



Priorities



President's Message

Jim Morrell, President / CEO

As we start the New Year, the one word that keeps coming to mind is "Hope!"

Over nearly two years, we have all been impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic. My hope for 2022 is that we continue to progress through this experience safer, healthier, and stronger.

Our communities are clearly stronger together rather than divided. My hope is that we continue to find means to tackle the best ways for our communities to thrive together by building upon one another's perspectives.

Building more places to live will help address the housing shortage that all of our communities face. My hope is that we do this in a way that provides people a mix of affordable options for individuals and families.



The diversity of perspectives that exist within our communities make our communities a beautiful place to call home. My hope is we build an inclusive way to bring people together to be strong, healthy, and safe.

My hope for Peninsula Credit Union is that we can continue to provide financial services that help meet you wherever you are in your financial journey. There are so many situations, other than pandemics, that can throw us off our financial path.

My hope for Peninsula Credit Union is that our tremendous team of financial first responders are well equipped to empathize with your household. Your trust with us allows us to support you in pursuing your financial goals.

My hope for Peninsula Credit Union is that we provide ideas to help you achieve your hopes. One story from this past year provides me hope that together we can do amazing things.

A few years ago, our member was in the midst of alcohol and drug addiction. He was in a very dark place and not making good decisions. There was a personal line of credit that had reach a balance of \$1,800 and a checking account that was negative \$5,800. The member's checking account fell negative due to a rental car that he had for an extended period of time. When he returned the vehicle, the cost was over \$6,000.

The member and his mother came in to meet with us regarding the status of these accounts. His mother was able to pay the personal line of credit balance. However, this still left a significant negative balance for the checking account.

In addition to providing her wisdom of how even making small payments will help him get back on track, the Peninsula Credit Union team member shared her personal experience of losing her brother due to addiction and suicide.

Recently, this member contacted the Peninsula team member with whom he was working, asking if she remembered him and his situation. He let her know that he had lost track of things back then and wanted to make things right. He had gone back to treatment and had a relapse, but he was now three years clean and sober. He was excited to share that he had a good, reliable job and had returned to the Credit Union to begin making those small payments. She was very happy to hear he was on the right path.

Our hope here at Peninsula Credit Union is that your financial story can be a success, like this and many others. Our hope for you is a very Happy New Year!

In this issue...

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- Refinancing Your Mortgage
- Budget Resolutions
- PCU Card Connect

Board Elections

Being a volunteer on the Board of Directors is a great service to the entire membership. The Nominating Committee has presented the following candidates for the open three-year terms:

Position 2

Susan Barnard, Incumbent

Susan Barnard is a retired, National Board-Certified Teacher who taught English and biology to 9-12 grade students at Choice High School. Sue was the Washington State Teacher of

the Year 2006, a finalist for National Teacher of the Year, and has served on the Shelton District Improvement Leadership Team. She has previous leadership experience serving on the Habitat for Humanity of Mason County Board as secretary and president, on a national church board as chair and secretary, and as state president of a health organization. She currently serves on the Board for Community Lifeline, helping to find pathways for homeless clients to find housing. She enjoys her work serving as a Peninsula Credit Union Director.

Position

Lane Johnson, Incumbent

Dr. Lane Johnson is a retired, Board-Certified physician and retired Navy Captain. He has been a member of Peninsula Credit Union for over 35 years. He is a strong believer in credit unions and served on our Supervisory Committee for 10 years and the Board of Directors for five years. Dr. Johnson holds an MBA in Health Care Administration and has served as a commissioner for the Mason County Public Hospital District #2.

Should You Refinance Your Mortgage?

When you refinance your mortgage, you can take out a new home loan and use some or all of the proceeds to pay off the existing one.

Why refinance your mortgage?

There are a variety of reasons why you may want to consider refinancing your mortgage, including potentially lowering your interest rate, shortening the length of your loan, or switching from an adjustable rate to a fixed rate.

When should you refinance?

It used to be said that you shouldn't refinance unless interest rates were at least 2 percent lower than the interest rate on your current mortgage. However, even a 1 to 1.5 percent differential may be worthwhile to some homeowners.

In addition to interest rates, you should also consider the length of time you plan to stay in your current home, the costs associated with getting a new loan, and the amount of equity you have in your home.

No cash-out versus cash-out refinancing

No cash-out refinancing occurs when the amount of your new loan doesn't exceed your current mortgage debt (plus points and closing costs).

A cash-out refinancing occurs when you borrow more than you owe on your existing mortgage. In this case, you are often limited to borrowing a percent of the value of your property. Any excess proceeds remaining after you've paid off an existing mortgage can be used in any way you see fit.

Cash-out refinancing has certain advantages. The interest rate that you'll pay on the mortgage proceeds will usually be less than the interest rate on the other debts. Moreover, the interest paid on your refinanced mortgage is generally tax deductible, whereas the interest on consumer debt is not.

There are also disadvantages to cash-out refinancing. With a cash-out refinancing your refinanced mortgage is secured by a lien on your home. As a result, if you can't make the

mortgage payments, the lender can foreclose on your home and sell it to pay the mortgage.

The costs associated with refinancing

While refinancing can often save you money over the life of your mortgage loan, this savings can come at a price. Typically you'll need to pay an assortment of up-front fees, including points and closing costs.

Are there any tax advantages with refinancing?

If you pay points when you refinance your mortgage, you may be able to deduct them. In order for points to be deductible, they must have been charged by your lender as up-front interest in return for a lower interest rate on your loan.

