

Give Thanks and Give Back

November 16 is Take a (Frozen) Turkey to Work (or the Credit Union) Day

SLFCU is once again partnering with Sandia National Laboratories for their annual "Take a Frozen Turkey to Work Day," benefiting New Mexico food pantries. Central New Mexico SLFCU branches will serve as drop-off sites for frozen turkey donations to several non-profit organizations (listed below). Donated turkeys will help feed our most vulnerable neighbors this holiday season.

Bring a frozen turkey to one of the following SLFCU branches on Tuesday, November 16, 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.:

Juan Tabo and Paseo del Norte

» Benefiting Roadrunner Food Bank

Los Lunas

» Benefiting Calvary Chapel Rio Grande Valley

Cottonwood and Jefferson

» Benefiting Rio Grande Food Project

Edgewood

» Benefiting Bethel Community Storehouse

Rio Rancho

» Benefiting St. Felix Pantry

If you wish to participate without visiting a branch, you may also make a monetary donation online to Roadrunner Food Bank at slfcu.org/Turkey. ■



Fun Facts About Turkeys!

Turkeys are known as the symbol of Thanksgiving, but did you know these cool facts about our favorite holiday bird?

- Wild turkeys can fly at up to 55 mph. That's about 10 miles per hour faster than a greyhound dog.
- An adult turkey has about 5,500 feathers.
- Male turkeys, also known as gobblers, can "purr" and "yelp" in addition to the classic "gobble."

Keep Your SLFCU Cards Working While You Travel

Planning to travel out of state this holiday season? All SLFCU credit and debit cards are protected by a system that detects unusual patterns of activity and may block transactions outside of your usual spending patterns or home area. In most cases, you will receive a call to verify the transaction is legitimate. You can avoid unnecessary interruptions during your vacation by following these tips:

Notify SLFCU of Your Travel Dates and Destinations

We will make a note on your account to help ensure transactions are approved and to minimize fraud verification phone calls. Notify us by calling 505.293.0500 or 800.947.5328, using the Card Controls or Additional Services widgets in online or mobile banking, or by visiting any branch.

If you use the Card Controls widget to submit a travel notice for a credit card, select the card you wish to submit the notice for and click the drop-down arrow next to Travel Notices. Enter your travel start and end dates and click Save to complete the submission. Note: You can use the Card Controls widget to submit travel notices for SLFCU credit cards only.

If you do not wish to enroll your credit card for Card Controls, you may submit a travel notice using the

Travel Plans form under the Additional Services widget. To submit a travel notice for an SLFCU debit or credit card, navigate to the Additional Services widget and click on Travel Plans. Fill out the form with the requested information and click Submit.

We will need to know which SLFCU debit or credit cards you plan to use, which states or countries you plan to visit, dates of travel, and how we can reach you while you are away. We recommend notifying us at least 24 hours before your departure.

Ensure Your Mobile Phone is Listed as Your Primary Contact Number

If there is a question about activity on your account, we will call you for verification. You can view or change your primary contact number in our mobile banking app or by logging in to online banking.

Your contact information can be viewed under Settings > Contact. If you will be out of reach by phone and are using your SLFCU debit card while traveling, consider adding an authorized alternate contact to your account. This should be someone you trust to approve or deny purchases and who can get in touch with you regarding any issues that may arise. To add an alternate contact, please speak with an SLFCU representative. ■



Thank You!

We want to express our sincere appreciation to you for being a member of Sandia Laboratory Federal Credit Union. We are grateful for the trust you extend to us. May you and your family have a safe and happy holiday season!

Meet Carol Manzanares, SLFCU's New VP of Human Resources

"My job is to enable people to be their very best." That's the goal of SLFCU's new Vice President of



Human Resources, Carol Manzanares. Carol joined the Credit Union in mid-September 2021, and by all accounts, has hit the ground running. She kicked off her time at the CU by conducting a listening tour with her fellow SLFCU leaders and partnering with her new HR team to identify potential gaps and opportunities.

