

## CREDIT UNION NEWS



Board of  
**DIRECTORS**

President

Erwin Tschoepe

Vice-President

Debbie Witte

Secretary

Jan Anderson

Members

Tom Champagne

Roger Gaskamp

Kathy Oehlke

Jay D. Streeter

The 10th Annual TexStar Federal Credit Union Membership Meeting was held Tuesday, March 21, 2017 at the Panna Maria Diner. There were 150 members and guests in attendance.

During the business portion of the meeting Kathy Oehlke of Kenedy and Jay Streeter of Runge were re-elected to serve as members of the Board of Directors.

Everyone enjoyed the evening of fellowship, a great meal catered by Uncle Mutt's of Victoria, and the always popular drawing for door prizes.

Reports given by Board members and Treasurer Ron Hyde at the meeting are included in a program which is available at the Credit Union office.

This year's meeting also marked the 50th Anniversary of the KCTA Federal Credit Union, which was founded in 1967 as an organization to meet the financial needs of the employees of the four school districts in Karnes County. KCTA and the South Texas Credit Union merged in in 2007 to create the TexStar FCU.

Several Credit Union members were recognized for special achievement at the meeting. For pictures, please see page 3 of this newsletter.

*(For a short history of the two Credit Unions and how they came to merge please see pages 4 and 5 of this newsletter.)*

A separate Communications meeting was held at Mamacita's Restaurant in New Braunfels on Saturday, March 25th. This meeting was held for the members who live in that area and could not attend the meeting in Panna Maria.

As is described in the history of the two Credit Unions, the South Texas Credit Union had its origins in the New Braunfels area. Many of the attendees at the Communications Meeting were long time members of South Texas and have continued their membership in TexStar.

**CREDIT UNION  
STAFF**

Treasurer/Manager

Ron Hyde

Office Manager

Tina Garcia

Member Services

Melissa Sutton

Victoria Rees

Special Projects

Ruben Garcia

### 2017 Annual Meeting



*"Summer Toys Promotion"  
See page 7  
for more information*

# TexStar Federal Credit Union

141 Park Place Blvd  
Kenedy, Texas  
78119



## Hours & Phones

Phone: 830-583-3443  
Toll Free: (888)-583-3443  
Fax: (830)-583-0203  
Extension Numbers:

Tina Garcia - 10  
Melissa Sutton- 11  
Victoria Rees - 12  
Ruben Garcia - 13

TexStar email:

[services@texstarfcu.com](mailto:services@texstarfcu.com)

TexStar website:

[www.texstarfcu.com](http://www.texstarfcu.com)

### Hours

Office and Drive-thru  
Monday - Friday  
8:30 AM - 4:30 PM

*No longer closed for lunch*

# Easter



Sunday, April 16, 2017

## NO TIME LIKE THE PRESENT FOR IRA CONTRIBUTION

Procrastinators rejoice: it's another lucky year for you. Usually, the tax return filing deadline is April 15. However, in 2017, April 15 falls on a Saturday and the Washington D.C. Emancipation Day holiday will be observed on April 17 instead of April 16, 2017. Thus, Tax Day for your 2016 return is on the following Tuesday: April 18, 2017. That means you have a few extra days to file your taxes as well as to open or contribute to an Individual Retirement Account for the 2016 tax year.

But the sooner you do so, the better, so your tax-advantaged savings have longer to grow. Your total contribution to both a Traditional and Roth IRA for the 2016 tax year is \$5,500 (\$6,500 if you are 50 or older), or your taxable compensation for the year, if your compensation was less than this dollar limit. IRS Publication 590-A has details; find it at [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov).

**IRA DEADLINE IS**  
Tuesday, April 18, 2017



Credit Union employees Melissa Sutton, Tina Garcia and Victoria Rees at the TexStar Annual Meeting.

Tina is the Office Manager, and Melissa and Victoria handle teller stations and member services for the Credit Union.

# HOLIDAY CLOSINGS

The Credit Union office will be closed in observance of the following holidays:

The office will close at  
**3:00 PM on April 14  
for Good Friday.**

Memorial Day  
Monday, May 29, 2017



Enjoy the convenience of our

## Night Depository

We are in our new building and one of the added conveniences for our members is a Night Depository. It offers a completely secure, convenient way to conduct basic transactions even after the office has closed, and eliminates the stress of having to beat the clock during the day.

Simply drop your after-hours deposits in the depository - located in the first drive-thru lane. With this convenient service, you can:

- \* Make deposits, payments, and transfer requests quickly and easily.
- \* Visit night deposit boxes 24 hours a day, seven days a week.
- \* Rest easy knowing your deposits will be processed the next business day and credited to your account.
- \* Guarantee security of funds knowing they are protected in a fireproof vault, making this a great option for our members who expect a secure drop off during, or after business hours.

## 2017 TexStar Federal Credit Union Annual Membership Meeting



*Pictured left to right: Jo Ann Gutierrez, Farris Overby, Randy Witte, and Richard Robinson.*

**Ms. Gutierrez and Mr. Robinson have recently retired from the Board of Directors and were recognized for their many years of service to the Credit Union.**

**Ms. Overby received an award in recognition of the many years of service on the Board of Directors by her husband Roger Overby. Mr. Overby passed away in January 2016.**

**Randy Witte was recognized for his many years of service on the Credit Union Supervisory Committee and for his help in recruiting new members to the Credit Union.**

*Left to right: Minnie Robinson, Farris Overby, and Charlene Looney*

**These lovely ladies were recognized as having the longest continuous membership in the Credit Union. They joined the KCTA Federal Credit Union in October of 1967.**

**They have held 50 years of active membership in the organization.**



*Left to right: Charles Brown and David Frazier*

**Mr. Brown and Mr. Frazier are regular attendees of the Annual Membership Meeting. They were both teachers in the Karnes City ISD before retirement, and were recognized as past members of the KCTA Board of Directors.**

**They, the others on this page, and many, many others represent the true spirit of what has made the Credit Union successful for so many years. They served as volunteers for the benefit of the organization, and more importantly for the benefit of the membership.**



## *TexStar Federal Credit Union*

### *A History of the Founding of the Credit Union*

In 1956 employees of the United Gas Company in the New Braunfels area proposed that a Credit Union be organized for the South Texas division of the company. Some of the key organizers of the effort included Bill Clayton, Howard Ludwig, Elgin Kneuper, Alfred Schwab and Viola Haas. Over the protests of company management, and others who preferred they join the company Credit Union located in Houston, this determined group forged ahead and obtained a charter for South Texas.

