

Our BFCU family member Teagan Kade.



MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

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Barksdale Federal Credit Union Financials

	October 2013	October 2014
Loans	\$579,195,590	\$607,085,125
Assets	\$1,138,712,933	\$1,196,980,057
Deposits	\$1,022,836,057	\$1,074,941,937
Reserves	\$109,804,645	\$116,221,812
Members	108,659	113,501

All financials are rounded to the nearest dollar.

For more information, center locations and hours, visit www.bfcu.org, or call **318-549-8240** or **800-647-BFCU (2328)**. CUSCs can be found at www.cuservicecenters.com.

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Affordable Health Insurance Made Easy

Let the TruStage Health Insurance Program simplify your search. Learn more today! With your membership, the TruStage Health Insurance Program makes it simple to find the right plan for you.

- Designed for credit union members
- Dedicated experts to help you understand and choose health coverage wisely
- Tools to compare plans and identify financial assistance

Online or over the phone, TruStage Health Insurance Program with GoHealth, gives you access to licensed agents who can help you make an informed decision.

Find Your Plan! Visit TruStageHealth.com or call toll-free **1-888-416-2166**.

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The Importance of Emergency Savings Accounts

Emergencies often happen when you least expect them, and sometimes when you cannot afford them to happen. It's important to be prepared for any financial emergency with a savings account just for this purpose. Experts recommend three to six months' worth of living expenses tucked away in an easily accessible account.

Unexpected emergencies could include:

- Home repairs
- Job loss
- Car issues or vehicle replacement
- Health issues

Ready to Build Your Emergency Fund?

Make saving a top priority by choosing the right savings account for you from Barksdale Federal. We have a number of accounts to choose from for building your emergency fund.

Basic savings account – Use direct deposit or automatic transfers from your checking account to stash cash little by little in an interest-earning savings account.

Money market account – One of these higher-interest-earning accounts will help your savings add up quickly.

Certificate accounts (also known as CDs) – We offer a number of certificate accounts with varying minimum balances and terms ranging from 6 to 60 months.

To get started, come in to see one of our financial service representatives today or visit us online at www.bfcu.org.

Our Credit Cards Are Different – and Better!

I am going to brag here a little. Our credit cards are definitely something great.

Now I know you probably receive credit card offers in the mail all the time. I receive them too – and yes, they are very appealing. They may be offering a 0% introductory rate for a certain number of months on balance transfers or a percentage of cash back on every purchase. Then I take a look at the fine print. This fine print is really where they open up to all the details concerning the offer. For example your 0% may turn into a variable, high percentage rate once the promotion period ends. Or you will find out you have to pay an annual fee for this credit card to earn your cash back. These details are not necessarily negative things, but details you will have to keep in mind when making the decision to acquire one of those particular cards.

This point leads me to what I like so much about our cards – it's what makes them something great. You won't find many additional details concerning the offer to determine if our card is a good fit for you. Why not? Our card is pretty straightforward.

Here is how our credit card works. We have two different main product rates. If you qualify, you will be given one of those rates. If you are new to having a Barksdale Federal credit card and you qualify, you will start with a low introductory rate – that will then change at the end of the promotional period to the rate you qualified for at the time of application. There is no annual fee, there is no balance transfer fee, and there is no cash advance fee. Your rate is also the same on balance transfers and cash advances as it is on purchases. Like I said, it's a pretty straightforward card. Not a lot of details to ponder.

What about rewards? Yep, we have those too and they are pretty straightforward as well. For each \$1 spent, you will earn 1 point toward rewards. You must register your card through our reward program first to begin earning, but once you have completed that process the points begin to add up. You can shop for gift cards, discounted travel, merchandise, etc. through our rewards program.

Yep – our card is pretty great – low introductory rate, low fixed rate after promotional period, no cash advance fee, no balance transfer fee, no annual fee AND reward points. Not a lot of details to that fine print.

If you already have one of our credit cards, then you know what I am talking about.

There are also some good changes coming to our cards this year. We will be introducing an embedded microchip that allows you to use your card for chip-based purchases when traveling outside of the United States. Also, our mobile app will feature additional credit card information. We will keep you informed about these new features to come.

