



# W I N T E R

## MemberMATTERS

A Quarterly publication for Members of kstate CREDIT UNION

2020

### DATES TO REMEMBER

Wednesday, January 1

New Year's Day  
All branches are closed

Monday, January 20

Martin Luther King Jr Day  
All branches are closed

Wednesday, January 29

Kansas Day

Friday, February 14

Valentine's Day

Monday, February 17

Presidents' Day  
All branches are closed

Sunday, March 8

Daylight Savings

Tuesday, March 17

St. Patrick's Day

Thursday, March 19

First Day of Spring

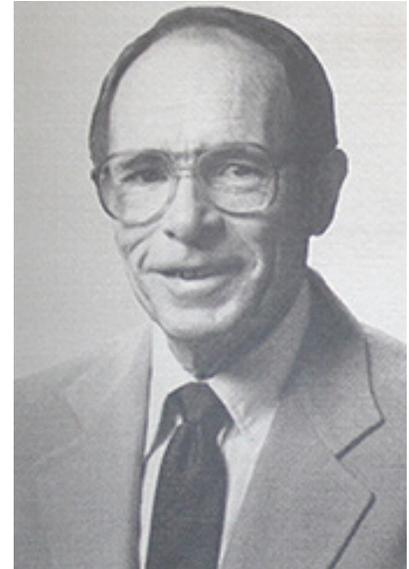
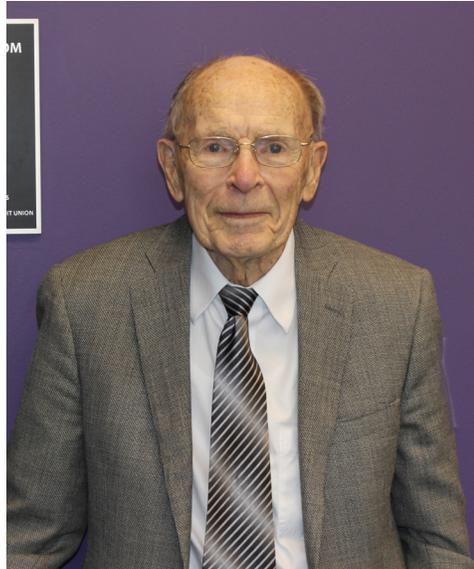
### 2019 TAXES

#### IMPORTANT TAX INFORMATION

If you earned \$10 or more in interest from us throughout 2019, you would have earned a 1099-INT Tax Form. You will find this at the bottom of your December 2018 statement, whether you receive e-statements or paper statements.

- If you have a mortgage with us, your mortgage interest or 1098 form will be sent separately.
- We would be happy to print a copy of your tax statement at any of our branches for a \$2 fee.

### In Remembrance of Dr William L. Stamey



In the mid 1950's as a young professor at Kansas State University, Dr. William Stamey began his journey with kstate CREDIT UNION. He gave over 60 years serving as a volunteer of the credit union and its members. He gave his time in different capacities throughout those years: Director, Chair, Supervisory committee and in fact, he moved in and out of those volunteer positions many times serving various positions more than once.

Dr. Stamey always believed in "People helping people" and he not only helped steer and guide our credit union, he took the grass roots efforts to the state level, serving on the Board of Directors for the Kansas Credit Union Association for many years.

In April of 2017, Dr. Stamey

retired from the Board of Directors here at kstate CREDIT UNION leaving a legacy of commitment to his community for not only better experiences but easier access to all financial services.

We Truly appreciate Dr Stamey's many years of service, leadership and guidance for and with the Credit Union. He will be missed by so many.



