

# OneAZ Connect

FOURTH QUARTER 2017



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear members,

Your Credit Union continues to focus on new ways to serve your financial needs as well as support the communities we serve throughout Arizona. One of the best ways to accomplish these goals is by listening to our members.

### Member Survey

Each month we send out 6,000 surveys to learn what we are doing right, but also to learn how we can improve the service we provide our members. Sometimes it's a simple fix and sometimes the solution requires more strategic planning and investing in new technology. In 2018 we will be implementing substantially newer technology which will assist in providing continuous improvement of the member experience.

### Serving our Communities

This past summer, the Goodwin Fire affected more than 4,000 OneAZ members in the Prescott area. We quickly responded by organizing a relief fund at our branches. Because of the generosity of our members and associates, as well as a matching donation from the Credit Union, we collectively donated more than \$23,000 to the American Red Cross of Northern Arizona and the Yavapai Humane Society.

Later this month OneAZ Community Foundation will award \$55,000 to non-profit organizations as part of our Community Impact Grant program. The program was established to respond to requests from organizations that make a positive economic impact in our members' local communities.

Whether it is responding to member survey comments that result in OneAZ improving our service or non-profits requesting financial assistance to better the lives of Arizona residents, the action taken by your Credit Union begins with listening.

Our community support and engagement is possible due to the collective value that you, our members, generate through your belief in the credit union philosophy and usage of our products and services.

Sincerely,

David E. Doss  
President and CEO

## Winter Preparation Ideas Can Save Money



Winter means different things to OneAZ Credit Union members in different parts of Arizona. For the southern half of the state, it's a time to enjoy the outdoors after months of high temperatures. For the northern part of the state, winter can bring snow and ice. Either way, members can save money when the temperature drops with these five steps.

### 1. Use technology to lower heating bills

Install thermostats that allow you to program temperature settings from home or from your phone.

### 2. Find the right balance between comfort and practicality

Lowering the thermostat by a few degrees can result in lower utility bills.

### 3. Seal in the heat and the savings

Avoid energy loss by caulking the gaps around windows and doors and using weather stripping.

### 4. Switch to LED lighting throughout your home

ENERGY STAR LED lights save energy and money and still provide all the light you need during the holiday season.

### 5. Update the insulation under your roof

As homes in Arizona age over the years, a fresh layer of lightweight insulation can help prevent rising heat from escaping through your roof.

Take action now before the temperature drops and you can see your savings rise.

# How to Budget for Holiday Spending

For many, December means celebrating the holidays with family and friends. It also represents an expensive time of year for gift giving. Prepare for those expenses with these helpful tips.

- Establish a bottom line budget and do not, for any reason, exceed it. Consider funding it by not going out to lunch during the workweek or skipping your morning trip to the local coffee shop.
- Base your gift buying on sentiment rather than dollar value. Homemade gifts or heartfelt items often mean more to recipients than the price tag.
- Prioritize your gift list and decide if you can establish a common price for all (\$10 cost for each person) or set two or three price levels for specific individuals.
- Stretch your spending power by searching for online coupons, promotional codes or BOGO offers. Timing is everything, so don't hesitate to buy now during a special sale instead of waiting until December.

Don't regret your December spending decisions in January. Start planning today on how much you will spend and who you will spend it on so you can enjoy a happy holiday season.

## 2017 Scholarship Recipients Announced

OneAZ Credit Union in partnership with the OneAZ Community Foundation has awarded scholarships, each valued at \$1,000, to students enrolled as an incoming junior or senior at Arizona State University, Northern Arizona University or the University of Arizona, or an incoming sophomore at an Arizona community college.

Congratulations to the following students!

Anikki Giessler	Joanna Jauregui
Cameron Bloniarz	Kayla Reents
Chelsea Koressel	Madallena Tharp
Eleanor Allen-Henderson	Maikki Giessler
Emily McGrane	Matthew Logelin
Gillian Reynoso	Megan Borich
Hannah Burnam	Mitchell Weinzinger

### Your Board of Directors

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The articles in this publication are for general information only and are not intended to provide specific advice or recommendations for any individual. We suggest you consult your attorney, accountant, or financial/tax advisor with regard to your individual situation.

# How Good Does Your Credit Score Need to Be?

The FICO credit score is the most widely used credit score in lending decisions and ranges from 300 to 850. The higher the score, the better chance a person stands of gaining access to the lowest rates and best loan terms. The lower the score, the less chance a person has to be approved for a loan.

Here's a scale showing credit score categories:

CATEGORY	RANGE
Excellent	750 to 850
Good	700 to 749
Fair	650 to 699
Poor	550 to 649
Bad	300 to 549

A few tips to help raise your credit score:

- Only apply for credit when necessary
- Think about your spending needs before choosing a credit card
- Pay off your balances in a timely manner
- Maintain a low balance or no balance on your credit card
- Establish a lengthy credit history of paying on time and paying balances in full.

Always remember that your OneAZ Credit Union associates are happy to help you develop a strong plan for building your credit. Stop by your local branch to speak with a financial services representative.

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**OneAZ**  
CREDIT UNION  
Let's bank together.