NEW Product Development; IDB Partnership...

The Belize Credit Union League (BCUL) was created with the motive to empower Belizeans through credit unions. Recently, BCUL conducted research to determine what Belizeans wanted from their local credit union and worked diligently to provide its members with three products cited as the most important needs at this juncture. With funding from the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) under its Inclusive Savings with Shared Agents Project, BCUL is pleased to announce that three new products were created; with SMCU being the first credit union to launch one of the three products. Such products are EDUSave, Freedom Fund and Shared Agent Service, the only product pending approval from Central Bank of Belize before being launch. At this juncture, we encourage the other credit unions to embrace these products and swiftly follow the footsteps of SMCU in launching. Stay tune for more updates in the next edition of the Credit Union Link-Up!

SMCU Valentine’s Affair

At St. Martin's Credit Union, recognition comes in all forms as we celebrate many special and memorable milestones with our members. Valentine's Day is such an occasion when even the very shy members take the time in public to say to their loved ones: "You are special and I love you!" Today, St. Martin's congratulates Ms. Olga Berges - winner of this year's St. Martin's Credit Union Valentine Competition. We also thank all our members who submitted entries (telling us about their unique Valentine's Day experiences) and all the viewers that voted.

SJCU Branch Opening

St. John’s proudly celebrated the inauguration of its newest North Side Branch opening located at UNO Service Centre Plaza, Phillip Goldson Highway on Monday 26th March 2018. The contemporary office with welcoming décor is one of convenience affixed with adequate parking and 24-hour ATM access (Soon available). In addition to the wide range of financial services available, the general public is welcome to stop in and enjoy the ambience, meet our warm courteous staff, or feel free to call us at 223-7525 or drop us a line at Online@sjcu.com.bz.

Key Dates

Tentative AGM Dates:
- HRCU – April 28
- TTCU- May 19
- Evangel – May 26
- BCUL – June 9
- SMCU – May 25
- SFXCU – May 27

ECOMICRO Project Update:
ECOMICRO is a new project undertaking by BCUL and funded through IDB that will focus on the development of green financing & products for adaptation to climate change. Look out for a more detail update in the next issue of the Credit Union Link-Up!

NOTICE: Look out for St. John’s Credit Union at the University of Belize Open House, Belmopan Campus on April 26th 2018. See you there!
Credit Risk Management Training by Ancin Cooley:

The Belize Credit Union League has once again capitalized on one of its strengths: empowering the credit union employees with current trends and practices of Credit Risk Management. Ancin Cooley, facilitator of the three day Credit Risk Management Workshop is the founder and principal of Synergy Credit Union Inc., an institution that provides a number of risk management services to financial institutions. He has honed his skills while working as a regulatory examiner and has since established a growing clientele portfolio throughout the Caribbean and United States.

Over the three days, Mr. Cooley spoke about the consumer lending decision process. Attendees learned tips on how to add new loan products, grow the loans' portfolio, and manage the credit unions risk profile. He also did a session with the Supervisory Committee members from all credit unions which equipped them with tools to perform their fiduciary responsibilities as elected officials. The training focused on the importance of the internal audit function, and using an Enterprise Risk Management Approach to credit union supervision. They learned practical ways to improve communication with management, the regulator and auditors, in response to audit and regulatory findings.

For more information on this training, kindly contact BCUL at 223-0495 or visit our Facebook page at [https://www.facebook.com/belizecreditunion/](https://www.facebook.com/belizecreditunion/). We encourage you to follow us, like us and feel most welcome to share your comments. The Belize Credit Union League: “Empowering the people of Belize through credit unions”.

