



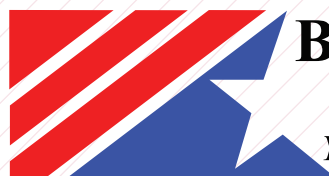
MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

P2 | Income Tax Service at BFCU

P4 | 5 Steps to Smart Tax Management

P5 | BX - Our Newest Location

P6 | It's Time to Plan for Your New Boat!



**Barksdale Federal
Credit Union™**

Your Financial Partner for Life™

www.bfcu.org | 800-647-2328

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Income Tax Service at BFCU	2
CEO Message	3
5 Steps to Smart Tax Management.....	4
Directors' Corner BX – Our Newest Location	5
Boat Loans.....	6
Love My Credit Union Rewards	6
Community News	7
Rates and Dates	8

Barksdale Federal Credit Union Financials

	October 2015	October 2016
Loans	\$624,169,866	\$675,673,735
Assets	\$1,236,864,068	\$1,250,931,499
Deposits	\$1,108,951,894	\$1,117,047,650
Reserves	\$121,493,998	\$125,781,788
Members	118,725	121,901

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)**. CO-OP shared branches can be found at www.co-opsharedbranching.org.

This publication does not constitute legal, accounting or other professional advice. Although it is intended to be accurate, neither the publisher nor any other party assumes liability for loss or damage due to reliance on this material. Websites not belonging to this organization are provided for information only. No endorsement is implied. Images may be from ©iStock and/or ©Fotolia. ©2017 Bluespire Marketing | bluespiremarketing.com

Income Tax Service at BFCU

Barksdale Federal Credit Union provides its members with a year-round tax service. For over 20 years, C. Taylor has been providing tax preparation and advice to BFCU members. The services include individual, partnership and corporation returns. They also complete all state returns to better serve our military members. Speedy electronic filing insures 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 Northgate Center, 700 Northgate Road, Bossier City, LA.

Make Barksdale Federal your complete financial home. Join your fellow members who rely on the professionals at C. Taylor Tax Service. Allow them to show you how the latest changes to the tax code can benefit you.



C. Taylor Tax Service
Northgate Center
700 Northgate Road
Bossier City, LA.
318-549-4017

How to Plan a Multigenerational Family Vacation

For a few years now, our annual Boat Loan promotion has been held in conjunction with the State Fair of Louisiana's Boat, Sport and RV Show. This year's show is taking place January 20-22 at the Louisiana State Fairgrounds in Shreveport.

The show is an event geared towards family – family-fun attractions and entertainment – while you shop and browse for some outdoor family-fun recreational items.

This event has me thinking about my family and the different generations. I have my dad, my wife, my kids and my grandkids. I am overwhelmed at the possibility of organizing a multigenerational family vacation. My dad would probably not want to do a lot of walking. One of the grandkids is too young to ride any theme park rides. Would my wife's sister and her family want to come as well? Could I even plan an event like this and make everyone happy?

According to an AAA survey, more and more people are choosing to use their vacations as an opportunity to bond with extended family. With the Boat, Sport and RV Show presenting a lot of tempting outdoor recreational tools to bring families together, I felt I needed to do some research on this topic.

Here are some tips I have been presented to help organize a vacation for your entire family.

Plan ahead. Why? You'll be trying to work with multiple family members' busy schedules, which won't be easy. Advance planning ensures everyone will have enough notice to request time off from work, book transportation and save money for the big trip.

Establish expectations. Ask everyone in your group to make a list or participate in an online poll, such as those offered by Doodle, SurveyMonkey or Poll Everywhere. These surveys can help rank the following in order of importance: budget, destination, travel method (car, plane, train) and goals (adventure, relaxation, etc.). It's important to be sure everyone in your group, even the kids, feels like they've been heard and their desires taken into consideration.

Consider going all-inclusive. No matter your destination, you should be able to find an all-inclusive resort to fit everyone's budget. All-inclusive resorts can take some of the pressure off planning everything as most will include accommodations, meals, activities and sometimes even airfare. In addition to making the planning less of a hassle, you'll know pretty much exactly what you'll be spending outside of souvenirs.