Thanks for allowing me this opportunity to brag a little bit about our credit card program. If you don't have one yet, get one. I have a feeling you are really going to like using it.



Sincerely,
Rod Taylor
CEO of Barksdale
Federal Credit Union



1.99% APR¹
Introductory Rate!

VISA® Platinum Credit Card

Barksdale Federal Credit Union™
Your Financial Partner for Life™

bfcu.org • 800-647-2328

APR-ANNUAL PERCENTAGE RATE. INTRODUCTORY RATE GOOD FOR 12 MONTHS ON ALL PURCHASES AND BALANCE TRANSFERS. AFTER THAT, THE RATE WILL CONVERT TO REGULAR VISA PLATINUM CARD RATES. CURRENTLY 7.99% - 12.99% BASED ON CREDIT WORTHINESS. FOREIGN TRANSACTION FEE: 1% OF TRANSACTION AMOUNT ON ALL BILLS. MINIMUM CHARGES: 0.8% OF TRANSACTION AMOUNT ON ALL SINGLE CURRENCY. TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR A VISA 1.99% CARD, MEMBERS CANNOT CURRENTLY HAVE OR BE JOINED ON A BARKSDALE FEDERAL VISA CREDIT CARD. FINANCES ON OTHER BARKSDALE FEDERAL LOAN ACCOUNTS MAY NOT BE TRANSFERRED TO YOUR VISA PLATINUM 1.99% CARD. NOT EVERY MEMBER WILL QUALIFY. SOME RESTRICTIONS APPLY.

A Gecko walks into a bank...

...saves the teller money. Could do the same for you.

See how much more you could save with your Barksdale FCU member discount from GEICO.

Tell us you're a member.

GEICO®

geico.com/cu/BarksdaleFCU
1-800-368-2734 | Local Office



Some discounts, coverages, payment plans and features are not available in all states or in all GEICO companies. See geico.com for more details. GEICO and Affiliates. Washington DC 20076. GEICO Gecko image © 1999-2013. © 2013 GEICO.

Our E-Statement Promotion Cash Giveaway Winner!




Congratulations, Jeff!

Tap. Snap. Deposit.

Deposit checks fast with your mobile phone or iPad®. Try it! Download our app on the App StoreSM or Google PlayTM.

It's Scholarship Application Time

Barksdale Federal Credit Union will be offering scholarships to graduating seniors attending college in the fall of 2015. Scholarship applications with rules and eligibility are available on our website and in centers.  Barksdale Federal will award four \$1,500 scholarships for college-bound Barksdale Federal Credit Union members. Odds of winning depend on the number of eligible entries received. The scholarship contest winners will be selected by the BFCU Scholarship Committee. Applications must be postmarked no later than **Friday, February 6, 2015.**

Has Your Address Changed?

If your mail is returned to Barksdale Federal by the U.S. Post Office, there is a monthly fee of \$5. Please make sure we have your correct mailing address on all accounts by visiting any location, logging into your online banking account and clicking User Options, or calling **318-549-8145** or **800-647-2328, option 4.**

Secret Shopper Program

We would like to invite you to participate in our Secret Shopper Program. Your feedback will allow us to build a better credit union. Best of all, we will pay you for your time!

Visit our website at **bfcu.org** and click on the image on our homepage that reads "We Want You!" to enroll.

Income Tax Service at BFCU

Barksdale Federal Credit Union provides its members a year-round tax service. For 24 years C. Taylor has been providing tax preparation and advice to BFCU members. The service includes individual, partnership and corporation returns. They also complete all state returns to better serve our military members.

Speedy electronic filing ensures you receive your refund quickly. With prices below most other tax services, and BFCU members receiving a special discount, this is your best buy in income tax service.

Call **318-549-4017** for an appointment or stop in and see C. Taylor and his staff at the Mortgage Center, 720 Northgate Road, Bossier City, LA.

InsLink, Inc Services

Don't forget to visit with our InsLink Financial Service Representative Dick Gregory at **318-549-4027** for additional income solutions.

