

# InTouch

A quarterly publication of Keesler Federal Credit Union | Spring 2022

**Annual Meeting Recap**  
**Scholarship Essay Topic**





**James Hollingsworth**  
Chairman,  
Board of Directors

Spring is the season of optimism and renewal—and at Keesler Federal, there's an irresistibly upbeat energy in the air! Maybe it's because of the unmasked smiles all around us or the exciting plans we have in store for members during this 75th anniversary year, two of which I will reveal below.

But first, thank you to all who took part in this year's Virtual Annual Membership Meeting, held on March 24. Viewers joined us from all areas of our geographic footprint and beyond, thanks to the convenience of the online format. If you weren't able to participate in the live event, I encourage you to view the recorded presentation at [kfcu.org/annual-meeting](http://kfcu.org/annual-meeting).

Because of your loyalty and support during another unusually challenging year, Keesler Federal's performance in 2021 continued to reach unprecedented heights. The graphics shown below illustrate our growth in total assets, membership, loans and other key metrics. As always, this success was returned to you in the form of

# Keesler Federal

# 75

CREDIT UNION YEARS



## New Loans

\$1,317,189,553



1.13%  
from 2020



## Total Loans

\$2,756,491,145



4.18%  
from 2020



## Total Deposits

\$3,804,002,732



17.79%  
from 2020



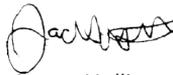
higher dividends, favorable loan rates, better services, and more givebacks for members and the communities we serve. These results confirm Keesler Federal's commitment to managing the financial interests of our member-owners to generate greater benefits for you.

As mentioned above, Keesler Federal is doing some things a little differently this year to celebrate our 75th anniversary. One of these is increasing the number of monthly Member Giveback drawing winners from 36 recipients to 75 beginning in May! Remember, you are automatically entered for a chance to win simply by using select Keesler Federal services. Visit [kfcu.org/about/giving-back](http://kfcu.org/about/giving-back) to learn more. I am also proud to announce that

to commemorate the founding of Keesler Federal in 1947, this year's Lisa J. Stubbs Memorial Scholarship Contest will award \$1,947, rather than the customary \$1,000, to each of the ten winners! Find out how you or your dependent can earn money for college in this issue of InTouch.

Thank you for being a valued member of the Keesler Federal family. We are honored to be your financial partner and look forward to serving your needs today and in the years to come.

Yours in service,



James Hollingsworth

# Key Highlights of 2021



## New Members

18,685



6.95%  
from 2020



## Total Assets

\$4,319,919,600



16.17%  
from 2020



## MEMBER giveback

\$115,214 Monthly Member Giveback Prizes

\$17,000 Scholarships Awarded

\$86,000 Mississippi Aquarium

## COMMUNITY giveback

\$659,059 Community Giveback Donations and Sponsorships

\$61,000 Raised for Combat Wounded Veterans of South MS – Eagles Under the Oaks Golf Tournament

6,700 Backpacks for Bright Futures



# It's Time to Get Outside!

If you're ready to replace winter cabin fever with spring fever, Keesler Federal Credit Union is here to help with great rates on boat and RV loans.

Financing is available for both new and used boats, RVs, campers and motorcycles at competitive rates. So, whether your recreational route is paved with ocean or asphalt, check out these tips and our easy loan process designed to get you out there sooner and smarter:

**Step 1: Don't start with shopping.** It's best to know what your finances will allow before your head is filled with visions of rock star RVs or mega yachts with prices that will take the joy out of ownership and sink your hopes, which brings us to step 2.

**Step 2: Visit us at [kfcu.org](https://www.kfcu.org)** or in person at any branch to start the application process. With pre-approval, you'll be in a confident bargaining position by

*\*APR is annual percentage rate. Example: Monthly payments are approximately \$8.22 per month per \$1,000 borrowed at 5.55% APR for a 180 month term. Minimum loan amount \$50,000, maximum \$250,000 to qualify for promotional rate and term. Boat and RV loans available in the continental U.S. only. Rates are subject to change without notice. Offer good through 7/31/22.*

**Apply online at: [kfcu.org](https://www.kfcu.org) > "Save, Spend & Borrow" > "Vehicle Loans" > "Apply Now"**

*Membership and credit eligibility required.*



## A Commitment to Member Service

**Extraordinary Employees.  
Extraordinary Credit Union.**

Keesler Federal team members believe in the credit union philosophy, and it shows in their tenure. Our team members are dedicated to making a difference in the lives of members, and, in turn, Keesler Federal has made a difference in their lives. This may explain why so many people begin and end their careers with Keesler Federal.

