



SOUTH CAROLINA  
FEDERAL  
CREDIT UNION

1936  
CELEBRATING 75 YEARS  
2011

# INBALANCE

OCTOBER 2011

scfederal.org

## Message from CEO



South Carolina Federal Credit Union is proud to serve you and that's why it's so important for us to celebrate you—credit union members—during International Credit Union Day on October 20. Did you know that credit unions have more than 184 million members in 97 countries worldwide? Each year, since 1948, this international event affords the opportunity to remember credit unions' proud history and promote awareness of and support for the credit union difference. This year's theme, "Credit Unions Build a Better World," celebrates the important economic and social contributions credit unions make to their communities worldwide.

In honor of this special day and in celebration of South Carolina Federal's 75th Anniversary, we'll be giving away 75 vouchers for FREE credit watch (\$100 value) via our Facebook page. Be sure to like us on Facebook at [facebook.com/scfederal](http://facebook.com/scfederal) for details and a chance to be one of our 75 winners.

The credit union motto is "people helping people," and that's really what International Credit Union Day is all about—a celebration of our 75 years in this community and serving you. We wouldn't be able to give back to our communities without your membership, so thank you!

Sincerely,

R. Scott Woods, President & CEO



Thinking of refinancing or purchasing a new home?  
Rates are at record lows and  
South Carolina Federal is here to help.

visit [scfederal.org/mortgage](http://scfederal.org/mortgage) for information.

LIFESIMPLIFIED™

## South Carolina Federal Member Wins Cruise

*Congratulations, James Morgan!*

One lucky member of South Carolina Federal Credit Union has won a cruise for two to the Bahamas. **James Morgan** of Summerville used his debit card over 20 times in the months of July and August to be entered in the drawing.

"I am really excited to win the cruise. I have never won anything like this before," James said.

In addition to giving away a cruise, the credit union also awarded two \$200 gift cards to members for using their debit card as well.

Congratulations to **Scott Jackson** and **Richard Kenyon** for winning the gift cards.

Even though the promotion is over, you can still earn some great rewards just for using your South Carolina Federal MasterCard® debit card. Each time you use your card and sign for your purchase, you earn valuable **CU Rewards®** points that are redeemable for travel, merchant gift cards, merchandise and more. Visit [curewards.com](http://curewards.com) to explore the possibilities.



Summerville Branch Manager  
Sandra Wrenn and cruise winner  
James Morgan

## Holiday Closure

South Carolina Federal Credit Union branches will be closed **Monday, October 10 (Columbus Day)**, **Friday, November 11 (Veterans Day)**, **Thursday, November 24 (Thanksgiving Day)**, **Monday, December 26** (in observance of **Christmas Day**), and **Monday, January 2** (in observance of **New Year's Day**). Enjoy around the clock access to your South Carolina Federal accounts through our conveniently located ATMs, ATMs with the CO-OP Network® logo, Phone Banking, Online Banking and Mobile Banking.



Federally insured by NCUA.



A Message from BALANCE<sup>SM</sup> Financial Fitness Program

## Canceling a Credit Card

Have you thought about canceling a credit card that is collecting dust in your dresser drawer? Or one that has been used so often you have the card number memorized? While closing a card sometimes makes sense, other times, it may do more harm than good. The following are some factors that are helpful to consider when deciding whether or not to cancel a credit card:

- **Fees.** What will it cost you to keep the account open? Having a high interest rate does not necessarily matter because closing the account will not lower the interest rate on an existing balance (and you are not charged any interest if you pay off your balance in full each month). What is important is whether you are charged an annual fee and/or an inactivity fee. If you are new to credit or have a negative credit history, you may be hard-pressed to get approved for a card that does not charge these types of fees. However, if you have a good credit history, it may not make sense to keep a card that costs you money even if you pay your balance in full on time each month.
- **Ability to use credit without getting into debt.** If you have struggled to control your spending in the past, consider if there are ways you can avoid overusing the cards short of canceling them. For example, can you leave them at home most of the time and only take them out once a month to buy a pack of gum or something else cheap? (You could also just keep an account open and not use it, but by doing this, you do not continue to build a positive payment history and also risk the account being closed by the creditor due to inactivity.) Honestly assess your capabilities and limitations.
- **Effect on credit score.** Closing an account does not have an immediate effect on your payment history, which makes up 35% of your FICO credit score, since positive information for closed accounts typically stays on your credit report for ten years (seven for negative information). However, it can have a significant impact on the factor that looks at credit utilization (balances owed/credit limits), which accounts for 30% of your credit score. To have a good score, it is best to have a credit utilization ratio under 50%. If the amount owed relative to the credit limit is low for all of your accounts, then closing one account probably won't have much of an effect (assuming you have multiple accounts). Conversely, if you have high balances, closing an account with a decent credit line can cause your score to plunge. If you fall into the second category, consider if having a good credit score is necessary right now. If you are applying for a mortgage or car loan in the next few months, it probably is. If you do not plan to get credit soon and feel that the only way to stay debt free is to close your cards, then that may be the best option, even if your credit score will suffer.

