

## In This Issue

- New Operational Hours
- 94<sup>th</sup> Annual Shareholders Meeting
- Nominee Announcements
- Financial Traps to Avoid
- \$37,000 to Riley
- Identifying Tech Scams
- Beacon Scholarship
- What's Your Opinion?



## 94<sup>th</sup> Annual Shareholders Meeting

Monday, March 17<sup>th</sup>  
2pm

Honeywell Center (Legacy Hall) - Wabash, IN

All Beacon Credit Union members are invited to attend the Beacon Credit Union Annual Meeting. The Annual Meeting is a huge part of what makes credit unions different from banks because it is here that the membership chooses (from candidates) the volunteer Board of Directors and Supervisory Committee for the Credit Union. You have the opportunity to be involved in making your Credit Union better!

Plus, you can meet the credit union's Board of Directors, CEO, and the Executive Team. You also have the opportunity to mingle with the staff that you see in the Member Centers and talk with on the phone every day. You can also meet with other Credit Union members—another fundamental difference between Beacon and other financial institutions; it's what makes us a family!

## New Hours of Operation

Starting January 2nd, 2025, all Beacon Credit Union Member Centers will operate under new hours. The main lobby and drive-thru hours will be:

**Monday-Friday**

8:30am to 5:00pm

**Saturday**

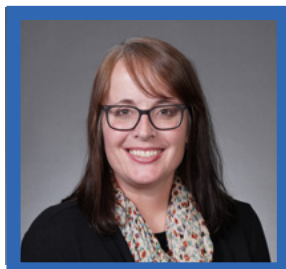
9:00am to 12:00pm (Noon)



# Nominating Committee Report

**Are you interested in running for the Board?** Any member of Beacon Credit Union who wishes to be a candidate shall submit an official Board of Director/Supervisory Committee application, agree to a background check, a statement of qualifications and biographical data along with a petition signed by 500 members to the secretary of the Credit Union prior to March 1, 2025. The election may not be conducted by ballot, and nominations will not be accepted from the floor at the Annual Meeting, unless one of the candidates withdraws his/her name from consideration.

**The committee has nominated** three candidates for Board of Director positions and two candidates for the Supervisory Committee. Terms are for three years (Mrs. Conley's term shall be two years). Included is a short biography for each candidate.



**Sarah Delbecq,  
Director**

Sarah and her husband, Benoit, reside in DeKalb County. Sarah obtained a Master of Public Policy from the University of Chicago in 2010, Master of Science in Agricultural Economics from Purdue University in 2008, and B.A. Degree in Government/Economics

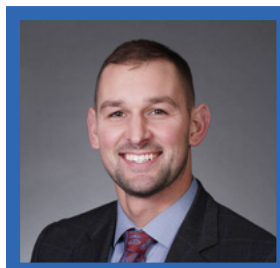
from Georgetown University in 2006. Sarah is Vice President and Farm Manager of Brechbill Farms, Inc., a 6th generation farm in Auburn. She serves on the boards of DeKalb County Farm Bureau, Inc., DeKalb County Soil and Water Conservation District, Indiana Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts, and recently served on the boards of the Indiana Corn Growers Association and the Indiana Corn Marketing Council. Sarah has served on the BCU Board of Directors since 2019.



**Joy Conley,  
Supervisory Committee**

Joy and her husband, Don, reside in Huntington. They are the parents of two daughters and have four grandchildren. Joy is a graduate of Manchester College with a degree in accounting. She is a retired owner of Miami Tool & Die, Inc., a family-owned business in

Huntington. Joy currently serves on the board of the Historic Forks of the Wabash Museum as treasurer. She has been a volunteer for Junior Achievement for over 20 years and has been involved with Huntington County 4-H for many years. She enjoys golf, fishing, traveling with friends and gardening. She's been a member of Beacon Credit Union since 2008.



**Brandon Gerber,  
Supervisory Committee**

Brandon and his wife, Megan, are life-long residents of Wells County and have two daughters. Upon graduating from Norwell High School in 2010, Brandon earned a Bachelor of Science degree from Bethel College while participating on the men's basketball program.

