KINECTA NEWS | SUMMER 2017

KINECTA℠

CREDIT CARD "GOTCHAS"

Message from Keith Sultemeier, President & CEO, Kinecta Federal Credit Union

The majority of us carry credit cards. They are easy and convenient ways to both pay and borrow. In addition, many cards today come with attractive perks – cash back, airline miles, purchase insurance, and more.

Savvy consumers have been trained to watch interest rates to be sure they are not paying more than is necessary to finance their purchases. But some credit cards may be costing you in other ways.

According to a recent survey by creditcards.com, the average card carries six fees; two cards in their survey had 12. Reading the legal disclosures that come with your card can be a real pain, and although we encourage you to read your account disclosures, we realize that many of our members probably don't do this. Credit card companies know that too, and unlike Kinecta, they might seek to profit from this fact.

Among the fees you might not expect are those for going over your credit limit (even if you are paying your bill on time), annual fees (yes, these still exist), balance transfer fees, cash advance fees, penalty interest (your rate goes up if you make a late payment), and many more. Some fees can be controlled by being careful, such as a late payment fee, but some can't, such as foreign transaction fees. One card issuer even goes so far as to charge $25 when their cardholders qualify and receive a credit limit increase.

A good strategy is to do your banking with an institution you trust to act in your best interest. Kinecta is built for members, not-for-profit. We don't answer to shareholders. We answer to you, our member-owners. It's easy to be dazzled by some of the perks offered, but don't neglect to check how much you may be paying for those perks behind the scenes.

Kinecta recently updated its line of MasterCard® products to include a no annual fee cash back rewards card and our MyPower MasterCard that has no fees at all. Kinecta's rewards card is one of the few available with no annual fee where you can earn 1%, 2%, or 3% cash back depending on the type of purchase and where the bonus categories do not change. Additionally, of the 100 cards listed in the creditcards.com survey (which did not include Kinecta) only one had absolutely no fees, so our MyPower card is in elite company.

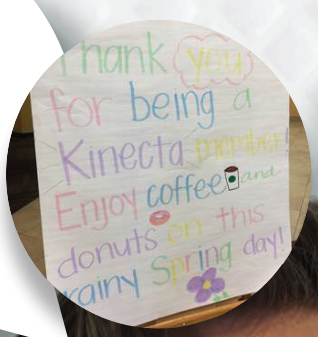
As always, our goal is to best serve our members and help secure their financial future. Of course our hope is that our members will see the value in our cards and choose to carry and use these. But, we are also pleased to help educate our members about potential "gotcha" fees, regardless of what cards you choose to carry.



WHAT DOES EXPECT THE UNEXPECTED REALLY MEAN?

You can expect something surprising and wonderful to happen sometime when you interact with us.

You walk into our Torrance Crossroads Member Service Center (MSC) one fine spring morning and are greeted with hot coffee and delicious donuts. Wouldn't that unexpected experience make your morning better?



Last Halloween, our creative Member Services team in Brea presented everyone in line with "boo-tiful" baskets filled with Halloween goodies.





Visitors to our Fountain Valley MSC got an unexpected monetary treat. The first members to use Fountain Valley's new coin machine and member service pods received $100 gift cards. Smiles were seen all around.

The folks at our Manhattan Beach MSC surprised a visiting group of children by hosting a breakfast bar, featuring milk and cereal, fruit and more. The kids' day got off to a great start, and it was fun for everyone involved.



Our recent Director's luncheon was held at Grimaldi's in El Segundo. A server mentioned how much he enjoyed being a Kinecta member after leaving a big bank. He suddenly found himself with a goodie bag and a gift card.



Our Gardena MSC brought a little unexpected fun to the classroom last Halloween, by providing each member of the class a pumpkin to decorate. These children never thought their day would turn into a pumpkin-palooza.



WHAT WILL YOU BE EXPECTING THE NEXT TIME YOU VISIT US?

Well you can be sure of low rates and great service, but who knows what else may be in store? Maybe not this visit, or the next, but down the road, you can expect the unexpected.

2017 SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

We are pleased to announce the recipients of the 2017 Kinecta Scholarships and Teaching Grants for Growth.

2017 Kinecta Scholarship Recipients

Pictured from left to right:

Robert Young – Kinecta Board Chair
Jordan Stream – Villa Park High School
Lauren Lum – Woodbridge High School
Jennie Bao – Redondo Union High School
Jaedyn Baker – Cal State Dominguez Hills
Valerie Narumi – Valencia High School
Erin Pool – Calabasas High School
Elias Celaya – Mission Viejo High School
Delaina Castillo – Vista Murrieta High School
Keith Sultemeier – Kinecta President & CEO



2017 Kinecta Teaching Grants for Growth Recipients

Pictured from left to right:

Robert Young – Kinecta Board Chair
Cheryl Thom – Casimir Middle School
Marcia Barryte – Carson High School
Thomas Dewey – Brea Olinda High School
Keith Sultemeier – Kinecta President & CEO
Batool Hussain – Ocean View Early Education (not pictured)



Congratulations to our 2017 winners!

