



Cooperative Connections

Newsletter | October 2023



Celebrating International Credit Union Month: The Global Impact of the Cooperative Movement

Every October, credit unions and their members around the world join together to celebrate International Credit Union Month. This month is a time to recognize and promote the values and benefits of credit unions and cooperative financial institutions. While credit unions may not always make headlines, they play a crucial role in shaping the financial landscape, promoting financial inclusion, and fostering a sense of community and cooperation.

**INTERNATIONAL
CREDIT UNION MONTH**

The Birth of the Cooperative Movement: The roots of the cooperative movement trace back to the 19th century when people began to realize the need for accessible and fair financial services. In 1844, the Rochdale Society of Equitable Pioneers in the United Kingdom established the first successful cooperative, serving as a blueprint for modern credit unions. Their principles, known as the Rochdale Principles, include open and voluntary membership, democratic control, and equitable distribution of benefits. Closer to home, researchers have concluded that Caribbean people were introduced to the cooperative movement sometime towards the end of the 19th century. The first attempts to organize cooperative ventures were in Guyana. The Peoples Cooperative Bank, started in Jamaica in 1905, was the first recorded Caribbean financial cooperative. In the early 1940s, the concept of credit unions was formally introduced into the Caribbean islands by missionaries from Canada and the USA. The idea of credit unions was accepted and credit unions were organized in Jamaica and Trinidad & Tobago in the early forties and in Dominica in 1951.





Cooperative Connections

Newsletter | October 2023

The Global Reach of Credit Unions: Credit unions have come a long way since their inception. They have grown into a global network of financial cooperatives, with millions of members and assets in the trillions of dollars. The World Council of Credit Unions (WOCCU) reports that credit unions operate in more than 118 countries, serving over 291 million people. Their international presence underscores the relevance and importance of the cooperative movement in today's world.



**Local Service.
Global Reach.**



Financial Inclusion and Empowerment: One of the primary missions of credit unions is to provide financial services to underserved and marginalized communities. In many parts of the world, traditional banks may not be accessible or affordable for everyone, leaving a significant portion of the population without essential financial services. Credit unions bridge this gap by offering affordable loans, savings accounts, and other financial products to people who might otherwise be excluded from the financial system.

The Power of Community: Credit unions are community-centric institutions. Unlike shareholder-focused banks, credit unions are owned and controlled by their members. This democratic structure ensures that decisions made within the credit union are in the best interest of the members. It also creates a strong sense of community and shared values, with a focus on mutual support and cooperation.

Supporting Local Economies: Credit unions also contribute to local economies. They often prioritize local lending, helping small businesses thrive and supporting the economic development of their communities. This focus on local investment can make a substantial difference in areas where traditional banks may be less willing to lend.





Cooperative Connections

Newsletter | October 2023

The Role of Technology: The cooperative movement is not stagnant. Credit unions are embracing modern technology to improve their services, enhance security, and expand their reach. Digital banking, mobile apps, and online services have allowed credit unions to provide convenient and accessible financial services to their members while maintaining their cooperative principles.



International Credit Union Month is not just a celebration; it's a reminder of the significant impact of the cooperative movement on the global financial landscape. Credit unions are a powerful force for financial inclusion, community building, and sustainability. As we commemorate this month, it's crucial to recognize the importance of credit unions and the principles they uphold, and to continue supporting these institutions that put people and communities at the heart of their operations.

Message from Shari Brown, President of the Board of Directors, Antigua and Barbuda Cooperative League Ltd on the occasion of International Credit Union Month



Shari Brown

Dear Credit Union Members and Well-wishers,

I bring greetings on behalf of the Antigua and Barbuda Cooperative League, the apex body for credit unions in Antigua and Barbuda as we celebrate credit unions all month long and the 75th International Credit Union Day on October 19th under the theme: Celebrating 75 years of Community, Cooperation, and Care.

International Credit Union Day is internationally recognized as a day to reflect upon the credit union movement's history, promote its achievements, recognize the hard work done, and share member experiences.

The goal of the credit union movement is to advance financial inclusion through the credit union and cooperative model by engaging in development, education, and networking that empowers members and promotes more equitable and resilient communities.

The credit unions in Antigua have grown to a membership of over 44,000 and are a critical part of our economy --- contributing not just to our members personal lives but also to a number of small businesses. Our goal is to increase the visibility of the movement and promote awareness of how essential credit unions are to the continued growth and development of our nation.

Sending our warmest wishes to each and every one of you as we come together to celebrate our sense of unity, our community, and our shared achievements throughout this month!



Cooperative Connections

Newsletter | October 2023

Scenes from the OECS Summit in Grenada





Cooperative Connections

Newsletter | October 2023

Celebrating Unity and Gratitude: Cooperative League's Visit to Spring Gardens Moravian Church

In a heartwarming display of unity and gratitude, the Cooperative League, along with representatives from the credit unions, gathered at the Spring Gardens Moravian Church on Sunday, October 8, 2023, for a special service of thanksgiving. This event saw members of the Christian Cooperative Credit Union, People's Cooperative Credit Union, St. John's Cooperative Credit Union, Police Credit Union, SDA Cooperative Credit Union, APUA Credit Union, and the Community First Cooperative Credit Union coming together to give thanks, as well as celebrate the strength of the cooperative movement.