Keesler Federal team members are recognized for service in 5-year increments (3-year in the UK). We are proud to recognize the following team members who have service anniversaries during the fourth quarter of 2021:

### 30 YEARS OF SERVICE

**Kelly Ross**, *Branch Manager II, Larcher*

### 25 YEARS OF SERVICE

**Jaime Werda**, *Card Services Manager*

### 15 YEARS OF SERVICE

**Reba Webb**, *Retail Support Spec II*

**Jill Barnett**, *Branch Manager III*

**Matthew Holub**, *IT Services Analyst II*

### 10 YEARS OF SERVICE

**Ian Sheridan**, *Staff Development Manager*

### 5 YEARS OF SERVICE

**Alyssa Acevedo**, *Branch Manager I*

**Jameel Bush**, *Maintenance Technician*

**Amber Carroll**, *Card Services Rep II*

**Susan Elliott**, *Teller Service Rep II*

**Kathleen Gallagher**, *Asst Compliance Officer I*

**Kimberly Jackson**, *Teller Service Rep III*

**Chuck Johnson**, *Chief Lending Officer*

**Tom Johnson**, *Director-Corp Real Estate*

**Shella McAdoo**, *Mail Room Clerk*

**Kristen Melancon**, *Teller Service Rep II*

**Sashima Rivera**, *Staff Development Spec II*

**Suzie Siragusa**, *Asst Branch Manager I*

**Myra Sly**, *Asst Branch Manager II*

**Jaleesa Stallworth**, *Digital Rel Team Lead*

**Christy Vaughan**, *Financial Service Rep II*

**Sheena Wiggins**, *Asst Branch Manager II*

**Monica Ward**, *Teller Service Rep III*

knowing what your budget can comfortably handle. Here's what members will need:

- A U.S government-issued photo I.D (e.g. driver's license, state identification)
- If applying with a Co-Applicant, please have the secondary applicant's information
- Current paystub

**Step 3: Go for it!** Negotiate your best deal backed by a Keesler Federal pre-approved boat loan with special rates as low as 5.55% APR\* for up to 15 years.



## “NCUA-insured” and Why It’s a Good Thing

Ever wonder if you’d be better off not using a financial institution and, instead, hiding your money—under the proverbial mattress or perhaps buried in a remote desert location? That may be a viable option for extreme risk-takers, but most of us prefer the peace of mind that comes with a guarantee that our hard-earned money will be safe.

When you trust your deposit accounts to Keesler Federal, those funds are protected by the NCUA—National Credit Union Administration—an independent agency of the United States government, which regulates, charters and supervises federal credit unions. Like the FDIC, which insures deposits in most traditional banks, NCUA insurance covers up to \$250,000 per account owner, per institution and per ownership type.

This means your money is secure—even if the credit union fails.

That’s reassuring, especially in times like these when the future may feel uncertain. Plus, Keesler Federal deposit accounts offer the distinct advantage of earning dividends that allow your balance to grow! Another caution about stashing cash at home: the typical homeowner’s insurance policy covers only \$200 - \$300 in cash if stolen or lost due to a peril such as fire.

It’s important to note that not all credit unions are NCUA-insured. The NCUA automatically insures federally chartered credit unions, which have “federal” in its official name, like Keesler Federal.

**For more details about NCUA insurance and your accounts, stop by any branch and talk with a team member.**



## Step Up Your Debit Card Game Instantly with a Fresh, New Look

Are you a First Responder? Live in the Jackson Metro area? A member of the National Guard Association? Love Mardi Gras? If you answered yes to any of these questions, then we have the debit card for you! These 4 new looks join our existing lineup of card designs for a total of 10 to choose from. Whether you're ready to update your current card or just getting your first one, check out all the available designs and learn about the benefits of having a Mastercard® Platinum debit card at [kfcu.org](http://kfcu.org). Oh, and best of all, you can have your favorite card made instantly at any branch!





# Annual Lisa J. Stubbs Memorial Scholarship Essay Contest

**In honor of Keesler Federal's 75th anniversary, this year's essay contest winners (six dependent and four adult students) will each be awarded \$1,947 toward their education to commemorate the year our credit union was founded.**

## ALL APPLICANTS

- The contest is open to Keesler Federal members in good standing who will be full-time college students in the upcoming school year. Employees and officials of Keesler Federal and their dependents are not eligible to compete in the scholarship contest.
- Applicants must submit an entry of 500 words or less that is typed in the space provided through the online application.
- School classification for the upcoming school year will be college freshman, sophomore, junior, senior or graduate.