Get a Jump Start on Your Taxes

If you are setting up direct deposit for your tax refund, remember these important facts: **1.** The name and account number must match exactly in order for the deposit to be credited to your account. If not, it will be returned. **2.** The person receiving the deposit must be on the account.

Housing Outlook

Will 2015 Be a Good Year to Buy a Home?

As the economy has gradually improved coming out of the Great Recession, home sales have picked up, too. In mid-2014, sales of existing homes were on pace to top 5 million for the year, and the figure should top 5.2 million in 2015, according to a forecast from the National Association of Realtors®.

Many young adults – some of whom have lived with their parents to save money – may be ready for a home of their own. However, many of them mistakenly believe that they don't have enough saved for a down payment to buy a house. But in 2014, one in five homebuyers who took out a conforming, conventional mortgage put down less than 10 percent.* Some potential buyers are also unduly pessimistic about their chances of qualifying for a mortgage.

With a good supply of homes for sale, mortgage rates that are still low and a variety of mortgage options so you can select one that fits your plans and budget, 2015 could be a great time to buy a home.

We Can Help

Don't assume you can't buy a home! Our home loan experts can help you



Board of Directors: (Back row) Arno Easterly, Keith Fontenot, Al Oar, Bernie Hawk. (Front row) Roy Walling, Virgil Barnette, Charlene Ringle

find a mortgage that fits your budget. And they'll explain how the process works so you're comfortable with your decision. Let us help you cross the threshold to homeownership. Call our mortgage department today at **318-549-8170** to get started.

* Source: Freddie Mac.

Factors that Make It a Good Time to Buy

How can you decide when is the "right time" to buy a home? Consider these elements:

- **Home prices** – If prices are going up, you may want to buy sooner rather than later.
- **Mortgage rates** – If rates are increasing, buying before they go up more could save you money.
- **Season** – Spring is the busiest season for home sales. That means more homes to choose from, but also more buyers vying for a particular home and perhaps less time and attention from your real estate agent. Winter is a slower time.

Long-standing IRS Rollover Interpretation Changing

If you're considering rolling over your IRA assets to an existing or new IRA, you need to be aware of an upcoming change that will affect IRA rollovers. The IRS is changing its interpretation of the **one-per-12-month rule** following a recent U.S. Tax Court ruling in *Bobrow v. Commissioner*. The court ruled that a taxpayer is limited to one rollover per 12-month period, regardless of the number of IRAs he has.

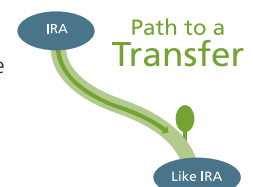
The IRS for decades stated that you could roll over one IRA distribution per 12-month period for each IRA that you own. The IRS issued guidance in March 2014, stating that it will apply the tax court's new interpretation going forward, but that it will not apply before **January 1, 2015**.



For 2014, therefore, you still are allowed to roll over one distribution for each IRA you own during any 12-month period. The 12-month period begins on the day that you receive the IRA distribution. In addition, the IRA assets that are rolled over may not be rolled over more than once during the 12-month period.

When the IRS applies its new interpretation effective for distributions taken on or after January 1, 2015, you may roll over only one IRA distribution in any 12-month period, regardless of how many IRAs you own. You still may perform an unlimited number of transfers.

You should consult with a competent tax advisor if you are rolling over an IRA distribution.



Ready to Retire?

Don't Make These Rookie Mistakes



For most people retirement is something that happens only once in a lifetime. So it's no surprise that many people make mistakes when first starting out. Luckily, there are ways to avoid some of these rookie mistakes if you know what to watch out for. Here are some of the most common mishaps and how to avoid them.

1. Lacking a life plan. Retirement is a difficult journey to travel without a map. Failure to prepare for your retirement is almost certain to cause problems – and not just financially. Entering retirement involves a drastic change in lifestyle and those that fail to prepare for this new phase in their lives may be lost with all the changes. Be sure that you have a definitive plan for how you will spend your time and your money in retirement.