The Spring Gardens Moravian Church provided the perfect backdrop for this joyous occasion, as its peaceful and inclusive atmosphere harmonized with the values that credit unions and cooperatives hold dear. The service, attended by a congregation of cooperative members, was a testament to the cooperative spirit that unites individuals and communities.



During the service, hymns and prayers filled the sanctuary, reminding attendees of the importance of coming together in gratitude and unity. Rev. Hilton Joseph, the senior pastor of Spring Gardens Moravian Church, delivered a heartfelt sermon and prayed for the cooperative sector. The atmosphere was one of reflection and appreciation for the cooperative movement's continued growth and its unwavering commitment to improving the lives of its members. It was also a moment to recognize the dedication and hard work of credit union staff and members who tirelessly serve their communities.

After the service, attendees had the opportunity to connect and share their experiences, fostering a stronger sense of camaraderie within the cooperative community. This gathering also served as a reminder that credit unions are not just financial institutions but essential pillars of support for their members.

As we look back on this inspiring service of thanksgiving, it's clear that the cooperative spirit is alive and well. The commitment to the principles of cooperation and the unwavering support of credit unions continue to strengthen communities, foster financial stability, and empower individuals across the globe.

Heartfelt gratitude is extended to the Cooperative League, the credit unions, and all the attendees for coming together to celebrate the cooperative spirit and express their appreciation.

This service was a powerful reminder of the incredible impact that cooperative organizations have on our communities, and it reinforces the importance of working together to achieve common goals.

Let this event serve as a beacon of hope and unity, reminding us all that by working together, we can create a better, more equitable future for everyone.





Cooperative Connections

Newsletter | October 2023



ICU MONTH EVENTS
8TH, 14TH, 21ST & 28TH OCTOBER 2023

INTERNATIONAL CREDIT UNION MONTH

08

CHURCH SERVICE

Spring Gardens Moravian Church (8:00 AM)
St. John's Street, St. John's, Antigua

14

FAMILY FUN DAY

JSC Sports Complex (2:00 - 5:00 PM)
Cnr. Old Parham Road & Simon Bolivar Drive,
St. John's, Antigua

21

AWARDS GALA DINNER

Casa Palmadita (7:00 PM)
Fitches Creek, St. George's, Antigua

28

HIKE

Mermaid Gardens Rock Pool
Galleon Beach, English Harbour,
St. Paul's, Antigua
(Gather at Galleon Beach at 5:30 AM, move off at 6:00AM)

To celebrate, the Antigua & Barbuda Cooperative League,
in conjunction with its member organizations,
will have a series of events



Cooperative Connections

Newsletter | October 2023



INTERNATIONAL CREDIT UNION MONTH

ANTIGUA & BARBUDA
CO-OPERATIVE LEAGUE LTD
PRESENTS

FAMILY FUN DAY

**ADMISSION
FREE**



**JOIN US AT THE FAMILY FUN DAY
FOR AN UNFORGETTABLE DAY
OF LAUGHTER AND CAMARADERIE!**

Get ready to unleash your competitive spirit in sack races, three-legged races, and epic tug of war battles. It's all about fun, games, and creating lasting memories with our credit union family!!

JOIN US!

 14 October, 2023

 2pm-5pm

 JSC Sports Complex
Cnr. Old Parham Road & Simon Bolivar
Drive, St. John's, Antigua

**BE A PART OF THE ACTIVITES!
REGISTER NOW!**

 268-462-9117
 abcoopleague@gmail.com



Cooperative Connections

Newsletter | October 2023



INTERNATIONAL CREDIT UNION MONTH

ANTIGUA & BARBUDA
CO-OPERATIVE LEAGUE LTD
PRESENTS

AWARDS GALA DINNER

DATE
**OCT 21ST,
2023**

TIME
**7 PM
UNTIL**

PLACE
**CASA PALMADITA,
FITCHES CREEK**

ADMISSION: \$200.00

Entertainment, Awards &
Great Door Prizes await you

Tickets can be purchased at the
Antigua & Barbuda Co-operative League Ltd



268-462-9117



abcoopleague@gmail.com

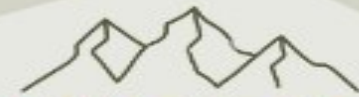


Cooperative Connections

Newsletter | October 2023



INTERNATIONAL CREDIT UNION MONTH



HIKE TO MERMAID GARDENS

**OCTOBER 28, 2023
ADMISSION FREE**

DISCOVER NATURE'S BEAUTY WITH US

Experience the magic of Mermaid Gardens as we wrap up International Credit Union Month.

