

# **REPORT OF THE DIRECTORS**

## **2026 Annual Meeting**

### **Aspire Credit Union**

#### **Welcome and Introduction**

Welcome to the 2026 annual meeting of the Aspire Credit Union. This marks our 73<sup>rd</sup> annual meeting, but it is the first under our new name. I hope you have taken this opportunity to visit some and enjoy David Calhoun's excellent cooking. If you haven't finished eating, please continue with your meal.

As usual David Calhoun has prepared and served us a wonderful meal. Let's give David and his crew a round of applause.

#### **Member Recognition and Appreciation**

The announcement card for this meeting that was mailed to members called it the Annual Meeting and Member appreciation. I think that we are one of the few Credit Unions that still have a meal at their annual meeting. We expect to continue this tradition.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, the volunteers, and the office staff, I would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to you, the members of the Credit Union, for your unwavering loyalty and dedication. Your commitment to fulfilling your obligations is truly commendable and plays a significant role in the continued success of our institution. As a result of your diligence, our delinquency rates consistently remain well below those of comparable credit unions. In addition, your proactive approach to saving is evident, with our members achieving savings rates that exceed the national average. We congratulate you on these outstanding accomplishments and thank you for your ongoing commitment to Aspire Credit Union.

I also want to express my gratitude to each of the board members and committee members who donate their time to serve you in key positions. These directors and committee members contribute thousands of dollars' worth of time each year to ensure your Credit Union remains the outstanding institution you expect and deserve. Carla will introduce each of them shortly. In addition, I would like to thank the dedicated staff at our office at 900 Pershing. Thank you, Carla, and the entire staff for your hard work and dedication.

## **Operational Excellence**

This year, as in previous years, the examiners conducted a thorough review of our operations. This year was the first time I ever heard the examiner actually say that they could not find any deficiencies. Once again, your Credit Union was awarded the highest rating, affirming that you can have complete confidence in conducting your financial business here. Your Credit Union is extremely sound, well capitalized, and offers a full range of services.

## **Changes have been made**

### **WHAT?**

- Revised field of membership: No longer tied to Federal and Postal workers, we are now a community credit union.
- Anyone who lives, works, worships, or attends school in our 9-county area is eligible for membership.
- Our new name: Aspire – Webster's Dictionary defines the word aspire as a verb meaning to seek to attain or accomplish a particular goal. And that's what your Credit Union is all about. We ASPIRE to help you achieve your goals, whether it is a new car, a new home, or other personal aspiration that you might have.
- We are still working with the marketing consultant to ensure the transition is smooth and efficient. I'll admit that the transition was a little more involved than I expected, but Carla and her crew were up to the task as usual. If you hit a snag in the web page or the telephone app, or anything else, please let someone at the office know.

### **WHY?**

One question that I am frequently asked is why did the name change? The continuing reduction in the number of federal and postal employees has resulted in a serious reduction of the number of people eligible to join the credit union, so in order to increase the number of potential members so that your Credit Union will be here to serve future generations, the board decided to open the field of membership to the entire community that was served by Angelina Federal Employees Credit Union.

You will still see the same smiling faces at the office and receive the same personal service that you always have, and your phone calls will still be answered by person. The real difference is that you can now invite your friends throughout the community to join and enjoy the benefits that you already have and you are encouraged to do so.

We have scheduled a strategic planning session in early March to set the direction for the organization for the next few years. I invite you to submit your suggestions for any new product of service that you would like to see offered, or anything else that you feel will help the Credit Union serve you better. I promise you that your suggestions will be seriously considered. I know that we won't be the only Credit Union in the community, but we aspire to be the best!

### **Closing Remarks**

Thank you again for coming out tonight. I hope you are enjoying the food and fellowship, and good luck at Bingo!

*Billy Lumpkin*

BILLY LUMPKIN

Chairman, Board of Directors