I am still considering a camping trip. I have visions of sitting by the campfire, family telling stories and jokes – reminiscing while making new memories.

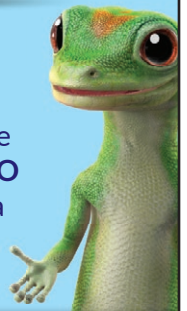
If you are like me and jumping on the bandwagon of having a multigenerational family vacation, don't forget to plan how to finance it. Barksdale Federal can help with our special Boat Loan promotion. If you want to consider the all-inclusive route, take a look at our introductory rate credit card. Our loan associates will help find you the best loan to make your vacation dream a reality. Happy camping!



Sincerely,
Rod Taylor
CEO of Barksdale
Federal Credit Union

“A special discount
for Barksdale
Federal Credit
Union members”

Barksdale Federal
Credit Union
members could save
even more on GEICO
car insurance with a
special discount.



1-800-368-2734
geico.com/cu/barksdalefcu

GEICO
#MemberDiscount

Limitations apply. See geico.com for more details. GEICO & affiliates. Washington, DC 20076 © GEICO Gecko image © 1999-2017 © 2017 GEICO

It's Scholarship Application Time

Barksdale Federal Credit Union (BFCU) will be offering scholarships to graduating seniors attending college in the fall of 2017. Scholarship applications, with rules and eligibility, are available on our website and in Barksdale Federal centers. Barksdale Federal will award four \$1,500 scholarships for college-bound BFCU 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 3, 2017.

5 Steps to Smart Tax Management



What is “smart tax management”? It’s a combination of timely filing and taking advantage of everything that can reduce the amount of money you pay in taxes. While tax management does take a bit of planning, organization and know-how, the overall financial benefit is strong.

1. Maximize Retirement Savings Plans

If you have an employer-sponsored retirement savings plan (such as a 401(k), 403(b), or 457) available to you, it makes sense to use it. Since you make contributions to traditional plans with pre-tax dollars, your taxable income and possibly your tax rate will be lowered. Investments grow on a tax-deferred basis, so when you retire and take the money out the earnings will be taxed on your new, and usually lower, tax rate. IRAs are part of good tax management too. Contributions to a traditional IRA are tax-deductible, and account earnings aren’t taxed until you withdraw that money after age 59½. There are income restrictions, though, and if you’re an active participant in an employer-sponsored retirement savings plan you may not be able to deduct your contributions. While contributions to a Roth IRA are always non-deductible, the earnings are tax-free when certain conditions are met.

2. Use Your Employee Benefits

If you are an employee, your company may offer benefits that can reduce your taxable income and therefore your tax liability (the amount you owe):

- **Flexible Spending Accounts (FSAs).** Medical FSAs allow you to set aside money for common health-related costs, and dependent care accounts let you to save for work-related child or dependent care expenses. For both, the money is taken out through payroll deductions on a pretax basis.
- **Transportation plans.** These plans allow you to use pretax dollars (and reduce your taxable income) to pay for public transit, vanpooling or parking.

3. Pay the Right Amount

You know you are paying the correct amount of taxes if you neither owe taxes nor receive a large tax refund. While a refund may seem positive, it is really not making the most of your income during the year. For example, a \$2,000 tax refund translates into \$166 that you don’t have in your pocket every month. On the other hand, if you owe and can’t pay the entire sum, you’ll have to pay interest and possibly penalties, which will only add to your tax debt.