2016 Board of Directors

### Have you tried REMOTE DEPOSIT CAPTURE?

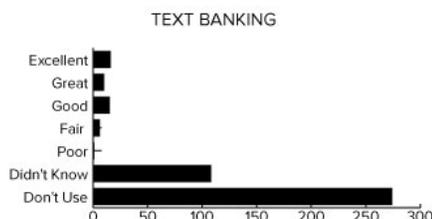
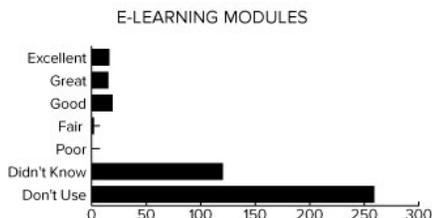
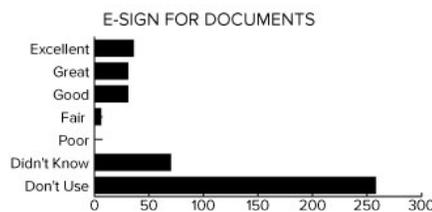
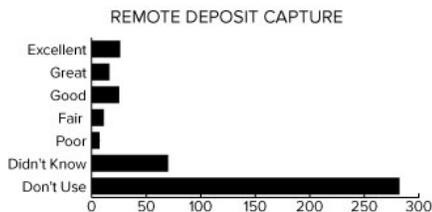
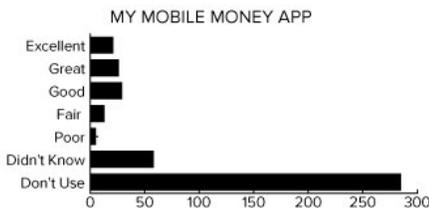
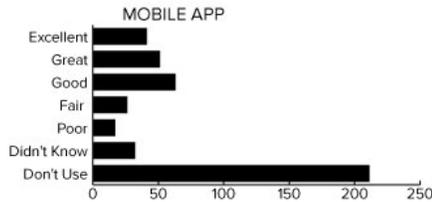
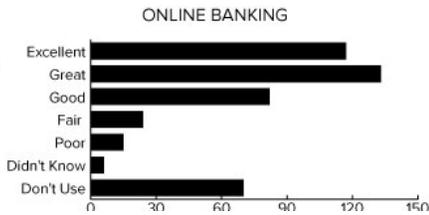
Use your smartphone to deposit checks from wherever you are.



For more information visit [www.kstatecu.com](http://www.kstatecu.com)

# Member Survey

On December 3, we emailed a survey to all members asking for their opinion about our e-tools. Below are the results of that survey. We hope to use this information to improve these tools or to simply inform membership about their usefulness.



## 7 Ways to Protect Your Credit Score

Your credit score is a three-digit number that creditors use to assess how likely you are to repay your loans. A high score can help you qualify for the lowest interest rates and gives you the ability to borrow money for purchases.

Here are seven things you can do to make sure your credit score stays healthy:

- 1. Pay back your debts on time.** How you've repaid past debt is the most important factor (35%) in calculating your credit score.
- 2. Apply for new credit only when you need it.** Ten percent of your credit score is determined by how many new credit accounts you've opened and the number of times lenders have checked your credit. Another 15% of your score is determined by the length of your credit history. When you add a new account into the mix, the average age of your credit accounts drops.
- 3. Don't co-sign.** Be cautious about co-signing a loan, even for family members, unless you are willing and able to take on the payments later, if necessary. If a payment is missed and you don't pay it, it can negatively affect your credit score.
- 4. Consider keeping starter cards open.** Cards designed for people without a credit history, called starter cards, usually have high interest rates and fees, low limits and few rewards. Even though you've stopped using them, it's a good idea to keep them open. This will help the 15% of your score that comes from the length of your credit history. It also will help the even bigger part (30%) of your score that's based on your utilization ratio: your credit card debt relative to your total available credit.
- 5. Guard your personal information.** Be very careful when giving out your Social Security number, birth date, credit card numbers, and other personal information. Use secure websites and be cautious on phone calls. Don't leave paperwork with this information on it lying around—shred it.
- 6. Regularly monitor all your accounts.** Even if you don't use them, check each account to make sure there aren't charges, such as annual fees, and that no one is fraudulently using your card. Order a free credit report from [annualcreditreport.com](http://annualcreditreport.com), the only site sanctioned by the Federal Trade Commission. Stagger your reports from the three reporting agencies so that you get one report every four months.
- 7. Stay diligent.** Make sure that the good credit score you've worked so hard to build stays that way.



There is now a new way to contact kstate CREDIT UNION if you have a question or need...by Text. Texting has become such a valuable communication tool in our world, therefore, your credit union wanted to make this a way that you can contact us for whatever you may need. Here are some instances that you may want to text the credit union instead of calling.

- General service & support
- Questions about products
- Loan status inquiry
- Location hours
- Document/file sharing

This new tool uses the existing main phone number 785-776-3003 of the credit union. You can also find a chat icon on our website that will link you to the phone number and texting. It is orange with two talk bubbles like image to the right.



## Safe Deposit Box



REMINDER: All rental fees on safe deposit boxes will automatically deduct from accounts on January 31.