Marketing Committee Meeting:

BCULS's first Marketing Committee Meeting was held on January 25th 2018. Meet the committee members as we plan to make 2018 the most productive year yet. Brainstorming, setting goals, and mapping the road ahead.....with the overall intent of transforming BCUL into a force to reckon with. The mission of the committee is to keep the public informed with current and relevant information with the underlying intent of improving the services offered to its affiliates and credit union members.
OPENING SOON, ST. Martin’s Credit Union Benque Branch:

On October 18, 2017, Mr. Emory Young, Senior Operations Officer at St. Martin’s Credit Union welcomed the many invited guests who attended the Ground Breaking Ceremony in Benque Viejo Del Carmen. The event was well attended by staff, members, community leaders, colleagues from the business community, members of the credit union fraternity, the Police Department, the construction team and distinguished guests including Rev. John Roberson (Mount Carmel Parish), Mr. Marcos Kotch (Deputy Mayor of Benque Viejo), Ms. Beverly McCoy (Belize Credit Union League) and Superintendent Diana Hall (Benque Police Department) among others.

Less than seven months later, come May 1st, 2018, the branch would have established a very active presence in Benque Viejo Del Carmen, San Jose Succotz and surrounding communities. St. Martin’s Credit Union and its professional and friendly staff will not only be bringing innovative and personalized financial products and services to these communities, but will also be helping to improve the lives and capacities of many persons who would not ordinarily have had the opportunity to be employed, or to be financially stable. We look forward to welcoming and seeing you soon!

Ameya’s Group Meeting:

Over the years, the League has made many strides to improve its affiliates and their services offered to members. This year was no different. During the week of January 22nd -- 24th, the League’s staff along with participating credit unions met with Mr. Messrs V. Rajendran and Mr. Mahendra Banjan from Ameya Infovision Private Ltd to consult on connecting the credit unions to the national payment system. It is with hope that nearing the last quarter of this financial year that the League will be embracing successful implementation of the National Payment System. This new connectivity will add a whole new level of competitiveness to the credit unions and enable them to offer much more to their members. Ameya’s representatives have also met with CBB and visited HRCU and SJCU to better understand their core banking system.

The Belize Credit Union League, will forever find ways to make the credit unions a force to reckon with. Look out for our next issue of the Credit Union Link-Up for more updates on the national payment system.
SMCU EDUSave Launch:

On the morning of February 28th, 2018 at the Octavia Waight Centre, St. Martin’s Credit Union launched its three newest products: EDUSave (a savings product for children), Freedom Fund (a retirement product) and its Shared Agents Network. The Launch was attended by more than 350 persons including students of eight primary schools, two high schools and Cayo Centre of Employment Training, members and representatives of the Belize Credit Union League (BCUL), St. John’s Credit Union, Toledo Teacher’s Credit Union, Ministry of Education and other invited guests including two prospective shared agents (Mrs. Cano and Mr & Mrs. Sanchez of Kontiki Service Station).

As the focus was mostly on EDUSave, the agenda lived up to its SAVINGS theme – beginning with a 7-minutes BCUL documentary that highlighted the benefits of EDUSave and then dovetailed into the Freedom Fund product and then the Shared Agents Network. The documentary would have featured our General Manager and two of our members and would have set the tone for the Guest Speaker, Mr. Jahmor Lopez – Principal Education Officer & Education Centre Manager for the Cayo District. Mr. Lopez spoke to the level of the children in a jovial and relatable manner, as he encouraged them to save their monies in very practical ways as he and his son does.

Ms. Corrine Robinson-Fuller, Executive Director – BCUL, was visibly delighted with what she saw as she briefly informed the audience of the Inter-American Development Bank’s and the League’s role in launching the products – from their conceptualization to their fruition. Mr. Raymond Tzul, General Manager – St. Martin’s Credit Union, highlighted the youth population makeup and statistics of the Cayo District and how important it is for young persons to contribute to society, as they empowered themselves through the products and services of the Credit Union. Mr. Tzul also shared the main attractive and unique features and benefits of the product.

The participation from the students was well received and included an instrumental performance (Flute) of the National Anthem, poems and songs. We also had the Principal of Victorious Nazarene (Ms. Humes) giving a testimonial as to the level of success of the Kids Schools Savings Programme at her school. There was also active participation from other members of staff at the Launch – a key staff member being Harim Cano, who sang and danced as Sammy the Rabbit. Mr. Cano’s performance, which was a huge success with the kids, highlighted the theme – SAVINGS.

There were also prizes and giveaways: 2 gift bags and 2 EDUSave Gift Certificates – each with a value of $50.00.