2. Overspending. At first glance retirement may seem like a time when you can get by on less, being without the costs associated with a job. But, retirement leaves you with a great deal of time on your hands – time that many people fill by shopping or taking lavish vacations. These splurges can add up quickly, derailing retirement goals fast. Watch your spending, especially in the first years of retirement, to be sure you are left with sustainable income for the years ahead.

3. Claiming Social Security too early. Deciding when to claim Social Security can have a big impact on monthly benefits. Unfortunately, most people claim Social Security as early as they are able, regardless of whether the income is needed. Consider waiting until you can receive maximum benefits from Social Security if your retirement income can sustain you in the meantime.

4. Being overly conservative with investments. There was a time when investing in relatively lower-risk options such as CDs and bonds could sustain a comfortable retirement. But in today's world, the returns on these vehicles often don't outpace inflation, and with retirees living longer than ever this approach can be dangerous. Be sure your retirement investments allow room for growth to create income throughout your retirement.

5. Retiring too early. The good news is we are living longer than ever. The bad news is we are living longer than ever. Individuals must plan for retirements that are much longer than generations past, meaning more savings are needed to last for a longer time. But, many people nearing retirement age are also in good health, and very capable of continuing to work. Putting off retirement for a few years, if you are able, is a great way to give a last-minute boost to retirement funds that can make a big difference in your retirement income.

We've Been There Before

While it may be your first time dealing with the new world of retirement, our investment professionals at Barksdale Federal Credit Union have years of experience in helping individuals avoid these and other retirement mistakes. Schedule a consultation today to get guidance from one of our experienced investment professionals by calling **(318) 549-4027**.

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Insurance & Investment Products are:

- * Not FDIC/NCUSIF Insured
- * Not a Deposit Product
- * May Lose Value
- * No Bank/Credit Union/ Affiliate Guarantee
- * Not a Condition of Any Bank/Credit Union Service
- * No Guarantee of Insurance Underwriter Performance
- * The Credit Union cannot condition an extension of credit on the purchase of any annuity or insurance product from the Credit Union itself or one of its affiliates



BFCU

Community News

We wish we had room to list all of the community events – thank you for letting us be your community partner!

September

9 Providence House – 14 local citizens received home welcoming baskets for graduating from the Providence House program.

11 Staff attended the Bossier Chamber Patriot Awards Luncheon to honor local first responders.

17 Our employees, Tricia Turner and Danis Ducote, interviewed prisoners to prepare them to re-enter into society at the Oakdale Bureau of Prisons Mock Job Fair.

18 Community Caravan Minden – we partnered with KTBS and had lunch at Habacu's in downtown Minden to show support for their city.

19 Sponsored the Leesville High School Black Out Game and greeted attendees with giveaways.

25 BFCU sponsored and attended the Shreveport Chamber of Commerce Top Business awards luncheon to recognize top businesses in Shreveport.



Employees working at the Alexandria Food Bank.

27 BFCU was present with giveaways at the Deridder Army Air Base "Louisiana Maneuvers" Commemoration.

October

2 MDA Lock Up – we assisted with the annual fundraising "Lock Up" for local citizens to come and earn their bail in an effort to raise funds for MDA.

3 BFCU presented a check at Oak Park Elementary School for One Class at a Time.

8 Employees were present with career information at the Beauregard Parish Career Fair.

10 Celebrate Barksdale annual picnic held at Barksdale AFB. BFCU grilled burgers and hot dogs for the airmen and their families.

10 At the Fort Polk Louisiana Hayride Block Party, BFCU was present with popcorn for the soldiers and their families.

11 Employees of BFCU walked to raise awareness for the Alzheimer's Association.

15 Employees donated money for expecting mothers of Fort Polk for the Operation Homeland Star Spangled Diaper Drive.

17 BFCU sponsored the Bossier Chamber Military Bowling tournament for Barksdale Airmen for food, fun and fellowship.

18 Staff participated in the Deridder Jr. Women's Club 5K Walk to help raise money to fight cancer.



Employees at Office Olympics. BFCU had several teams participate in this annual event that boasts friendly competition amongst local businesses to raise funds for Charity. This year's charity was St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

Welcome New SEGs

Beauregard Christian Women's Job Corps – DeRidder

Krown Services – Benton

Murphy Bros. Trucking – Arcadia

Pro27 Athletics – Bossier City

T & J Works LLC – Saline

The Town of Hornbeck – Hornbeck

23 BFCU sponsored the Shreveport Bossier Athena Awards Luncheon. Jan Elkins and Lea Desmarteau were this year's recipients.

