



*"With Roots in Lebanon... Not Just Branches"*

# theROOT

## Future Leader Scholarship Award

**\$2,500 Scholarships to all of the Lebanon County High Schools**

Each year Lebanon Federal Credit Union offers scholarships to graduating high school seniors that are members of the credit union. New for 2023, LFCU increased the amount to \$2,500 in scholarships offered to students at Annville-Cleona, Cedar Crest, Elco, Lebanon, New Covenant Christian School, Northern Lebanon, and Palmyra High Schools. Students will be selected based on their academic achievements, participation in school activities, and commitment to their community.



To enter the Future Leader Scholarship Award Contest, please visit [lebanonfcu.org/scholarship](http://lebanonfcu.org/scholarship)

## Deadline: LFCU Teacher of the Year

LFCU Teacher of the Year Deadline is fast approaching. The deadline to nominate your favorite teacher is Friday, January 13th, 2023.

Nominations can be made by students, parents, colleagues and other community members who want to recognize teachers who exemplify the character it takes to be a well-respected and influential role model to our next generation.

## This Month's Issue:

2 IRS Imposters  
Go Green with eStmts

3 Starting a Small Business  
LFCU Visa Credit Card  
Platinum Checking Account

4 Tax Discounts  
MyCardRules™

The winners will be chosen on Friday, February 3rd, 2023 and will be announced soon thereafter. A committee comprised of Lebanon Federal Credit Union Management and Board Members will review all applications. LFCU will award the winner \$1,000 and an additional \$1,000 for their school. The runner up will receive \$250 and an additional \$250 for their school.

Make your nominations at:  
[www.lebanonfcu.org/teacher-of-the-year](http://www.lebanonfcu.org/teacher-of-the-year)

**Holiday  
Closings:**

**Martin Luther King, Jr. Day:** January 16, 2023  
**Presidents' Day:** February 20, 2023



## IRS Imposters Among the “Dirty Dozen” Tax Scams

Here's the bad news about any unexpected good news you receive in an e-mail from the Internal Revenue Service: It's probably bogus. For example, the IRS will not contact you via e-mail, out of the blue, about a refund you didn't know you had coming. But, yet, people fall for this scam again and again. Some have received e-mails--with convincing IRS logos--that display a refund amount and a link you must click on to get the refund.

The link leads to a mock-IRS Web page form that requires financial information, such as a Social Security and bank account number, user ID, password, mother's maiden name, and the like. Victims enter this information, press "submit," and Presto! Another identity thief now has the means to make a bank balance disappear.

The bogus IRS e-mail is an example of "phishing," which can lead to identity theft. It occurs when scammers use an authentic-looking e-mail to trick recipients into supplying personal financial data.

### Don't take the bait—it's expensive

Although phishing accounts for only a fraction of the Internet fraud committed each year, its sting goes deep. We offer a few clues that an e-mail may be from an IRS imposter:



\* Tortured English: Most phishing e-mails traced by the IRS originate outside the United States. Look for grammar and spelling mistakes or unusual words and sentence structures.

\* No forewarning: The IRS does not make initial contact with taxpayers via e-mail. Agents do correspond via e-mail, such as during some audit situations, but that doesn't happen unless you give provide them with your e-mail address first.

\* Your gut reaction: If it sounds too good to be true—it probably is. camming another victim.

### Phishers exploit charity donors

Phishers also may pose as charitable organizations. Finding a list of a charity's donors isn't difficult, and criminals use the organization's identity to go phishing.

For example, they send e-mails telling donors that the charity has calculated the tax-deductible amount of their donations. Donors are asked to supply Social Security numbers or other personal data to retrieve the documentation they'll need to claim the tax deductions.

### Don't guess—ask the experts

The best thing to do if you're unsure whether an e-mail regarding taxes is legitimate is to check at [irs.gov](http://irs.gov), call your local IRS office, or forward the email to [phishing@irs.gov](mailto:phishing@irs.gov). Not only can you find the truth there—you may alert the IRS to a criminal who can be shut down before scamming another victim.



**GO GREEN IN 2023  
SIGN-UP FOR E-STATEMENTS**



**CALL 717.272.2210**



**SIGN INTO NETTELLER  
CLICK E-STATEMENTS TAB**





While most people have a passion, hobby, or talent, few are able to turn a hobby into a profitable business venture. At Lebanon Federal Credit Union, we know that it can be done. Use these questions to guide you as you transform your hobby into the next small business in your area.

