



# WINTER 2018 Newsletter

News and Events for ElecTel Cooperative Federal Credit Union Members

## Are Financial Resolutions a Good Idea for the New Year?

Happy New Year! The champagne toasts have been made, the confetti has fallen, and 2017 is officially in the books. Whether last year was the best of your life or 12 months of continual challenges, 2018 offers a blank canvas and a fresh start.

Maybe resolutions are your thing. Maybe they're not. Whatever your feelings on the matter, changing habits simply because you hung a new calendar on the wall seems like a flimsy motivation at best. But whether you want to drop a few pounds or start saving for retirement, setting goals is always a good idea — no matter what time of year it is. To help you get started, here are a few points for your financial to-do list:

- 1. MAKE A PLAN TO PAY DOWN DEBT.** First, take an honest look at every account you're paying (or should be paying) each month. It's important to focus on progress, not perfection. With every debt you pay off, you free up money that can help you tackle another one.
- 2. AUTOMATE MONTHLY BILLS.** There aren't many things more frustrating than forgetting to make a payment and getting hit with a late fee. Many companies and banks offer online payment options, so it's easier than ever to schedule your payments in advance.
- 3. BUILD AN EMERGENCY FUND.** Setting aside money for emergencies can help you navigate life's little surprises. Financial experts recommend varying amounts for a "Just-in-Case" fund, but setting aside \$1,000 as quickly as possible is a fantastic goal.
- 4. KEEP AN EYE ON YOUR CREDIT REPORT.** In a world where the internet makes financial transactions more convenient than ever, it's critical that you keep tabs on your personal credit report. Not sure where to start? Visit [annualcreditreport.com](http://annualcreditreport.com) to get a free copy from all 3 credit reporting agencies.
- 5. INVEST FOR THE FUTURE.** If your employer offers a 401(k) option, especially one with a matching contribution, maximizing that benefit is a strong move. Beyond that, many credit unions feature robust investment services that can help you build an investment portfolio and begin saving for retirement.



## SAVE YOUR DOUGH

Transfer your high-interest balance to  
**ElecTel's Visa® Credit Card!**

Rates as low as **1.90%** APR\* for 12 months

No balance transfer fee

Higher limits now available

Apply online at [electelccu.org](http://electelccu.org) or call 1-800-849-5600.

\*APR = Annual Percentage Rate. The APR applies to all balance transfers made between 12/01/17 and 2/28/18 for 12 months. Special rate does not include cash advances or purchases, is based on creditworthiness and is not available for members who are delinquent or over their credit limit.

Your Co-Op, Your Credit Union

[electelccu.org](http://electelccu.org)

# Be ready for winter with our Energy Efficient Loan!

as low as **3.90%** APR\* Up to \$35K with terms up to 120 months

Let ElecTel Cooperative Federal Credit Union help you make your home more energy efficient with low fixed-rate loans for:

- Solar projects
- Generators
- Insulation
- Windows and doors
- Underfloor Heating System

100% Financing • Low fixed rates • Attractive terms

Apply online at  
[electelccu.org](http://electelccu.org)  
or call 1-800-849-5600.

\*APR = Annual Percentage Rate. See credit union for details.



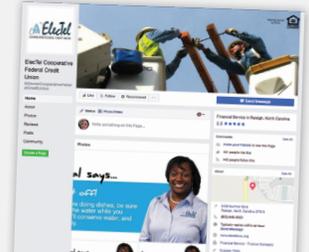
Do the holidays have you in a bind? Is your resolution to do better financially?

Call 800.849.5600 to set up a free appointment with a Certified Credit Union Financial Counselor!

Congratulations to Lindsey Roten and Erica Barnes on your Certified Credit Union Financial Counselor designation!

Lindsey and Erica will join Sheral Graves on our Financial Counselors team.

  **LIKE US ON FACEBOOK**



## Holiday Closings

Presidents' Day  
Monday, February 19

Good Friday  
Friday, March 30

**Main Office**  
3400 Sumner Blvd.  
Raleigh, NC 27616  
p 800.849.5600  
f 919.876.8018

**Piedmont EMC Branch**  
2500 Highway 86 South  
Hillsborough, NC 27278  
p 877.469.0255  
f 919.732.1918

**Audio Response — Starline**  
p 888.274.0253



## Annual Meeting

Join us for our annual meeting  
at the Statewide office in Raleigh, NC.



[electelccu.org](http://electelccu.org)

The ElecTel Cooperative Federal Credit Union Privacy Policy can be accessed online at any time through our website.

This credit union is federally insured by the National Credit Union Administration and is an Equal Housing Lender.