## 6 Ways to Get Financially Fit in 2020

About half of Americans make New Year's resolutions each January, but only about 20% of people keep them. Getting into shape and achieving financial goals are among the most popular resolutions. (Statista.com)

While we can't help you reach your ideal weight, we can share 6 ways to help you become financially fit in 2020:

1. **Put your money on autopilot**—Set up direct deposit, authorize electronic payments, and automate routine savings. Streamlining your finances with online tools not only saves time, it helps you avoid late fees and overdraft fees and makes saving easier.
2. **Create a spending plan**—Only about 40% of adults have a budget, according to the National Foundation for Credit Counseling. Use a free online budgeting tool, like Mint or PocketGuard, to keep track of expenses and compare it to your monthly take-home pay. See where you're spending too much and make any necessary adjustments.
3. **Build an emergency fund**—Not having an emergency fund is like driving without wearing a seatbelt; it's a risk that could ruin the rest of your life. More than half of Americans don't have a rainy-day fund and 40% don't even have \$400 in cash saved for

emergencies. You can start small, \$10 to \$20 per paycheck, but work to save 3 to 8 months of income. To make it easier, setup an automatic transfer from your checking to your savings account.

4. **Increase your credit score**—Pay all bills on time, every time; pay more than the minimum; don't use more than 30% of your credit; avoid opening many new accounts in a short time period, and; keep the oldest existing credit (the longer a credit history, the better). Also, if you have parking tickets or library fines, pay them off. Debts are reported to a credit reporting agency and they can knock down your credit score.

5. **Request your credit report**—You want to make sure there are no errors and no one is using your credit unlawfully. Request one free credit report a year from each of the three major credit reporting bureaus by visiting [annualcreditreport.com](http://annualcreditreport.com).

6. **Beef up retirement funds**—Make regular contributions to a retirement savings plan such as a 401(k) or IRA. If your company offers a 401(k) plan, contribute at least enough to meet the company match. If you don't, it's like leaving free money on the table. Also consider opening an IRA at your credit union.



Start Saving for Next Year

## CHRISTMAS CLUB ACCOUNT

0.40% APY\*

Rates subject to change without notice.

Ask a member service specialist for more information.

\*Annual Percentage Yield. Federally Insured by NCUA.

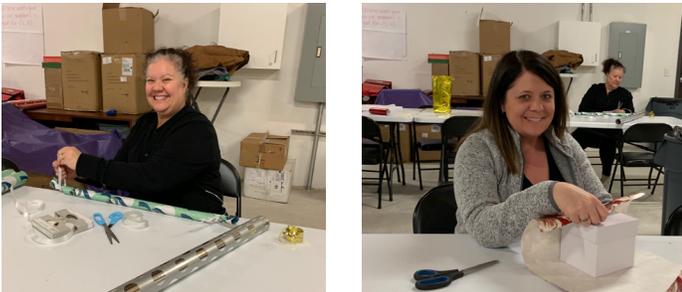
# Holiday Fun at the Credit Union

## Thanksgiving Potluck Lunch



On November 19, all of our employees participated in a potluck lunch, bringing traditional Thanksgiving meal offerings. The Board of Directors and Supervisory Committee members were also invited to the lunch.

## Adopt-A-Family Wrapping Party



Donations were collected from employees that wanted to help. Overall we were able to provide most of the family's wish list. A small group of employees gathered to wrap the gifts for the family of 5 on December 10.



## Ugly Sweater Contest



Julie was the winner of the contest on facebook; she earned over 70 likes for her holiday attire.



Employees were getting in the holiday spirit with their holiday outfits.

# Community, Care & You

*truly community*

Aside from providing financial products and services to our members, kstate CREDIT UNION also participates in various community involvement activities throughout the year. This is done in many ways with different organizations. Ways that we contribute include our employees donating their time, the credit union sponsoring an event or making a donation to an organization's fundraising efforts. Below is a snap shot of what kstate CREDIT UNION contributed to our community in 2019.



**\$65,322.00**  
INVESTED IN COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT



ASSISTED  
**+60**  
CHARITIES & ORGANIZATIONS



**138**  
HOURS OF VOLUNTEERING

# CLEAN SLATE LOAN

- consolidate your debt
- one low rate
- one payment

**FREE GIFT**  
with every approved loan

as low as **4.75%APR** with collateral

kstate  CREDIT UNION

Some restrictions apply. Rate based on creditworthiness. Good through February 29, 2020. Visit [kstatecu.com](http://kstatecu.com) for more information. Insured by NCUA.