## ADULT APPLICANTS

- Adult students must not be dependents of their parents and must be at least 21 years old and a member in good standing with Keesler Federal.
- Your entry should include your name, address, phone number, major, school name and school classification for the upcoming year.

## DEPENDENT APPLICANTS

- Dependent applicants and at least one parent must be members in good standing with Keesler Federal.
- Your entry should include your name, address, phone number, major, school name and school classification for the upcoming year and your parent/guardian's name.

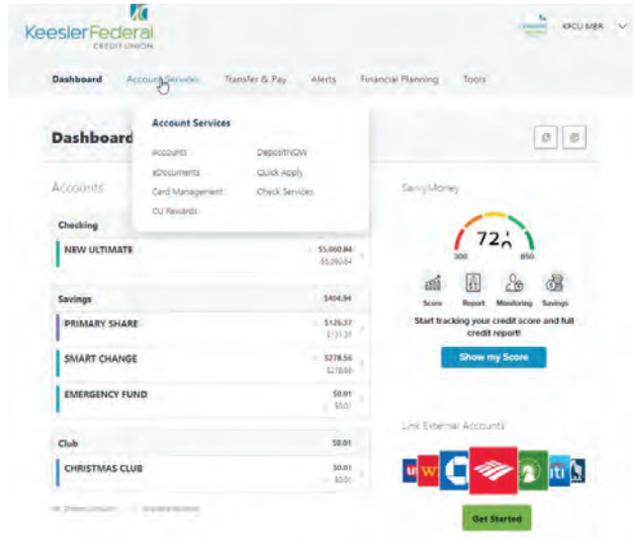
The 2022 essay topic is:

**"What was the most memorable meal you've had in your life, and why?"**

**All applications must be submitted online no later than 11:59 pm on May 27.** Printed applications will not be accepted. To apply, visit [kfcu.org/scholarship](http://kfcu.org/scholarship).

# Introducing: Enhanced Digital Banking

In 1992, the scholarship program was dedicated to Lisa J. Stubbs, a Keesler Federal employee of over 8 years. While employed full time at the credit union, Lisa attended night classes, working toward her degree. Lisa died at the age of 25 after a lifelong struggle with cystic fibrosis. Since Lisa's courage and determination were an inspiration to all who knew her, the scholarship program was renamed in her honor in hopes that her spirit of achievement would inspire others to reach new heights.



The massive expansion of online and mobile banking has created a need for more robust and intuitive banking experiences. As a result, Keesler Federal has enhanced its digital banking to present the products and features you value and use most in a fresher, more logical design. Most importantly, you can now access the information you want with fewer clicks and taps.

Now, instead of the multiple "widgets" displayed before, you will see the following menu groups:

- **Account Services**
- **Transfer and Pay**
- **Alerts**
- **Financial Planning**
- **Tools**

Once inside these menu groups, you can navigate through transaction and account details to find relevant information more easily. The new look and feel aligns more closely with other apps you are familiar with. In addition to improving your experience, this update allows Keesler Federal to deliver new product features and enhancements faster. Stay tuned to [kfcu.org](http://kfcu.org) and our social media channels for more details!



*Branch Manager Apprenticeship Graduates from left to right: Shelby Kline, Crystal Helveston, Kaci Lee, Natasha Hall, Stephanie Dale, Caitlin Bradshaw, Alyssa Acevedo. Not pictured: Annell Bahm*

## **Branch Manager Apprenticeship Program Congratulations, Graduates!**

Delivering extraordinary banking experiences for our members is a commitment Keesler Federal takes seriously. One way we achieve this is by staffing our branches with strong managers who are equally passionate about that vision. The Branch Manager Apprenticeship Program—one of multiple professional development programs within the Keesler Employee Education Program or “KEEP”—gives motivated employees an opportunity to grow and evolve into the next generation

of branch leadership. In 2018, Keesler Federal became the only financial institution in Mississippi with a U.S. Department of Labor-registered apprenticeship program. Thanks to the partnership and ongoing support provided by Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College, Mississippi Apprenticeship Program, and the U.S. Department of Labor, our current graduating class is the third group of apprentices who have completed the intensive two-year program. Please join us in celebrating their achievement.



# AACE Champions

## What is the AACE Recognition Quarterly Awards Program?

Keesler Federal encourages team members to create an extraordinary culture by exhibiting approachability, authenticity, commitment and empathy in their day-to-day interactions with one another and our loyal members. Each quarter, select team members, nominated by their peers, are recognized for exemplifying these values.



