

THE HPCU ADVANTAGE NEWSLETTER

CALENDAR EVENTS

DECEMBER

- **14th:** Santa Photos
9:00am to 11:30am
- **20th:** Shred Day
10:00am to 2:00pm
- **24th:** Christmas Holiday*
- **25th:** Christmas Holiday*

JANUARY

- **1st:** New Year's Day*
- **18th:** Martin Luther King, Jr. Day*
- **20th:** Martin Luther King, Jr. Day*

FEBRUARY

- **11th:** 82nd Annual Meeting
Starts at 7:00pm

MARCH

- **20th:** Shred Day
10:00am to 2:00pm

MAY

- **23rd:** Memorial Day*
- **25th:** Memorial Day*

* All branches will be closed for the holiday.

System Upgrade in 2020

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

Over the past year we've been working on upgrading the credit union's core operating system diligently behind the scenes. Our new core processing system will allow us to fully integrate your accounts, streamline our processes, and help serve us serve you and all your financial needs faster and more effectively.

In the coming months, you will begin to receive letters, emails and website notices regarding the system upgrade. Information regarding your accounts, debit cards and checks will be just a few of the items we will be addressing. We ask you to please pay special attention to these communications.

With our new system, we will be able to offer you many new features, functions and capabilities. You'll enjoy quicker branch transactions, speedier account openings and more online convenience.

We continually strive to improve your banking experience, whether you're connecting with us through our branches, call center, online or mobile services.

The system upgrade will provide state-of-the-art technology that will prepare our credit union for the future and will continue providing you with the best possible service. While an upgrade of this caliber is a major undertaking, we want to make the transition as simple and smooth as possible for you.

We're confident that any short-term inconveniences will be balanced by significant long-term benefits. We've gone through many changes since HPCU began in 1937 with just 14 member-owners and one small office in HPD's Property Room—but our daily goal has remained the same: to provide you, our member-owners, with trusted and reliable financial services here at Houston Police Credit Union.

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Upcoming Credit Union Events



SANTA IS BACK

Come meet Santa and receive a complimentary 4" x 6" photo. While you enjoy desserts and soak in the holiday magic, write Santa a letter and don't forget to drop it in our special mailbox—we'll make sure he sends a letter back! All members and their family are welcome.

Date: December 14, 2019
 Time: 9:00am - 11:30am
 Location: 1600 Memorial Drive
 Houston, TX 77007



ANNUAL MEETING

Join us for our 82nd annual meeting as we look back at our 2019 achievements and prepare for the coming years with the election of officers and much more. For assistance or more information, please visit any of our branches or give us a call at 713.986.0200.

Date: February 11, 2020
 Time: 7:00pm
 Location: SPJST Lodge Pokrok
 1435 Beall Street
 Houston, TX 77008

FAMILY MEMBERSHIP

For a limited time, sign up your family for membership during the month of December, and we'll waive the initial fee! Just be sure to bring two forms of valid identification.

Not sure if your loved ones qualify for membership? If you're an active or retired HPD officer or HPD civilian employee, your family is automatically eligible for membership.

*Membership offer is valid until **December 31, 2019**.

Free up Cash in 30 Days CUT DOWN DEBT & SAVE MONEY

If you have a tight budget, the thought of finding any extra money can seem unrealistic. But with a few minor tweaks to your spending, it may be easier than you think. Here are ways to cut down on debt and actually save money in the long run:

CONSOLIDATE DEBT

Sometimes the key to paying down debt can be as simple as combining it. One way to consolidate is to get a 0% balance-transfer credit card, transfer your debts to this card, and pay off the balance in full during the promotional period.

Another way is to get a variable-rate debt consolidation loan through your credit union. By consolidating your loans, you could save on interest rates, simplify monthly payments, and start saving money. However, if you're just going to use it to run up more debt, consolidation isn't right for you.

REFINANCE YOUR LOANS: HOUSE AND CAR

Refinancing your loans to get a lower interest rate will free up money that can be put toward other bills or put into savings. A credit union loan representative can determine if you qualify for lower rates.