4. Make the Most of Your Adjustments, Deductions and Credits

Tax adjustments and deduction are expenses that you can subtract from your income, resulting in a lower taxable income. Common examples of these are:

- An exemption amount for you, your spouse, each child and any other qualified dependents, and certain disabilities
- Mortgage interest paid on your primary residence
- Equity loan or line of credit interest
- Charitable contributions to eligible organizations
- Certain business expenses
- Union and professional dues
- Some medical expenses
- The cost of tax advice, software and books
- Depreciation of business assets
- Some work uniforms and clothing
- Moving expenses, in some cases
- Some educational expenses

A tax credit is a dollar-for-dollar reduction in what you would owe for taxes. For example, if you qualify for a tax credit of \$1,000, you would be able to subtract that amount from your total tax liability. Common examples of tax credits are:

- **Earned income credit.** This credit reduces the tax burden for lower-income taxpayers.
- **Education-related credits.** The American Opportunity credit can be used for the expenses that you incur in the first four years of higher education. The Lifetime Learning credit applies to tuition costs for undergraduates, graduates and those improving job skills through a training program.
- **Child-related credits.** These include credit for child and dependent care expenses, the child tax credit and the adoption credit.

5. File On Time

Filing your tax return by April 18 (or August 15 if you file an extension) is important. The drawbacks of not filing include:

- Your tax bill could increase by 25 percent, due to penalties or interest charges on balances owed.
- Additional penalties and/or criminal prosecution if you continue to not file (considered tax evasion).
- Losing the refund, if there’s one due (typically after three years).
- Even if you don’t have the money to pay, file anyway. Programs are available to help you avoid many of the harsher penalties.

Properly managing your taxes can greatly reduce the amount of money you pay in taxes and put more money into your pocket. After all, why pay more if you don’t have to?

Directors' Corner

BX – Our Newest Location

After seeing Chase Bank, and then Fort Sill leave the BX location, the Board of Directors and senior management felt like it was a great location and opportunity to serve our military and retired military families.

In 2016, after the Fort Sill National bank left the BX, a representative from AAFES contacted BFCU in hopes that we may want consider opening a location in the BX. Barksdale Federal's board and senior management were excited to fill out the Questionnaire for Proposed Branch Operations at Barksdale AFB (AAFES In-Store Branch) along with other competitors. In the fall of 2016, Barksdale Federal was selected to move an operation into the BX.

There is a lot that goes on behind the scenes when adding a new location to our current center locations. We strive to better serve our community with each and every project. We are growing to become more convenient for our growing membership.

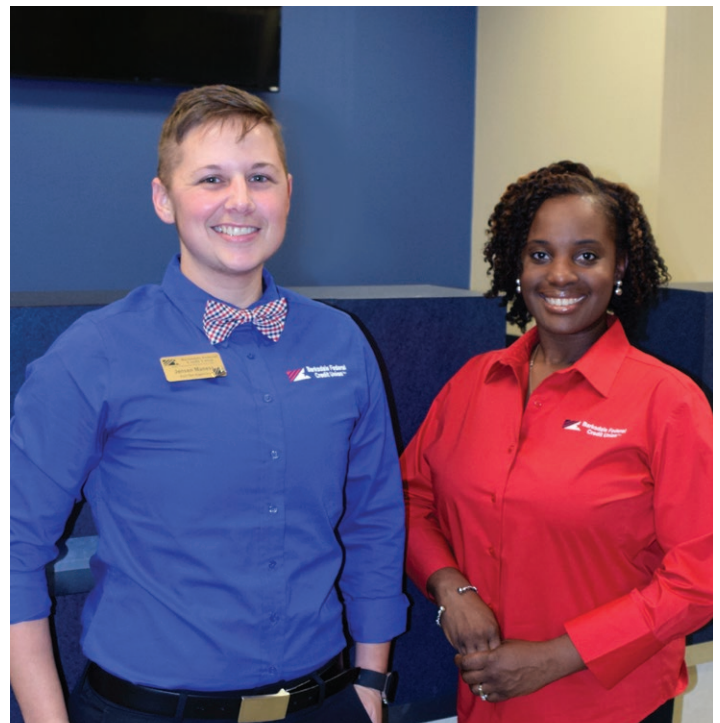
Our BX location will operate with the same hours and provide the same services as all of our other centers. The location will operate with supervisor Jensen Maness. Jensen has been with BFCU for almost 10 years. He started as an MSR at our Northgate location, and for the last four years served as Assistant Operations Supervisor. Jensen brings the personality, experience and service we would want for our membership at the BX location. Ivy Ferguson will also be joining the BX team as a Member Service Representative. We know that Jensen and Ivy are excited about starting their journey at the BX location.