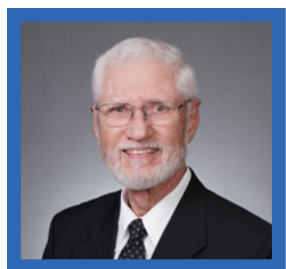
He then built a financial planning practice with Northwestern Mutual for six years prior to transitioning into an active role leading the property management company that he founded, BCG Capital, LLC. He's an active partner of Tonner Dumpster Services and Tonner Transfer Station as well as a member of the Apostolic Christian Church of America. Brandon has served on the Supervisory Committee since 2023.



**Tom Jones,  
Director**

Tom and his wife, Patty, reside in Grant County and are the parents of two daughters, and have four grandchildren. Tom is a lifelong member of the 1st Presbyterian Church in Hartford City where he currently serves as Clerk of Session and is on the Board of Trustees. He

previously served as President of the Blackford County Farm Bureau Board and as a member of Indiana Farm Bureau State Young Farmer Committee. Tom is President of Jones Family Farms, Inc. which raise 4300 acres of crops and finish 550 head of cattle. He's been a member of Beacon Credit Union since 2000 and has served on the Supervisory Committee since 2024.



**John Peters,  
Director**

John and his wife, Anna, reside in Wabash County and are the parents of two children, Melynda & David, and have five grandchildren. John holds Bachelors & Masters degrees from Indiana University and is a retired Maconaquah High School science teacher. He is a member

of the First Presbyterian Church in Peru. John joined the BCU Board of Directors in January 2005 following the merger with Sagamore Community FCU where he had served as a director for 29 years.

## Cast Your Vote!

**Attend the Annual Shareholders Meeting  
on Monday, March 17<sup>th</sup>, 2025, to cast  
your vote for the Board of Directors  
and the Supervisory Committee.**

# Financial Traps to Avoid



There's a reason why even athletes, entertainers, and business people with seven-figure (and higher) incomes suddenly find themselves filing for bankruptcy. Money mismanagement can eat through even the biggest bankrolls. Here are some specific threats to financial stability that people can avoid to help effectively manage their wealth.

## 1. No Budget

In 2022, a survey by Debt.com<sup>2</sup> revealed that 90.24% of respondents believed everyone should have a budget (though only 85.6% of the respondents said they used one). Half of the survey respondents said they're living paycheck to paycheck, which may help explain why they consider budgeting to be so important.

Budgeting does not have to mean skipping coffee and driving a jalopy for the rest of your life. It does mean paying close attention to how much money comes in and where it all goes. Use your financial goals to guide you in steering your money in the right direction.

## 2. Too Much Debt

If you have a lot of debt to pay off, a budget is even more important. It helps reduce the likelihood of relying on more credit to fill the gaps. A budget also helps you to collect all those extra dollars and cents that you could put toward paying more than the bare minimum on debt. When paying off debt, start with the higher-interest accounts first and work your way through to save money.

## 3. No Protection

Insurance can be expensive, but going without insurance can be even more so. Renters, homeowners, auto, health, disability, and life insurance policies are the main ones you should consider. If you have a business — especially if it is your main or only source of income — getting business insurance can protect your livelihood in the event of a mishap with a client or customer.

## 4. No Retirement Planning

A recent survey by Clever estimates that nearly 30% of Americans have nothing saved for retirement<sup>3</sup>. The survey also revealed that retirees who have saved have, on average, only \$191,659 saved for retirement, which is far less than the \$514,800 recommended by experts.

Because of this, Americans continue to hold stressful, low-paying jobs well into their retirement years. It is never too early to start planning for retirement, no matter how small your contributions are. Remember to take advantage of matched contributions from employers whenever possible.