REVISIT YOUR POLICIES: HOME AND AUTO INSURANCE

Check the National Association of Insurance Commissioners website and Insurance Information Institute for advice about picking reputable companies and then compare quotes from different companies.

Consider raising deductibles. Ask your insurer about good-student discounts for kids in high school and for college students who live away at school but leave their car at home.

GO GREEN

Be environmentally conscious and save money while doing so. Programmable thermostats, fluorescent and LED bulbs, and window coverings are options that can help you save energy and money.

Go green at the credit union as well by signing up for eStatements and automatic bill payments. Using automatic bill pay will help you avoid late fees and make consistent progress toward your financial goals. Signing up for automatic loan payments may also get you a discount on your interest rate.

Ask a credit union loan representative for more information. With just a little research and a few emails or phone calls, you should be able to free up more cash to pay off debt or put into your savings account.

Summary of Operations

Total Assets	\$743,326
Loans to Member-Owners	\$451,241
Member-Owners' Savings	\$625,851
Total Reserves	\$110,414
Total Income.....	\$29,702
Total Expenses	\$14,296
Total Income Before Dividend Distribution	\$15,406
Regular Dividends to Member-Owners	\$7,769
Net Operating Expense Ratio	0.79%

Dollar amounts in thousands as of October 31, 2019



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Donate Within Your Budget GIVE SAFELY & GUILT-FREE

The holidays are synonymous with giving. Not surprisingly, it's the time when most charities make their big push for a year-end boost to their bottom lines.

Unfortunately, there are fraudsters and phony charity organizations hoping to take advantage of potential givers. To protect yourself, ask a few simple questions and do a quick online lookup to determine if a charity is legitimate before you make your donation.

Ask about the charity's history, location, and tax ID number—if the answers seem fishy or vague, take a pass. If someone asks you for money in person, look up their organization on your cellphone before deciding to donate.

You know you won't be able to help every organization that asks for your donation. To help you give wisely and avoid feeling guilty for declining someone, create a giving plan.



- Decide how much you want to give—either a dollar amount or percentage of income. Then choose an organization.
- Pick a charity that aligns with your beliefs and will spend your donation responsibly. The website givewell.org analyzes thousands of charities and provides information about their pros and cons.
- Decide how often you want to give and then stick to your plan. By

budgeting your generosity, you'll know at tax time exactly how much you've given and to whom.

- When asked for a donation by other organizations, simply explain you've already given another way.

It would be nice to be able to give to all your favorite charities, but not if it hurts your financial well-being. Give what is within your budget and do a little research before sending your donation.

Contact Us

PHONE NUMBERS

Member Services
713.986.0200 main
800.927.8707 toll-free
713.986.0394 fax

Lending Services
713.225.6267

Telephone Banking
713.227.7478
800.609.1692 toll-free

Lost or Stolen Debit Card
800.554.8969 toll-free
973.682.2652 outside U.S.

Lost or Stolen Credit Card
855.510.4590 toll-free
301.287.3298 outside U.S.

VISIT US ON THE WEB

HPCU.coop

LOCATIONS & HOURS

Memorial Branch—Main
1600 Memorial Drive
Houston, TX 77007

Lobby Hours
Mon-Fri.....7:00am - 4:30pm
Sat9:00am - 1:00pm
SunClosed

Drive-Up Hours
Mon-Fri.....7:00am - 6:00pm
Sat9:00am - 1:00pm
SunClosed

Call Center Hours
Mon-Fri.....7:00am - 4:30pm
Sat9:00am - 1:00pm
SunClosed

Travis Branch*
1200 Travis Street
Floor 20
Houston, TX 77002

Lobby Hours
Mon-Fri.....8:00am - 4:30pm
Sat-SunClosed

Willowbrook Branch
17314 State Highway 249
Suite 107
Houston, TX 77064

Lobby Hours
Mon-Fri.....8:30am - 4:30pm
Sat-SunClosed

* *Restricted access. Branch is available to member-owners with security access to Houston Police Department only.*

