

The Overlook

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AUTUMN 2008



ADIRONDACK REGIONAL
FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

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Online information, Home
Banking and Bill Pay
www.adkcreditunion.com

24-Hour Audio Response:
1-800-463-1853

HOLIDAY CLOSURES

All offices will be closed on
the following dates:

Columbus Day, Saturday,
Oct. 11 & Monday, Oct. 13

Veterans' Day,
Tuesday, Nov. 11

Thanksgiving,
Thursday, Nov. 27

Christmas Day,
Thursday, Dec. 25

School drive successful



Throughout August, members donated school supplies for area students at each of our locations. Employees delivered the supplies to local schools for distribution at the start of the school year. On left, Dorie LaLonde and Shannon Mann take supplies to Tupper Lake's LP Quinn Elementary School. Plattsburgh's Janessa Harmon (picture at right) assists Anne Frazier of Arthur P. Momet Elementary School.

Cota named vice president

CEO Cathy Staves and the Board of Directors are proud to announce Amber Cota as the new vice president of ARFCU.

Cota started as ARFCU's branch coordinator in December, prior to her promotion to vice president. Cota is experienced in all aspects of credit union management and has earned an IRA Specialist Certificate from CUNA Mutual. She also attended the Visa Business School.

"I want to help the credit union be successful and stay financially strong, and offer updated services to the membership," Cota said. "I am very excited to work in one of the last areas within the credit union that I had not yet mastered at my other job. I am honored to be

Cathy Staves' vice president and help manage the credit union, not just a branch office or one department but the credit union as a whole."

Prior to her employment with ARFCU, she worked at the St. Lawrence Federal Credit Union for more than 18 years. She is experienced in every area of the credit union business – she started as a teller, moved into accounting and the loan office, and finally worked as a branch manager. Cota assisted in the



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CATHY'S CORNER

Notes from CEO Cathy Staves

After almost six months of being CEO of your credit union, the time has gone by quickly. We have successfully made a smooth transition with very few bumps in the road.

As many of you know, I do not plan on making any major changes to your financial institution. I will continue to keep the best interests of you, the members, in mind. Even with the economy struggling as it is, I do not foresee a negative impact on our credit union.

The staff has had a busy summer working with the community on several projects. The Tupper Lake employees volunteered their services to help with the local bike rodeo and the Plattsburgh office held a successful Safe Child ID registration day. The Potsdam employees hosted a booth at the town's summer festival and Wilmington gave a hand at the Whiteface Mountain Uphill Foot and Bike Races.



Throughout the last year, offices also collected funds for seniors' heating bills and local hospice organizations (see page 4 for more information).

Thank you to all of our staff and you, the members, for your contributions to our recent school supply drive for our local schools.

Now that summer is winding down, we need to think about how we will keep our homes warm this winter. Please consider our seniors again this year when we kick off our senior fuel fund drive. In the past, many of our seniors have been able to stay in their homes through the winter with the generous donations of our members. This year's Senior Fuel Fund will start Oct. 1 and go through March 1.

Just a reminder to our members with young children, we have a Fun Zone program to help these youngsters save their pennies. With their own teller windows at our Tupper Lake, Potsdam and Plattsburgh offices, they can start an account and make transactions in a fun, educational environment. Fun Zone bucks are given to them for each \$5 deposit as an incentive to save. With these bucks, they can shop at their own store set up at each of our five locations.

The staff and I would like to thank our members for the loyalty and generosity they have continued to show to make our credit union a success.

Local scholarship winners honored

CEO Cathy Staves announced the 2008 winners of the credit union's Donald DeVirgeles Memorial Scholarships.

Melissa St.Onge, Salmon River Junior/Senior High School, was awarded \$1,000 to attend Clinton Community College. Tupper Lake High School's Danielle Hachey received \$500 for studies at Clarkson University, and Plattsburgh High School's Brian Ellsworth received \$500 to attend Siena College. Paul Sweeney, Chazy Central Rural School, received \$500 for SUNY Plattsburgh. Kara Stark, Seton Catholic Central High School, was awarded \$250 to attend Bentley College.

Winners must be accepted to a two- or four-year college with plans to study in the business or math field and have a high school grade point average of 80 percent or higher.

April Yeaney, of Jay, is the recipient of a \$1,000 Education Exchange 2008 College Grant. Yeaney is a graduate of AuSable Valley Central School where she was president of the National Honor Society and Key Club, Student Council Vice President, captain of the varsity cross country team, and a member of the varsity basketball team. A National Merit Scholarship Program Commended Student, she also volunteered extensively with the North Country Mission of Hope.

Yeaney was sponsored through ARFCU for the college grant program.

The Education Exchange scholarship program is sponsored annually by the ACCEL/Exchange Network, an electronic funds transfer network owned and operated by Fiserv, Inc. Through the national program, high school seniors are selected based upon scholastic achievement, community involvement, qualities of character and leadership, and financial need.

Information on the 2009 Donald DeVirgeles Memorial Scholarship and the Education Exchange programs will be sent to high school guidance counselors and ARFCU offices in February 2009.

Pay your MasterCard early!

MasterCard payments are processed through an outside company and ARFCU has no control over what time those payments are posted to your credit card account. To ensure that your payment is posted on time, please bring us your payment by 2 p.m. We cannot guarantee payments after 2 p.m. will post on that day's business. Next-day business transactions may incur a late fee.



