



FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

JULY 2022 NEWSLETTER

## Time to Prepare for Back-to-School!

Now is the time to start making a list of the back-to-school supplies and other purchases needed before the school starts in the fall. This includes updating school wardrobes, coats for the cooler weather, books, tablets and any other items that may be needed.

Kids may not want to think about returning to school yet, but early planning means you may be able to save money. Watch for sales and make sure to carry your back-to-school list when visiting various stores or shopping on-line throughout the coming weeks. You never know when you might come across bargains for the items on your back-to-school list! Being prepared and saving money have never been more important during these unprecedented times.



## Skip-A-Payment

Take advantage of our Skip-A-Payment program! Apply in person or online today. This is another way that **Cosden FCU** is here to make life EASIER for you. Qualifications and conditions may apply.

Give Your Budget a Breather



**SKIP-A-PAY**

## Credit Union Closings

2022

Independence Day

Saturday, July 2

Monday, July 4

Labor Day

Saturday, September 3

Monday, September 5

Columbus Day

Saturday, October 8

Monday, October 10

Please make sure you update your contact information with

**Cosden FCU**



# Cosden Federal Credit Union Annual Meeting

We held our Annual Meeting in March. After a 2 year hiatus, it was good to see everyone in person again.



We would like to congratulate the following winners of the cash prize drawing:

**Amy Huitt**

**Felipe Hernandez**

**Roberto Rodriguez**

**Marisue Cunningham**

**W.C. Ross**

**Jake Garcia**

**Jeannie Hernandez**

**Ron Huitt**

**George Wilson**

**Hardy Wilkerson**

**Connie Garcia**

**Preston Huitt**

**Noah Molina**

**Connie Chase**

**Jackie Molina**

**John Ibanez**

**Janel Ortiz**

**Mica Weatherman**

## Membership Has it's Privileges! Contribute to Your Credit Union's Growth and Financial Strength



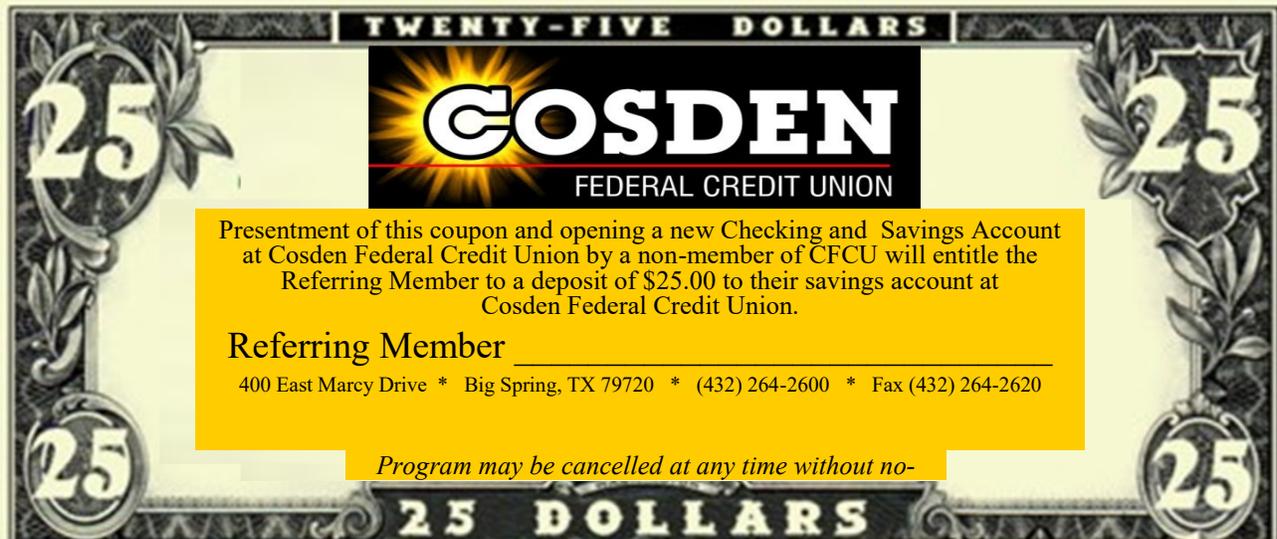
As our credit union grows in membership and assets we grow financially stronger, which enables us to offer the members better interest and loan rates. Because you are a credit union member, your **family members and friends** may also be eligible to join! They can enjoy all the same great benefits and will thank you for sharing the chance to:

- Save hundreds of dollars each year in fees
- Save hours of time with several convenient ways to access your accounts
- Save even more money in interest on low-rate loans
- Earn higher yields on savings

Don't let your **family members and friends** struggle to manage their finances! Tell them about the advantages of being a credit union member! Your credit union offers competitive products, interest rates, loan rates and

- A user-friendly website
- Remote deposit capture
- Mobile banking
- Financial literacy education
- Earn \$25 When you refer a friend who opens a checking and savings account.
- May be eligible to lower your interest rate by TWO percent!

Call or stop by the credit union today to find out which of your **family members and friends** are eligible to join and contribute to our growth!



# Annual Budget Reality Fair

Cosden FCU hosted its Annual Budget Reality Fair at the Howard College Coliseum in April for all the area high school seniors.

Teens were given a taste of reality as they took on the role of the sole financial support of their household. Each student was assigned a career and salary. Students visited booths to make life-changing financial decisions about transportation, housing, groceries, utilities and other areas.

Five area schools participated this year. With the help of 24 local businesses and 50 volunteers, Cosden FCU was able to work with approx. 270 students.



## Summer Vehicle Special!

June 1<sup>st</sup> - August 31<sup>st</sup>

**REFINANCE Your Vehicle With Us**

**AND**

**We Will Lower Your Interest Rate by 3% APR\***

\*With a floor rate of 3.375% APR and we will finance up to 120% of the value of the vehicle but GAP must be purchased.



**You've got us**

**In the palm of your hand.**

With **mobile banking**, your credit union is  
Never farther away than your smartphone.

Call us to get started today.





## **Fraud: Protect Yourself from Vacation Rental Scams**

Going on vacation? Staying at a hotel is one option, but there is another: renting a home that someone else owns either as a vacation property they sometimes rent out, or as an investment that they rent as much as they can.

It may be a nice way to vacation, but scammers pretend they own properties that they do not. People find a property they like, make a large deposit, "to reserve the rental" and then learn, upon arrival at the destination, that they cannot get in.

At that point, they contact the owner of the home, who hears about the rental agreement for the first time, and never received the deposit. So there you are, stuck in a place with nowhere to stay and short hundreds of dollars for your deposit.

Avoid vacation rental fraud by renting only from legitimate websites that guarantee your rental. It is also a good idea to take some time to read the reviews left by other vacationers before making your reservations. Consider the following tips:

**Consider the Website's Payment Methods and Security Policies** – Credit cards offer more consumer protection than any other payment method. Some vacation rental websites offer extra levels of security. Be sure of the guarantee's terms and conditions before booking and paying for your stay.

**Never Pay by Cash, Check, Wire Transfer, Western Union, or Similar Methods** – Scammers typically ask for the full amount to be paid before you arrive. Be wary of email or telephone conversations with owners who do not know the local area or use poor grammar in written communication.

**Verify that the Property Exists** – Use a map application like Google Maps to verify the property location.

**Do an Online Search** – Search for the owner's name, the property address, who owns the rental website, and who pays the taxes. Scammers may lure you away from an official website to a fake website. If you find any discrepancies, reconsider renting the property.

**Investigate Owner Memberships** – If the property owner is a member of a known renters' association or advertises the property on a well-known vacation rental website, contact the association or website to determine if the owner is in good standing.

**Rent Known Properties** – When possible, rent accommodations that someone you know has already rented. Ask friends and family members if they know of available rental properties at your desired destination.

Travel Insurance does not generally cover rental fraud. Protect your hard-earned vacation funds and anticipated vacation by taking the time to do careful research and be aware.

## **TRAVELING?**

**Whether you're traveling out-of-state or out-of-country, call to let us know your travel itinerary and we'll put an alert on your credit and debit cards.**