28 Our staff attended the BPCC annual College and Career Fair. We had a booth for all Bossier Parish Junior and Senior students to come and receive useful info from Colleges and Businesses for their future planning

30 Better Business Bureau Torch Awards Dinner – local businesses are awarded for honor and integrity in business.

November

7 BFCU sponsored the Fort Polk Commanding General's Golf Tournament. Staff was present with door prizes and giveaways for the soldiers.

13 BFCU sponsored a table at the annual Shreveport Bossier Mayors' Prayer Breakfast presented by Mayor Lo Walker and Mayor Cedric Glover. The event is a time for spiritual re-dedication of our cities.

14 Employees passed out bananas as a show of support at the BAFB monthly Fun Run.

15 Sponsored the start line and employees raised funds and walked to raise awareness for AHA research. This year, BFCU employees raised over \$10,000 in one month.

21 Fort Polk NCO and Soldier of the Year Luncheon, BFCU presented each recipient with \$250 cash for this prestigious award.

22 Employees walked to raise awareness for St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital.

Rates and Dates

Account	Rate	APY*
Prime Savings	0.25%	0.25%
Sp. Purpose Savings	0.25%	0.25%
Children's Savings	0.25%	0.25%
Christmas Club	1.50%	1.50%
IRA Prime Savings	0.25%	0.25%
Regular Checking	0.10%	0.10%
Plus Checking	0.20%	0.20%
High Five Checking	0.10%	0.10%

* Annual Percentage Yield.

Rates effective November 1, 2013.

Rates subject to change without notice.



Federally Insured by NCUA



2701 Village Lane
Bossier City, LA 71112

318-549-8240
www.bfcu.org

Holiday Closings

Barksdale Federal Credit Union will be closed for the following holidays:

Martin Luther King Jr. Day, Jan. 19
Presidents Day, Feb. 16

Report lost or stolen Credit cards: **800-543-5073** or **727-570-4881** after hours.
Debit cards: **800-472-3272** or **973-682-2652**.

Join us for our Annual Meeting
Thursday, March 26, 2015
Bossier Civic Center
620 Benton Road
Bossier City, LA 71111

Teach Your Kids Money Management

Have you had a talk about money management with your children? Learning about saving, careful spending and responsibility before they're off on their own is vital. Here are some ways you can teach your kids money management lessons that are appropriate for their age.

Children under 5

Include your children in financial talks. Young children love to emulate their parents, so this age is a great time to start a dialogue about the financial choices your family makes. If your family is planning a trip, talk to your children about how you are saving money to prepare. Point out some of the things you are sacrificing in the short term to afford a fun vacation. This is also a great time to reinforce the difference between needs and wants. Explain some of your choices while shopping to show your child that you can't have everything you want.

Ages 6-12

Have your kids help with shopping. With your child, specify how much you have to spend on groceries on your next trip, and together create a shopping list. Plan a few meals to include as essentials, and allow some items on the list that are special treats. Once you hit the store, let your child take the lead in selecting items – but don't let them go crazy. Once you get home, look at

the receipt and talk over whether you hit your budget. Point out the importance of getting the essentials and how extras can add up quickly.

Teenagers

Prepare them for the real world. Consider giving younger teens an allowance and insist that they use part of it to pay for a monthly expense, such as their portion of a cellphone bill. Be sure that the expense is larger than a single allowance payment, which will help teach them to save a portion every time they get paid. For older teens, it's time to learn the necessity of a budget. Spend an evening showing your teen how you balance the monthly income and expenses of your household. Then have them create a budget for their own expenses, including the ones you currently pay.

Start Them Saving

Learning to save is a great lesson for any age. Open a savings account with your child at Barksdale Federal where they can watch their savings grow as they do.

