

1ST EDITION

The Quarterly Newsletter for 1ST Gateway Credit Union Members

Need Extra Money for School? Apply for a Scholarship

1ST Gateway Scholarships

1ST Gateway Credit Union takes pride in supporting the educational goals of our members and their families. In 2025, we will award eight \$2,500 scholarships to credit union members. To be eligible, candidates must meet the following criteria:

- > Must be a member of 1ST Gateway Credit Union.
- > Applicants must be high school seniors or GED holders planning to enroll as full-time students at an accredited college, university, or career/technical training program for the upcoming academic year. Returning students or those pursuing their education later in life are also eligible to apply, provided they plan to be enrolled full-time (12+ credits per semester) at an accredited institution. Previous scholarship winners are encouraged to reapply as long as they meet the eligibility requirements.



For more details on eligibility and the application, stop by any of our seven locations or visit www.1stgateway.org, and navigate to the membership tab. Applications must be returned by **February 14th, 2025**.

Warren A. Morrow Scholarship

The Warren A. Morrow Scholarship is in memory of the late CEO of Coopera. This scholarship, through The Iowa Credit Union Foundation, provides eight scholarships to seniors and post-high school students to further their education. Essay questions are designed to encourage learning about the credit union movement and its mission.

The essay question for the 2025 Warren A. Morrow Memorial Scholarship is:

Our financial experiences help shape our overall financial understanding and well-being. Share a financial lesson, event or experience that has influenced you or your family personally. If relevant, share how your credit union played a role. How will this experience impact your financial planning as you pursue higher education?

Applicants must have an account established in their own name and be a member in good standing at an Iowa credit union. The application deadline is Friday, February 7, 2025, at 5:00 PM. For more information, log on to www.iowacreditunionfoundation.org/impact.

Upcoming Holiday Hours

- > Martin Luther King Jr. Day
Monday, Jan. 20th - CLOSED
- > President's Day
Monday, February 17th - CLOSED

Community Investments

- > Morrison Lions Club
- > Clinton Mardi Gras Parade
- > Rock River Hospice & Home
- > Symphony of Lights
- > Curtis Mansion Foundation
- > Knights of Columbus
- > Morrison Food Pantry
- > Thomson Fire Department
- > Sterling Kiwanis "Coats for Kids"
- > Fulton High School Thespan Club
- > River Bend Educational Foundation
- > American Red Cross of Eastern Iowa
- > Friends of the DeWitt Library
- > Fulton Community Fund
- > Central DeWitt Performing Arts

2025 Annual Meeting

Join us in celebrating another great year!

It's time to get together to celebrate another great year here at 1ST Gateway Credit Union. Join your fellow members/owners for the 2025 Annual Meeting on Saturday, March 8th at the Vista Grande in Clinton. Social hour begins at 5:00 PM and will be followed by dinner and our business meeting.

Tickets for the meeting will go on sale Monday, January 27th at any of our seven locations. Tickets are \$9.00 for members and \$18.00 for non-members.



1GCU Helps 38 Local Children Holiday Donations

Every year, 1ST Gateway Credit Union looks forward to the holiday season and the opportunity to help spread a little holiday cheer to the children in our local communities. This year, 1GCU was able to help out 38 local children from the Camanche Sharing Tree, purchasing them gifts to open on Christmas morning. The credit union is also one of the several locations that displays a tree for the Sharing Tree, decorated with paper bears containing details on children in the community who need a little extra help this holiday season.

In conjunction with the Camanche Sharing Tree, the credit union also supports the Prophetstown Lions Toy Drive and Coats for Kids; Helping Hands in Morrison; and the Salvation Army in Sterling. Our Camanche and Clinton locations are also a donation site for the Scott For Tots toy drive.

A sincere thank you goes out to all of our members that helped to support these charities that are so important to the credit union. Without you, we would not be able to do what we do! Thank you for helping us carry out the credit union mission of "People Helping People." You truly are the best members we could ask for.

Rate Highlights

Savings	APY*	Term Shares of Deposit	APY*	Loans	APR**	Loans	APR**
\$100 Average Daily Balance	0.25%	6 Month	4.40%	New Vehicles		Used Vehicles	
Checking		*Certain Requirements Apply		36 Months	6.80%	36 Months	7.05%
\$500 Average Daily Balance	0.10%	12 Month	4.50%	48 Months	6.80%	48 Months	7.05%
IRA Term Share		*Certain Requirements Apply		60 Months	6.80%	60 Months	7.05%
12 Month - \$1,000 minimum	1.40%	18 Month	1.90%	72 Months	7.10%	72 Months	7.80%
IRA Share		24 Month	2.10%				
\$20 minimum to open	0.15%	36 Month	2.10%				
		48 Month	2.20%				

*Annual Percentage Yield. Rates subject to change. Visit website for details.
**Annual Percentage Rate. APR is based on credit worthiness criteria. Rates, terms and conditions subject to change.

Board Nominations

Now accepting candidates to fill upcoming vacancies!

1ST Gateway Credit Union is now accepting nominations for the Board of Directors. The terms of three members of the Board of Directors will expire at the Annual Board Meeting on March 8th, 2025. Board positions are volunteer, terms are for three years and are staggered among the nine board positions. Responsibilities include attending a monthly board meeting, in addition to several other functions throughout the year.



