

WINTER 2020

# AmeriNews

NEWS FROM AMERICU CREDIT UNION

## **\$10,000 in Scholarship Money Available for AmeriCU Members – Apply Today!**

Are you (or someone you know) a graduating high school senior or a continuing college student? We know how important and expensive it is to get a college education and that's why, every year, AmeriCU awards ten \$1,000 scholarships! Any AmeriCU Credit Union member in good standing (excluding employees, Directors, Committee Members, Volunteers and their immediate families) who is a full-time student at an accredited college, university or other institution of higher learning during the next academic year is eligible.

To apply or for more information, go to [www.americu.org/in-our-community/scholarships](http://www.americu.org/in-our-community/scholarships) to download an application or visit one of our convenient locations! All scholarship applications must be received by February 1, 2020. Incomplete packets will be disqualified, so please follow instructions completely.



### **MORE IN THIS ISSUE:**

#### **Reminder**

HSA + IRA Contribution Limits

#### **Financial Wellness Tips**

from AmeriCU

The Stress Free Way to do

#### **Your Taxes**

# Board of Election Update

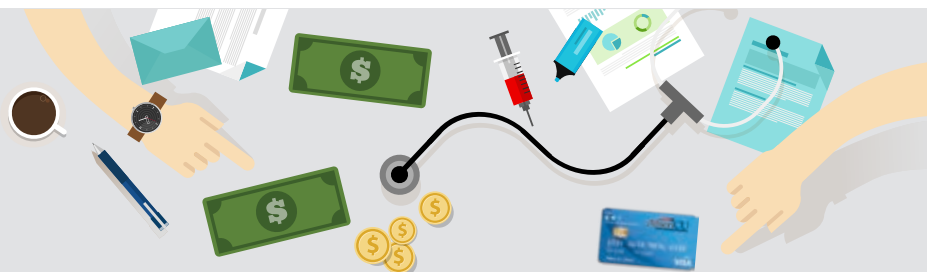


AmeriCU's Nominating Committee has announced that Terri Tulowiecki, Nick Fabrizio, and Jennifer Stowell have been nominated to fill three open positions on the Board of Directors. As there is only one nominee for each position to be filled, the election will not be conducted by mail ballot and there will be no nominations from the floor. The three nominees will be seated at the Annual Meeting on Monday, March 9, 2020.

## IRA + HSA REMINDERS

*It's not too late to make your 2019 contributions!*

*See limits and deadlines below.*



Traditional + Roth IRA Contributions Limits for 2019	Traditional + Roth IRA Contributions Limits for 2020*
(DEADLINE: APRIL 15, 2020) <b>\$6,000:</b> Age 49 and younger <b>\$7,000:</b> Age 50 and older	<b>\$6,000:</b> Age 49 and younger <b>\$7,000:</b> Age 50 and older

\*It is always a good idea to speak with a Tax Advisor to see which IRA is right for you and how much you qualify to contribute for the year.

HSA Contribution Limits for 2019	HSA Contribution Limits for 2020
(DEADLINE: APRIL 15, 2020) <b>Single:</b> \$3,500 <b>Family:</b> \$7,000 Over 55: \$1,000 Catch up	<b>Single:</b> \$3,550 <b>Family:</b> \$7,100 Over 55: \$1,000 Catch up

Start the year off right by contributing to your HSA and planning for your future medical needs\*\*.

- Tax deductible contributions
- Tax-deferred earnings
- Tax free withdrawals for qualified medical expenses

\*\*Must be covered by a qualified High Deductible Health Insurance plan and meet other criteria to contribute. Consult your qualified tax advisor about HSA benefits.

## Forbes ranks AmeriCU as one of the Best Credit Unions in New York State



Forbes, an American business magazine and global media company, partnered with market research firm Statista to produce their second annual list of America's Best Credit Unions In Each State.

"We're proud to be recognized by Forbes," said Mark Pfisterer President/CEO of AmeriCU. "It is our vision to provide our members the right financial services to live life, dream big, and achieve financial success and has been for almost 70 years. This honor reinforces that commitment to our members and the communities we serve."

AmeriCU ranked fourth overall in New York State, and is the only credit union in Central and Upstate New York to rank on the esteemed list. The full list can be found at <https://www.forbes.com/best-in-state-credit-unions/#1052e5a76167>

**COMING SOON!**

## *Financial Wellness Tips from AmeriCU*

AmeriCU is here to help you live life, dream big, and achieve financial success! Our knowledgeable employees have put together a series of Financial Wellness Tips to give you the information you need to make good financial decisions. Our new video series covers a wide range of topics including: checking accounts, scholarships, transferring funds, paying bills, budgeting, and more!



To see all the videos, subscribe to our YouTube Channel at <https://www.youtube.com/user/AmeriCUMarketing>

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WAY TO DO YOUR  
TAXES!**

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when you prepare and e-file  
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To take advantage of our special  
member pricing and start filing, visit  
[ezTaxReturn.com/AmeriCU](https://ezTaxReturn.com/AmeriCU)

Service offered by Hamilton Associates, Inc., a wholly  
owned subsidiary of AmeriCU Credit Union.

## No More New Year's Resolutions

"What's your new year's resolution?" is one of the questions we all ask and get asked this time of year. As we think about how we want this year to be different from the last, it's tempting to make a long list of New Year's Resolutions. Financial resolutions are especially popular. In fact, a 2017 poll showed that 53% percent of Americans said that their resolution for the next year was to "Save Money". However, U.S. News reports that a staggering 80% of New Year's Resolutions fail by February.

Why do we start the year with good intentions only to quickly go back to our same old habits? And how can we use our New Year motivation to make lasting changes? Set yourself up for success by creating SMART goals that are Specific, Measureable, Action Oriented, and Time-bound.

