

ACHIEVE'S 10TH ANNUAL MEETING

ACHIEVE will hold its 10th Annual Meeting on Friday, December 7, 2018, at 12:00 p.m. in the ACHIEVE Main Office. The Annual Meeting is an opportunity to meet with the elected members who serve voluntarily to represent you.

Nominations for maturing terms of the Board of Directors have been submitted by Nominating Committee members: Tyrone Black, Director of Field Service/COO, Istrouma Area Council Boy Scouts of America; Carla Corkern, Chief Digital Officer, La Capitol Federal Credit Union; and Dr. James Gardner, Central Community School System Board Member. This committee serves a valuable function in selecting members who can fulfill the fiduciary duties of an ACHIEVE official with knowledge and responsibility. The following members have been nominated for the Board of Directors:

Michael Hooper
President/CEO

La Capitol Federal Credit Union

Samuel Sanders
Executive Director

Mid City Redevelopment Alliance, Inc.

Nomination papers for any additional candidates must be received at ACHIEVE's main office in Baton Rouge no later than 5:00 p.m. (CST), Wednesday, October 31, 2018. There will be no nominations from the floor at the Annual Meeting. Contact ACHIEVE's main office for details on the official procedure for submitting nominations.

CREDIT REWARDS LEAD TO OVERSPENDING

1 in 3 Americans admit that they use credit cards just to get the rewards.

By: Meghan Alard

Clothing is the purchase category most people use to earn credit rewards. The credit experts at Finder.com conducted a nationwide survey to understand consumer credit habits. They asked 2,001 U.S. adults about how and why they swipe.

The big result

The survey shows that nearly one in three credit card users (29.2%) pull out plastic to earn valuable credit rewards. If you apply that statistics to the entire U.S. population, that comes out to roughly 71 million Americans who use credit just to earn something back.

The fascinating details

Finder.com's study finds that Americans spend an average of \$2,453.10 "chasing points." That comes out to \$175.8 billion spent each year to earn credit rewards. People are most likely to spend more in certain categories of purchases to earn rewards:

- 4% charge clothing and accessories
- 4% purchase food for rewards
- 62% buy household items
- 7% charge their electronics
- 6% purchase shoes
- 9% charge cosmetics and fragrances
- 3% put music on credit
- 1% purchase books

Men were more likely to spend more to earn rewards – 30.9% of men admit they do this versus 27.6% of women. Men also spent more money to earn credit rewards – at an average of \$3,021.31 versus \$1,852.87 average for women.

You're most likely to overspend earning credit rewards if you're younger, but Gen Xers spend the most, in total. More than one-third of Millennials (36.5%) spend an average of \$2,047.18 earning rewards. Only 30.2% of Gen Xers admit to chasing rewards, but they spend an average of \$2,201.37. Just 24.3% of Baby Boomers chase credit rewards, spending an average of \$2,201.37.

What you can do

"Charging more on credit cards to earn credit rewards is called

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ACHIEVE

Improving the lives of individuals through personal financial training

2017-2018 Officials

Samuel Sanders, Chairman

Tyrone Black, Vice Chairman

Michael Hooper, Secretary/Treasurer

Carla Corkern, Director

Dr. Jim Gardner, Director



purchase acceleration,” explains April Lewis-Parks, Financial Education Director for Consolidated Credit. “It means that you make charges on credit specifically for the purpose rewards. That can be anything from

points to hit the next level of point rewards, cash back, or airline miles. But no matter what credit rewards you earn, what you usually end up with is more debt.”

The trouble with purchase acceleration and “chasing points” through credit rewards is it usually ends up costing you. When you overspend on credit, you usually start to carry balances over month-to-month. That means interest charges accrue on the debt every billing cycle. Given that rewards credit cards have higher APR, it only takes 2-3 billing cycles to completely offset what you earn.

“If you don't pay off debt from reward credit cards quickly, then you really aren't earning anything,” Lewis-Parks continues. “You

basically take one financial step forward by earning credit rewards, but two steps back because you can't pay off the debt fast. As a result, you generate more debt and fall further behind because you're chasing points.”

- You should only make charges to earn credit rewards if you can pay them off in full at the end of the month.
- Big purchases that take several billing cycles to pay off aren't good for earning rewards. You won't pay off the debt fast enough before you offset the rewards with interest charges.
- You should also use reward credit cards sparingly at expensive times of the year, such as back to school and the holidays.
- Only charge what you can afford to pay off within one to two billing cycles. Everything else should go on your credit card with the lowest APR.



lacapitofcu.kofetime.com

For more financial education information, visit the La Capitol FCU KOFE portal:

lacapitofcu.kofetime.com



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*APR = Annual Percentage Rate. Loan products are available to qualified, creditworthy members. The actual rate for which you qualify will be based on your credit history, loan amount & the term of your loan. Eligible members may elect to defer payment for up to 90 days (some restrictions apply). Interest continues to accrue during deferment period. Rate may increase subject to final Loan to Value (LTV). Excessive vehicle mileage (gasoline or diesel) will be subject to an additional rate surcharge. Interest rate discount available for Credit Life (0.10%), Credit Disability (0.10%), or both Credit Life and Credit Disability (0.25%). Lowest possible rate after discount is 2.44% APR for 48 month term. Other rates available for different terms. Ask for complete details.

It's Not Too Late
TO GET A
Better Rate

MOVE YOUR VEHICLE LOAN TO LA CAP AND
MAKE NO PAYMENTS FOR 90 DAYS*

La Capitol
FEDERAL CREDIT UNION