

Member News

Spring 2022

APGFCU® 2022 Annual Meeting

Mark your calendar to attend the 2022 APGFCU Virtual Annual Meeting on Thursday, April 21, where we will announce our newly elected 2022 board of directors, based on your votes. We will also review the credit union's successes in 2021 and announce the winners of this year's annual scholarship award program.

Register to attend virtually at apgfcu.com/AnnualMeeting or call 410-272-4000 and choose option 8.



We're for – and Now Baltimore, Too!

We are excited to announce that we have expanded our field of membership to include those who live, work, worship, attend school, or volunteer and do business in **Baltimore County and Baltimore City**, and their immediate family members.

In keeping with the credit union philosophy of "people helping people,"

this change in our field of membership will allow us to help more people achieve, prosper and grow. We remain committed to serving Harford and Cecil counties as we extend services, including access to credit and financial education, into the Baltimore region. Together, our cooperative will grow even stronger.

Holiday Closings

Monday, May 30

Memorial Day

Monday, June 20

Juneteenth Observed

Monday, July 4

Independence Day

For remote access, use Online Banking, Mobile Banking, ABBY Telephone Teller and ATMs.

Let Your Home Help Spring Into Action

Get your home spring-ready with an APGFCU Home Equity Loan or Line of Credit. Finance your next remodel, project or summer vacation by putting your equity to work for you. Rising home values are boosting home equity to record levels, so now is a great time to do more with your home.*

Apply for a Home Equity Loan or Line of Credit today at apgfcu.com/HomeEquity.

*All loans subject to credit approval.

Got Debt?

Cruise Into Financial Freedom With a Personal Loan

Get the cash you need to stop juggling expenses. With APGFCU Personal Loan rates as low as 3.99% APR,¹ you can consolidate higher-rate debt from multiple loans and credit cards into one lower monthly payment – without the extra charges.²

No application fee. No pre-payment fee. No kidding.

Visit apgfcu.com/PersonalLoan to apply today.

¹APR = Annual Percentage Rate. The rates stated are available on approved credit. Loan rates are subject to change. Rates may be different as determined by the individual creditworthiness of each applicant. Not all applicants will qualify for the lowest rate. Loan is for a fixed amount and a fixed term. Advertised rate includes automated payments and rates will be 0.25% higher without automated payments. The maximum rate is 17.74% APR with automated payments. Subject to credit approval. Membership eligibility applies. Other restrictions may apply.

²Excludes late fees and any delinquent account fees.



Take Advantage of Your APGFCU MyTimes AARP Benefit

It's your time and we're here to help you make the most of it. With our MyTimes and MyTimes Plus programs, all APGFCU member-owners over the age of 50 can access the benefits of AARP membership – for free!



Simply visit apgfcu.com/MyTimes to request reimbursement for your annual membership payment.



\$50 per Referral? That's Music to Your Ears!



Tell a friend about APGFCU and you'll both be qualified for a cash bonus to the tune of \$50!*

Earn a bonus* for each friend or family member you refer who opens a new personal or business share savings account with us through December 31, 2022. Start referring – and earning – today!

Visit apgfcu.com/ReferAFriend for details. Or scan the QR code with your mobile phone camera.

**Annual Percentage Yield (APY) for share savings and business share savings accounts is 0.10% APY. The annual percentage yield is accurate as of the last dividend declaration date. Rate may change after account opening. Fees may reduce earnings. \$5 minimum to open and maintain a share savings or business share savings account for new member-owners. Bonus of \$50, paid within 5 business days of account opening, will be deposited into the savings account. Bonus must stay in the account for 90 days. Offer applies to new memberships for those 18 and over and business savings accounts only. Refer-a-Friend new membership share savings and business share savings accounts must be opened through the online account opening process, through the mail or at an APGFCU branch. This offer is valid from March 1, 2022, through December 31, 2022. Only one bonus offer payment will be paid to a new member-owner during the promotional period and this offer may not be combined with any other share savings offers. Referral email must be included with new membership application to receive the bonus. We may report to the IRS the value of any cash received and any applicable taxes are the responsibility of the recipient. Referring member must be in good standing to obtain the bonus. Membership eligibility applies. Other restrictions may apply. Officers, directors, volunteers and employees of APGFCU and members of their immediate families (spouse, parent, child and sibling) and persons residing in their households (whether related or not) are not eligible to participate.*

Give Them the Tools to Dream Big and Make It Happen Starting with \$50!*

Open a new youth membership savings account to teach your kids the importance of saving small today to reach their big goals tomorrow. Plus, they'll receive a **\$50 bonus** just for opening the account!*

Take advantage of this limited-time offer now through December 31, 2022.

