

Introducing BALANCE Financial Fitness

Increase Your Financial Knowledge

SLFCU has a new partner that can help you start 2019 on the path to a stronger financial future - BALANCE Financial Fitness. The new year is a great time to set financial goals, and increasing your financial knowledge is a first step toward better money management. BALANCE tools and resources are free to SLFCU members and include:



Learning Modules

Not sure where to start? Learn the basics of personal finance with BALANCE's educational modules - BalanceTrack and InBalance. These programs cover topics such as checking accounts, basic money management, the psychology of spending, and buying a car. Information is available in easy to read chapters so you can go at your own pace and return where you left off if you get interrupted. The learning modules also include a short quiz at the end so you can test your knowledge.

Webinars

Each month BALANCE hosts webinars on timely financial topics. The webinars are offered in day and evening sessions; topics include how to build a budget, first steps to becoming a

homeowner, and more. To see what topics will be covered in the coming months, or to register for a free BALANCE webinar, visit slfcu.org/Calendar.

Articles and Calculators

If you want to learn more about a specific financial topic, like getting out of credit card debt or saving for college tuition, BALANCE has articles and calculators that can help. You can explore tips and strategies for nearly any financial situation. BALANCE also offers calculators that can help you determine a strategy for reaching a financial goal based on your needs.

Podcasts and Videos

BALANCE offers podcasts and short, one-minute videos. These resources are ideal for anyone who wants to learn more about a financial topic, but may not have the time to browse articles or participate in a webinar. If you only have a minute to spare, or prefer to listen to podcasts while you accomplish other items on your to-do list, these resources are a great option.

To start taking advantage of these new BALANCE resources, visit slfcu.org/Balance. ■

Meet the New Paseo Branch Manager

Sam Montoya: Paseo del Norte Branch



Sam began her career at SLFCU as a part-time Teller in 2012. Since then, she has added to her Credit Union credentials by working as a Financial Services Representative, Financial Services Officer, and the Branch Supervisor at the Kirtland Branch.

As a person who enjoys learning and growth, she is thrilled to serve as the Branch Manager at the Paseo

office. "This is a great opportunity because I feel like I am doing something important every day to help people," said Sam. Additionally, she is looking forward to interacting with new members and a diverse staff. "Because I get to work for an organization that truly cares about its employees, I will work to carry that same sentiment to my new staff and work with them on making sure they have all the skills necessary to succeed and serve."

SLFCU Milestone - 100,000 Members

Membership with SLFCU continues to grow, surpassing 100,000 members in late 2018.

Thank you for your membership.



Save for the future.
At the speed of life.

Encourage kids to develop good savings habits.

Visit slfcu.org/SavingsLaboratory.

Additional Branch Manager Movement

Tess Wasson, former Paseo Branch Manager, has returned to Rio Rancho as Branch Manager. With almost 20 years of experience in the financial industry, Tess has served Sandia Laboratory Federal Credit Union members since 2014.

According to Tess, she is excited to work with everyone who stops by the branch, and looks forward to supporting her team's personal development.

Teen Article: Writing and Submitting a Check

SLFCU Teen Member Explains Check Writing Process



SLFCU Teen Member
Rebecca Merchant

Most schools no longer teach how to write checks. Since payments have turned digital, the new generation doesn't know the process of writing or cashing a check. When you know how, you can pay for things like clothes, accessories, games, or even groceries. Writing a check is actually very simple.

There are 6 parts to a check.

- 1. The date:** Put the date in the upper right-hand corner. This can be expressed as month/day/year or month day, year.
- 2. The payee:** Here you would put the full name of the person or company you wish to pay.
- 3. The amount:** How much you're paying. An example would be \$239.46.
- 4. The amount (again):** Almost the same as three; this time you write the amount in words. Using the same example from before, you would write "Two Hundred Thirty-Nine and 46/100." The reason you put your change as a fraction is so that there is no confusion between the dollars and cents. Then you would draw a line through the remainder of the space for the words, so no additional money can be forged and taken from your account.
- 5. The memo:** This is a description of how you are using the money. For example, if you used the money to pay a bill, you could just write "Electric Bill."

