December 2023

Tongass Federal Credit Union

Vol. 04 Issue 04

WHAT A YEAR IT WAS! A LOOK BACK AT 2023

January / February / March

Merger with ALPS FCU: ALPS Members voted and approved our merger and on February 1st it was official and we were one credit union!

Anniversary Kick-Off: We held our Annual Meeting and this year it was extra special with the kick-off of our 60th Anniversary celebration!

New Branches: The merger added Sitka and Petersburg to our locations and in February we opened our new Juneau branch!

Free tax preparation: We continued our annual VITA free tax preparation service in Metlakatla.

Use the QR code to read the articles & watch the videos!

April / May / June

Get Real: We hosted Get REAL Financial Reality Fairs at Metlakatla High School, Kayhi, and Revilla!

POW-er: We participated in the POW Economic Recovery Summit with financial education presentations by Jade Jordan and Grant Echohawk.

ACUL Conference: We hosted the Alaska Credit Union League Conference bringing together credit union leaders from throughout Alaska to learn and grow from one another. We also raised $35,000 for the First City Council on Cancer!

Inspiration: Board Member, Gavin Hudson, shared his inspiring story with Advancing Communities.

Many Insights, Just 1 Walk: Denise Hudson, AVP of Consumer Lending, wrote a beautiful story (published in CU Today) about her community in Metlakatla and how Tongass FCU has been able to be a part of it!

Alaska Business Magazine: Tongass FCU and our community microsites were featured in Alaska Business Magazine!

Jump Start Your Life: We awarded seven Jump Start Your Life Scholarships to area graduates!

July / August / September

Our favorite day of the year: We celebrated Member Appreciation Day at all locations with food, prizes and a chance to share time with our community!

ALPS Award: Madison Whitethorn, from Petersburg, was the recipient of our ALPS (Achieving Lasting Potential) Award!

Cash for Cans: All Tongass locations and our members worked together to collect donations to help combat local hunger! We raised $7,500 to donate to 12 local organizations.

Yakutat: Our Yakutat microsite opened in September!

Orange Shirt Day: Staff across the credit union wore orange in honor of the National Day of Remembrance, and Metlakatla staff represented Tongass FCU at the #EveryChildMatters school assembly.

ANNUAL MEETING SAVE THE DATE!

In-person at Cape Fox Lodge or join online on our website!

Thursday, February 22nd at 6PM

Check TongassFCU.com for full details coming soon!

October / November / December

Sharing our mission: President/CEO Helen Mickel participated in multiple panel discussions focused on expanding access to financial services in rural areas and Indigenous community development.

Power Hours: We started our Business Power Hour presentations at The Commons for our Fall/Winter sessions. Grant Echohawk is presenting a series focused on Business Plan Basics to help Southeast small businesses and aspiring entrepreneurs.

Building Wealth in Native Communities: Jade Jordan was invited to speak to BECU staff and partner organizations at their Annual Equity Summit about Building Wealth in Native Communities.

KPU: Grant Echohawk was invited by KPU to present his Preparing Your Personal Finances power hour presentation. This will begin airing on KPU in January.

CLOSURES THIS QUARTER

January 1, Monday, New Year's Day Observed

January 15, Monday, Martin Luther King Jr. Day

February 19, Monday, Presidents' Day

#SoutheastStrong

2023 BOARD OF DIRECTORS (ELECTED)
Scott Edwards, *Chair*; Mark Tollfeldt, *Vice Chair*; Audrey Hudson, *Secretary*; Jennifer Etten, *Treasurer*; Ron Connor; Michelle Cleaver; Mike Cruise; Rob Steward; Gavin Hudson

SUPERVISORY COMMITTEE (APPOINTED)
Jason Custer, *Chair*; Georgianna Zimmerle, *Secretary*; Teri Feibel; Jeannette Rosier; Dirk White

EXECUTIVE TEAM
Helen Mickel, *President/CEO*; Rebecca Schmidt, *CFO*; Sandi Riggs, *Executive VP*; Gracia O'Connell, *VP of Operations;* Laura Castetter, *VP of Marketing*; Lucette O'Hagan-Lovell, *VP of Commercial Lending*; Luree LeBrock, *VP of Real Estate Lending*