



Thinkwise

CREDIT UNION

Spring 2021

Dear members,

We moved! Moving has always been bittersweet. On the one hand, you are leaving a place that holds many memories and comfort. On the other hand, the thought of a new place is exciting and hopeful. Have you ever moved and thought to yourself, “where did all this stuff come from?” My personal moves have me asking that question every few minutes. When you move a company that has been around since 1952, you ask yourself the same question! Although I do have to admit, it’s pretty cool to go through items of the past. Accumulation of stuff aside, our move has been 68 years in the making. My parents would always tell me, “No matter what you do in life, remember where you came from.” So today, I’m going to tell you our history.

Thinkwise started as Arrowhead Federal Credit Union on April 8, 1952. We were formed by Herb Owen, Robert Pope, and Robert Minch, maintenance and custodial employees of the San Bernardino City Unified School District (SBCUSD). We were chartered to serve employees of the school district in custodial, maintenance, administrative, and food services. The credit union first operated out of a home garage, keeping track of members' accounts and funds with a lockbox and pencil-filled ledger. We were so new that in one instance when a member needed a car loan, we had to call every member to make a deposit to help cover that one loan!

The school district teachers opened a credit union soon after we opened, but unfortunately, it did not last and shut down in the early 1960s. In 1963, the teachers asked if they could join our credit union. Approvals were done, and we welcomed our newest employee group. Since we were now serving all the school district employees, in 1964, we changed our name to San Bernardino School Employees Federal Credit Union (SBSEFCU). We also moved into a small home office on D Street.

In the early 1970s, we moved our branch to 1299 North D Street in San Bernardino. We shared a building with a dry cleaning business. We stayed in that building until we purchased and moved to the building located at 2441 N Sierra Way in 1987. The Sierra building was a former beauty salon with an apartment residence on the second floor. Over the years, we have remodeled it into how it looks today.



In 2007, we were granted a TIP (Trade Industry Profession) charter from the National Credit Union Administration (NCUA). This charter expanded whom we could serve from just the employees of the SBCUSD but all educational employees in the counties of San Bernardino, Riverside, and Orange. It also extends membership to family members, retirees, members of the household, and volunteers. Now that we served a wider audience, we changed our name from San Bernardino School Employees Federal Credit Union to Thinkwise Federal Credit Union in 2015. In 2020, we opened our first, second branch in Rialto at the new Renaissance Marketplace shopping center. We did so to provide a better alternative to the big banks for the hard-working educational workers of the Inland Empire. If you have not had a chance to stop by and see, please do so! The staff loves saying hello to all of our members.

In 2019, I presented the idea of moving our main branch and headquarters. We were beginning to grow, and I wanted to make sure we made the right strategic move. No matter what, we were born and raised in San Bernardino, so we had to stay in San Bernardino. The perfect location? 599 N E St on the corner of E and 6th Street. This building was a former financial institution that sat empty for many years. I wanted to accomplish three goals:

- 1. Be closer to our founding employee group.**
- 2. Have enough room to expand for the future.**
- 3. Show San Bernardino that we are all in for the future.**

Our new building fits every goal perfectly. We are now a quick walk away from the SBCUSD main building and closer to most other school district facilities. We are also across the street from the San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools Office building. There is enough room in the building to grow our credit union for many years to come. There are plans in motion to revitalize Downtown San Bernardino, and I wanted us to be there to start that renaissance. And between you, me, and the device you are reading this on, this is an AMAZING building that we all love!

I finish with this final message. This building is not mine, nor is it the employees. This building is YOURS! It belongs to every member of Thinkwise Credit Union. It took support from many people, including you, to make this possible. I want to extend a tremendous THANK YOU to our Board of Directors, employees, and members for making this move possible. And not just the people in 2021. The thank you goes out to every person that has had a hand in our growth since 1952. May this building be a lasting and potent symbol of our past and future legacy in helping as many people build a solid financial life.

Sincerely,



Heri "Eddie" Garcia
President/CEO

CHECK OUT OUR NEW YOUTH ACCOUNTS!

We're introducing our new Generation T Youth Accounts! Teach your child to save with our Gen T Savings, Gen T Plus Checking, and more! Contact one of our branches to get started.



Now introducing ZOGO, our Financial Literacy platform designed to make learning about finances fun and rewarding! Earn gift cards as you complete learning modules!

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APP AND START
LEARNING TODAY!**





IN THE COMMUNITY



The first quarter of 2021 was spent preparing for our big move to downtown San Bernardino! Although the past year was uncertain at times, we were able to go forward with the plan to move our main branch to an improved facility on E St. in the heart of the downtown area- and for that, we are very grateful. While we are waiting patiently to resume attending events, we have been involved in the community as much as we can be.

Our very last event at our Sierra Way branch was a book giveaway hosted by Dr. Karnig Infant-Toddler Success team. We want to thank them for giving back to the community in that way. While it is bittersweet to leave our old home, our new home will be able to accommodate our growing membership and better serve YOU!



During the moving-in process, we met with our local law enforcement and ensured proper security measures were being followed. Big thanks to our new neighbors, San Bernardino City Police Department and San Bernardino School District Police Department. We appreciate their involvement and warm welcome to downtown.





IN THE COMMUNITY

We were also able to have a small ribbon-cutting ceremony on March 8th to celebrate the grand opening of our new headquarters. Thank you to the San Bernardino Chamber of Commerce and all who were able to attend.



We look forward to many great years here on E St. and can't wait to jump back into the community as we can. In the meantime, we have been able to support some of our local schools with Perfect Attendance incentives such as certificates, free pizza, and even bikes!

It is so important to us to support our community and schools, and help students continue to learn. If you would like Thinkwise to support your school or organization, please visit our website at thinkwisecu.org/donation-request.



Five Tips for Financial Success

Here is a checklist of five tips to help you stay ahead in the debt and finance race.



- **Track Your Spending**

Adults who don't track their spending are much more likely to overspend on unnecessary things and find themselves not knowing where their money has gone.

- **Set A Budget & Stick To It**

Nowadays with budget apps and online tools, you can set a reasonable budget and follow it throughout the month. Credit unions like Thinkwise are also equipped with advisors that can help you figure out where to tighten it up.

- **Find A Savings Account That Earns**

So many young people let their money sit where it earns nothing. One of the best things you can do is to find something that gives back to you, like a high-yield savings account.

- **Keep A Close Eye On Your Account**

There are many products that make it easier to prevent identity fraud and unauthorized purchases these days. Take advantage of these products and check your statements often so you are not a victim.

- **Build Credit the Smart Way**

Don't be sucked into the many appealing credit cards banks and stores will offer. Do your research, check out interest rates, and don't rack up tons of debt! It's easy to fall into the credit card trap but the best way to build solid credit is to make consistent payments and keep debt low.





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HOLIDAY CLOSURES

Memorial Day

Monday, May 31

Independence Day

Monday, July 5

Thinkwisecu.org/events

Social Media: @Thinkwisecu