- 6. Your signature:** To verify that this is your money you are giving to someone else, you must sign the check.

Throughout all of this you want to use a gel pen so that nothing can be erased or changed.

An important part of the check is at the very bottom. There are block numbers, dots, and slashes. Those are account information numbers. The first group of numbers is called the Routing Number. These tell the banking system the name and location of your bank or credit union. The second group identifies your account, so that the credit union knows what account to take the money from. The last group is the sequence number. It matches the number at the top right of your check. This is basically the number of the check you are using. All checks have an order, and this number tells you just that.

To cash a check you have received, you can take it to your credit union. Then sign the back, which is called endorsing the check. This gives the credit union the ability to cash it for you. If you have given a check to someone else, it usually takes one to two days from the day they deposit the check for the money to be transferred from your account to the recipient's. If the person you give a check to does not deposit it right away, call that person and ask them if it was lost. If so, call the credit union to stop payment on the check.

If someone gives you a check and you do not deposit or cash it within 12 months, the credit union doesn't have to give you the money, since the check is technically invalid. To track money going in and out of your account, you can usually go to your financial institution's website and sign in to your account. Once you know how to write a check you can pay for anything and you have a lifelong skill that you can teach others. ■



Teens Can Get \$100

SLFCU members age 13-17 are invited to submit an article on a financial topic to be considered for publication in our Dollars & Sense newsletter and on our website. SLFCU will award teens \$100 for published articles. Visit slfcu.org/TeenArticles for details and to submit an article. SLFCU will review all submissions and respond within 30 days.

SLFCU Website Accessibility Tools



It is important for SLFCU to not only meet the legal guidelines for website accessibility, but also to make sure slfcu.org functions well for all of our members.

SLFCU has partnered with AudioEye, a company that provides website accessibility services, to monitor and correct accessibility issues. Click the blue icon that appears on every page at slfcu.org for a toolbar that addresses a range of accessibility concerns. The tools allow members to customize their visit to our site by:

- Magnifying pages
- Adjusting type size, fonts, line spacing, and letter spacing
- Changing the contrast
- Having the web page read aloud
- Pausing audio, highlighting words as they're read, and adjusting audio speed
- Viewing simplified pages
- Navigating with key commands

Additionally, if a member using an assistive device visits slfcu.org, the device will detect our accessibility features, allowing them to easily navigate without using the toolbar features.

Feedback Welcome

If you encounter any issues with our website, please send a message through the help desk on the accessibility toolbar. ■

Tax Season Help

Turbo Tax Discount
Direct Deposit Information
IRA Contribution Deadlines
Taxpayer Resources

Visit slfcu.org/TaxHelp.

IRA Contributions Deadline

Plan Extra Time to Provide Your Signature

If you are planning to make a 2018 IRA contribution in 2019, please allow ample time for SLFCU to generate the paperwork, obtain your signature, and process your transaction before the tax filing deadline in April. Although SLFCU can collect IRS-required signatures electronically, it's best not to wait until the tax filing deadline, when volume may be high. ■

Save the Date for the SLFCU Annual Meeting

Thursday, February 21 from 5:30 - 7:00 p.m. MT
Sheraton Uptown Hotel, 2600 Louisiana Blvd NE, Albuquerque

Lock Your Debit Cards with Your Smartphone

Help Protect Your SLFCU Debit Card from Fraud

SLFCU members can set controls and receive alerts for their SLFCU Mastercard debit card by using the CardNavSM app.

CardNav allows you to:

- Instantly turn your card on or off.
- Choose how and when transactions are approved.
- Receive notifications of approved and denied transactions.
- Review recent transactions.

“Being able to lock and unlock your cards reduces the chance that your card could be used fraudulently,” says Jeff Morris, SLFCU Card Services Manager. “You can also set alerts so you are notified if your card is used online or internationally, or if someone attempts to use your card and the transaction is denied. These notifications can help identify and stop fraud more quickly.

SLFCU continuously monitors card activity for possible fraud,” Morris says. “The card control app improves our ability to reduce chances of fraud and puts more control into the hands of cardholders.”