Copyright © BALANCE, [www.balancepro.net](http://www.balancepro.net), 888-456-2227

## How to Find a Great Loan Originator

The SAFE Act (Secure and Fair Enforcement for Mortgage Licensing Act of 2008) is designed to enhance consumer protection and reduce fraud by establishing registration of mortgage loan originators. A mortgage loan originator (MLO) is anyone who interviews mortgage applicants *and* negotiates rates and terms. All MLOs are required to register through the Nationwide Mortgage Licensing System & Registry (NMLS). The NMLS is now active and can be found at [nmlsconsumeraccess.com](http://nmlsconsumeraccess.com).

The NMLS is a valuable tool consumers can use to determine which originator they want to conduct business with. This free service provides consumers with easily accessible information including employment history, disciplinary actions, and enforcement actions against loan originators.

Here are a few tips for members shopping for a mortgage loan originator:

- All MLOs must provide the Unique Identifier issued to him/her by the NMLS before acting as a MLO and through the originator's initial written communication with a member. The Unique Identifier must also be available upon request.
- The SAFE Act requires all MLOs to be registered with NMLS prior to engaging in mortgage loan originating activity.
- If the person interviewing you and negotiating mortgage loan terms does not have a Unique Identifier, they are not a registered or licensed originator.

All South Carolina Federal Credit Union MLOs are registered with NMLS, and Unique Identifiers are provided as required and upon request.

## Consumer Rate Shop

### DIVIDEND RATES

Rates are quoted as Annual Percentage Yields (APY)

Member's Choice Checking (min. balance \$150)	0.05% APY
Share Savings (min. balance \$150)	0.10% APY
Money Market (\$50,000-\$99,999.99)	0.25% APY
Money Market (\$100,000 or more)	0.30% APY

Additional balance requirements apply to qualify for a Member's Choice Checking account.

### REGULAR AND IRA SHARE CERTIFICATES

Rates are quoted as Annual Percentage Yields (APY)

Term	Regular (min. \$500)	Jumbo (\$50,000+)
12 months	0.30% APY	0.40% APY

Additional terms from 3-60 months are available. Minimum balance required. Fees could reduce earnings. Penalty for early withdrawal.

### LOAN RATES

Rates are quoted as Annual Percentage Rates (APR)

Auto/Truck Loans	New – As low as 3.25% APR Used – As low as 3.25% APR
RV/Boat Loans	New – As low as 3.25% APR Used – As low as 3.25% APR
Personal Loans Personal access line (PAL) – revolving line of credit and fixed-term loans	As low as 12.00% APR
Visa® Platinum	As low as 8.25% APR*
Fixed Rate Home Equity Loan	Call us or visit our <a href="#">website</a> for current rates
Home Equity Line of Credit	Call us or visit our <a href="#">website</a> for current rates
Mortgage First mortgages and refinances	Call us or visit our <a href="#">website</a> for current rates

South Carolina Federal Credit Union offers loan rate discounts. Ask us if you qualify.

\*APR is based on your creditworthiness. Current APR ranges from 8.25% to 17.90% and will vary with the market based on the Prime Rate. Up to 2% Foreign Transaction fee applies.

Rates are current as of September 22, 2011, and are subject to change daily. Please contact South Carolina Federal for applicable fees and terms. Call 843-797-8255 or 800-845-8355 for other current loan and deposit rates or visit [scfederal.org](http://scfederal.org).

### CONTACT INFORMATION

#### Branch Hours

##### Lobby

Monday – Friday 9:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

##### Drive-up Windows

Monday – Thursday 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.  
Friday 8:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

##### Contact Center

Monday – Friday 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

843-797-8300 (Charleston) 803-738-8300 (Columbia)

843-545-8300 (Georgetown) 800-845-0432 (Nationwide)

Email: [ContactCenter@scfederal.org](mailto:ContactCenter@scfederal.org)

Phone Banking (24-hour telephone account access)

843-797-8255 (Charleston) 800-845-8355 (Nationwide)

Report Lost or Stolen Debit or Credit Cards

800-449-7728

### SOUTH CAROLINA FEDERAL STATS

As of July 31, 2011

Assets	\$1,246,647,237
Loans to Members	\$ 853,517,817
Member Savings	\$1,006,648,220
Members	139,366

*InBalance* is published monthly for members of South Carolina Federal Credit Union. Address comments and suggestions to:

South Carolina Federal Credit Union  
Marketing Department  
P.O. Box 190012  
N. Charleston, SC 29419-9012