Approachability Authenticity Commitment Empathy



**Jill Barnett**  
Branch Manager III  
Bay Waveland



**Oliver Brown**  
Mortgage Loans  
Servicing Manager



**Katlynn Harmon**  
Financial Service  
Representative I  
St. Martin



**Erica Pringle**  
Financial Service  
Representative II  
Pascagoula



**Maria Rivera**  
Financial Service  
Representative II  
D'iberville



# Let Your Home Pay Its Own Way

With the summer months rapidly approaching, your thoughts may turn to leisurely days around the swimming pool, backyard barbeques or relaxing in a cool rec room on a hot summer afternoon. There's just one problem, you don't have a pool, an outdoor kitchen, a rec room or the cash to build any of the above. However, there is a solution for members who are homeowners with equity built up in their properties. It's called a Home Equity Line of Credit (HELOC).

**A HELOC from Keesler Federal enables member homeowners to borrow up to 90% of their home's appraised value, less the balance remaining, based on their**

credit score. The benefits of this type of financing are many:

- **Below market rates\***
- **No closing costs**
- **No origination fee**
- **No application fee**
- **Payment terms up to 20 years**
- **Only pay interest on the amount of your credit line that you actually access**

And, (drum roll please) the interest is tax deductible as long as the money is spent on the property in which the equity is the source of the loan.\*\*

So, go ahead and replace that HVAC system before summer's heat arrives or remodel your home's kitchen or

*\*Interest rates to be completed by Keesler Federal*

*\*\*Interest is only deductible on money used for improvements to borrower's primary residence.*

*Any interest on a balance that exceeds the home's value is not tax deductible. Consult a tax advisor.*



bath. You'll be increasing its value and your home will pay for it!

**There are also many creative uses for a HELOC that go beyond home improvement.** Need a new car or a long-deserved vacation? Want to pay off high-interest credit card debt? Seeking to adopt or afford fertility treatments? Your HELOC can be used to fund all those goals and more—same great rates and terms, just without the interest deduction.

**Start by determining your qualifying amount.** Visit any Keesler Federal branch and speak with a loan officer or go to [kfcu.org](http://kfcu.org), mouse over **“Save Spend and Borrow,”** and click **“Home Equity Loans and Credit Lines.”**

Sources: [irs.gov](http://irs.gov), [investopedia.com](http://investopedia.com)



\*Membership and credit eligibility required  
NMLS# 408911

# Wise Decisions with Retirement in Mind

*Certain financial & lifestyle choices may lead you toward a better future.*

Dennis Liverett,  
Ron Weatherly,  
Nathan Roberts and  
Cynthia Garcia are  
Financial Advisors with  
Keesler Financial Group  
located at Keesler Federal CU.

A Message from the Keesler Financial Group

**Some retirees succeed at realizing the life they want; others don't.** Fate aside, it isn't merely a matter of investment decisions that makes the difference. There are certain dos and don'ts – some less apparent than others – that tend to encourage retirement happiness and comfort.

**Retire financially literate.** Some retirees don't know how much they don't know. They end their careers with inadequate financial knowledge, and yet, feel they can prepare for retirement on their own. They mistake creating a retirement income strategy with the whole of preparing for retirement, and gloss over longevity risk, risks to their estate, and potential health care expenses. The more you know, the more your retirement readiness improves.

**A goal to retire debt free – or close to debt free?** Even if your retirement savings are substantial, you may want to consider reviewing your overall debt situation.<sup>1</sup>

**Retire with purpose.** There's a difference between retiring and quitting. Some people can't wait to quit their job at 62 or 65. If only they could escape and just relax and do nothing for a few years – wouldn't that be a nice reward? Relaxation can lead to inertia, however – and inertia can lead to restlessness, even depression. You want to retire to a dream, not away from a problem.

**The bottom line?** Retirees who know what they want to do – and go out and do it – are positively contributing to their mental health and possibly their physical health as well. If they do something that is not only vital to them, but important to others, their community can benefit as well.

**Retire healthy.** Smoking, drinking, overeating, a dearth of physical activity – all these can take a toll on your capacity to live life fully and enjoy retirement. It is never too late to change habits that may lead to poor health.

**Retire where you feel at home.** It could be where you live now; it could be a nearby place where the scenery and people are uplifting. If you find yourself lonely in retirement, then look for ways to connect with people who share your experiences, interests, and passions; those who encourage you and welcome you. This social interaction is one of the great, intangible retirement benefits.