Card fraud and data theft continue to be on the rise. Although card control apps won’t prevent card data from being stolen, they can limit the amount of fraud. Members are protected from unauthorized charges if they are reported to SLFCU promptly.

Download the App to Get Started.

Search for CardNav in the Apple[®] App Store[®] or Google Play[™] store, or visit slfcu.org/DebitCard for links to the apps.

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Learn more at slfcu.org/eStatements.

Tax Documents Mailing Schedule

2018 IRS tax forms will be mailed by these dates. Tax documents generated by SLFCU will also be available in online banking.

January 31

1098 Mortgage interest paid

1098-E Student loan interest paid over \$600

1099-INT Account dividend income over \$10 and/or redeemed bond interest income

1099-C Loan cancellation of debt

1099-Q CESA (Education) IRA distributions

1099-R Traditional, SEP, and Roth IRA distributions

5498 Traditional, SEP, and Roth IRA contributions*

March 15

1042-S Account dividend income over \$10 (paid to some non-resident aliens)

April 30

5498-ESA CESA (education) contributions

*Please note that if you make a 2018 IRA contribution after this form is generated, SLFCU will send you another form in May, and your original 5498 form in online banking will also be updated.



Filing Early Can Help Reduce the Risk of Tax Fraud

Tax fraud can occur if someone obtains enough of your personal information to be able to file a tax return in your name. Their goal is to manipulate your return with false tax information in order to receive a large tax refund, which they then direct to themselves rather than to you. To minimize this risk, individuals should file their tax return as early as possible. By filing first, you’ll prevent potential thieves from filing in your name.



Save up to \$15 on Turbo Tax*

SLFCU members can get up to \$15 off TurboTax[®] federal products. Visit slfcu.org/TaxHelp to get started.

*State filing charges apply. Limited time offer for TurboTax 2018. Terms, conditions, features, availability, pricing, fees, service and support options subject to change without notice. Intuit, TurboTax and TurboTax Online, among others, are registered trademarks and/or service marks of Intuit Inc. in the United States and other countries. Other parties’ trademarks or service marks are the property of their respective owners. Visit <http://turbotax.intuit.com/lp/yoy/guarantees.jsp> for TurboTax product guarantees and other important information.

Phishing Emails Reported

SLFCU has been made aware of fraudulent emails being sent to both members and non-members, which ask the recipient to click on a link to verify their online banking account. This email is not from SLFCU; if you receive this or a similar email, delete the email and **do not click on the link**.

If you have already revealed sensitive information about your SLFCU accounts, please contact the Credit Union immediately at 505.293.0500 or 800.947.5328.



Credit cards

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At the speed of life.

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PO Box 23040, Albuquerque, NM 87192

Dollars & Sense

Introducing BALANCE Financial Fitness

Meet the New Paseo Branch Manager

Teen Article: Writing a Check

PRSR MKTG
US POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO 417
ALBUQUERQUE, NM

On the Calendar

Martin Luther King Jr. Day

Monday, January 21 • All Branches Closed

Brought to you by the MEMBERS Financial Services Program* located at SLFCU. Register at slfcu.org/Calendar or by calling 505.293.0500 or 800.947.5328.


Is a Roth IRA Conversion Right for You?

Potential Benefits, Flexibility, and Tax Advantages

Tuesday, February 12 9:00 - 10:00 a.m. • Edgewood
Noon - 1:00 p.m. • Tech Park
5:30 - 6:30 p.m. • Juan Tabo

Representatives are neither tax advisors nor attorneys. For information regarding your specific tax situation, please consult a tax professional. For legal questions, including a discussion about estate planning, please consult your attorney.

*Securities sold, advisory services offered through CUNA Brokerage Services, Inc. (CBSI), member FINRA/SIPC, a registered broker/dealer and investment advisor. CBSI is under contract with the financial institution to make securities available to members. **Not NCUA/NCUSIF/FDIC insured, May Lose Value, No Financial Institution Guarantee. Not a deposit of any financial institution.** CUNA Brokerage Services, Inc. is a registered broker/dealer in all 50 states of the United States of America. FR-2294339.1-1018-1120



Private Student Loans and Consolidation

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