"This is such a warm and welcoming environment," notes Carol. "I have felt comfortable from day one, which makes a difference as I begin collaborating with all of the different teams here at SLFCU."

After a long career in HR at Sandia National Laboratories, Carol was ready for a new challenge. "I had just celebrated my 30th anniversary at Sandia when the SLFCU opportunity came up. I certainly had no intention to just take any old job, or maybe any other job. Frankly, I loved working for Sandia. However,

as I was familiar with the Credit Union and its values were in alignment with my own, it was an interesting opportunity to consider."

As an SLFCU member for more than three decades, Carol was already aware of the many benefits the Credit Union offers. "I joined SLFCU as a brand-new Labs employee a long time ago," she laughs. "At new hire orientation, SLFCU sounded pretty good and has certainly proved to be an important resource to my family and me." Carol notes that it's been fun to watch the Credit Union grow over the years, adding more products, services, and branches. "For years, I only visited the Kirtland branch on base. I was so excited when a Westside location was added, making it easy for me to conduct business on Saturday, too."

As a native New Mexican, Carol and her family enjoy traveling and camping, along with many other outdoor activities. She has two adult children, and her husband is the women's volleyball coach at Rio Rancho High School. As for her next steps, Carol is ready to get started in her new role in HR. "I am excited to make a difference and am committed to elevating the HR services at SLFCU." ■

Tearing is Caring

SLFCU hosts shred event benefiting NMCUCA and Rio Grande Food Project

SLFCU returned to hosting our biannual shredding events, with our first taking place in October. The event was held at the Juan Tabo and Cottonwood branches, and we asked participating members to bring a non-perishable food donation for the Rio Grande Food Project or a monetary donation for the New Mexico Credit Unions Connected Academy (NMCUCA). As always, our members responded generously, donating more than 650 pounds of food for the Rio Grande Food Project and \$1,446.00 for our NMCUCA fundraising efforts. Thank you to everyone who participated!



SLFCU staff welcomed Shred Event participants at our Juan Tabo (top) and Cottonwood (bottom) branches.

Cash-back on purchases just got even better!

Visa Signature®: 1.5% monthly rebate

Visa Platinum® Rebate: 1.0% monthly rebate

New cardholders who spend \$1,500 on purchases* in the first 90 days can get a \$100 statement credit.

*Offer applies to new SLFCU Visa credit card accounts opened after 6/1/2021. To be eligible for the \$100 statement credit, \$1,500 in net purchases must be made with your SLFCU credit card within 90 days of new account opening. Account must be open and in good standing at the time credit is awarded to receive the credit. These transaction types do not count as purchases: balance transfers, cash advances, checks that access your account, fees assessed by SLFCU, quasi-cash items (e.g., casino chips, cash equivalents (e.g., money orders) and purchases made using a Personal Identification Number (PIN). Each account is eligible for one statement credit of \$100. Please allow four weeks after spending \$1,500 to receive the credit.



Building a Healthy Financial Foundation

When you read about money matters, you will sometimes see the phrase, “getting your financial house in order.” What exactly does that mean?



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When your financial “house” is in order, your financial plans are built on a solid foundation of six components that are either crucial to sustaining your financial well-being or to creating wealth. They include:

1. A savings account. This is the place where you store and build the cash you may someday use for your biggest purchases. Savings accounts pay a modest interest rate. You should still consider having one, even in today’s low-interest-rate environment. Banks and credit unions often limit the number and amount of withdrawals you can make from savings accounts per month.

2. A checking account. This is your go-to account for everyday expenses, whether you pay your bills digitally or the old-fashioned way. Checking accounts pay a modest interest rate. Some accounts may have minimum balance requirements, so it's best to closely read the new account information. Also, opening a checking account may lead to opening a credit card account at the same financial institution.

3. An emergency fund. This account helps you deal with the unexpected. You know that label you see on fire extinguisher boxes – “break glass in case of emergency”? Only in a financial emergency should you “break into” this account. Everyone’s definition of a financial emergency varies, but examples include hospital bills, major car repairs, and unemployment. A fund that covers three to six months of living expenses is a good rule of



thumb, but it should be a realistic amount based on how much you can afford to save. Even a small emergency fund can be helpful.¹

4. A workplace retirement plan account. It is widely recommended that everyone start saving for retirement as soon as possible. Workplace retirement plans offer you a convenient way to get started. In most of these plans, your contribution is made with pre-tax dollars.