Investing involves risks, and investment decisions should be based on your own goals, time horizon, and tolerance for risk. The return and principal value of investments will fluctuate as market conditions change. When sold, investments may be worth more or less than their original cost.

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Citations

1. CNBC.com, December 2, 2020

FR-4499568.1-0322-0424

## Keesler Financial Group

**Call (228) 385-4558 for your no-cost, no-obligation appointment today!**

# Highlighted Share & Loan Rates

## Shares

### Share Savings (with Compounding)

	Annual Percentage Rate (APR)	Yield (APY)
Balance less than \$5,000	.15%	.15%
Balance \$5,000 or more	.20%	.20%
Christmas Savings	.30%	.30%

<sup>\$5</sup> minimum to open share savings

### High Interest Money Market Account (HIMMA)

	Annual Percentage Rate (APR)	Yield (APY)
Balance \$2,500—\$9,999.99	.30%	.30%
Balance \$10,000—\$49,999.99	.30%	.30%
Balance \$50,000—\$99,999.99	.35%	.35%
Balance \$100,000 and over	.40%	.40%

<sup>\$2,500</sup> minimum to open account and to earn dividends

### Checking Accounts

#### Kasasa Cash Checking (qualifying accounts)

	Annual Percentage Rate (APR)	Yield (APY)
Balances up to \$25,000	2.96%	3.00%
Balances over \$25,000	.40% Blended 3% TO .92%	
Non-Qualified	.05%	.05%

<sup>\$25</sup> minimum to open account

### Individual Retirement Account (IRA)

	Annual Percentage Rate (APR)	Yield (APY)
Traditional	.65%	.65%
Roth	.65%	.65%

IRAs are federally insured separately up to \$250,000

View current rates at  
[www.kfcu.org/rates](http://www.kfcu.org/rates)

Share rates listed above are effective as of April 1, 2022 and subject to change without notice. See your Mar. statement for the dividend rate paid for the period ending Mar. 31, 2022. Fees assessed could reduce earnings on accounts.

**Federally Insured by NCUA**

## Loans

### New Auto Loans

Annual Percentage Rate (APR)

Up to 24 months	as low as 2.19% APR
25–36 months	as low as 2.29% APR
37–48 months	as low as 2.49% APR
49–60 months	as low as 2.64% APR
61–72 months (\$15,000 & over)	as low as 3.09% APR

*Example: Monthly payments are approx. \$28.80 per month per \$1000 borrowed at 2.29% for 36 months.*

### Motorcycle Loans

Annual Percentage Rate (APR)

Up to 48 months	as low as 4.04% APR
49 – 60 months	as low as 4.09% APR

*Example: Monthly payments are approx. \$29.60 per \$1000 borrowed at 4.04% for 36 months.*

### Other Vehicle Loans

Turn to your credit union for great rates and terms on a variety of vehicle loans including Boats\*, RVs\*, Tractors\*, Golf Carts\*, and more.

\* Available in the Continental US only.

### Credit Cards

Annual Percentage Rate (APR)

Visa Signature	as low as 3.5% APR
Visa Platinum	as low as 3.5% APR
Visa Classic	as low as 3.5% APR

*Transaction fees per transaction: cash advance 5%; ISA fee on international transactions 1%. Rates are variable based on prime..*

### Share Secured Loans

2.00% above prior quarter share dividend rate  
(Up to amount of available balance – up to 120 months)

Apply for your loan by phone,  
1-888-KEESLER (533-7537), online at [kfcu.org](http://kfcu.org),  
or visit any branch location.

Rates marked "as low as" vary based on credit history. Certain restrictions may apply. Rates are effective as of April 1, 2022 and subject to change without notice.





# A credit card that outshines the others



Rates as low as 3.5% APR\* No annual fee

2% cash back or 3 points for every dollar spent

And great rewards!

Sunny days are here and it's  
the perfect time for that vacation  
(or staycation) you've been craving.



Apply for your Visa Signature  
card at [kfcu.org](https://www.kfcu.org).



Membership and credit eligibility required

\*APR=Annual Percentage Rate.

Rate good as of 4/1/22 and is variable based on prime.

Actual rates vary based on credit history.



# Keesler Federal

CREDIT UNION

P.O. Box 7001, Biloxi, MS 39534-7001

PRSRRT-STD  
US Postage  
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KFCU

Important to you. Important to us.™  
[kfcu.org](https://www.kfcu.org)