## 5. Too Much Risk

There is no investment that is 100% without risk. If there were, the returns on that investment would be negligible. Even so, taking on too much risk at the wrong time can lead to big financial problems. Taking on high levels of risk is appropriate for young people who have more time to recover and is not advised for people nearing retirement.

<sup>2</sup>[www.debt.com/research/best-way-to-budget/](https://www.debt.com/research/best-way-to-budget/)  
<sup>3</sup>[listwithclever.com/research/retirement-finances-2022/](https://listwithclever.com/research/retirement-finances-2022/)

## 6. Shady Investments

Even worse is when risky investments turn out to be fraudulent or shady. In fact, the more risk-free an investment sounds, the more you should do some digging. This holds true whether the business or individual you plan to invest in is a stranger or your brother. People who miscalculate or fail to do enough research can cause you just as much financial damage as fraudsters.

## 7. Poor Tax Management

No matter how much or how little money you make, tax management is a great way to help keep money in your pockets. This is especially important after a large windfall, such as an inheritance. For instance, if you inherit an Individual Retirement Account (IRA) and choose to cash out, you may lose a portion of this in taxes. Divorce is another time of life when tax management is key.

## 8. Mismanaged Assets

Stocks are often traded frequently, making them active investments, but you still need to ensure your portfolio stays balanced. Similarly, if you have a home, keeping up with repairs and improvements maintains and grows its value. Unmanaged assets also pose a problem, such as when people allow large sums of money to sit in accounts with low to no interest rates and high fees.

For some people, money management is a talent and financial literacy is almost an inborn skill. Many other people, however, could use a little help making financial decisions. Contact [insert name here] to speak with professionals who can help to steer your finances in the right direction.



**Tiffany Hauptert**  
CFP®,  
Financial Advisor



**Matthew S. Anderson**  
Financial Advisor

*This material was created for educational and informational purposes only and is not intended as ERISA, tax, legal or investment advice. If you are seeking investment advice specific to your needs, such advice services must be obtained on your own separate from this educational material. Kmotion, Inc., 412 Beaver Creek Road, Suite 611, Oregon City, OR 97045; www.kmotion.com ©2022 Kmotion, Inc. This newsletter is a publication of Kmotion, Inc., whose role is solely that of publisher. The articles and opinions in this newsletter are those of Kmotion. The articles and opinions are for general information only and are not intended to provide specific advice or recommendations for any individual. Nothing in this publication shall be construed as providing investment counseling or directing employees to participate in any investment program in any way. Please consult your financial advisor or other appropriate professional for further assistance with regard to your individual situation.*

**Tiffany Hauptert and Matthew Anderson are financial advisors with, and securities and advisory services are offered through LPL Financial (LPL), a registered investment advisor and broker-dealer (member FINRA/SIPC).** Insurance products are offered through LPL or its licensed affiliates. Beacon Credit Union and Beacon Investment Services are not registered as a broker-dealer or investment advisor. Registered representatives of LPL offer products and services using Beacon Investment Services, and may also be employees of Beacon Credit Union. These products and services are being offered through LPL or its affiliates, which are separate entities from, and not affiliates of, Beacon Credit Union or Beacon Investment Services. Securities and insurance offered through LPL or its affiliates are:

Not Insured by NCUA or Any Other Government Agency	Not Credit Union Guaranteed	Not Credit Union Deposits or Obligations	May lose Value
--	-----------------------------	--	----------------

Your Credit Union ("Financial Institution") provides referrals to financial professionals of LPL Financial LLC ("LPL") pursuant to an agreement that allows LPL to pay the Financial Institution for these referrals. This creates an incentive for the Financial Institution to make these referrals, resulting in a conflict of interest. The Financial Institution is not a current client of LPL for advisory services.

Please visit <https://www.lpl.com/disclosures/is-lpl-relationship-disclosure.html> for more detailed information.

# \$37,000 Raised for Riley

Throughout 2024, our Member Centers have created their own unique fundraisers for Riley Children's Foundation, an organization that Beacon Credit Union has worked with closely for many years. Events such as bowl-a-thons, cookie sales, pumpkin and holiday tree decoration competitions, and Dine-to-Donate nights (collaborating with local restaurants for a portion of proceeds) led to a grand total of \$37,000 donated to Riley Children's Foundation in 2024.