Visit apgfcu.com/YouthBonus to open your accounts today.

**Annual Percentage Yield (APY) for share savings account is 0.10% APY. The APY is accurate as of the last dividend declaration date. Rate may change after account opening. Fees may reduce earnings. \$5 minimum to open and maintain savings account. Bonus of \$50, paid at the time of account opening, will be deposited into the savings account. Bonus must stay in the account for 90 days. Offer applies to new memberships opened April 1, 2022, through December 31, 2022, for ages 0 through 17 only. Maryland Uniform Transfers to Minors Act (MUTMA) and custodial accounts are not eligible for the bonus. New youth membership accounts must be opened via online secure form or in an APGFCU branch. We may report to the IRS the value of any cash received and any applicable taxes are the responsibility of the recipient. Membership eligibility applies. Other restrictions may apply.*



April is National Credit Union Youth Month!

Habits That Help or Hurt Your Credit Score

Credit scores are your financial reputation, which allow potential lenders, employers, insurance agencies and even landlords to gauge your likelihood of following through on an agreement. A poor credit score can follow you around for years, preventing you from new opportunities and reaching your personal and professional goals.

Mending past financial mistakes to improve your credit report and score may not be easy, but is possible with the right steps. However, some methods you may think are helping your credit score rise could be damaging it further. Here are the dos and don'ts of building credit:

What to Do

- **Get Familiar With Your Debt:** Find out if you have any outstanding payments, such as pricey medical bills, weighing your credit score down.
- **Pay on Time, Every Time:** Paying as soon as the bill comes — or even before — can go a long way in improving your score. Making early credit card payments is a great way to work down your purchase debt, rather than paying for interest. If you cannot remember to pay on time, consider registering for automatic payments.

At APGFCU, we take the work out of paying bills with Online Bill Pay – set

up your recurring payments once and we will take it from there. Simply log in to Online Banking to set up your payments under the “Pay Bills” tab.

- **Pay as Much as You Can:** Try to exceed the minimum balance due on your credit card bills to become debt-free faster. This is a great way to boost your score if you can swing it.
- **Consolidate Your Debt:** If your debt is too much to handle, consider consolidating or refinancing into one lump payment. This typically allows you to make lower monthly payments on your credit card bills. Check out our Debt Consolidation Calculator at apgfcu.com/Save to determine if this is right for you, then visit apgfcu.com/Visa to learn how we can help you consolidate higher-rate debt into one easy payment with an APGFCU Credit Card.*

What Not to Do

- **Avoid Credit Cards:** While it may not be necessary today, you will need proof of established credit down the road for home loans, auto loans and employment. It's beneficial to invest in a credit card now to build your creditworthiness.



- **Reject a Higher Limit:** A higher credit limit could boost your credit score through the credit utilization ratio, which makes up 30% of your credit score. The utilization ratio compares your credit card balance to its limit. In other words, the lower your balance and higher your limit, the better!¹
- **Close Your Accounts:** Once your debt is paid off, you may want to close your account and get rid of your card. However, this may not be the best idea for your score. The length of your credit history makes up 15% of your score, so it is beneficial to keep your accounts open for as long as possible.² Additionally, closing an account could damage your balance-to-limit rate.

Managing debt and improving your credit score on your own is no easy feat. We're here to help make enhancing your financial health a little easier. Visit apgfcu.com/Learn to review available no-cost financial education courses, both online and in-person, to help get you back on track.

**All loans are subject to credit approval.*

¹<https://www.experian.com/blogs/ask-experian/credit-education/score-basics/credit-utilization-rate/>

²<https://www.lexingtonlaw.com/education/length-of-credit-history>

Getting Away? Pack the Travel Benefits of an APGFCU Visa®.

We're here for you, no matter where you go. With an APGFCU Visa Credit Card, you can earn cash back for spring break must-haves or points toward valuable rewards on travel, merchandise and more. Take advantage of our uChoose Rewards® program and earn points on purchases you are already making, including three times the points at restaurants, two times the points on

groceries and gas, and one point for every dollar spent on everything else. Plus, enjoy access to travel and emergency benefits that protect you and your wallet, no matter where you are.*

Find the card that's right for you and apply today at apgfcu.com/Visa.

**All loans subject to credit approval. Membership eligibility applies.*





Member owned. Member driven.

