



LEAGUE REP REPORT

What Michigan credit unions need to know this month.



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Table of Contents

<u>Association Updates</u>	3
<u>Compliance & Regulation</u>	4
<u>Advocacy Highlights</u>	5
<u>SAS Resources</u>	6
<u>Education</u>	7
<u>Education Events Calendar</u>	10
<u>Foundation Resources</u>	11
<u>Partner Updates</u>	13
<u>Our Team</u>	20

ASSOCIATION UPDATES

Key MCUL Deadlines & Announcements

CEO CHANGES

- Straits Area FCU - Stacey Woiderski is the new CEO; Cindy Harrison retired December 31, 2025.

COMPLIANCE & REGULATION

- **NCUA Regulatory Changes:** A broad slate of proposed deregulations covers public unit/nonmember shares, excess insurance notices, borrowing authority, nonmember deposit disclosures, advertising rules, loans to other credit unions, and suretyship/collateral requirements.
- **Appendices A & B Changes:** NCUA proposes removing both Safeguarding Member Information (App. A) and Response Programs for Unauthorized Access (App. B) from the CFR, reissuing them as nonbinding guidance to allow more flexible updates.
- **CFPB Activity:** The Bureau restarts Section 1033 rulemaking after stakeholder pressure and continues operating under short-term funding while litigation challenges remain ongoing.
- **Industry News Roundup:** New deregulatory proposals, shifting enforcement trends, and leadership changes (including Chairman Hauptman's selection to the PCAOB) dominate the landscape.
- **Compliance Events:** Monthly Office Hours remain a key venue for updates and Q&A; credit unions are encouraged to bring topics and suggestions.
- **YOU Conference Preview:** Breakout sessions on AI, fraud defense, compliance trends, and litigation are paired with high-level general sessions on strategic AI use and workplace motivation.
- **Open Comment Calls:** Multiple NCUA dockets have comment deadlines between Feb. 9 and March 30; MCUL requests internal feedback roughly three weeks prior to due dates.

[Download the Full Reg Corner](#)



ADVOCACY HIGHLIGHTS



STATE ADVOCACY (LANSING)

- State legislature is off to a slow start, with the Governor's final State of the State and FY2027 budget presentation coming later this month.
- Continued monitoring of the \$600M appropriations appeal and its implications for ongoing projects.
- MCUL is advocating for Michigan Saves and CDFI credit union funding in the state budget.
- Progress continues on MCUA operational updates and Michigan's UCC modernization package related to digital assets.

FEDERAL ADVOCACY (WASHINGTON, D.C.)

- A partial federal government shutdown began Saturday; the Senate has passed a funding package, and the House vote is expected Tuesday.
- President Trump's proposed 10% credit card rate cap and the reintroduced Credit Card Competition Act (2026) are drawing significant attention and pushback.
- Attempts to attach CCCA to unrelated legislation have failed for now, but further efforts are expected.
- SEC appointed NCUA Chair Kyle Hauptman to the PCAOB; he will remain until a successor is confirmed.

GRASSROOTS & ADVOCACY FUNDING

- ACU GAC takes place March 1–5, with MCUL hosting Know Before You Go sessions on Feb. 25 and 26.
- Strong appreciation for ongoing lapel pin purchases and the shift to payroll deduction, which remains critical for state PAC strength.
- Thanks to credit unions that have completed federal permission agreement renewals; outreach will continue for remaining institutions.

[Read the Full Advocacy Roundup](#)

(login required)

SAS RESOURCES

THE SAS STRATEGIC SUCCESS PLAYBOOK INITIATIVE

What This Initiative Is

The Small-Asset Strategic Success Playbook initiative is a new MCUL effort designed specifically for Michigan credit unions with assets under \$400 million. Its purpose is to provide a clear, practical framework for running a strong, sustainable, independent credit union in today's environment.

Rather than positioning merger as the default path, this project focuses on strengthening your business model and expanding the options available to your credit union and your members.

Engage With the Initiative

Register for an upcoming listening session or complete the CEO survey [here](#).

Who It's For

This work is tailored to:

- CEOs of Michigan credit unions under \$400M
- Senior leadership teams
- Boards of Directors of those credit unions

If you're leading a smaller or mid-sized credit union and navigating growth, efficiency, regulation, technology, or succession, this initiative is built for you.