"My hope for the BX Location is to be able to provide exceptional service for our military members and their families at an even more convenient location. We are excited to have a presence on base," said Jensen.

Our BX location will operate with the same hours and provide the same services as all of our other centers.



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



**Jensen Maness, BX Supervisor, and
Ivy Ferguson, BX MSR**



BX Center

455 Curtiss Rd., Bldg. 4711BAFB, LA 71110

Boat Loans

It's Time to Plan for Your New Boat!

If the fish are calling your name and a new boat is in order, give us a call!

At Barksdale Federal we offer new and used boat loans at some of the best rates around. All you need to do is find the boat that fits your recreational lifestyle.

We Finance Fun

Your dream of spending time in the great outdoors sitting on a boat with family and friends can become a reality when you contact Barksdale Federal. Check out these terrific financing options for your boat purchase:

- Low rates
- Terms up to 96 months

Best of all, our loan associates can make the process quick and easy for you. Just give us a call at **1-800-647-2328, option 7** or stop by your nearest branch for details. If you prefer to apply via our website, log into online banking and apply from there.



Get preapproved today. Just give us a call at **1-800-647-2328, option 7** to learn more.

Barksdale Federal Members Get Exclusive Discounts from Love My Credit Union Rewards

Everyone loves to save, especially on products and services you use every day. That's what Love My Credit Union Rewards is all about. Members have saved nearly \$2 billion in discounts from valued partners through Love My Credit Union Rewards. You can save too with valuable discounts from these partners:

- \$100 cash back with every new line activated with Sprint – no limits! Current customers will receive \$50 for every line transferred, no limits.

Plus, a \$50 loyalty reward every year for every line.

- Save up to \$15 on TurboTax federal products!
- Get an exclusive smoke communicator and a \$100 gift card with a new ADT monitored home security system.
- Get trusted protection at true savings with TruStage Auto & Home Insurance Program.
- Shop and get cash back at over 1,500 online retailers with Love to Shop.



To find out more and learn about other valuable discounts, visit **LoveMyCreditUnion.org**. You get all these offers and discounts just for being a member of Barksdale Federal Credit Union.

Start saving today at **LoveMyCreditUnion.org**.

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

10 Barksdale Federal served as a sponsor of the Air Force Ball to commemorate the Air Force's birthday celebration.

10 BFCU employees volunteered at the Le Tour de Bike Race and handed out granola bars and promotional items.

10 BFCU donated an auction item for the DeRidder Chamber Auction to help raise money for the local community.

16-18 BFCU attended the Louisiana National Guard Fishing Tournament as a sponsor and provided promotional items and survival kits with snacks.

16 Barksdale Federal served as the Gold Sponsor of the 2016 Office Olympics, where over 400 business professionals came together for a day of team building, fun and competition.

22 Barksdale Federal presented a \$1,000 One Class At A Time award at Stockwell Elementary.

27 Employees showcased BFCU's services at the Southern Hills Business Association Expo.

29 BFCU received the Shreveport Chamber of Commerce's J. Pat Beaird Award for Industry of the Year.

October

1 Staff served as bankers at the Ark-La-Tex Muscle Walk, benefitting the children assisted by the Muscular Dystrophy Association.

4 Staff attended the LSUA Job Fair with promotional items and financial education brochures.

6 BFCU participated in the Leesville Rodeo Parade with a float and threw cups promoting our Visa Rewards Program to the crowd.

10 BFCU sponsored the Bossier Council on Aging's Sundowner's Golf Tournament to benefit Meals on Wheels.

12 Barksdale Federal attended the Shreveport Chamber's Athena Awards honoring women and their accomplishments.

14 Leadership cooked burgers and hot dogs at the Celebrate Barksdale Picnic where military and families of Barksdale AFB were treated to free lunch.

