

Annual meeting recap

More than 100 members were present at the 65th annual meeting of the Kansas Blue Cross Blue Shield Credit Union to celebrate another successful year.

Attendees learned about the growth the credit union experienced in 2018 as well as goals for 2019 through reports given by Christie Mugler, board president; Steve Morris, credit union manager; Ann Shelton, treasurer; Kevin Jones, credit committee chair; and Amie Brown, supervisory committee member.

According to Ann's treasurer's report, 2018 credit union financial highlights include:

- Assets increased by more than \$1.01 million (4.3%)
- Reserves increased by almost \$506,000
- Dividends exceeding \$294,000 were paid out representing 37% of operating income

Members received both a triple dividend and loan interest rebate in the fourth quarter of 2018 for the sixth year in a row.

Elections were conducted for open positions on the board of directors and supervisory committee. Amie Brown and Jovonna Funnell will serve four-year terms on the board, while Jared Bryant and Jackie Welsh were elected to four-year terms on the supervisory committee.

Outgoing volunteers Christie Mugler, Alex Dakin and Amie Brown were recognized with service recognition awards.

Just days after the meeting, Ann Shelton resigned from her position as Treasurer due to other commitments. The board of directors appointed Pete DiDio to fulfill her unexpired term.

For 2019-2020, the board of directors consists of Paul Feist, president; Randy Lambrecht, vice president; Donna Pashman, secretary; Pete DiDio, treasurer; and members Amie Brown, Jovonna Funnell, and Tish Hermann.

Shared branch changes in Topeka area

As of May 28, Envista Credit Union locations in Topeka and Hutchinson discontinued participation in the shared branching network. Only their Lawrence location will continue to be available for shared branch transactions.

The Communication Federal Credit Union office at 1015 SW Wanamaker Rd. is another shared branching network option.

This change **does not impact** the surcharge-free ATM access at Envista, which is a great option for easy cash withdrawals. Depositing checks can be handled through our mobile app, TouchBanking.

For more information on other transaction options, please contact the credit union staff.

Second Quarter 2019

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Important Dates:

July 4

Closed for Independence Day

September 2

Closed for Labor Day

Droge, Pickerell awarded credit union scholarships

High school seniors Hailey Droge and Nathan Pickerell are getting help paying for college thanks to two \$1,000 scholarships awarded by the Kansas Blue Cross Blue Shield Credit Union.

Hailey, daughter of Jason and Dawn Droge, completed her senior year at Shawnee Heights High School, where she was a member of Fellowship of Christian Athletes, spirit club, orchestra and National Honor Society. With a 4.5% weighted GPA, Hailey graduated among the top students in her class. She plans to attend the University of Nebraska-Lincoln to study communication sciences. Hailey currently volunteers through church and school, serving as a kindergarten aid at Tecumseh South Elementary. She also spent 10 days in Uganda with King's Kids Africa working in orphanages, churches and schools in July 2018.

Nathan, son of Todd and Heidi Pickerell and grandson of Karen and Merle Pickerell, graduated from Valley Falls High School where he was active in student council, Family, Career and Community Leaders of America, National Honor Society, band, drama, art, and athletics. Nathan volunteers with Meals on Wheels and Dragon Service Learning. He plans to earn a degree in architectural engineering at Kansas University and, in the future, a Master's degree in architecture.

The scholarship money will help Hailey and Nathan with tuition, books, fees or room and board.

An independent committee of the Kansas Blue Cross Blue Shield Credit Union Board of Directors considers academic achievement, community involvement, and recommendation letters from a teacher, counselor, or coach during the selection process.

Congratulations to Hailey, Nathan, and their families!



Hailey Droge (above) and Nathan Pickerell (right) accept their scholarships from credit union board members Randy Lambrecht, Christie Mugler and Paul Feist.



Financial advice for new graduates

You did it! You finally got your degree! You're probably going to start handling all your own finances too (if you haven't already started). Here is some financial advice to help you get a good start.

Student Loan Repayment

About six to nine months after graduation, you'll have to start paying back your loans. Lenders give you that grace period so you can find your new job before you begin making payments. It's important to know the total amount you owe and how much you'll need to pay each month.

Utilize a repayment estimator online at: studentloans.gov/myDirectLoan/repaymentEstimator.action.

If you have multiple loans, you may want to consider consolidating them so you only have one monthly payment.