- **How can you make it unique?** Having a talent for something doesn't always translate into a successful business opportunity. So how can you make your work stand out from the rest? Get creative and find a way to provide a custom service to consumers by doing what you love.
- **What need does it fill?** An effective entrepreneur must identify consumer needs and find a way to tweak his or her product to fit those needs. To start, look at your community and see how to make your passion fill a need or solve a problem for future customers.
- **What do you know about the subject?** Industry knowledge is a key requirement for starting a small business. Know your industry inside and out: the consumers, products, competition, and especially potential problems that can arise. Studying your industry is the best way to avoid pitfalls and make your small business as successful as it can be.
- **How can the credit union help?** Your credit union is the ideal first stop for a budding entrepreneur. We are dedicated to helping small businesses succeed.

If you're ready to turn your passion into a small business, contact the professionals at LFCU. Stop by or give us a call to get started!

## Store Cards: Seldom the Better Deal

With offers of an additional 15% off your purchase or free merchandise, it's tempting to apply for credit cards from your favorite retail stores. Think twice, however, before signing up. If you don't pay the bill in full at the end of each month, you could end up paying much more than you originally would have saved.

That's because interest rates on retail cards average about **ten percentage points higher** than credit union credit cards. Store cards usually offer special incentives for cardholders to increase loyalty and encourage them to spend more. The average household has about 2.5 store-issued credit cards. If you plan to buy a car or house in the near future, it can hurt your chances to get a loan at a favorable rate if you have many recently opened lines of credit. It's usually better to have one major credit card that you can use for all items you wish to charge.

LFCU offers low fixed rate credit card options!

**Learn more at:**  
[www.lebanonfcu.org/visa](http://www.lebanonfcu.org/visa)



## LFCU Platinum Rewards Checking Account

If you're over the age of 50 and are looking for a checking account that will give you added benefits, LFCU has the checking account for you!

- \$0 Minimum Balance to open and maintain account
- No per check fees
- No monthly service fees
- Overdraft Protection available
- Free Online Bill Payer
- 24 Hour access to your account with iTalk 717-272-4550
- 24 Hour access to your account with Online and Mobile Banking
- 1 - FREE order of basic style checks every 12 months
- Interest Bearing Account - Minimum balance of \$1,000 to earn a dividend (currently 0.10% APR\*)
- An additional 0.15% (15 bps) will be paid on top of the posted share certificate rate (includes CD Specials!)

**Learn more at:**  
[www.lebanonfcu.org/checking](http://www.lebanonfcu.org/checking)

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We love having you as one of our valued members, which is why we're bringing you special discounts on tax prep services that will help you ace tax season.

- TurboTax – Hand off your taxes, get some help from experts or file on your own -- with TurboTax, you can count on getting your maximum refund, guaranteed. Members can save up to \$15 on TurboTax federal products. PLUS, if you scan the QR code by Feb. 16, 2023, you'll be automatically entered to win \$10,000.
- H&R Block – Get expert tax help from H&R Block professionals who can prepare your taxes in person, with or without the office visit. New clients save \$25 in-office tax prep services and returning clients of H&R Block get the Tax Identity Shield® add-on for FREE (\$35 value).

## SCAN THE QR CODE TO VIEW SAVINGS

[TaxServices.LoveMyCreditUnion.org](https://taxservices.lovemycreditunion.org)

Visit <https://taxservices.lovemycreditunion.org> for offer details and disclaimers.

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### Be in Complete Control of Your Cards

Download MyCardRules™ to your mobile device today

Google Play Store Apple App Store

The MyCardRules app lets you take FULL CONTROL of all your card spending. Just download the app and you can:

- Instantly **turn a card OFF** if it's lost, stolen or being misused
- Set transactions to have a specific **spending limit**
- **Get an alert** every time a card is used
- **Decline** in-store or online transactions based upon your settings

You can even set your cards so that they can be used only when your mobile device is nearby, and restrict purchases at certain types of stores and merchants.

[lebanonfcu.org/mycardrules](https://lebanonfcu.org/mycardrules)

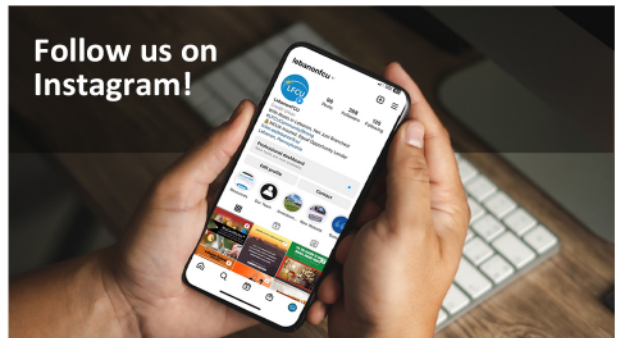
Come see us in  
Jonestown.  
We are Open!



Located across from Dollar  
General on Jonestown Rd!

**508 Jonestown Rd. Jonestown, PA 17038**

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