Candidates must be at least 18 years of age and be a member in good standing. If you are interested in running for a position, please submit your letter of interest in writing along with a brief biography and deliver the information to any 1ST Gateway Credit Union branch by Friday, January 17th, 2025.

Searching for a job online? Watch for scams

*Information from AARP

Online job-search websites can be very valuable tools, but they're also turning into attractive hunting grounds for scammers who are posing as employers. Their goal with these scams is to get job seeker's personal information or money, or to make them unknowing partners in crime.

Job opportunity scams have been around for a number of years, but they increased drastically during the pandemic, when virtual job interviews became more common. Without an in-person meeting, it's much easier for scammers to pass themselves off as legitimate employers.

Because interviewing for a job usually requires filling out an application with personal information, it's a great place for scammers to gather information to commit identity theft.

Although identity theft is common, many fake employers are simply focused on taking a job seeker's money. They may require an applicant to spend thousands of dollars purchasing specialized equipment from a specified online vendor, sometimes even sending a check to cover the amount. When the check bounces, the victim's money is gone.

How to Protect Yourself from these Scams:

Check out the potential employer. The Federal Trade Commission recommends doing an online search, and using the company's name plus words like "complaint", "scam" or "fraud". If there are results from other job seekers that pop up, it's an immediate red flag. Find the company's actual website and see if there's a job listing, or call their human resources department to verify the information.

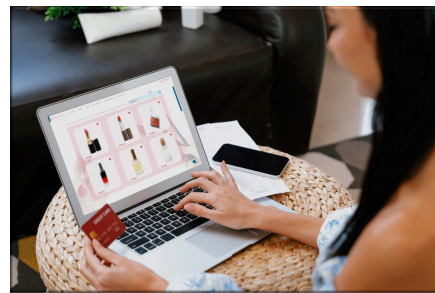
Watch for red flags. A major red flag to watch out for, is a job recruiter who quickly asks you to switch the conversation from the job search platform to an encrypted app. This could make tracing him or her more difficult. Typos, unusual wording, and misspellings could also be hints that you're dealing with a scammer from another country. Unfortunately, new technology is making it a lot easier for these criminals to appear legitimate.

Don't pay to work. Legitimate employers will not make you pay to get a job.

Be careful with personal data. Another warning sign to be aware of, is if a recruiter asks for your Social Security number or bank account information right away. Never provide any of these personal details until you're sure that the job offer is legitimate.

Seek advice before taking a job. Before accepting a new position, discuss the job opportunity with someone whose judgment you trust. That person might see a warning sign that you've missed.

How to Spot Online Shopping Scams



According to AARP, online shopping scams are consistently among the top reported, especially when buying a product through an online ad.

On the Better Business Bureau's Scam Tracker, these types of scams account for a third of the complaints.

Criminals are able to use tools to create nearly perfect copycat website of major retailers, or create a site for a retailer that doesn't even exist.

With the use of artificial intelligence technology, almost every red flag can be taken out of the equation, but there are still a number of them to look out for.

Red Flags

- ▶ **Prices are far below other retailers.** Scammers are known to tempt you with designer products for much lower than their retail value.
- ▶ **Hard-to-get products are available.** Everyone else is sold out of a popular product, but they somehow have it; and it's often at a very low price.
- ▶ **Reviews are consistently glowing.** Scammers have gotten much better at creating very well thought out reviews.
- ▶ **Coupons and deals are too good to be true.** Big discounts that you may get by text, email, social media or online ads cannot be trusted. It's suggested that shoppers do not click on links, but instead go to their web browsers and type in the address of the retailers that they trust.
- ▶ **Shady payment options are offered.** Some scammers may demand payment by wire transfer, money order or gift cards. Legitimate retailers will not want payment in these ways.
- ▶ **They've won every award.** Be skeptical if sites claim that they've won every major award. It's a huge red flag. Most companies don't win best in every single category.

How to Protect Yourself

Go Directly to trusted sites rather than through a search engine. Scammers are able to make search results lead you to a fraudulent website. They also pay for placement so their fake site may come up at the top of the search results. You should avoid clicking on sites that say "sponsored" or "advertisement."

Examine Coupon offers. If you notice a lot of letters and numbers in the sender's email address, if the spacing is off, or if it's coming from a free email domain, there's a good chance that the coupon is not real.

Carefully read policies. Make sure that you understand the exchange and return policies. Reputable retailers will answer any questions that you have.

Protect your information. Do not provide any more information than a retailer needs. They should only ask for your billing information and the shipping address.

Quarterly Statistics

	November 2024	November 2023
Total Assets	\$161,689,133	\$159,479,713
Total Loans	\$125,508,050	\$134,211,027
Total Deposits	\$137,679,688	\$133,350,500
Total Reserves	\$23,757,940	\$22,498,191



**1ST GATEWAY
CREDIT UNION**



Federally Insured by NCUA

www.1stgateway.org

P.O. Box 110
Camanche, IA 52730-0110

Camanche
563-243-4121

Clinton
563-243-0524

DeWitt
563-659-5963

Fulton
815-589-9053

Morrison
815-772-2200

Sterling
815-564-0367

Prophetstown
815-537-2620