 [Learn more](#)





EDUCATION



NEW LEAD WITH HEART WOMEN'S CONFERENCE OFFERS YOUNG PROFESSIONAL SCHOLARSHIPS

Only a few seats left for this half-day event on February 18 at The Baronette Renaissance Detroit–Novi Hotel in Novi.

The day will feature leadership insights, brunch, and networking, including:

- Opening Remarks from MCUL/CUSG President & CEO Patty Corkery
- “Breaking Barriers, Building Pathways” with Jill Nowacki, President & CEO, Humanidei
- Peer Leadership Panel featuring:
 - Deleanna Allen, Public Service CU
 - Renee Sattiewhite, African-American Credit Union Coalition
 - Sati Smith, Diversified Members CU
 - Ingrid Todt, Rainbow Connection

The event will conclude with “Ignite Unstoppable Momentum” featuring author Kim Becking, sharing actionable strategies for resilience and sustained momentum.

Attendees are encouraged to bring items (toiletries, socks, etc.) for First Step Women’s Shelter, reinforcing the conference’s theme of leading with heart.

- Registration: \$299 per person
- Hotel deadline: January 27 (first-come basis)

 [Learn more and register](#)

STILL TIME TO REGISTER FOR VIRTUAL IRA TRAINING

Credit union staff who work with members on individual retirement accounts are encouraged to attend this two-day virtual workshop delivered by Ascensus on February 10–11.

- Day One: IRA fundamentals, establishment, funding, distributions, and portability
- Day Two: Legal considerations, excess contributions, RMDs, beneficiaries, withholding, and forms



[Register Here](#)

BRETT DIXON SPEAKS ON AI AT YOU CONFERENCE IN GRAND RAPIDS

His session, “How to Use AI as a Strategic Thought Partner,” will outline how AI can boost creativity, efficiency, and member experience — while addressing data-privacy, security, and regulatory limits financial institutions must navigate.

Attendees will learn where AI appropriately fits into marketing, lending, and compliance workflows, with practical examples and tools that avoid exposing sensitive data.

The two-day event offers actionable learning, peer networking, a vendor showcase, and a highly engaging downtown Grand Rapids setting. Registration is \$520 for MCUL-affiliated credit unions, and two scholarships for small credit unions are available through Feb. 20.



[Learn More](#)

VIRTUAL MORTGAGE LOAN ORIGINATOR WORKSHOP FULFILLS REG Z PERIODIC TRAINING REQUIREMENTS

MCUL will host a virtual Mortgage Loan Originator Workshop on **March 18–19**, offering two half-days of training that meet periodic requirements under Section 1026.36 of Regulation Z. The program provides a clear, end-to-end look at mortgage origination — from application and underwriting to closing, servicing, and fair lending.

Attendees will also receive an overview of the federal laws and regulations that shape mortgage lending. Michael R. Christians, a nationally recognized compliance expert, will lead the workshop. Registration is \$340 per person.



[Register Now](#)

2026 MCUL SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Credit unions are encouraged to share these scholarship opportunities with eligible staff:

- 2 Small Asset Size Scholarships – YOU Conference
- 3 Young Professional Scholarships – Lead with Heart
- 2 Small Asset Size Scholarships – HERO
- 1 Young Professional Scholarship – HERO
- 2 Small Asset Size Scholarships – Executive Summit
- 2 Small Asset Size Scholarships – Contact & Connect
 - *(New combined contact center, branch manager & leadership conference)*
- 1 Young Professional Scholarship – Contact & Connect