Money saved and invested in these accounts can compound, and the compounding may become greater with time. Consistent monthly investment is the “fuel” for your account.

Regular monthly investing does not protect against a loss in a declining market or guarantee a profit in a rising market. Individuals should evaluate their financial ability to continue making purchases through periods of declining and rising prices. The return and principal value of stock prices will fluctuate as market conditions change. Shares, when sold, may be worth more or less than their original cost.

5. An Individual Retirement Arrangement (IRA). This is a tax-advantaged retirement savings account that you own. There are Traditional IRAs (up-front contributions are not taxed; retirement withdrawals are) and Roth IRAs (up-front contributions are taxed; retirement withdrawals are not, provided federal tax laws are followed).

Mandatory annual withdrawals are required from traditional IRAs starting at age 72. The money distributed to you is taxed as ordinary income; if such distributions are taken before age 59½, they may be subject to a 10% federal income tax penalty. No mandatory annual withdrawals are required from Roth IRAs while the original owner lives. To qualify for the tax-free and penalty-free withdrawal of earnings, Roth IRA distributions must meet a five-year holding requirement and occur after age 59½. Tax-free and penalty-free withdrawal can also be taken under certain other circumstances, such as the owner’s death. The original Roth IRA owner is not required to take minimum annual withdrawals.

Thanks to the SECURE Act, you may contribute to Roth and traditional IRAs all your life, as long as you

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meet the earned-income requirement for account contributions.²

6. A taxable investing account. This is also popularly called an investment account or brokerage account. Unlike an IRA or workplace retirement plan, the invested assets in these accounts are taxed each year. A taxable investing

account gives you access to a wide range of investment products, which can help complement the other accounts in your financial foundation.

¹Forbes, November 2020. <https://www.forbes.com/advisor/banking/how-to-create-an-emergency-fund/>

²Internal Revenue Service, June 2021. [irs.gov/retirement-plans/retirement-plans-faqs-regarding-required-minimum-distributions](https://www.irs.gov/retirement-plans/retirement-plans-faqs-regarding-required-minimum-distributions)



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Consider Making a Charitable Donation This Holiday Season

NMCUCA Giving Opportunity

Please consider donating to a qualified charity or non-profit organization this Giving Tuesday (November 30) or any time throughout the holiday season. Monetary gifts made before the end of 2021 may be tax-deductible on itemized tax returns (up to 60% of adjusted gross income).*

Thanks to our members' generosity, the New Mexico Credit Unions Connected Academy endowment is closer to permanently funding a full-time teacher to help children continue their education while admitted to UNM Children's Hospital.

Ready to donate to the NMCUCA? It's easy to give to this non-profit organization through SLFCU:

- Donate \$20 or more at any of our New Mexico branches and receive a Sandy the Lab stuffed animal, or have it delivered to a critically ill child at UNMCH.
- Call 505.293.0500 or send a secure message in online or mobile banking.

Thank you for supporting the NMCUCA and other organizations that directly impact our communities! ■

*SLFCU representatives are neither tax advisors nor attorneys. For information regarding your specific tax situation, please consult a tax professional.

Need to Update Your Address?

Ensure we can reach you with important account information. Visit any SLFCU branch or call 505.293.0500 to add or update your information.

Home for the Holidays Photo Contest



Enter to Win a \$200 Lowe's Gift Card!

Thanksgiving, Chanukah, Christmas, and Kwanzaa – we love them all! Visit our Facebook or Instagram page between November 15 and December 31, 2021, to participate in our Home for the Holidays photo contest! To enter, share a festive photo of your holiday or winter decorations, add a note about what you like best about this time of year, and tag your post with #SLFCUHoliday. The winner will receive a \$200 Lowe's Home Improvement gift card, and two runners-up will each receive a \$50 Target gift card. View the complete contest instructions and rules: slfcu.org/PhotoContest. ■

ECHO: Helping Kids, One Backpack at a Time



For most students, the weekend can't come fast enough after a long week in school. However, for many kids, two days without school can mean two days without food. Nanette Pinckney, CEO of the non-profit Economic Council Helping Others Inc., or ECHO, aims to change that – one backpack at a time.