*Thank you for your support throughout the year!*



**Riley Children's Foundation**



*Pictured left to right: Dustin Cuttriss (President/CEO, Beacon), Amber Miller (Corporate Gift Officer, Riley Children's Foundation), Dawn Aschleman (Chief Operations Officer, Beacon), Lexi Grumpp (Community Relations Specialist, Beacon)*



# Tech Support - Remote Access Scams

**A tech support call you don't expect is likely a scam.**

In a tech support remote access scam, the fraudster will manipulate you into allowing them remote access to your personal computer, cell phone or other mobile device. To do this, the fraudster will use various scare tactics. Those tactics are meant to incite anxiety and desperation in you, the victim of the scam. Their goal is for you to let down your guard and follow every step of their guidance. The end result: they access your finances and personal information.

## Fraudsters will use various methods to gain your trust:

### False Refunds

In one variation of the scam, the fraudster will call you and pretend to be from a tech support company. They'll claim their company is contacting all previous or existing customers to issue refunds. Why are they issuing refunds? They say the company is closing and has to comply with laws to refund any fees already charged for future services. Or, they might say they've learned you were not pleased with their service and want to refund your fees.

In this example, the fraudster will need to access your device and deposit funds to your account (via your online banking of course). What the fraudster does is move your own money between your different accounts. Then, they make it look like they issued a refund and accidentally gave you too much money. What happens next? The fraudster works out a plan for you to get those excess funds back to them immediately. Again, they'll incite fear and pressure you to:

- purchase gift cards and then give them the gift card information, or maybe even text/email/message them pictures of the gift cards and receipts.
- download apps such as Venmo, CashApp, Bit Coin – or any other money transfer app.
- take cash out of your account(s) and then deposit that cash at a BitCoin or Crypto ATM.

They might even tell you it's important that you keep them on your cell phone while you go to your financial institution and withdraw cash. Or, keep them on the phone while you go and purchase the gift cards. If this happens, stop and think through reasons they might want you to do that.

### Device Error

Another example, the fraudster contacts you and claims there's a problem of some sort with your device and they have to fix it immediately. In order to fix the problem, they'll need remote access. While in your device, they access various personal files with private information and potentially gain your online banking login credentials. The fraudster convinces you the problems have been resolved and you have to pay for their service. They might ask for your credit card number, debit card number, account number or even a check payable from your account.

### Pop-Up Windows

Yet another method fraudsters manipulate may be through 'pop-up' windows that appear to be error messages. The 'pop-up' windows will claim there's a serious issue with your device and you must call them at the number listed to resolve things. When you call, the fraudster guides you through steps that allow them remote access to your device. The scam escalates from there and you end up losing money and, possibly, your identity.

## Tips to avoid these scams:

- Legitimate companies do not contact you by phone or email to tell you they have found problems on your device. Don't fall for it. Hang up.
- Legitimate tech support companies do NOT need to access your online banking. Keep your online banking info private.
- NEVER give out your online banking login credentials or your Secure Now codes. If you are asked to provide that, end the communication and contact Beacon Credit Union immediately.
- No legitimate tech company will ask you to purchase gift cards to pay for their services. Don't be fooled: save your money and skip the gift cards.
- Just because your caller ID displays a local number doesn't mean it's a legitimate/local company – fraudsters can spoof different phone numbers in attempts to gain your trust.

**If you experience any of these situations, contact your financial institution for help.**

Further, make sure you've had your device cleared of any virus. If you have a wireless network in your home, be sure you've communicated with your internet provider for help in securing that network access.

## Applications Due Jan. 31<sup>st</sup>

The Beacon Credit Union Scholarship is dedicated to supporting incoming freshmen with the drive to make a difference. Designed to ease the financial challenges of higher education, this scholarship empowers students to focus on their studies, engage in leadership activities, and pursue personal and professional growth.