'TIS THE SEASON! (TO BUY OR SELL A HOUSE!)

If the idea of looking for a new home has been in the back of your mind for a while, now might be the best time to act. If you have an existing home to sell, there will be more potential buyers interested in your property. To capitalize on the traffic in the summer, spruce up a little to increase your chances of selling and maximize the price you receive.

Just a few simple things can make the difference. For example, plant flowers in the front yard, keep the lawn mowed, sweep the walkway. Inside, make sure all the natural light possible is flowing into your living space. If you have heavy drapes remove them. Brighten your environment with a splash of color. Consider removing some furniture to accentuate the space available in your home.

If you are a first-time home buyer, now is the time to begin investing your money in your own home, instead of letting your money pay for someone else's home or apartment. The biggest keys to ensuring a smooth transaction is getting pre-approved for a loan, so sellers know you are serious and the process moves quickly once your offer is accepted. Don't make any large purchases or major financial moves in the months leading up to buying your home. Realize that if you love one home, there will be another you'll love just as much. Making emotion based decisions when buying a home can cost you money.

If you are a first-time home buyer, research any available programs or subsidies to help with your down payment or your purchase.

Whether you are a newbie to real estate transactions, or a veteran, Kinecta has a variety of ways to help.

From home buying seminars with insights even the pros appreciate, to low rates on mortgages, we've got home buyers, and sellers, covered. Kinecta even has a program that provides substantial Cash Rewards* at closing. Our members have earned $105,374.00 through our HomeAdvantage® program. Visit www.kinecta.org/HomeAdvantage for all the details.

And financing with Kinecta comes with a bonus – HousehappyTrax, a web app that helps you keep tabs on and control the costs of routine home maintenance. Keeping on top of important household maintenance can save you a lot of money in the long run. Visit www.kinecta.org/househappy for more information.

*See website for more information.



UPCOMING COMMUNITY EVENTS:

Kinecta employees are teaming up to raise awareness and funds for various nonprofit partners. You can help too! Go to www.kinecta.org and click on News & Events for details and help us make a difference.

JUL 1-31

Back Pack Drive

Join us in our campaign to collect school supplies for students in need as part of our annual Back-to-School Supplies Drive. Drop off new items at any member service center starting July 1.

JUL 22

Community Celebration and Chili Cook-off

Be sure to join us on Saturday, July 22, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. for our Community Celebration and Chili Cook-off at the Kinecta Main Office, 1440 Rosecrans Ave., Manhattan Beach. Bring the whole family for a day of fun, food and prizes. Don't miss this special occasion!

ANY TIME

Online Giving

One of the easiest ways for Kinecta members to support Children's Miracle Network Hospitals (CMNH) is through our Online Giving program. It's quick and easy to set up a recurring donation of $1 or $5 monthly, quarterly or annually. Simply log in to Kinecta Direct Online Banking at www.kinecta.org and click on Online Giving. Funds are automatically debited. All proceeds go directly to support Children's Miracle Network Hospitals. Each year our members help raise thousands of dollars through these small, recurring tax-deductible donations.

UPCOMING EDUCATION EVENTS:

Real Estate Workshops: July, August, September

KFIS Wealth Management Seminars[1]: July, August, September

Business Services Seminar: September

Visit the Events section of **www.kinecta.org** for locations and more details.

[1] Securities offered through LPL Financial, Member FINRA/ SIPC. Insurance products offered through LPL Financial or its licensed affiliates. Fixed insurance products also offered through Kinecta Financial & Insurance Services, a subsidiary of Kinecta Federal Credit Union, CA Insurance License #0E24631. Kinecta Financial & Insurance Services, Member FINRA/ SIPC, provides referrals to LPL Financial. Kinecta Federal Credit Union and Kinecta Financial & Insurance Services are not affiliated with LPL Financial.

Not NCUA Insured | Not Credit Union Guaranteed | May Lose Value

PAST KINECTA COMMUNITY EVENTS



Earth Day Shred Fest

In April we conducted paper shredding events at Westminster, Manhattan Beach, Warner Center, Nix Inglewood and Brea locations. With these events nearly 8 tons of personal documents were safely shredded, recycled and diverted from the landfill. Every ton of paper recovered for recycling saves 3.3 cubic yards of landfill space.



Professional Clothing Drive

This past April, Kinecta hosted a very successful clothing drive. Thanks to the generosity of our members and employees, we gathered more than 3,400 articles of professional clothing, accessories and shoes. The items were donated to Working Wardrobes (Los Angeles and Orange counties), Chino Neighborhood House (Inland Empire) and Unity Shoppe (Goleta), all of which serve men, women and young adults in life crisis looking to enter the workforce.

Member Access /Download our App

Member Contact Center
800.854.9846
310.643.5400

Online
www.kinecta.org

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KINECTA

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EQUAL HOUSING LENDER

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National Credit Union Administration, a U.S. Government Agency
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