The organization has provided food, resources, and education to kids, children, and families in San Juan County for more than 54 years. One of their most important causes is the Backpack for Kids initiative, an emergency food assistance program designed specifically for children. Each Friday, backpacks are filled with food and given out to children at risk of going hungry over weekends and school breaks.

According to Nanette, one situation has stayed with her during her time at ECHO. A student and his younger sibling were at risk of being removed from their home and placed in child protective services. The child's biggest worry was not having his backpack of food – that was how he was feeding himself and his sister.

“The backpack program means so much more than just giving a child a bag to hold their school supplies, it's a way for the child not to feel embarrassed about receiving donations while still making sure that they eat.”

Since the beginning of the pandemic, Nanette and her team have stepped up their engagement in the community with those who are struggling due to loss of income and resources. Nanette notes ECHO works with over 25 partnering companies to help provide a multitude of programs and services, including utility, food, and emergency rental assistance to those in need. They have made a huge impact in the community and consistently empower San Juan County residents so that they may thrive.

ACU, a Division of SLFCU participates annually in collecting backpacks and raising funds for non-perishable food needed by the program, and this year was no different. From August 2 to September 11, donation containers were located at every teller station in our Farmington-area branches. Members came into our branches and gave generous donations that were then presented to ECHO.

With only 30 employees, volunteers are an essential part of ECHO's work, says Nanette. During the pandemic, they saw a significant loss in the number of people able to volunteer, which has severely impacted their work. They are looking for anyone willing and able to volunteer their time to their various programs.

Visit echoinc.org to learn more about how you can volunteer and donate to help those in the community. ■

Five Reasons to Switch to eStatements

Switching to eStatements and eNotices is a more secure, convenient way to track your financial records, and can free up your filing cabinet or counter space. If you currently receive paper statements, here are five great reasons to enroll in eStatements and eNotices.



1. Going paperless helps save trees – and plants them, too!

SLFCU will donate a dollar to the National Forest Foundation for every SLFCU account that switches from paper to eStatements & eNotices by midnight on December 31, 2021. For every dollar donated to the National Forest Foundation, one tree will be planted.

2. You'll help your member-owned Credit Union reduce printing costs.

More than 80,000 paper statements are mailed to our members each month – at an annual expense of more than \$500,000! You can view statements as PDFs by logging in to online and mobile banking and selecting the eDocuments widget. Through online banking, you can also download and save the PDF to your computer and print it only when necessary.

3. Access your statement(s) within 24 hours of creation.

Most members get paper statements about 3 to 4 days after they are printed and mailed – and then they might

sit in your mailbox for a while. With eStatements, we will email you immediately when your statement is ready to view in online or mobile banking.

4. Reduce the risk of mail fraud and identity theft.

Paper statements and notices are easy to lift from a mailbox or misplace in a pile of paperwork. They could also make you more susceptible to identity theft since they include personal information.

5. Double-check your payment and deposit history with ease.

Many people forget to open their paper statements, or file them without reconciling, making efficient access to past transactions more difficult. And eventually, you'll need to shred them to ensure your financial information is kept secure. With eStatements, two years of your statement PDFs are available within online banking, allowing easy access anytime you need to find your past payment or deposit history.

To enroll, log in to online or mobile banking and open the eDocuments widget.

In mobile banking, click on Settings and select electronic documents. For online banking, click the Overview tab, then click the gear icon under Manage Your eStatements and eNotices Preferences. In most cases, enrollment is immediate. However, you may receive any paper statement or notice generated before you enrolled.

Not registered for online banking yet? Visit slfcu.org/OnlineBanking to get started. ■

*Members with joint accounts must be logged in as the primary owner in order to enroll.