Recipients gain opportunities for internships, research, and skill-building, ensuring they can turn their dreams into reality. With the Beacon Scholarship, bright minds are encouraged to shine and make a lasting impact on their communities.



Ready to start your journey? Learn more and apply today: [beaconcu.org/beacon-foundation/#scholarship](https://beaconcu.org/beacon-foundation/#scholarship)

## Generate Change - What's Your Opinion?

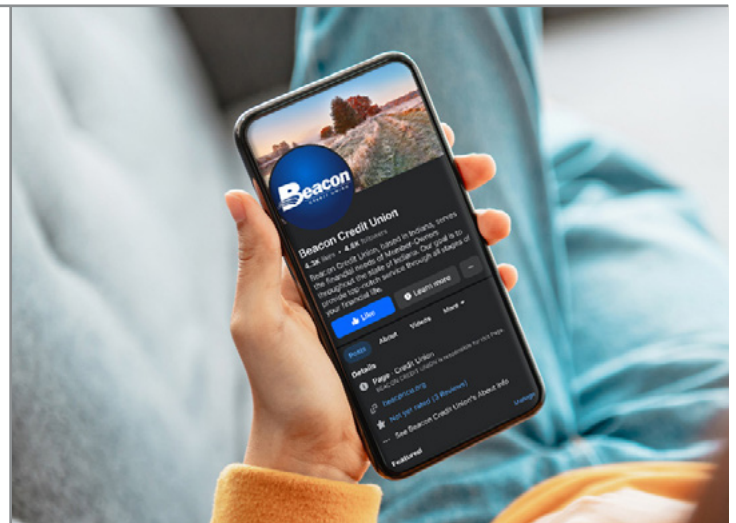
### We value your feedback!

At Beacon Credit Union, your voice matters. That's why we occasionally send out email surveys to our members. These surveys are quick and easy to complete, but their impact is huge!



Your input helps us identify ways to improve our services and enhance your experience. We truly appreciate the time you take to share your thoughts with us—it helps shape the future of our credit union.

Keep an eye on your inbox for our next survey, and thank you for helping us grow together.



**@BeaconCreditUnion**

**#BeaconCU** [beaconcu.org](https://beaconcu.org)

## Beacon Credit Union Member Centers

### Auburn (both locations)

(260) 925-0800

### Crawfordsville Ag

(765) 364-1023

### Garrett

(260) 357-0400

### Huntington

(260) 359-9680

### Logansport (Mall Rd.)

(574) 722-2161

### Logansport (W. Market St.)

(574) 722-6395

### Marion (N. Baldwin Ave.)

(765) 664-9537

### Marion Ag (S. Branson St.)

(765) 662-1990

### New Haven

(260) 493-0725

### North Manchester

(260) 982-7551

### Peru (N. Broadway)

(765) 472-3472

### Peru (W. Main St.)

(765) 472-1214

### Peru Ag (Old Key Dr.)

(765) 472-1022

### Plymouth

(574) 936-2150

### Richmond Ag

(765) 935-2222

### Rochester (Main St.)

(574) 223-1504

### Rochester (Rouch Pl. Dr.)

(574) 223-4871

### Rushville (152 E. US Hwy 52)

(765) 932-1801

### Rushville Ag (210 E. US Hwy 52)

(765) 932-2750

### Seymour

(812) 522-9527

### Wabash (all Member Centers)

(260) 563-7443

### Warsaw

(574) 268-1276

### Washington Ag

(812) 257-8801

### Department Extensions

Collections.....ext. 2044

Beacon Inv. Services .....ext. 6415

Beacon Trust Services.....ext. 2013

Contact Center....."0" or "3"



**AMERICAN SHARE INSURANCE**

Each account insured up to \$250,000.

By members' choice, this institution is not federally insured.

Email: [beaconcu@beaconcu.org](mailto:beaconcu@beaconcu.org)

Do not include confidential information such as account numbers in email correspondence.