SENT SOMEONE MONEY AFTER DEPOSITING A FRAUDULENT CHECK:

Report the fraud to whatever organization you used to send them money to see if the transaction can be reversed. However, if you sent the scammer cash, a gift card, cryptocurrency or a wire transfer, the chances of recovering the funds are slim.

We've said it time after time: the best way to avoid becoming a victim is to be aware, stay vigilant, and be pro-active in protecting your identity and financial accounts.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Monday, June 10 through Friday, July 12th:
10th Annual 'Freedom Tree' Food Drive

(see article in this issue on page 1 for additional details)

Keep an eye open for future events, such as **Member Appreciation Days**, to be highlighted on our website: www.TCCU.org.

Get a Great Deal on New Wheels WITH A TCCU VEHICLE LOAN

Time for a second vehicle? Or a new set of family wheels? Talk with us before you shop. Come in and get pre-approved, so you know exactly what you need and can afford.

Our vehicle loans are customized to fit *your needs and budget*.

- Rates as low as **5.94% APR***
- Payback Periods as long as **84 months**

AND you enjoy the security of working with someone you know and trust – TCCU.

*APR = Annual Percentage Rate. Regular credit rules apply. Not all members will qualify, based on individual creditworthiness. The 5.94% APR is for a 60 month term and applies to new 2023-24 models.



THANKS TO ALL FOR *Scholarship Support!*

As the thousands of votes cast in this year's scholarship program are being tabulated, we want to thank everyone – businesses, students and residents alike – for your support. You all are who helps make this program the success that it is.

We often talk about the importance of *'think global, shop local'*, because it really is what happens *locally* that has the greatest impact on our lives. The more we do to support each other, the stronger our communities become.

For the 10th consecutive year, you again proved this to be true. Nearly 80 businesses participated, along with dozens of students from the four high schools. And, of course, area residents came out in great numbers to cast thousands of votes to determine the \$1,000 award winners.

For all that, we at TCCU extend a hearty **'Thankyou!'** to you all.

TAYLORVILLE

Amenities on Main
Anderson Jewelers
Angelo's
Audrey's Boutique & Luxuries
Battery Specialists
Country Kitchen
Florinda's Pizza

Fur Love

Glik's
Hair Studio
Happy Baked Goods
Hello Beautiful
JMA Pawn Jewelry & Loan
Karma
Kompliments Salon
Little Luxuries
Lock Up Gym
Nesty's Burger Joint
Powderkeg Outfitters
Shadow Box
Shoe Sensation

Southern Belle Florist

Suessie's Resale
Sydney Lynn's Little
Book Shop & Vinyl
(The) Upper Cut
Uprooted by Willow & Birch
Vintage Dresser
(The) Wooden Flower
Wright Furniture
Zone Nutrition

HILLSBORO

Cozy Café
EVI Salon
Frida's Tacos
Gianni's Pizza
(The) Hair Zone
Hillers Sheet Metal
(The) Holiday Shop
Salvation Army Thrift Store

Shopping Cart, Inc. /
Scrub Store in Hillsboro
Sullivan's Drugs
Tan Lines Hair Designs
Tee Shirts Ink

LITCHFIELD

Briar Rose
Creative Expressions
Gianni's Pizza
Glik's
Hometown Treats-N-Eats
Kg & Cat Salon
My Formals
My Formals Boutique
Petal Pushers
Pizza Man
Snap Fitness Litchfield
Sullivan's Drugs
Wernsing's Appliance

PANA

A-1 Furniture Wholesale
Anarchy
Brewin' Hope
Countryside Campers
Curly Girls
Cutz 'n Curlz
Hair Razors
Holthaus Heating & Appliances
Junction Garden Center
Locked & Loaded
Nohren's Hardware
Outdoor Power Source
Pana Bowl
Pana Save A Lot
Pizza Man
Scoop'd
Sparrow Bicycle Co.
Spring Garden Restaurant
Station 502 Pub / Pizza

2023-24 AWARD WINNERS...

will be announced later this spring in a variety of ways, including: news releases in the local papers, in the summer issue of this newsletter, and on the TCCU website (www.TCCU.org). Eight students each will receive \$1,000 awards toward their continuing education.

ANNUAL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS SUCCESSFUL 2023

As highlighted by committee and management reports at the recent annual meeting, 2023 was, indeed, a good year for TCCU and its members.

