

SPRING 2025

# FOCUS

A PUBLICATION FOR THE MEMBER/OWNERS OF  
CALTECH EMPLOYEES FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

## Family Membership Through Generations

*The benefits of belonging to CEFCU last a lifetime!*

**A**s a CEFCU member, you already know that CEFCU is not like other financial institutions. We only do what we do best. So, when we offer a product or service, you can be sure it's an outstanding value.

But did you know that your entire immediate family is eligible to join?

***This includes your spouse or significant other living under the same roof, as well as your parents, children, siblings, grandparents, and grandchildren — by blood or marriage.***

Once they join, they'll enjoy all the same financial advantages of CEFCU membership that you do. In turn, they can pass on these exclusive benefits to their entire immediate family.

### WE'RE HERE FOR YOU

No matter what your age or stage in life, as a CEFCU member, you can be certain of an ongoing, solid financial advantage, knowing we place our members first in all we do.

Whether you want to help your kids or grandkids get a head start on saving, boost your own funds, or help your folks find the safest place for their nest egg, our Credit Union is here for you and your family.

We can help you drive away in your first car or your dream machine. Or, we can reduce the payments on your existing auto loan from another lender.

We can make buying your first home — or upgrading your forever home — more affordable.



***Family membership starts with you and can be passed along to your entire immediate family. In turn, they can pass on the advantages of membership to their families for generations to come.***

For your everyday shopping convenience, we can provide you with a money-saving credit card. And when life throws you an unexpected curve ball, we can help you win the game with a truly affordable personal loan.

### IT'S SO EASY TO JOIN

Whether your family is located across the dining room table or across the country, they're eligible to join our "one-of-a-kind" credit union. They, too, can have the confidence of knowing their money is entrusted

to one of the strongest financial institutions in the nation. Plus, they can apply for the most affordable loans around. Be sure to invite your family to become a CEFCU member! They can open and fund a new account in person or online at [www.cefcu.org](http://www.cefcu.org).

After 75 years, we feel privileged to continue to serve generations who rely on and trust our Credit Union for their financial needs. Start your financial legacy today.

Must qualify for CEFCU membership to join. Minimum opening deposit of \$5 and one-time \$5 membership fee due upon opening any CEFCU Share Account.

Federally insured by NCUA. All loans subject to credit approval. Rates and terms subject to change without notice. CEFCU is an Equal Housing Lender.



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

# Past, Present, Future. We're Here for You!



**John K. Meeker**  
President/CEO

Pacific Palisades. While the flames have been extinguished, the true work has only just begun.

Our response to the destruction caused by the Los Angeles wildfires has been twofold: supporting our members in need and standing with our sponsor, Caltech. For members directly impacted by loss, damage or displacement, we introduced a comprehensive set of financial relief measures. Recognizing that every member's situation is unique,

we evaluate each case individually, ensuring CEFCU remains a true financial partner in these challenging times.

In solidarity with our sponsor, our Board of Directors approved a \$50,000 donation to the Caltech/JPL Fire Recovery Fund at the January Board meeting. To amplify our impact, we secured a matching contribution from the Federal Home Loan Bank of San Francisco, effectively doubling our support to \$100,000. Administered by Caltech, these funds will provide both immediate relief and long-term assistance to Caltech and JPL employees navigating the difficulties of rebuilding.

Even as we focus on recovery efforts, CEFCU remains committed to delivering superior financial value to all members. In response to the complex interest rate environment, we have proactively reviewed and reduced rates — most notably in real estate

lending. Our current real estate rates are at their lowest since November 2022, a significant drop from recent peaks in the 7.5% range. This presents a prime opportunity for buyers and refinancers to secure savings before market conditions shift.

This year also marks a historic milestone — CEFCU's 75th anniversary. As we reflect on the past 75 years, I take great pride in our journey, not just in our growth as an institution, but in the collective strength and achievements of our members. Your success is our success — because when our members thrive, so does CEFCU.

Through every challenge and milestone, CEFCU stands unwavering in its mission. We are here, we are working, and we are more committed than ever to serving you — our esteemed member-owners.

## La Cañada Flintridge Chamber Honors CEFCU on 75 Years



**Emcee Joe Radabaugh (left) and outgoing Chair Mike Leininger (right) present certificate to Patty Aposhian Kasparian, Chief Marketing Officer, CEFCU.**

## A New eBranch is Coming Soon

We are excited to announce the upcoming launch of a redesigned eBranch, our online access system. We redeveloped this convenience to make account management better than ever before.

- **User-friendly navigation** brings direct access to features and tools within eBranch. We added improved transaction search and filter options. *There will be no change to our login process.*
- **Scheduled transfers will evolve** with the ability to initiate a "saved transfer" in one click and the option to skip an individual scheduled transfer. Plus, intuitive steps make it easier to set up scheduled transfers. *Scheduled transfers will process on the day requested at 9 a.m. (Pacific) regardless of previously set times.*



### Not enrolled in eBranch?

Use the login area in the right-top area of our homepage at [www.cefcu.org](http://www.cefcu.org) and select "First-Time User" to get started.