When deducting points, keep in mind that unlike points paid on a loan used to purchase a home, points paid on a refinanced loan usually cannot be deducted in the year that you paid them. Instead, the points may need to be amortized over the life of the loan.

The one exception to the amortization rule is if part of your refinanced loan is used to make improvements to your primary residence. In that case, you may be able to deduct the portion of the points that is allocable to the home improvements in the year that the points are paid. In addition, if you choose to refinance again or sell your home in the future, you can generally claim the entire unamortized deduction that remains.

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**CUSO
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SERVICES**

Located at Peninsula Credit Union

Annual Meeting

Please join us for our Annual Meeting and Election on April 14, 2022.

Petition for nominations for vacancies may also be made by written notification. Such nominations should be submitted to Steve Wright, Chair of the Nominating Committee, care of Kiki Rodriguez, HR Generalist at krdriguez@pcfcu.org, by March 5, 2022.

Any petition submitted for a position should be signed by one percent of the membership (204 signatures), include a signed statement of qualifications, biographical data and willingness to serve if elected. Petitioners should also indicate the position challenged.

Credit Union bylaws establish a minimum age of 18 years as a qualification to vote and as a qualification to hold office. Elections will not be conducted by ballot when there is only one nominee for each position to be filled. There will be no nominations from the floor.

If no petitions are received, the candidates presented by the Nominating Committee will be declared elected by unanimous ballot.

New Year's Resolution: Healthy Eating (*and Budgeting*)

Eating out is a budget killer, especially if you do it all the time. The best alternative of course is to eat at home. However, while this will certainly save you money, cooking every meal can be daunting for some people—unless you make a meal plan.

Here are some tips for creating a successful plan to boost your financial (and personal) health.

Cook things you enjoy

This may seem obvious, but in fact many people assume that meal planning means preparing things that are easy but not necessarily tasty. So make note of the things your family likes to eat. You'll also want to focus on things you can buy in bulk. For example, large bags of beans can be purchased for fairly cheap, and used as a healthy source of protein in a variety of dishes.

Speaking of protein, consider eating alternatives to meat throughout the week. Beef, chicken and pork are often the most expensive parts of any meal.

Make a plan

Make a list of each meal you need to account for. Most of us eat breakfast,

lunch, and dinner, but you might also want to consider snacks. Assign a meal to each of those areas based on your personal preferences or what is already in your pantry. The list will help you stay organized and save money when you hit the grocery store.

Shop with purpose

Having a stocked pantry is key to meal planning. See what's already in your kitchen and make a list of missing essentials that can be used in multiple recipes (oils, seasonings, etc.).

Now cross-reference your pantry and meal lists. Identify any ingredients that are missing and make sure to pick them up at the store. With your prepared lists, you'll avoid the supermarket trap of buying things on the fly that you don't really need.

Don't forget on-the-go snacks

One of the most common reasons people ditch their carefully prepared meal plan is because of hunger on-the-go. Don't fall into the fast-food trap. You can either prepare snacks for this purpose, or buy filling items such as inexpensive fruits and nuts to tide you over until you get home.

Your Path to Financial Fitness Starts Here



At Peninsula Credit Union, we care about your financial wellness. That's why we've partnered with industry-leading BALANCE to provide you with free access to expertly-crafted financial education and resources to help with your fiscal matters. Attend free interactive webinars to learn the basics of financial planning. For all your financial life stage changes and more, we—in partnership with BALANCE—are here to help.

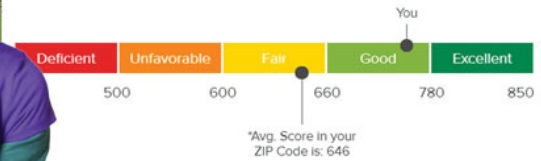
Learn more today at [PCFCU.BALANCEPRO.ORG](https://pcfcu.balancepro.org)

PCU Credit Sense:
Instant access to
your credit score
at your fingertips!



RATING **GOOD**

753 <> 0



DON'T FORGET!

Activate your **Christmas Club** savings account
by making your first deposit this January.

HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM PENINSULA CREDIT UNION



Introducing:

PCU Card Connect



New! On-the-go management of your debit and credit cards with our card management app. **PCU Card Connect** features include:

- Card transaction history and details
- Real time Alerts and Controls
- Travel notifications
- Block lost or stolen cards, *and more*



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Mortgage Rates are Still Low!

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Hollyanna Vopat-Steiner

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360.426.1601 ext. 3162

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HOLIDAY CLOSURES

Martin Luther King Jr. Day
Monday, January 17

President's Day
Monday, February 21

SHELTON

(360) 426-1601

Monday - Thursday

Drive-up 8:30 - 5:30

Lobby 9:00 - 5:30

Friday

Drive-up 8:30 - 6:00

Lobby 9:00 - 5:30

BELFAIR

(360) 275-6066

Monday - Thursday

Drive-up 9:00 - 5:30

Lobby 9:00 - 5:00

Friday

Drive-up 9:00 - 6:00

Lobby 9:00 - 5:30

PORT ORCHARD

(360) 876-8898

Monday - Thursday

Drive-up 9:00 - 5:30

Lobby 9:00 - 5:30

Friday

Drive-up 9:00 - 6:00

Lobby 9:00 - 5:30

POULSBO

(360) 697-3011

Monday - Friday

Lobby 10:00 - 5:00

PORT TOWNSEND

(360) 385-5575

Monday - Friday

Lobby 9:00 - 5:30

CALL CENTER

(800) 426-1601

(360) 426-1601

Monday - Friday

8:30 - 5:30

Happy new Year 2022