Another resource that answers commonly asked student loan questions is: studentaid.ed.gov/sa/repay-loans/understand.

Savings

Create an emergency fund for unexpected expenses like a car or laptop repair. Even if you're paying off student loans, try to put at least \$10 into a savings account each time you deposit a paycheck. Creating a cushion will help you avoid overusing your credit cards and getting into more debt.



Credit

Credit cards tend to have high interest rates, so try to use them sparingly. If you do use them, be sure to pay your monthly bill on time. Ideally, pay off the entire balance each month, but if that isn't possible, at least try to pay more than the minimum payment.

Insurance

Stay on your parents' health insurance policy until 26, if possible. If you've moved into your own apartment, get renters' insurance. It's not too expensive and it will reimburse you in case your apartment gets robbed, or your possessions are damaged by fire, severe weather, or vandalism.



Keep the electronic files of all your legal documents and contracts, but also keep a paper copy as back-ups and put them in a small filing cabinet or box. Also consider getting a fire-safe

lock box to keep important documents like your passport, social security card, title for your car and sentimental items.

Why your next car loan should be from a credit union

If you're in the market for a new car, maybe you think the easiest way to get your dream car financed is to use the dealer's financing when you buy the car. In a sense, that's true – as long as you don't mind spending more time and money than necessary just to make things 'easy.'

Getting a car loan through your credit union does require a little more effort on your part. You apply for the loan before you go shopping and get pre-approved for a specific maximum. Then, you use that pre-approval like cash when you go shopping. It may seem strange if you've never done it before, but car dealers are used to BYOF (bring your own financing) buyers.

Your rewards for that extra effort are significant.

Better rate

On average, new car loan rates at a credit union are nearly two percentage points lower than at a bank, and they're about 2.25 percentage points lower on used car financing. What does that translate to in dollars and cents?

Say you're financing \$30,000 for 60 months and your credit union offers you a rate of 3.15%. That would make your monthly payment \$541 and your total interest paid over the life of the loan \$2,464. However, if the bank across town offers the same loan at 5.15%, your monthly payment will be \$568 and your total interest paid will be \$4,092. That's a significant difference.

A more affordable car

When you're pre-approved for a car loan from your credit union, you can rest

assured that you have been approved for a loan you can actually afford. Your credit union is on your side. That means before you get to the dealer, you know exactly how much you can spend and exactly how much your maximum payment will be.

Unfortunately, car dealers don't always have your best interests in mind. They'll try to get you to spend as much as they can because, of course, that will generate the maximum amount of income for them. You can easily end up with more car and bigger payments than you can really afford.



Get more mileage out of your money when you choose us for your new or used auto loan. Because the difference is clear, once you experience it. [Apply today!](#)

Less time at the dealer

If you've ever purchased a car from a dealer, you know that a significant portion of your time at the dealership is spent with the finance manager negotiating terms of the deal. If you're pre-approved for an auto loan at your credit union, you can skip this lengthy process. Credit union financing puts you in charge.

For more information about a credit union car loan or to get pre-approved, please visit us at www.ksbcbscu.org.

I like knowing my money is safe.

I like knowing it will stay in the community where I live – not be bundled into some weird investment product sold on Wall Street.

I like knowing that I can trust the people helping me, because I know they're not driven by profit. They're people-driven. Like, literally, they're non-for-profit and their philosophy is "people helping people."

I like knowing that I matter here: that my vote counts as much as anybody else's, even if I only have \$20 in my savings account.

I like knowing that I'm part of a 160-year-old movement. One that's sustainable, that's all about strengthening communities and improving the quality of life for everyone.

That's why I'm a credit union member.



National Credit Union Youth Month attracts new, young savers

Kansas Blue Cross Blue Shield Credit Union wrapped up National Credit Union Youth Month by drawing two winners from all young members who made deposits in April.

Congratulations to Jaxon H. and Treyvon M., who both won a \$50 deposit to their savings accounts.

The credit union staff would like to thank all who participated in the promotion and encouraged good saving habits and fiscal responsibility to the youth in their lives.

As a reminder, children and grandchildren of all employees are eligible to open an account at the credit union. Once you open an account, setting up a direct deposit makes routine saving easy.



Congratulations to Angie Treinen (center), loan officer, as she celebrates 20 years of service with the credit union. (L-R) Stacy Montgomery and Steve Morris join her.