# 7 Tips for Buying & Using Homeowner's Insurance

Understanding your homeowner's insurance policy and ensuring you have the right coverage can protect you financially when the unexpected happens.

## 1 WHAT'S COVERED?

A standard homeowner's insurance policy covers damage to your property and belongings from fire, theft, vandalism, and certain storms, plus covers additional living expenses if you're displaced. The policy includes liability protection if someone is injured on your property. And, the insurance policy may extend coverage beyond your home. For instance, your homeowner's insurance (not auto insurance) may cover the loss of personal items stolen from your car.

## 2 WHAT'S NOT COVERED?

Home insurance does not cover everything. Standard exclusions include earthquakes, floods, power failures, poor maintenance, and government actions. While windstorms are typically covered, coverage for water damage varies. As a rule of thumb, water from above (rainwater or a burst pipe in an upstairs apartment) is usually covered, but water from below (ground flooding or a backed-up sewer) generally is not. If you live in a flood-prone area, consider additional policies for full protection.

## 3 REVIEW YOUR POLICY DECLARATION PAGE FOR COVERAGE BREAKDOWN.

- **Dwelling:** Protects your home's structure, including attached garages. Ensure the limit covers full rebuilding costs.
- **Other Structures:** Covers detached structures, such as sheds and fences, typically set at 10% of dwelling coverage.
- **Personal Property:** Covers belongings, including furniture and electronics. This may cover replacement cost or actual cash value.
- **Loss of Use:** Pays for temporary living expenses if your home becomes uninhabitable.
- **Personal Liability:** Protects against law suits for injury or property damage to others.
- **Medical Payments:** Covers medical expenses for guests injured on your property, regardless of fault.

Mike Yurochko, founder of Loti, a recovery platform with both public adjusting services and an entirely free learning hub, has helped thousands of homeowners recover and rebuild after unexpected disasters. After losing his own home in the 2019 Kincade fire, he understands firsthand the stress of navigating the claims process. "Beyond the primary coverages listed on your declarations page, take note of key endorsements that can significantly impact your protection," he says. "These include debris removal, ordinance or law coverage, and extended replacement cost — factors that can make a crucial difference in claim payouts."



## PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY & POSSESSIONS

- ## 4 TAKE INVENTORY OF YOUR BELONGINGS.
- Document valuables in your home to ensure proper reimbursement. Create a list of possessions with receipts, purchase dates, serial numbers, and photos.

Save receipts of new purchases to update your records over time. Remember to keep a backup copy of these files in a safe place. A video tour/narration is helpful documentation.

- ## 5 CHOOSE THE RIGHT AGENT AND POLICY.
- Home insurance can be complex, so work with a knowledgeable, accessible agent who understands your needs. "Cheaper isn't always better — proper coverage matters most," says Yurochko. "Make sure your agent knows about high-value belongings, renovations, or non-traditional uses

of your home to avoid coverage gaps. If budget is a concern, consider raising your deductible to lower your premiums instead of cutting essential coverage."

- ## 6 REPLACEMENT COST VERSUS ACTUAL CASH VALUE.
- There are two methods of calculating the reimbursement of damage to a home. Replacement cost pays to rebuild or repair your home to its original condition — using materials of similar kind and quality — without deducting depreciation. Actual cash value (ACV) deducts depreciation from the reimbursement amount, which could leave you with a major out-of-pocket expense.

- ## 7 FILING A CLAIM.
- Know the claim deadlines of your policy since waiting too long to file a claim may result in denial, especially if the delay worsens the damage. Be sure to save receipts, appraisals, and contracts, as well as document all communications with your insurer, including names and dates. "Not all claims are worth filing — small claims can increase your risk profile and lead to higher premiums," says Yurochko. "For complex or high-value claims, consider hiring a licensed public adjuster. They understand policy intricacies, can organize your claim effectively, and advocate for the best outcome, reducing the hassle of dealing with insurers."

## OPTIMIZE YOUR KNOWLEDGE

Whether you're a first-time home buyer or a seasoned homeowner, it's important to know how your home insurance can protect you and your home.

Loti ([www.loti.com](http://www.loti.com)) offers free online resources with helpful considerations for your homeowner insurance policy, guides to navigate insurance claims, home repairs, and essential tips to protect and maintain your home.

To read more about homeownership, visit us at [www.cefcu.org](http://www.cefcu.org) and select "Financial Wellness" under the Resources tab.



