

# VCCFCU NEWSLETTER

WINTER  
2024

**Teller Hours**

Mondays & Thursdays 2pm-8pm  
Tuesdays & Wednesdays 9am-12pm

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## WE'RE HERE TO PROTECT YOU: Let's Work Together to Stop Scams

Despite our ongoing efforts to warn and educate members about scams and fraud schemes, we are still seeing cases where members fall victim. Scammers are relentless and use increasingly sophisticated tactics to trick people into handing over their hard-earned money. While we are committed to protecting your finances, we need your help to stay vigilant.

### Why Scams Continue to Succeed

Scammers prey on trust, fear, and urgency. They often impersonate trusted authorities, create convincing fake scenarios, or use high-pressure tactics to push you into acting without thinking. Unfortunately, even the most cautious members can be caught off guard in moments of stress or confusion.

**Tips to Protect Yourself:** Pause and Verify: If you receive a call, email, or text asking for money or personal information, take a moment to verify the request. Contact the supposed sender directly using a known, trusted number.

**Guard Your Information:** Never share account numbers, passwords, or personal details with anyone who contacts you unexpectedly, even if they claim to be from your credit union.

**Beware of Urgent Requests:** Scammers often pressure you to act quickly. Always take your time to evaluate the situation.

**Be Skeptical of Unsolicited Offers:** If you're promised a "too-good-to-be-true" deal or investment opportunity, it likely is.

**Report Suspicious Activity:** If you suspect fraud or feel something isn't right, notify your credit union immediately.

### Working Together to Stay Safe

We understand how frustrating and alarming it can be to deal with scammers. Please remember that we're here to help, but protecting your finances requires teamwork. Stay informed, cautious, and proactive. Together, we can outsmart the scammers and safeguard your financial future.

If you have questions or need assistance, don't hesitate to reach out. Let's stay safe and secure—together.

**Reporting Frauds and Scams -** If you or someone you know has been a victim of a scam or fraud scheme, report it to [ic3.gov](https://www.ic3.gov), the FBI's Internet Crime Complaint Center (IC3).



### A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT



The long-term success of our credit union rests on three pillars – our members, staff and volunteers. In recent years, our volunteers pillar has been the shakiest.

Most of our volunteers, who are our Board and committee members, have served us very well and, for most of them, for many years. As we age out, as we all do, it has become very difficult to replace this precious commodity.

So, we are embarking on a new quest. What we are proposing is for college students, especially those who are pursuing a degree in business, to join us as associate committee members. These students would learn the credit union business first-hand and receive invaluable volunteer business experience. These

days, every extra business-related activity will help on a resume and will also help us find potential Board and committee members of our joint future.

If you are interested, please call or write our manager, Mirela Alexe, 718-549-5858, [Alexe@vccfcu.com](mailto:Alexe@vccfcu.com), and we will call you to schedule an interview. I promise your experience will be a rewarding one.

On another note, as 2024 winds down, it seems inflation has been pretty well tamed, and the economy keeps humming along. For 2025, Europe's economic problems loom over us as a negative influence. I can only hope it doesn't happen.

I wish everyone a safe and healthy New Year and a prosperous 2025  
— Andrew Kimerling, President

### SHARE RATES - 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter, 2024

### RATE

Regular Share ..... 0.30% APY

Youth Share (for members up to age 21; paid on balances up to \$1000) ..... 3.03% APY

Share Draft/Checking (paid on average balance of \$300 or more) ..... 0.25% APY

Individual Retirement Accounts (IRAs) ..... 0.50% APY

Share Certificates ..... Call for rates

### ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

**Held Virtually via Zoom, Thursday, April 11, 2025 at 8:00PM**

To register, use link or QR code below in advance for this meeting  
<https://bit.ly/3ZBw8PI>

All members who register will be eligible for raffle prize drawings held during the meeting. Members interested in serving on the Board of Directors, Associate Directors, or Committees are invited to submit a brief resume for consideration by the Nominating Committee, to be sent to the Nominating Committee, C/O VCCFCU, 3960 Hillman Avenue, Bronx, NY 10463 by March 17, 2025.





**DIRECT DEPOSIT**

**Speed Up Your 2024  
Income Tax Refund**  
*Put your tax refund on the fast  
track with DIRECT DEPOSIT*

Direct Deposit of your income tax refund is fast, safe, and convenient! When you choose to receive your tax refund by Direct Deposit, the amount will be transferred electronically to the account you indicate on your return. With Direct Deposit, there's no need to worry about whether your check has been lost or stolen and there is no chance of it being delayed in the mail.

To help you fill out your form correctly, enter our routing number, **226074111** exactly as shown on Form 1040. Then mark whether the refund is going to a savings or checking account and write your seven or eight-digit account number.

**TIME TO REVIEW YOUR  
BENEFICIARY DESIGNATIONS**

Have you recently experienced a major life event, such as marriage, divorce, or birth of a child? If so, you'll want to make sure your beneficiary designations are up to date.

**Beneficiary designations take precedence over a will,** making them a critical part of your estate planning.

Certain financial accounts title in your name, such as IRAs, 401(k) plans, life insurance policies, annuities, and trusts, are automatically distributed to beneficiaries you designate upon your death. Be sure to update beneficiary designation forms with your Financial Institution or Financial Advisor periodically (especially in cases of births, death, divorce, illness, or substance abuse) and let loved ones know where to find copies.

Van Cortlandt Cooperative FCU members can access beneficiary designation forms on our website <https://www.vccfcu.com/resources/forms/> or at the teller window during normal business hours.



**Holiday Greetings**

*The Board, Management, and Staff of Van Cortlandt Cooperative Federal Credit Union join to wish you a happy holiday season and a prosperous New Year. We express our gratitude for your membership and support; we look forward to serving you in 2025*

**Important Update for  
Our Members**

Please note that the lobby ATM is for withdrawal purposes only. For deposits, we've provided a convenient deposit drop box located to the left of the ATM. However, for the quickest and easiest deposit experience, we encourage you to use the Mobile Deposit feature on our mobile banking app. It's secure, fast, and allows you to deposit checks anytime, anywhere. Thank you for your understanding and continued membership!

**Bravo to the Credit Union**

The accounting firm of Wojeski & Co., Certified Public Accountants, has just given us the final audit report certifying that the credit union is in excellent financial condition, heaping praise on the staff and volunteers who comprise our Board of Directors, Credit and Supervisory Committees.



**Luke McHugh**

topped all credit union youth members in savings this past quarter earning him the title of TOP SAVER. In recognition of Luke's money saving sense, we have awarded two prestige movie tickets for him and a guest valid at all Showcase, Multiplex, and Cinema de Lux theatres.

**Congratulations Luke!**

