



# People Helping People

A Publication for the Members of First Nebraska Credit Union

From the President

## 2021 – the year of Hope

With the new year comes the hope of new beginnings! 2020 was filled with uncertainty, and was a financial struggle for many of us as we navigated the pandemic.

Many members lost loved ones, battled health issues, had job layoffs or reduced work hours, juggled new childcare schedules, and so much more.

Even in uncertain times, there are things you can control about your financial future. New hope and new beginnings will emerge, and you will find that you are stronger than your situation.

The credit union was built on financial crisis. People were unable to gain the financial help that they needed elsewhere,

so they joined together to serve one another. That’s how we started, and we continue to work for our members. Our situation may not change on the first day of the new year – but there are good people working to bring hope back to our world.



Your credit union has worked to serve families during this pandemic and will continue to be here, in every situation, to share financial options that can help you. You are more than a member – you are a part of our family. From our family to yours, Happy New Year!

Sincerely,  
*Ann M Loftis*

Ann M. Loftis, President/CEO



## Virtual Annual Meeting

You’re invited to join us for our virtual Annual Meeting on **Thursday, April 29, 2021 starting at 5 p.m.** Details will be provided via mail/email as the date get closer.

New board members will be voted on at the meeting. The Board of Directors is comprised of volunteers who represent the entire membership. Nancy Wallace was appointed Nominating Chair for 2021. The FNCU Nominating Committee has announced its nominations for the board positions. The nominees are: Phil Kottmeyer and Cynthia Sherman. These candidates are currently serving on the Board of Directors and have agreed to continue to serve if elected.

Since the number of candidates presented by the Nominating Committee is equal to the number of positions to be filled, we are not seeking additional candidates at this time. If you have questions about the election process, you may contact the Nominating Committee at: First Nebraska Credit Union, Attn: Nancy Wallace, Nominating Committee, 10655 Bedford Ave., Omaha, NE 68134.

## Giving Back

Almost 1,400 diapers donated!



Pictured: Thomas Rief and Miya Glinn.

Our annual diaper drive resulted in almost 1,400 diapers, donated to the Lydia House, an Open Door Mission center in Omaha. Thank you for donating!



What our Members are Saying:



“This is our 3rd bank since moving to Nebraska in July 2019. I like the promptness of their customer service and I have had no major problems, unlike the other two LARGE banks... friendly people & great service will definitely keep us as customers!! This has been a very good banking relationship.”

– Kelly B.

We’ll be closed for the following holidays:

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day  
Monday, Jan. 18

Presidents Day  
Monday, Feb. 15

# Two Ways to Pay Off Your Debt

If you are dealing with debt, you aren't alone. In Jan. 2020, the average American household had an average balance of about \$6,600 in credit card debt, and that's not taking into account home, auto, and student loans. Paying off your debt isn't always easy, but having a plan can go a long way in achieving your financial goals.

Two of the most popular strategies for paying off debt on your own are the snowball method and the avalanche method. Both methods require making the minimum monthly payments on all but one debt, which you put extra money towards.

## The Snowball Method

With the snowball method, you begin by paying off your smallest debt first. This method creates a sense of motivation and accomplishment from being able to pay off smaller bills at a higher frequency.

### How it Works

Let's say you have the following debts:

- Credit Card A: \$3,500, 17.99% APR
- Credit Card B: \$7,500, 15.00% APR
- Personal Loan: \$1,000, 10.05% APR

Using the snowball method, you would pay the minimum monthly payments to the credit card debts, and pay any extra that you can to the personal loan until it is paid off. You would then apply the extra payments to Credit Card A until it's paid in full.

### Pros and Cons

With the snowball method, you are able to see progress faster. Quick wins can help you stay motivated to keep going. However, with this approach, it will take you longer to pay off your largest debts – and those are often the ones that carry the highest interest, so you'll likely end up paying more overall.

## The Avalanche Method

The avalanche method takes into account the fact that high-interest debts cost you the most money over time. Using the

avalanche method, you pay off your highest interest debts first.

### How it Works

Let's look at the same scenario as above.

With the avalanche method, you'd pay the minimum monthly payment on Credit Card B and the Personal Loan, and pay extra towards Credit Card A, since it has the highest interest rate. Once it was paid off, you'd move on to Credit Card B.

### Pros and Cons

This is the fastest way to eliminate debt and save on interest payments. However, it can take years to eliminate this debt while other smaller bills still trickle in.

## Which option is best for you?

Ultimately the best method is the one you can stick to. If you're motivated by quicker victories, the snowball method may be the right option for you. If you want to pay the lowest amount of interest, you're likely better off choosing the avalanche method.

There are other options to pay off your debt, such as debt management plans, balance transfers, and debt consolidation.

Our new financial wellness partner, GreenPath, has resources to help you. Whether you want to work through it on your own, or talk with a counselor, GreenPath can help. They can help you gain a better understanding of your spending habits, and help you create a plan to pay off your credit card debt. Their financial coaches are kind and caring. It's free, confidential and no pressure!

Contact GreenPath today by calling 1-877-337-3399.



*This article reprinted with permission from GreenPath Financial Wellness. Take a look at all their articles at [www.greenpath.com/category/financial-education-articles](http://www.greenpath.com/category/financial-education-articles).*



## New Business Development Manager

### CONGRATS CHARITY HELTER!

Charity Helter has been with the credit union for 13 years and has accepted a new position at FNCU, as the Business Development Manager, where she will work closely with our Select Employee Groups. Charity has transitioned out of her prior position as Senior Branch Manager at both Lincoln branches. She has been in the financial industry for 22 years.



She has lived in Lincoln most of her life, married and has 3 children and 2 grandchildren. She enjoys supporting her

children's active schedules, and volunteers in the community. She enjoys camping, fishing and hosting gatherings for friends and family.

Charity's passion is helping our members and potential members know about the vast ways we can help them succeed financially. As a member owned credit union, we are known for people helping people. She said, "It is my desire to work closely with our Select Employee Groups and the community to help them take advantage of all the benefits we have to offer. I take pride in educating members on financial literacy and tools to help them no matter where they are in their financial stage of life."

## CREATING AN ALERT

### Wouldn't it be nice to know:

- If your check cleared...
- If your auto loan was due soon...
- If your account dips below \$100...
- Your account balance each Friday...
- Your certificate has matured...

### ... without logging into Online Banking?

You can! Just setup an Alert, and information will be emailed or texted to you.

Setting up Alerts are easy, and can save you a lot of time and anxiety (and maybe even an overdraft or late fee!)

1. Login to Online Banking to create an alert.
2. Click on the Bell icon, then Manage, then Create Alert.
3. Choose which type of alert you want (balance, transaction, loan payment, etc.)
4. Choose options such as a balance amount, how often it will alert you, and whether you want it emailed or texted to you. You can also type what your alert will say when it gets sent.
5. Click Save and you're all set!



Branches in Omaha, Lincoln & Elkhorn  
(see website for locations)

FNCU NMLS# 416540  
Federally insured by NCUA.