## LA CAÑADA OFFICE

528 Foothill Blvd.  
PO Box 11001  
La Cañada Flintridge, CA 91012-6001  
800/592-3328 • 818/952-4444  
FAX 818/952-4382  
Hours: 9 a.m.-4 p.m. M-F  
Drive Up: 8:15 a.m.-4:45 p.m. M-Th  
8:15 a.m.-5:00 p.m. F

## REAL ESTATE LOAN CTR.

801 Foothill Blvd.  
PO Box 11001  
La Cañada Flintridge, CA 91012-6001  
800/592-3328 ext. 404

## JPL OFFICE

4800 Oak Grove Dr., Bldg. 291  
Pasadena, CA 91109  
818/354-3280  
FAX 818/393-4308  
Hours: 9 a.m.-4 p.m. M-Th  
8:30 a.m.-4 p.m. F

## CAMPUS OFFICE

1200 E. California Blvd.  
Pasadena, CA 91125  
M/S 100-63  
626/395-6300  
FAX 626/568-9536  
Hours: 9 a.m.-4 p.m. M-Th  
8:30 a.m.-4 p.m. F

## WEBSITE

www.cefcu.org

## CREDIT UNION OFFICIALS

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Steve Proia, *Chair*  
Laurice Balian, *Vice Chair*  
John K. Meeker, *Treasurer*  
Peter Rinde, *Secretary*  
Joe Courtney, *Director*  
Dlorah Gonzales, *Director*  
Ann Martin, *Director*  
John Patterson, *Director*  
Theresa Slowskei, *Director*

### SUPERVISORY COMMITTEE

Theresa Slowskei, *Chair*  
Aleen Boladian, *Member*  
Walt Boyd, *Member*  
Brian Corcoran, *Member*  
Debbie Lee, *Member*

WE'VE JUST  
**LOWERED**  
OUR LOAN RATES

# Scholarship Applications Available

High School graduating students may apply for CEFCU's scholarships to earn one of several \$2,000 awards. Scholars can choose to concentrate in any desired field.

Eligibility requirements are easy:

- Good standing high school senior
- Completed CEFCU scholarship application\*
- Personal statement essay\*
- CEFCU member\*



For scholarship applications or more information, visit [www.cefcu.org](http://www.cefcu.org) or call **800/592-3328 ext. 651**. The deadline is May 5, 2025.

\*See our application for full details. Applicants must be a current CEFCU member.

## FINANCIAL UPDATE

As of February 28, 2025

Assets.....	\$2,109,650,327
Shares.....	\$1,608,932,899
Loans.....	\$ 594,284,420
Member Accounts.....	37,870

## LOAN RATES & TERMS

Type of Loan	Annual Percentage Rate (APR)	Approximate Maximum Term
<b>PERSONAL LOANS</b>		
Personal Line of Credit (Variable).....	14.50%	Open End
Mastercard® (Variable).....	13.75%	Open End
Short Term Personal Loan.....	7.95%^	24 months
	8.25%^	36 months
	8.95%^	60 months
Share Secured Loan (Variable).....	3.86%	Open End

^ Includes 1% rate discount for payment by Automatic Transfer. Lower rate or refinancing option does not apply to current CEFCU loans.

## VEHICLE LOANS

### New/Pre-Owned Autos — Purchase and Refinance\*

100% Financing (Current & prior 5 years).....	4.59%^	36 months
100% Financing (Current & prior 5 years).....	4.59%^	60 months
100% Financing (Current & prior 5 years).....	4.99%^	72 months
100% Financing (Current & prior 5 years).....	5.49%^	84 months
80% of Retail Value (6 years & older).....	4.99%^	60 months

### New/Pre-Owned Motorcycles\*

100% Financing.....	7.25%^	60 months
80% Financing (6 years & older).....	7.25%^	60 months

### New/Pre-Owned Recreational Vehicles\*

90% Financing.....	7.95%	120 months
80% Financing (6 years & older).....	9.00%	84 months

\* Financing includes purchase price or retail value plus tax, license, documentation fees, mechanical breakdown protection, GAP, and extended warranty.

^ Includes 1% rate discount for payment by Automatic Transfer. Lower rate or refinancing option does not apply to current CEFCU loans or any vehicles that have been financed by CEFCU in the past 12 months.

## REAL ESTATE LOANS

**First Trust Deed**..... Visit us online at [www.cefcu.org](http://www.cefcu.org) or call 800/592-3328 ext. 404

### Second Trust Deed

Primary/Secondary Residence (Fixed).....	8.00%	180 months
Rental Property (Fixed).....	9.75%	120 months

**Home Equity Line of Credit (Variable).....** 7.15% Open End

**10-Year Interest Only HELOC (Variable).....** 7.25% 120 months



This reference guide is provided as a service to our members for general information and is not meant as a full disclosure. See specific loan disclosures for further details. Rates and terms are those in effect at time of printing and are subject to change without notice. All loans subject to credit approval. Equal Housing Lender. NMLS #626590. Effective April 1, 2025.



## HOLIDAY CLOSINGS

Closed for CEFCU Staff Training on Wednesday, April 9

Memorial Day Monday, May 26 • Juneteenth Thursday, June 19 • Independence Day Friday, July 4