MEMBERS MEET & REVIEW ARFCU

ARFCU held its Annual Meeting at the Tupper Lake Knights of Columbus Hall May 16. Members were treated to refreshments, giveaway items and a cash drawing. Board of Directors Chairman John Carpenter spoke to the assembled members about the credit union's strong financial standing, outlined plans for the coming year and reviewed the credit union's programs for the past year. He also spoke about the credit union's transition in management from retiring CEO Michael Farkas to current CEO Cathy Staves. More than 50 members attended. The 2009 Annual Meeting will be held in the spring in Tupper Lake. All members are welcome to attend or request the financial statements distributed at the meeting.



Get ready for Christmas

Need some extra money for Christmas gifts this year? Want to plan ahead for next year? We can help!

Talk to your loan officer about our great Christmas loans to free up some cash to buy great gifts and lift some of that holiday pinch on your wallet. This loan is being offered at a special rate with a 10-month term. Your loan officer can tell you if you qualify.

Start saving for next year's holiday season with our easy and convenient Christmas Club savings accounts! Deposit a little bit of money each payday and prevent holiday headaches! Christmas Club funds are kept separate from your regular savings and are held until October 1 of each year. Once the term is up, funds are deposited into your regular savings accounts and are available for withdrawal. Fund your Christmas Club with a payroll deduction or automatic transfer and you don't even have to think about being prepared for next year!

Ask your teller for information about this and our other great savings products to help you reach your goals.

Senior Fuel Fund begins Oct. 1

Help your neighbors keep warm and save money at the same time! Starting Oct. 1, you can help your neighborhood senior citizens offset the rising cost of fuel. Donations are accepted in any office or you can add a donation to your new loan.

Donate \$200 to the senior citizen fuel fund and receive up to a 1% discount on personal and vehicle loan annual percentage rates. You will receive 0.1% off your loan rate for every \$20 donation you make, with a cap at 1%. Your final loan rate will be determined by your credit score and all loan qualifications must be met.

This offer will be honored throughout our collection period, ending March 1.

All donations will be dispersed to local senior citizen centers and fuel companies for distribution. If you are interested in receiving funds, please contact your fuel company or local senior center. We will not mail checks to individuals.

ARFCU is federally insured by NCUA, and is an equal housing lender.

HELPING HOSPICE



Loan Officer Sandy Churco, CEO Cathy Staves and Loan Officer Dorie LaLonde hold the donations for local hospice centers. The five offices collected a grand total of \$8203.00. Funds went to High Peaks Hospice, St. Lawrence Valley Hospice and Hospice of the North Country. Thank you for your support!

development of St. Lawrence's debit card program and participated in opening two branches and six ATMs.

"I am very fortunate that the credit union I left had the same systems so it really was a very smooth transition to start at ARFCU," Cota said. "I feel very lucky to know that I can help in almost all of ARFCU's departments. I hope to share and use all my knowledge with the staff and continue working to help all the members with their financial needs."

Cota graduated from SUNY Canton and currently lives in Canton with her family. She works at the Tupper Lake office Monday through Thursday, and in the Potsdam office on Friday. She can be reached through email at amber@adkcreditunion.com or by phone at (518) 359-2921, ext. 11 Monday through Thursday, or (315) 268-1440 on Friday.

"I feel blessed to have come on board with ARFCU and welcomed so warmly," Cota said. "Everyone at all of the branches welcomed me with open arms and I feel as if I have belonged here for the past 19 years. I truly am lucky to be working with a group of people as wonderful as the ARFCU staff. I look forward to continuing my career here with my new family."

INFORMATION

Tupper Lake

280 Park St.
Tupper Lake, NY 12986
Phone: (518) 359-2921
Fax: (518) 359-7366

Lobby
Mon – Fri: 9:00–5:00
Drive-Thru
Mon – Fri: 8:30–5:00

Plattsburgh

23 Smithfield Blvd.
4 Seasons Plaza
Plattsburgh, NY 12901
Phone: (518) 562-0221
Fax: (518) 562-0337

Lobby and Drive-Thru
Mon – Wed: 8:30–5:00
Thurs – Fri: 8:30–6:00
Sat: 8:30–12:00

Saranac Lake

33 Depot St.
Saranac Lake, NY 12983
Phone: (518) 891-9958
Fax: (518) 891-4814

Lobby
Mon – Fri: 9:00–5:00
Sat: 9:00–12:00
Drive-Thru
Mon – Fri: 8:30–5:00
Sat: 8:30–12:00

Wilmington

5794 State Route 86, Suite 2
PO Box 420
Wilmington, NY 12997
Phone: (518) 946-2056
Fax: (518) 946-2057

Lobby
Mon–Thurs: 9:00–5:00
Fri: 9:00–6:00
Closed 11:00–11:45

Potsdam

166 Market St.
Potsdam, NY 13676
Phone: (315) 268-1440
Fax: (315) 265-1322

Lobby
Mon – Wed: 9:00–4:00
Thurs – Fri: 9:00–5:00
Sat: 9:00–12:00
Drive-Thru
Mon – Fri: 8:30–5:00
Sat: 8:30–12:00



Online information, Home Banking
and Bill Pay:

www.adkcreditunion.com



Membership Eligibility

We are proud to announce that Adirondack Regional Federal Credit Union can serve all persons who live, work, worship, own a business or attend school in Clinton, Essex and Franklin Counties, and underserved portions of St. Lawrence County of NY State, as well as businesses and other legal entities located therein. "Once a member, always a member."

Board of Directors

John Carpenter, *Chair*
James Kucipeck, *Vice-Chair*
Susan Provost, *Secretary*
Lea Bedore
Kate Bencze
Gerald Goldman
James Tebo

Supervisory Committee

Audrey Delair, *Chair*
Carol Becker
Diane Buntich
Joseph Cavallaro
Phyllis DeVirgeles