2026 Education Events Calendar

Please note: calendar is subject to change

DATE(S)	TITLE	LOCATION	COST
Feb. 10 – 11	IRA Workshop	Virtual	\$294 per day \$588 Full Registration
Feb. 18 9:30a.m.– 2:00 p.m.	Women’s Conference: Lead with Heart	The Baronette Renaissance Hotel Novi, MI	\$299 Full Registration
Mar. 18 – 19 9:00a.m.–Noon	Mortgage Loan Originator Training	Virtual	\$340 Full Registration
Mar. 25 – 26	YOU Conference	JW Marriott Grand Rapids, MI	\$520 Full Registration
May 12	MCUL GAC	Heritage Hall Lansing, MI	\$275 Full Registration \$199 SAS CUs <\$250M (per person)
June 2	Young Professional Leadership Summit	DeVos Place Grand Rapids, MI	\$159 Full Registration
June 2 – 4	ACE26	Amway Grand & DeVos Place Grand Rapids, MI	\$735 Full Registration \$385 Full Guest Registration \$1,102 CUSO & Non-Affiliated CUs
July 14 –16	HERO 26	Crystal Mountain Thompsonville, MI	\$520 Full Registration
Sep. 18 – 20	All on Boards: Directors’ Symposium	Grand Traverse Resort & Spa Traverse City, MI	\$650 Full Attendee Registration \$290 Full Guest Registration
Sep. 23 – 25	Executive Summit	Westin Book Cadillac Detroit, MI	\$645 Full Registration
Oct. 21 – 22	Contact & Connect: Leadership Conference <i>Three Conference Combined</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cultivating Leaders + • Branch Manager + • Contact Center 	JW Marriott, Grand Rapids, MI	\$340 per day \$520 Full Registration



Learn More at
MCUL.org





FOUNDATION RESOURCES



2026 FINANCIAL COUNSELING TRAINING REGISTRATION OPEN

Registration is open for the Michigan Enhanced FiCEP Training, a practical, hands-on program for frontline staff, lenders, collections teams, branch leaders and community educators.

Participants gain the skills to confidently guide members toward financial stability, with Michigan-specific enhancements provided through the Michigan Credit Union Foundation, including live webinars, guided study, exam prep, “Next Steps” discussions, human-centered training and practical tools.

MCUF funding helps keep the program affordable — and in some cases free — for Michigan credit union professionals.

- [Register by March 23](#)

MCUF INTRODUCES TWO NEW PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT SCHOLARSHIPS FOR MICHIGAN CREDIT UNION EMPLOYEES

MCUF has launched two new scholarships to support Michigan credit union employee development.

The CUDE Training Scholarship covers full tuition for the National DE Program, and the Professional Development Scholarship offers up to \$3,000 for a wide range of credit-union-focused training and education.

Learn more and apply at mcul.org/cu-resources/scholarships.

 [Register Now](#)

SPARK TANK UNFILTERED: YOUR INSIDE LOOK AT CU SPARK TANK

The 2026 CU Spark Tank Competition is underway, and Michigan credit unions are encouraged to identify a young professional ready to pitch bold ideas and grow their leadership skills. Spark Tank gives emerging leaders a platform to propose innovative credit union solutions while building confidence and strategic thinking.

The CU Spark Tank Learning Series offers quick, practical support — next up is Spark Tank Unfiltered on Feb. 9, featuring candid advice from past finalists.

Chapter competitions start soon, beginning with the Grand River Chapter on Feb. 24 (applications due Feb. 20). Credit unions holding internal competitions are encouraged to connect with Andrea Tucker.



[Learn more here](#)

\$SMART MONEY KIDS READ BOOKS AVAILABLE

MCUF has purchased 8,000 additional copies of How Do You Save? by Cinders McLeod for credit unions to use in financial education initiatives.

- Designed for Pre-K through 2nd grade
- Includes free bonus activities and supplemental materials
- Available first-come, first-served while supplies last



[Request Books Here](#)



PARTNER UPDATES



MCULSC partners continue to expand offerings focused on digital engagement, lending innovation, fraud mitigation and operational efficiency. As you consider partnerships in 2026, please reach out to your league representative for recommendations and resources.

UPCOMING PARTNER WEBINARS & EVENTS



TruStage™

TruStage Engage Live Webinars (Feb 10–11, 2026)

Live sessions designed for credit union staff, focused on payment protection products and member conversations.

- Feb 10, 2026 — Mechanical Repair Coverage (MRC) Essentials
 - 11:00 AM – 12:00 PM ET (10–11 CT)
- Feb 10, 2026 — GAP and Protection Advisor
 - 2:00 PM – 3:00 PM ET (1–2 CT)
- Feb 11, 2026 — Debt Protection Essentials
 - 11:00 AM – 12:00 PM ET (10–11 CT)
- Feb 11, 2026 — Credit Insurance Essentials
 - 2:00 PM – 3:00 PM ET (1–2 CT)



[More info & registration coming soon here](#)

HR & AI: STRATEGIES FOR BRINGING AI TO YOUR ORGANIZATION

Discover how AI can elevate your HR strategy without replacing the human element. In this session, Paul Marston, SHRM-CP, will break down key AI concepts and explore how tools like generative AI and machine learning can enhance hiring, onboarding, performance, engagement, and learning.