P.O. Box 1176, Aberdeen, MD 21001-6176
apgfcu.com | 410-272-4000 | 800-225-2555



Branch Locations

Aberdeen

996 Beards Hill Rd.

Amyclae

1200-A Agora Dr., Bel Air

APG

6485 Operations Ave.

Bel Air

321 S. Main St.

Cecil College

1 Seahawk Dr., North East

Chesapeake City

2579 Augustine Herman Hwy.

Edgewood

1321 E. Pulaski Hwy.

Elkton

1204 E. Pulaski Hwy.

Fallston

210 Mountain Rd.

Forest Hill

2010 Rock Spring Rd.

Havre de Grace

1045 W. Pulaski Hwy.

Laurel Bush

2113 Laurel Bush Rd., Bel Air

North East

2011 W. Pulaski Hwy.

Rising Sun

28 Rising Sun Town Center

Riverside

1327 Riverside Pkwy., Belcamp

Home Loan Center

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

Friday 8:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Member Service Center

Monday – Friday 8:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Saturday 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

ABA Routing & Transit Number

255075576

(use this number to arrange electronic fund transfers)

Operation Statistics as of January 31, 2022

Assets \$2,007,196,459

Shares \$1,811,188,921

Loans \$1,367,717,498

Members 147,133



APGFCU is not affiliated with any non-APGFCU Internet sites listed in this newsletter. These sites are provided as reference only. APGFCU makes no representations about the content on these sites or subsequent links from those sites.



All loans are subject to approval.
Federally insured by NCUA

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Remote Access Scams: What You Need to Know to Protect Your Device

Handing hackers administrative access into your computer or mobile device is something most individuals would never dream of doing. But, what if the hacker disguised their identity, phone number and email address to appear as a professional from a company you trust? This confusion is just what criminals hope for during remote access or screen sharing scams.

How Fraudsters Gain Remote Access to Victims' Devices:

This form of social engineering, related to a variety of scams, occurs in three quick steps:

1 The "issue:" Scammers contact potential victims, typically by email or phone, and pose as service representatives or technical support agents of a well-known organization, such as APGFCU, Apple, Amazon, Microsoft or even the company you work for, under the deception of an urgent security issue. They state immediate remote access, or screen sharing, into your device is necessary to fix the error.

2 The app: Once hackers have you hooked, they fool and pressure you into downloading a remote support tool or application onto your device, which will allow the scammer easy access into your files, accounts and personal information. These are legitimate programs used for work collaboration or technical support, but can be leveraged by fraudsters for malicious intent.

3 The takeover: Upon remotely accessing a device, scammers may run programs to "fix the issue" when they are instead installing harmful malware to steal your passwords, financial information and personal identifying information. Scammers may offer to repair your device for a fee, spend a few minutes pretending to fix the issue and take your money. Hackers may also persuade you to log into your financial accounts to "ensure their security," while their true intention is to make fraudulent transactions and steal your funds.

How to Avoid Remote Access Scams:

Avoiding remote access scams is key to protecting your information and identity. Here are a few red flags to watch for to remain vigilant against fraudulent attempts:

- First and most importantly, legitimate organizations will never initiate contact

with you to fix an issue on your device. Technological advances have made it possible for scammers to spoof their caller IDs to resemble any company in any location, so it is necessary to remain alert to fraudulent tactics. APGFCU will never call, email or text you to request your PIN, full card number or personal data. If you receive an unexpected communication saying that there is a problem with your computer, or a purchase or automatic renewal has been billed to your account which you did not authorize, it is likely a scam.

- Unless upon the request of a verified individual, do not install any screen-sharing tools on your device. If you are unsure about the person's identity, hang up and call the organization back at its published number.
- If you receive a pop-up on your device with a warning message and phone number to fix it, it is a scam. Legitimate companies will not put their phone number on virus pop-ups.

If you have been the victim of a remote access scam, turn off and unplug your device immediately. Be sure to contact your financial institution to stop, dispute and prevent any fraudulent charges. To reduce issues associated with malware installed on your device, update your computer's security software, run a scan and delete potential problems. Improve your security by changing your user names and passwords, right away, after you have updated your security software. Remember to change any repeated or similar passwords, as well. Visit our Resource Library under the Learning Hub on our website to read "5 Ways to Improve Your Password and Defend Against Cyberattacks" for more information on creating strong passwords. You can also report your experience to the Federal Trade Commission at [ReportFraud.ftc.gov](https://www.ftc.gov/report-fraud) to prevent future crime and build a case against scammers.

If you believe there is a problem with your device, try updating your software, calling your software company's support line directly or seeking guidance from a person you know and trust.

Check out our Security page at apgfcu.com/Security for up-to-date information on the latest scams.