14 BFCU sponsored the Ft. Polk Commanding General's Golf Tournament and set up a table with promotional items for the golfers.

15 BFCU served as the Making Miracles Sponsor of the Runs with the Nuns 10th annual run to support health programs for children in our communities.

21 BFCU participated in the Leesville Homecoming parade with a float promoting our Partners in Education.

25 BFCU educated juniors and seniors at Bossier Parish College and Career Night, where students come to get a head start on decisions affecting life after high school.

27 BFCU staff visited with employees at the Shriner's Hospital's Benefits Fair to help grow their financial fitness.

27 Barksdale Federal joined the Bossier Chamber's Education & Innovation Luncheon to inspire young women to venture into STEM related fields.

28 BFCU sponsored the Oakdale High School Senior Night. Employees set up a table with promotional items for the attendees of the football game.

28 BFCU sponsored the Ft. Polk Right Arms Night and set up a table with promotional items to hand out to soldiers.

November

3 BFCU set up a table at the Fort Polk Job Fair. Employees provided promotional items and financial education brochures to soldiers preparing to enter the workforce.

Welcome New SEGs

- Acorn to Oaks Pediatrics (Haughton, LA)
- Nabors Transportation (Leesville, LA)
- Peaceful Mind Home Care (Bossier City, LA)

10 BFCU joined other businesses at the Governor's Prayer Breakfast, where the community came together to pray over our community members and leaders.

11 Barksdale Federal joined the City of Bossier to honor Vietnam veterans at the Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans event held at the Bossier Civic Center.

15 BFCU set up a table at Leesville High School with promotional items and pizza to congratulate the students on their hard work and dedication to their education.

19 BFCU was a Presenting Sponsor of The Warrior's Thanksgiving Feast, which provided over 600 military members and their families a free Thanksgiving dinner to show appreciation for their service.



Oct. 7 – Barksdale Federal attended the Credit Union's for Kids Golf Tournament and sponsored a team to benefit the Children's Miracle Network.



Oct. 8 – BFCU was the Start Line Sponsor of the American Heart Association's Heart Walk, where our community came out to show support in the fight against heart disease and stroke.

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 September 28, 2016.

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. 16
Presidents Day, Feb. 20

Report lost or stolen Credit cards after hours: **800-543-5073** or **727-570-4881**. Debit cards: **866-724-2761**.

Join us for our Annual Meeting
Thursday, March 23, 2017
Bossier Civic Center
620 Benton Road
Bossier City, LA 71111

Should You Refinance to a 15-Year Mortgage?

If you've been thinking of refinancing your mortgage, today's low rates make now a good time to do it. Perhaps you've considered switching from a 30-year mortgage to a 15-year loan, but you're not sure if it's a smart move for you. Answering these questions can help lead you to a decision.

Which is more important to you: keeping mortgage payments low or paying less over the life of the loan?

Monthly mortgage payments are likely to be higher if you refinance from a 30-year to a 15-year mortgage. It depends on how much of your original mortgage you've paid down, what your interest rate is and other factors. But over the term of a 15-year mortgage, you'll pay far less interest – often tens of thousands of dollars

less. The savings come from two factors: 1) 15-year mortgages have lower interest rates than 30-year mortgages and 2) you'll only make payments for half as long.

How long do you plan to stay in your home?

Refinancing a mortgage – no matter what the term – involves paying fees. You'll recover that money by paying a lower interest rate, but it won't happen immediately. Refinancing only makes sense if you plan to stick around long enough to recoup your added closing costs.

Is it important to you to own your home outright by a certain time?

Some people want to be liberated from mortgage payments when they retire



or when their children enter college. Not having mortgage debt can free up money in your monthly budget for other priorities. You'll get rid of mortgage payments in half the time with a 15-year mortgage compared to a 30-year one.

A mortgage representative at Barksdale Federal can help you run the numbers and decide if refinancing to a 15-year mortgage is the right move for you. Call **318-549-8170** today or visit **bfcu.org**