



America's Credit Union MUSEUM

Winter 2003

Chairman's Message



How befitting that America's Credit Union Museum opened to the public just one year ago this October on International Credit Union Day. As I think back to the preparations for opening the fledgling Museum, that has a vast history dating back to 1908 as the first credit union in America,

I am awed by the sheer magnitude of the efforts of all those volunteers who made this dream a reality. Your Board, Building Committee, Museum Exhibit Design Committee and the Museum Advisory Board, which is co-chaired by Dan Mica, President/CEO of CUNA and Michael Kitchen, President/CEO of Cuna Mutual Group and comprised of league President's across the United States, contributed significantly. I also thank all of the many other individuals who contributed time and/or money to ensure that credit unions' roots would not be forgotten. I congratulate all of them and you who were involved for the investment in time, resources and expertise.

Since the Museum opening much has transpired. A regular operations schedule was established, experienced volunteers were recruited, a Museum video was produced and a website fully developed, where valuable data and a current newsletter reside permitting visitors to retrieve Museum information. We have also seen many credit union and local government meetings held at your Museum since its opening. In fact, we just celebrated International Credit Union Week on October 14 at the Museum by holding a press conference to announce New

Hampshire Credit Unions' joint effort to provide \$35 million over 5 years in Community Lending loans for members who could not obtain traditional first mortgage or emergency loans from banks. The Governor of New Hampshire, state Congressmen, Mayors of Manchester and Nashua as well as the Honorable Debbie Matz, NCUA board member, were present for this event.



Participating in the New Hampshire CU League's press conference announcing a \$35 million community loan program are from left to right Gordon A. Simmons, Chairman America's Credit Union Museum and Chairman, New Hampshire Credit Union League Board; Peter Hildreth, New Hampshire Bank Commissioner; Daniel Egan, Jr., President, New Hampshire Credit Union League; Craig Benson, Governor of New Hampshire; and Deborah Matz, NCUA Board Member.

Your Museum was also the recipient of a "2003 Historic Preservation Award" from the Manchester, New Hampshire, Historic Association. The Manchester Historic Association cited in making this award that "the Museum preserves a beautiful historic property in the city and the cultural history of the community. Preserving the building that housed the first credit union in the United States and installing exhibits on credit union history tells an important story for all to

America's Credit Union Museum

Chairman's Message (continued)

see". The Museum symbolizes the "roots" of every credit union in America.

Various credit union artifacts loaned to your Museum from credit unions across America, have also been displayed on a revolving basis. We would welcome displaying any historic or important artifacts that your credit union would care to lend your Museum. Contact Ms. Peggy Powell through this website to make arrangements.

There is still much to do. We are in the process of raising the much needed funding to create an annuity to maintain your Credit Union Museum now and into the future. Our goal of raising \$3 million, including the generous donation of the credit union structure from the Lemire family of Manchester, NH, still needs to be achieved. We have raised approximately \$2 million thus far, but look to you for your financial support. In the near future, credit unions who have not yet contributed will be receiving a letter from America's Credit Union Museum seeking your support. Please consider making a contribution. For all of those credit unions that have already made a contribution, we sincerely thank you for your generosity and support.

Remember, **America's Credit Union Museum belongs to all credit unions**. It symbolizes your past, represents your present and supports your future.

Happy Holidays!

Gordon Simmons

Campaign Update

As you are already aware, one year ago the New England Credit Union Heritage Foundation (NECUHF) Board of Directors made the decision to establish a Museum Advisory Board to help them raise the funds necessary to complete the restoration of America's Credit Union Museum and to

establish an endowment for operations and program development. The Museum Advisory Board for 2002 was comprised of League Presidents, several credit union CEOs, Dan Kampen of US Central, Dan Mica, CUNA, and Mike Kitchen, CUNA Mutual Group.



We were pleased that Hank Klein, Museum Advisory Board member and President/CEO, Arkansas Federal Credit Union, and his family included a visit to the Museum in their recent vacation plans.