Takeaways:

- What AI is (and isn't) in HR
- Real-world use cases across talent management
- How to align AI strategy with your business goals
- Tips for balancing automation with personalization

Perfect for HR pros ready to harness AI for smarter, more efficient processes

 Feb. 28

 1 PM EST

 [Register Here](#)

 Wed. Feb. 25
1:00pm ET

HR & AI: Strategies for Bringing
AI to Your Organization

 



HOW TO PROTECT YOUR ATM FLEET FROM "MAN-IN-THE-MIDDLE" ATTACKS



*By Joe Woods, Dolphin Debit ATM & Danny Phillips, CU*South*

Unfortunately, ATM crime continues to grow across the country, and it's no longer just a matter of brute force. While physical attacks, like "ram-raids" and robberies of cash-in-transit (CIT) personnel remain a concern, the threat landscape has shifted toward more sophisticated, less bombastic crimes.

In mid-2024, the cyber investigative division of the U.S. Secret Service issued a memo warning of increased jackpotting activity, including man-in-the-middle (MITM) and black box techniques observed across more than a dozen states. And, according to the ATM Industry Association (ATMIA), jackpotting/cash-out attacks were the most common type of ATM crime in the U.S in 2025, making up 74% of all criminal activity.

Physical security remains vital, but credit unions need to be prepared and know how to defend themselves against MITM attacks.

How MITM Attacks Work

An MITM attack occurs when a criminal intercepts the communication between the ATM's internal computer (the CPU) and its hardware components. Here's how an attack typically unfolds:

- **Physical Access:** Using a universal manufacturer key, which can be bought easily on the gray market, the criminal unlocks the "top hat" (upper section) of the ATM.
- **Interception:** They physically disconnect the cables between the PC and the cash dispenser, inserting a rogue device (often a small "black box" or laptop) in between.

- **The Jackpot:** This rogue device sends a direct command to the dispenser to empty the cash vault. Because this bypasses the traditional banking network, no cardholder accounts are touched and no alerts are triggered at the host level.

The attack often happens after hours, and unfortunately, no one is made aware until a cardholder attempts a withdrawal and is denied due to a lack of funds in the ATM. The system still thinks it has cash because the link between the CPU and ATM hardware was cut when the cash was removed.

Universal Access Presents Vulnerabilities

It's a frustrating reality of the industry: Most ATM manufacturers use standardized keys for the top hat enclosure. While this was designed for the convenience of maintenance technicians who may service dozens of machines a day, it has created a massive security loophole that criminals are now exploiting with precision.

While deterrents like sirens, strobes and silent alarms can help, they are often just hurdles for a determined criminal. The real solution lies in the architecture of the ATM's communication and the expertise of the operator managing the fleet.

These attacks can be devastating for a credit union of any size, because once a vulnerability is found, criminals immediately look for other ATMs in the credit union's fleet they can attack next. And, they can hit several ATMs in just a few hours.

Protecting your credit union shouldn't be a DIY project or a hidden expense. Rather, you need an ATM operator that implements proactive defense parameters, including encrypted communications and advanced hardware monitoring, without charging you out-of-pocket for every necessary security upgrade. Connect with your league representative to setup a conversation with their strategic partner for more on ATMs and software security.

Contact your League Rep to learn more about our partner Dolphin Debit for ATM outsourcing.

AGENCU, A MARKETING-IN-MINUTES PLATFORM DESIGNED SPECIFICALLY TO HELP SMALL AND MIDSIZE CREDIT UNIONS STAY COMPETITIVE, IS FINALLY HERE!



Credit union marketing made easy - with agenCU!

agenCU is the marketing department you need empowering credit unions to expand without growing overhead. Designed to meet the specific marketing needs of small to midsize credit unions, agenCU is a digital portal filled with hundreds of predesigned, customizable marketing campaigns, digital and print materials, and downloadable educational resources:

- Branding
- Graphic Design
- Advertising
- Research and strategy
- PR and communications
- Educational Resources

Why agenCU?

Powered by the marketing experts at M3 Group, a proud Reseda Group CUSO,□ agenCU is your one-stop shop for marketing materials and guidance. Campaigns are crafted by seasoned graphic designers and content pros, all you need to do is upload your logo.