According to year-end totals, TCCU closed 2023 with:

- 4.16% growth in membership – up to 7,258
- We rank in the 86th percentile of our peer group in membership growth
- \$85.7 million in assets
 - Asset growth of 3.77%, which ranks us in the 82nd percentile of our peer group
- \$60.5 million in total loans
 - Loan growth of 11.33%, which ranks us in the 71st percentile of our peer group
 - 1,066 loans approved, totaling \$22.9 million



Will Perkins, TCCU President, talks with members during dinner at the recent annual meeting.

"Thanks to our members' continued loyalty and trust in TCCU, we realized some impressive growth in 2023," says TCCU President, Will Perkins. "We compare very favorably with other peer group credit unions throughout the U.S."

"Our members helped drive our success, and we will continue to prove ourselves worthy of their trust in us."

As in past years, the election of Board Directors for 2024 was a highlight of the annual meeting. These individuals all are members of TCCU and serve as volunteer Directors. Collectively, they are responsible for setting TCCU's policies and procedures, and for ensuring the credit union's operations meet or exceed all state and federal guidelines.

TCCU's Board Directors for 2024 are:

- Vance Fraley, *Chairman*
- Kim Sparks, *Vice Chairman*
- Tom Bellegante, *Secretary*
- Will Perkins, *Treasurer*
- *Supervisory Committee members:* Jim Dowdy, Paul Schmitz, and Doug Ruddock, *Chairman*
- *Credit Committee members:* James Harrison, Tom Bellegante, and Duane Stock, *Chairman*



TCCU Board Chairman, Vance Fraley, addresses the members attending the recent annual meeting.



TCCU MEMBERSHIP

TCCU membership is a valuable gift you can give your family. Because you're a member, your family can join, too: your parents, siblings and immediate family.

Get them signed up and help them enjoy the many benefits of TCCU membership!



VISA MAKES TRAVEL EVEN MORE FUN!

Wherever and whenever you travel, a TCCU VISA card makes it even more fun and affordable. So whether you're hiking through the forest, strolling along a white sand beach, or even enjoying the sights and sounds of the Champs-Elysees, make sure you travel with a TCCU VISA Card.

Our always-low-interest VISA card saves you money while you travel (or *any time* you use it!).

A little reminder for if / when you do travel: please alert us of your plans. **Some U.S. states have instituted automatic blocks on cards because of fraud and identity theft.**

A simple call or visit to us *BEFORE* you travel will help us ensure that your cards are not blocked, and that they are available for use, regardless of where you travel.



Visit www.TCCU.org for more details!

OVERWHELMED BY MULTIPLE CREDITORS?

Sometimes it seems that, no matter what we do to pay down / off debt, we just can't get on top of it. And the longer it takes to pay off our debt, the more we spend in interest charges and affect our credit rating.

Consolidate your outstanding balances into one easy, lower monthly payment ... with a **PERSONAL LOAN from TCCU**.

Instead of paying several creditors each month, you'll make just one lower, money-saving payment. Our rates and payback periods are customized to work within *your* needs and *your* budget.

Come talk with us to see how we can help.

REMOTE DEPOSIT COMING SOON!

Watch for the debut of our new Remote Deposit service, coming soon. It's free, so you'll save money as well as time to make check deposits to your accounts!

It's one more way TCCU strives to meet your ever-evolving financial services needs.



Holiday Closures

All TCCU locations will be closed in observance of the upcoming holidays:

Memorial Day | Monday, May 27

Juneteenth | Wednesday, June 19

Independence Day | Thursday, July 4

You have 24 / 7 access to your TCCU accounts even when the offices are closed (holidays, nights, weekends, etc.). Just use these handy, time-saving services: TCCU VISA Card, ATM or Debit Card, or online at www.TCCU.org. Just follow the prompts.

TAYLORVILLE

422 W. MAIN CROSS ST.
217-824-9658

HILLSBORO

138 E. WOOD ST.
217-532-5300

LITCHFIELD

801 W. UNION AVE.
217-324-7496

PANA

101 E. FIFTH ST.
217-562-2516

www.TCCU.org

TCCU Times is a publication of Taylorville Community Credit Union.
422 W. Main Cross Street, Taylorville, IL 62568. 217-824-9658

NCUA accounts federally insured to \$250,000.
NCUA is an agency of the U.S. government.



TCCU TAYLORVILLE COMMUNITY CREDIT UNION