

Dollars & Sense



MISSION STATEMENT – “To provide total personal financial services for our members’ well-being.”

January 2016

Meet the new CEO of Credit Union of Atlanta, Allen Upchurch!



Allen Upchurch is a career financial service professional, with 25 years as a credit union executive. He began his credit union career in 1990 as Vice President-Operations at SRP Federal Credit Union in North Augusta, SC /Augusta, GA. In 1998, he became Executive Vice President-Operations at Jax Federal Credit Union in Jacksonville, FL, and was elected President/CEO of Harvesters Federal Credit Union in Pensacola, FL in early 2000, where he led the credit union to unprecedented growth and service levels.

In early 2008, he moved back to his home state of North Carolina to become COO for Piedmont Advantage Credit Union in Winston-Salem, NC. In his tenure there, he and his team focused the credit union’s efforts towards growing loans and managing asset quality. He led the implementation of new mortgage loan products, revamped the credit union’s lending procedures and led important changes to the credit union’s underwriting practices.

From 2012 to 2014, he served in the same capacity for MTC Federal Credit Union in Greenville, SC, where he led the credit union’s branch teams to exceed sales goals and grow the credit union’s loan portfolio. Just prior to coming to Credit Union of Atlanta, Allen was Vice President – Financial Services for GHS Federal Credit Union, where he was in charge of asset quality and special project execution.

“I am extremely happy to be back in Georgia working with the fine members and staff we have at Credit Union of Atlanta! We have a fantastic credit union with a vast array of services we hope all of our members will take advantage of and utilize. We want to be not just your primary financial institution, but the only financial institution you trust to help you meet your financial goals in a timely, professional manner. We truly are in business to provide for your financial well-being! I hope you’ll come in to see any of our professional staff whenever you have a need.”



EMV Chip Cards are COMING SOON to CUA!

Credit Union of Atlanta will soon launch chip-enabled EMV credit and debit cards. EMV (Europay, MasterCard and Visa) is an international standard used to authenticate account data that changes hands during a transaction. Utilizing the latest technology to protect your in-store card transactions, these newly improved cards offer added security to help safeguard your card from data breaches at merchants.

Why are chip-enabled cards safer to use?

When you use a card with a magnetic stripe at a store, your personal data is often preserved in the merchants’ databases, where it becomes vulnerable to hackers. In comparison, cards with a chip create a unique authentication code each time the card is used in a transaction. The code cannot be recycled and a new transaction will not work without a new code. This means your account information alone would not be enough for someone to make a fraudulent purchase at your expense.

How do you use a chip-enabled card?

Instead of swiping the chip-enabled cards as you currently do to your magnetic striped cards, you’ll insert it into the front of enabled point-of-sale terminals and leave it there until the transaction is complete. Chip cards also have a magnetic stripe on the back of the card which you can use when shopping a merchant whose payment terminal is not yet chip enabled.

Will my card numbers change?

The EMV cards will have new card numbers which means you will need to update any automatic payments currently linked to your existing card(s). A new PIN for your EMV credit and debit cards will also be mailed to you.

When will we receive the chip cards?

We are working to launch these new cards in 2016. Please stay tuned for additional details in the newsletter and on our website at www.cuatlanta.org.

For more information or to review a list of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) regarding EMV chip cards, please visit: <http://www.creditcards.com/credit-card-news/emv-faq-chip-cards-answers-1264.php>.



Make your home feel new again with a home equity line of credit from **Credit Union of Atlanta!**

It's too cold to go outside, so take advantage of the warm indoors and start those home remodeling projects you've been dreaming about. Whether you're looking to upgrade your kitchen or want to install that pool in time for summer, we can give you the funds you need to make your home feel brand new all over again!

Our HELOC features:

- **Competitively low rates***
- **Flexible terms and payment plans**
- **Fixed monthly payment through the life of the loan**
- **Approval amount based on equity in home**
- **Interest may be tax deductible****

Make your home feel new to you again with a home equity loan. Call 404-658-6465 or visit cuatlanta.org for more details.

**Subject to credit approval.*

***Consult a tax advisor regarding the deductibility of interest.*

10 Tips to better budgeting in the New Year

1. **Keep your budget and goals realistic** – Goals need to be manageable. If you're looking to pay down debt, make sure you can afford the payment you want to include in your budget.
2. **Account for all expenses and seasonal changes** - Evaluate your bills from each month in 2015 for a reminder of the fluctuating expenses. Perhaps your power and water bills increased during in the summer months – make sure to account for the difference in this year's budget!
3. **Don't forget the incidentals** - Expand your budget beyond your grocery, loan payments and utility expenses to include spending on clothes, eating out, coffee breaks, haircuts and more.
4. **Include savings in your budget** - Whether you're building an emergency savings fund or contributing to your retirement, make saving a real goal in your budget.
5. **Shop the discounts** - This can be in the form of online grocery coupons or calling your utility, cable or credit card companies to inquire about promotions, special deals, waiving fees or other savings opportunities.
6. **Get rid of the excess** - If you have any excess clothing, decorations for the home, winter coats, toys or more, donate them to a charity of choice and you could earn a tax benefit.
7. **Automate where possible** - Sign up for payroll deduction and online banking at the credit union so you can have your savings contribution automatically deducted from your paycheck and so you'll have better visibility to your accounts for tracking your spending.
8. **Enjoy a little** - Set aside an affordable entertainment fund so you can enjoy some of your paycheck! This might include shopping, dining out or recreational adventures. A great way to save for perks is to collect the loose, remaining change after you've made a cash purchase. At the end of the year, you'll be surprised at how much you have to use!
9. **Always look for substitutions** - You don't always have to buy new, or even buy at all when it comes to acquiring goods. Look for substitutes such as visiting the library for books and shopping for secondhand or refurbished when it comes to cars, phones, computers, décor, toys, or clothing.
10. **Review your budget often** - Many times people make the budget and try to follow it in their heads without truly tracking it on their computer or with pen and paper. Unless you monitor it closely, the daily incidentals accumulate and can cause you to veer off course with your budget.



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HOURS OF OPERATION

Monday - Thursday 8:30 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Friday 8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.

ACE Audio Response
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HOLIDAY CLOSINGS

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
January 18



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