Meet your marketing needs on a manageable budget, with tangible results. *Contact your League Representative to learn more!*

PULSATE SAYS: GROWTH OPPORTUNITIES HIDING IN YOUR DATA

Most credit unions don't need more data, they just need a clearer direction from their data. That's why our partner Pulsate compiled 10 everyday signals you already have (and one you may not!), along with guidance on how to act on each with no heavy lift and maximum visibility.

Grab the guide: [***Finding the Growth Opportunities Hiding in Your Data***](#)

TRUSTAGE: WHAT 2026 ECONOMIC TRENDS MEAN FOR CREDIT UNION STRATEGIES



By Steve Rick, Director and Chief Economist, TruStage

As 2025 winds down, credit unions are looking ahead to a year that promises both opportunities and challenges. Economic signals suggest 2026 will not be a repeat of the last decade's boom times, but it won't be a disaster either.

Inflation: Higher, but manageable

Inflation will likely climb above the Federal Reserve's two percent target, reaching 3.2 to 3.3 percent in early 2026. Why? Tariffs. Many firms have absorbed tariff costs so far, but they'll eventually start passing those costs along to consumers. For credit unions, this means members will feel the pinch in everyday expenses, and lending strategies will probably need to adapt.

Interest rates: Cuts are coming

The Fed cut rates by 25 basis points in December, and they may cut another 50 basis points in 2026. The Fed is pulling its foot off the brake and easing out of restrictive territory. For CUs, lower rates could stimulate demand for auto loans and other credit products. That's good news for loan growth, but it also means tighter margins on deposits.

Economic growth: Slow, not stalled

Despite inflationary pressure, I am not forecasting a recession in 2026. Instead, expect below-trend growth. For credit unions, this translates into a stable but cautious environment. Members may not be spending aggressively, but to keep the car analogies going; they're unlikely to slam the brakes entirely.

Stock market: Lofty highs and looming risks

The S&P 500 has soared 16 percent year-to-date, 49 percent over the last two years, and 84 percent over the last five years. That's created a wealth effect for the top 10 percent of Americans who own most stocks. But there could be trouble looming. Margin debt has ballooned to \$1.1 trillion, up 34 percent in a year. If markets correct sharply, consumer confidence could take a hit, and members might pull back on spending and borrowing

Valuation concerns and the AI factor

The Shiller P/E ratio is 41, the second highest level ever. The Shiller Ratio (CAPE) measures stock market value by comparing current prices to the average of 10 years of inflation-adjusted earnings, with higher ratios signaling lower future returns.

Much of the market surge is tied to the “Magnificent Seven” tech stocks and AI optimism. If AI fails to deliver the productivity gains investors expect, a bubble could burst. While I don't foresee a crash, there are parallels to past speculative periods. For credit unions, a market downturn could mean members shifting focus to savings and liquidity.

Nightmare scenarios: What could go wrong?

I'm not forecasting doom, but I am watching several risks: trade wars escalating beyond tariffs, geopolitical shocks such as the Russia-Ukraine conflict spreading, commercial real estate stress with office vacancies and refinancing challenges, and falling home prices in states like Texas, Florida and California, which could ripple into consumer confidence.

Any of these could trigger a recession or at least a sharp slowdown. For CUs, that means preparing for potential spikes in delinquencies and shifts in member behavior.

What it all means for credit unions

The big picture? 2026 looks like a year of moderate inflation, easing rates and cautious growth. Credit unions should expect members to feel cost pressures while benefiting from lower borrowing costs. Loan demand—especially autos—may rise, but margins will tighten. Market volatility could influence member sentiment, making liquidity and risk management critical.

I am not forecasting a recession—just a little bit below-trend economic growth. For credit unions, that's a call to stay nimble, focus on member needs and prepare for a year that's more about managing risk than chasing record growth.

The views expressed here are those of the author and do not necessarily represent the views of TruStage.

OUR TEAM



STEPHANIE HEIDT

Director of League Partnerships & Engagement

 616-638-6634

 Stephanie.Heidt@mcu.org



VANESSA MARVIN

League Representative

 812-340-1200

 Vanessa.Marvin@mcu.org

Please reach out to your League Representative with any questions at leaguereps@mcu.org.