Explore the trails, breathe in the fresh air, and soak up the breathtaking beauty of Mermaid Gardens as we bond with our credit union community.

Meeting point will be at Galleon Beach at 5:30am, and we will move off at 6am.

Let's celebrate the spirit of unity and adventure that defines us during ICU Month.

We can't wait to see you there!!

#ICUMonthHike



REGISTER NOW!

☎ 268-462-9117

✉ abcoopleague@gmail.com



Cooperative Connections

Newsletter | October 2023

Co-operative Credit Unions in the Community



Visit to the Clarehall Secondary School

We come to You!

The team from SJCCU made a presentation to the faculty of the Clarehall Secondary School. Representatives of SJCCU spoke to them about the services offered by the credit union and also about the differences between SJCCU and other financial institutions. It was an interactive session with teachers being very interested in the compulsory savings and also the Flexi-BOX accounts being offered by the St. John's Co-operative Credit Union.



Visit to the New Winthropes Primary School

The Parents of New Winthropes Primary held their first Parents Teachers meeting for the new school year and the St. John's Co-operative Credit Union was invited to speak to the parents about the importance of saving. SJCCU also highlighted the services being offered by SJCCU. It was indeed another interactive session with both the parents and the faculty expressing interest in the services and saving methods offered by SJCCU. This occasion also allowed SJCCU the opportunity to introduce new parents to their KICKSTART program which is geared towards introducing children to the concept of saving from a young age. The children, through their teacher, were also presented with small tokens from St. John's Co-operative Credit Union.





Cooperative Connections

Newsletter | October 2023

Co-operative Credit Unions in the Community

Police Credit Union

WEEK OF ACTIVITIES

CREDIT UNION WEEK 2023

MONDAY 16th October	Media Day
TUESDAY 17th October	Financial Management Talk (Zoom / In- Person) <i>Free - Register by 13th October</i>
WEDNESDAY 18th October	Business Development <i>SIR WRIGHT F. GEORGE POLICE ACADEMY (Cedar Grove)</i>
THURSDAY 19th October	Member Appreciation Day
FRIDAY 20th October	Giving Back To Community

FOR MORE INFORMATION

[@policecreditunionantigua](#) info@pccu.ag [\(268\)462-7952](tel:(268)462-7952) OR VISIT OUR OFFICE

CELEBRATING
75 YEARS

INTERNATIONAL CREDIT UNION DAY

2023



Cooperative Connections

Newsletter | October 2023



EASY TO JOIN

We offer:
Savings accounts
Loans
Online payments
Insurance plans
(CUNA Caribbean Insurance)

BECOME A MEMBER TODAY

Contact us at:

Tel: (268) 562-6114

Email: christiancooperative2004@gmail.com

Facebook: Christian Co-operative

Credit Union Ltd.



Cooperative Connections

Newsletter | October 2023

Co-operative Credit Unions in the Community

The League visits SDA Credit Union on the occasion of their 25th Anniversary Celebrations!





Cooperative Connections

Newsletter | October 2023

Co-operative Credit Unions in the Community

Police Cooperative Credit Union in Action!





Cooperative Connections

Newsletter | October 2023

Word Search

X O E K E A M C U S O L I D A R I T Y O
M F R R O W T X T P F Q V R B F J X C N
E T X E U N Q A R R I D B P R R L X M H
A E M S C U D F U I N E Y V X W Y T E G
K X B P O E L I S N A K U E V R C Y M E
O C E O O M O N T C N S E M F G O O B L
A C N N P R C A W I C P W P K B M E E F
S O E S E S A N S P I I S O T O M D R C
O O F I R A L C H L A R T W O C U U U R
C P I B A V N I A E L I H E W J N C N E
I E T I T I C A R S I T R R N B I A I D
A R S L I N S L E M N M I M E C T T T I
L A L I V G U N H I C C F E D E Y I Y T
C T E T E S P G O M L G T N J L A O F U
M I N Y U O P Z L P U T P T M E W N R N
U O D X S O O A D A S A Z C O B T X J I
T N I C K Q R H E C I A S M O R O W X O
U G N P C A T V R T O G L O B A L A O N
A E G U F K Q V S C N D T G V T J Z H S
L A X K K F H B D B T N W P D E H D I I

Find the following words in the puzzle.
Words are hidden ↑ ↓ → ← and ↘

Financial Inclusion	Responsibility	Credit Unions
Empowerment	Cooperative	Community
Solidarity	Principles	Cooperation
Financial	Shareholders	Celebrate
Benefits	Education	Support
Impact	Global	Member
Thrift	Spirit	Trust
Social	Savings	Lending
Mutual	Local	Unity



Cooperative Connections

Newsletter | October 2023



We'd love to hear from you. Please contact us at.....

*Antigua and Barbuda Co-operative League Limited
Cnr. Woods Centre & Mahogany Dr.
St. John's Antigua*

Tel: 268-462-9117

Email: abcoopleague@gmail.com

or, gm.abcoopleague@gmail.com

website: <http://www.antiguacoopleague.com>