The Credit Union office was in the United Gas building in New Braunfels and was managed by company employee Connie Kuehn. Practicing conservative lending and saving policies it was several years before the Credit Union began to grow and could pay its first dividends. Eventually it did grow, and Ms. Kuehn began having trouble keeping up with work of the Credit Union and her company responsibilities. The Board of Directors decided that it was time to look for a full-time manager.

By this time the parent company had changed its name to the Entex Gas Company and the Credit Union became known as the Entex South Texas Credit Union. In 1977 it was suggested by Board chairman and manager of the Entex office in Kenedy, Bailey Bond, that it be moved to Kenedy, and that they hire a young accountant new to Kenedy to manage it. That accountant was Ron Hyde. The move was made, which basically involved carrying two file cabinets in the back of a pick-up. The assets of the Credit Union were about \$500,000 in cash and loans. Board member Elgin Kneuper spent a week in Kenedy training Ron and his office personnel on how to run the Credit Union.

In the 1990's, after the parent gas company had changed names several times, the Credit Union settled on the name South Texas Credit Union. It retained this name until it merged with the KCTA Federal Credit Union in 2007. Today any employee of the South Texas division of Centerpoint Energy is eligible to be a member of the Credit Union.

We sincerely thank Mr. Howard Ludwig of New Braunfels for providing us with some of the early history of this organization. (*Unfortunately, records of the Credit Union were destroyed by heavy rains which flooded the storage room where they were kept.*) Mr. Ludwig also provided the names of some of the other early leaders of the Credit Union: Jim Miller, Charles Schuman, Sam Cathcart, Arnie Wheelen, Elton Ivicic, Ed Rios, Rene Guerra, Jesse Gutierrez, Otto Schultz, Dorothy Schultz, Nelda Juarez, and Alvin Langhammer. In the late 1990's and up to the 2007 merger other important leaders included Steve Grant, David Penry, Elaine Styra, Lee Ann Schultz, Erwin Tschoepe, Al Jandt, Tom Champagne and the last chairman of the Board of South Texas before the merger, Kevin Bodden.

**In February 1967, a group of teachers and administrators representing the four school districts of Karnes County met to hold a charter meeting for the purpose of organizing a Credit Union for the employees of the school districts. Their efforts were successful and the organization formed became known as Karnes County Teachers Association Federal Credit Union, or KCTA for short. The Credit Union office was located in several different places in Kenedy, beginning with the Title I building of Kenedy ISD, and eventually in a back room of Lynette Higgs' dress shop.**

**In the late 1970's the Board of Directors of KCTA began to consider more formal arrangements for the Credit Union, including full time management and regular operating hours for conducting business. Knowing that Ron Hyde was already managing a Credit Union he was approached to manage KCTA also. In February 1980, he agreed to do so and in that same month hired Tina Garcia. She was to be secretary of both Credit Unions and bookkeeper for his accounting business. All of them were located at 219 West Main Street in Kenedy.**

**For several years Ron, Tina and one other person ran the Credit Unions and his accounting business. Eventually they needed help, and Ruben Garcia was hired to do part time work, and then Jan Pawelek was hired as a full-time employee. By the year 2000 the Credit Unions had outgrown the accounting office and moved to a new location of their own - 209 West Main in Kenedy. The office had previously been Richard Foster's law office.**

**In October 2006, informal talks began concerning a merger of the KCTA and South Texas Credit Unions. The talks became serious and in February 2007 a resolution was signed to make the merger a reality. The merger process was begun and after several months of work by the two Boards and the staff, the merger was completed in July 2007. Under the agreement reached in the resolution to merge it was agreed that the KCTA would be the "continuing" Credit Union.**

**The new Board of Directors that was formed after the merger consisted of President Todd Roberson, Vice-President Jo Ann Reitz, Secretary Jan Anderson, Roger Overby, Richard Robinson, and Debbie Witte. These six members had been on the Board of KCTA. Tom Champagne, Erwin Tschoepe, and Lee Ann Schultz completed the new Board and had been on the South Texas Board of Directors.**

**Shortly after the merger the Board of Directors signed a resolution to change the name of the Credit Union to TexStar Federal Credit Union. Tom Champagne suggested the new name. The new name was more representative of the fact that the membership now lived in many different places in the state and not just in Karnes and surrounding counties.**

**We are celebrating the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the KCTA because it was the continuing Credit Union. We certainly do not forget the contributions made to the Credit Union by those whose membership came from being employed by the gas company under its various names.**

**It has been because of the entire membership that the Credit Union has been a strong and enduring financial institution. Working together perhaps one day our children can celebrate the centennial anniversary of its existence.**

# TexStar Federal Credit Union

## “Summer Toys Promotion”

**RV's, Boats, Jet Ski's and ATV's**



Interest rates as low as

**4.9%**

Offer valid

April 1 - May 31, 2017

Apply online

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Call for information

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*Loans subject to approval. Underwriting terms and conditions apply.*