We would like to thank all of those who served on last year's Museum Advisory Board for their leadership and support. We realize there are many demands on their time and their commitment to America's Credit Union Museum is appreciated. Their efforts resulted in gifts and pledges totaling \$500,000.

Many of those who served on last year's Museum Advisory Board have agreed to serve an additional one-year term. With their assistance, the NECUHF board will provide an opportunity for all credit unions to participate in supporting the Museum and raising the \$1.2 million necessary to complete the \$3 million campaign goal.

(continued on next page)

Campaign Update (from page 2)

For a complete listing of the current Museum Advisory Board and more information about America's Credit Union Museum go to the Museum's Web site at www.acumuseum.org



Ron Nannicelli, Eastern Regional Manager for CO-OP Network, visited the Museum to view the stained glass panel installed in recognition of CO-OP's generous donation of \$25,000.

Museum Adds New Exhibits

One of the goals of America's Credit Union Museum is to provide a venue where all credit unions from across the country, not just New England, can tell their story through exhibits and artifacts. While the credit union movement may have found its roots in New England, it is only the beginning of a movement that today represents 83 million members in all 50 states.

The Museum's Hall of States was provided through the generosity of the American Association of Credit

Museum Adds New Exhibits (continued)

Union Leagues. The room houses exhibits pertaining to Laws and Order and the credit union history of individual states. We are fortunate to have received a number of pictures and artifacts from several states, including New York, Nevada, and Vermont. The most recent additions to the exhibits highlight the history of credit unions and those who pioneered its development in Massachusetts and California. We express our appreciation to Fern Barnes, Historian of the California Credit Union League, for her efforts in providing all of the materials and information for the California and Nevada exhibits. Exhibits reflecting the history of CUES, Ohio, and Arkansas are currently being developed.



The new exhibit featuring the history of California Credit Unions in the Museum's "Hall of States."

It is important that America's Credit Union Museum represent all credit unions and the pioneers who worked tirelessly to provide a safe place for people to save their money and access reasonable credit. Please contact Peggy Powell, the Museum's executive director, at 603-629-1553 or ppowell@acumuseum.org, if you are interested in contributing an exhibit or some artifacts to the Museum's Hall of States.

See the photos of the Massachusetts Exhibit

(continued on the next page)

America's Credit Union Museum



This new exhibit features the history of the Massachusetts Credit Union movement in the Museum's "Hall of States."

America's Credit Union Museum The First year in Review

It is amazing that America's Credit Union Museum has completed its first year of operation. It has been a busy, challenging, and rewarding year for everyone involved in establishing the Museum's presence, both locally and nationally. We have greeted visitors from across the country; hosted credit union and league board meetings, strategic planning sessions, and annual meetings; held educational seminars; hosted press conferences and receptions for state and credit union dignitaries; and talked with nursery school children about money and the importance of savings. New exhibits and artifacts have been added, furnishings acquired for the original Museum rooms, wireless technology installed, a reading room established, volunteers recruited, and funds raised.

William Rissel, President/CEO, Fort Knox FCU, is a member of the Museum Advisory Board. In a letter he sent to Patriot Federal Credit Union, Chambersburg, PA, thanking them for their donation



(From left): Peter Hildreth, New Hampshire Bank Commissioner; Ronald J. Rioux, President/CEO St. Mary's Bank CU; Berdum Natura, Homeowner, Home Ownership Loan Borrower; NCUA Board Member, Deborah Matz; and Congressman Jeb Bradley, 1st District New Hampshire were among those who participated in the Museum press conference.

to the Museum he stated, *"The past is something we can never reclaim- but it is something we can preserve. We appreciate your recognizing the importance of this to our place in history."*

We would like to thank all of you who have recognized the importance of preserving the history of credit unions through your gifts to America's Credit Union Museum. Your interest, leadership, generosity, and support have been vital to the success of the Museum's first year.

There is still much to do, but with your continued support we will achieve our goals and credit unions will have their place in history.

Thank you and best wishes for a joyous holiday season.

Peggy Powell, Executive Director