If you really want to save more this year, set short- and long-term goals that are realistic and achievable. Instead of just making a resolution to "save money", decide to save \$20 every week for a total of \$1,040 by the end of 2020! You'll be surprised at how much more successful you are when you have a plan! You don't have to do it alone, either. The staff at your local AmeriCU Financial Center would be happy to help you set up the right tools like direct deposits, automatic transfers, and share certificates to help you achieve financial success this year.

Source: "What are your 2018 resolutions" Statista. <https://www.statista.com/statistics/378105/new-years-resolution/> and "Why 80 Percent of New Year's Resolutions Fail", U.S. News. <https://health.usnews.com/health-news/blogs/eat-run/articles/2015-12-29/why-80-percent-of-new-years-resolutions-fail>

## Upcoming AmeriCU Events

### JANUARY

#### **B'ville Big Chill | Mercer Park, Baldwinsville | Saturday, January 18 - 12PM – 2PM**

AmeriCU is a sponsor of the 2020 B'ville Big Chill in Baldwinsville. This event features a "Best in Bowl" cook-off between local restaurants, activities for the children, and teams plunging into the icy Seneca River to raise money for our community and local charities.

### FEBRUARY

#### **AmeriCU Home Show | Turning Stone Resort + Casino | Friday – Sunday, February 7 – 9**

**Friday, February 7 • 1PM – 7PM | Saturday, February 8 • 10AM – 7PM | Sunday, February 9 • 10AM – 5PM**

**Admission: Adults: \$10, Seniors (age 55+), Military and First Responders \$9, Kids under 16: FREE**

AmeriCU is again the presenting sponsor of the 2020 Home Show at Turning Stone Casino & Resort. At this event there will be experts on hand from a variety of home services to answer your questions on any aspect of home ownership and upkeep! The show is expected to bring in thousands of people looking for all kinds of advice and products, including design, building & contracting, materials & supplies, art & furnishing, energy, maintenance, and financing. For more information, visit [www.homeshowatturningstone.com](http://www.homeshowatturningstone.com)

#### **Rome Indoor Walk/Run | Rome Free Academy | Saturday, February 8 • 8:30AM – 11:30AM**

As a supporter of the American Heart Association, AmeriCU will be present at the American Heart Association's Indoor Heart Run/Walk at Rome Free Academy. This event features a heart healthy walk and run indoors and out of the cold. Pre-registration for America's Greatest Heart Run & Walk will be available there as well.

### MARCH

#### **America's Greatest Heart Run + Walk | Utica College**

**Expo: Friday, March 6 • 9AM – 9PM | Utica Run + Walk: Saturday, March 7 • 6AM – 1PM**

AmeriCU is again a sponsor of the America's Greatest Heart Run + Walk, which has raised millions of dollars to benefit the American Heart Association. AmeriCU will be present at the Expo all day Friday and at the walk the following morning. Join us at any or all of the upcoming Heart Walks and help support this worthy cause!

#### **Home Builders and Remodelers Association of Mohawk Valley Home Show | Jorgensen Center at MVCC, Utica**

**Saturday, March 7 • 10AM – 5PM | Sunday, March 8 • 10AM – 3PM**

**Admission: \$5, Kids under 12: FREE**

Whether it's a big or small project; from tiling your bathroom to building your dream home, the HBRMV Home Show will have qualified experts in the field of homebuilding, remodeling and improving to answer your questions. This three day event will showcase a variety of home services such as home builders, commercial builders, developers, remodelers, subcontractors, building materials suppliers, Realtors, bankers, attorneys and many others. For more information, visit [www.hbrmv.com](http://www.hbrmv.com)

#### **Annual Membership Meeting | Griffiss Park Office, Community Room | 231 Hill Road, Rome | Monday, March 9 • 7:30PM**

All AmeriCU members are invited to attend our Annual Membership Meeting. Your credit union's 2019 performance and plans for 2020 will be reviewed. Refreshments and door prizes will follow the meeting.

#### **Home Builders and Remodelers of CNY Home & Garden Show | NYS Fairgrounds | Friday – Sunday, March 20 – 22**

**Friday, March 20 • 10AM – 8PM | Saturday, March 21 • 10AM – 8PM | Sunday, March 22 • 10AM – 5PM**

AmeriCU will be present at the 2020 HBRCNY Home & Garden Show, one of the largest events of its kind in the Northeast. Whether you're building a home, remodeling or doing it yourself inside or out, the Home & Garden Show is a springtime ritual for homeowners and prospective homeowners. There will be experts on hand to accept appointments with questions and ideas about home building and improvement projects. For more information, visit [www.hbrcnyc.com](http://www.hbrcnyc.com)

#### **The Big East Camping & Outdoor Sports Show | Turning Stone Resort + Casino**

**Friday, March 20 • 2PM – 7PM | Saturday, March 21 • 10AM – 7PM | Sunday, March 22 • 10AM – 4PM**

**Admission: Adults \$9, Seniors (age 65+), Military and First Responders \$7, Kids (6-12) \$3, Kids 5 & Under FREE**

AmeriCU is the presenting sponsor of the 2020 Big East Camping & Outdoor Sports Show at the Turning Stone Resort + Casino. This show features a variety of outdoor sport exhibits such as RV's, boats, hunting/sporting goods and much more!



**\$100 CASH REWARD WITH EACH NEW LINE\***

Another **BEN**efit of membership!

Visit [LoveMyCreditUnion.org/Sprint](http://LoveMyCreditUnion.org/Sprint) to calculate your cash rewards.

\*Restrictions apply.

**Sprint**  
works for me<sup>®</sup>

**LOVE MY CREDIT UNION REWARDS**