

Membership Matters

A Message from Our President & CEO

The mid-year newsletter is historically the one in which we announce the annual meeting and the volunteers who are seeking to serve on the Board of Directors. This year, the message is a little different as the Board of Directors voted without dissent for Piedmont Advantage Credit Union to merge with Truiliant Federal Credit Union.

Let me begin by saying that “merger” is not a four-letter word. In fact, Piedmont Advantage, as it exists today, is a collection of multiple credit unions. From Eden to Greensboro to Boyer Street (Charlotte), these locations came about by way of other credit unions partnering with us. We’re following that same roadmap to expand products, services and locations available to our members.

In the first quarter newsletter, I outlined the three things that credit unions, as not-for-profit organizations, do to return “profits” back to their member owners.

- The first is giving back to members by way of higher deposit rates, lower loan rates, and minimal fees.
- The second is to invest in products, services and service delivery channels so we can reach more members.
- The third is to build capital, or as I’ve commonly referred to it, as our rainy-day fund.

Since its inception, this organization has done its best to deliver on these value propositions. However, like the credit unions that partnered with us in the past to do more for their members, we see the partnership with Truiliant as a strategic next step in our evolution to offer more to our member owners.

For example, Piedmont Advantage currently offers six branch locations, whereas the combined organization with Truiliant will offer over 40. Those locations include branches in North Carolina, South Carolina and Virginia. Piedmont Advantage members have asked for more technology and more product and service offerings. This merger will allow our members to enjoy an enhanced online and mobile experience. In addition to consumer and mortgage lending, Truiliant is an exceptional lender in the business space.

Truiliant is headquartered in Winston-Salem just the same as Piedmont Advantage. We have a shared commitment to community, and the combined organization allows us to do more in the expanded base of communities we serve.



On behalf of the Board of Directors of Piedmont Advantage Credit Union, we are asking for your support of the merger with Truiliant. This merger recommendation reflects a careful, intentional process—one that honors our past while positioning us for a stronger future.

With Gratitude,

Dion L. Williams

Board of Directors

The Piedmont Advantage Board of Directors represents the history and tradition of the credit union as well as a commitment to the members and communities we serve.

Directors are volunteers and serve without compensation; so their time, talent and knowledge are shared with the credit union as a labor of love.

Tom Mekis
Chairman

Mark Saunders
Vice Chairman

Diana Santos-Johnson
Secretary

Mark Linville
Treasurer

A.J. Eaker
Howard Henry
Justine Lerch
George Price
Jeff Reynolds

Jim Taylor
Chairman Emeritus

John Reece
Director Emeritus

Gene Sharp
Director Emeritus

Supervisory Committee

The Supervisory Committee ensures the Board safeguards assets and management complies with the organization's established policies. Committee members are also volunteers. Their gift of time demonstrates a commitment to the credit union's success.

A.J. Eaker
Chairman

Toni Douglas
Secretary

Mary Vitale

The Last Lap: The PACU Foundation Holds Fourth and Final Flying Colors Charity 5K and Fun Run

The color powder may fade, but the PACU Foundation's impact won't.

At the foundation's final fundraising event, the Flying Colors Charity 5K and Fun Run, Piedmont Advantage Credit Union employees, family, friends and local runners brought everything they had to make this race the most memorable in its history.

This year's Flying Colors, held on June 13 at Forsyth Country Day School in Lewisville, N.C., far exceeded the foundation's fundraising goal, bringing in more than \$30,000 and attracting 186 participants.

The 5K overall winner, with a time of 23:06, was Jared Bahena from Lexington, N.C.

"Every year, I am in awe of how much joy and goodwill this event brings," said Megan Brooks, PACU Foundation's fundraising chair and organizer. "While the morning was filled with exercise and excitement, the spirit of community and the shared purpose of helping those in need drove every heart racing through the course. I am so proud that we were able to close this chapter with such a great event."

Flying Colors Charity Run combines lively color stations with a community-centered purpose, making it a family-friendly event for a meaningful cause. The funds raised support charities that provide emergency financial aid, financial education and essential services to families across the Triad and Charlotte regions.

Since the PACU Foundation's founding in 2020, its mission has been clear: to help residents overcome financial hardship. And through the tireless efforts of volunteer staff and generous donations from PACU members, employees and vendors, the PACU Foundation has gifted more than \$142,000 to local charities as of year-end 2025.

A significant factor in the PACU Foundation's progress toward its 2026 fundraising goal was the \$10,000 charitable grant from Elan Credit Card's Charitable Giving program, along with an additional \$10,000, which was formally presented at this year's Flying Colors.

"This recognition affirms the purpose of our Foundation and the value of meaningful collaborations," said Jean Golden-Rumer, President of the PACU Foundation. "We are grateful for Elan's commitment to helping credit unions turn values into action for the communities we serve. In this being the foundation's final gifting year, we would not be in the same position to support our local charities fighting financial hardship without Elan's generous contribution."

Since the PACU Foundation is the charitable affiliate of Piedmont Advantage Credit Union, which is currently in a pending merger with Truiant Federal Credit Union, it will begin winding down its operations by month-end.

Impact doesn't stem from structure. It originates from people, including employees who contribute, members who care and communities that support one another.

The PACU Foundation extends its gratitude for trusting in something greater than banking. The altruism of donors and volunteers demonstrates that belonging is more than words. Whatever the future holds, the impact will continue to spread, and that's something truly worth preserving.

"I am truly honored to have been part of the PACU Foundation's journey, treasuring the memories and relationships formed with donors, volunteers and local charities," Golden-Rumer said. "Although this may be the Foundation's conclusion, I am proud of the positive impact our efforts have had on the communities PACU supports. Thank you to all the donors and volunteers who dedicated themselves to enhancing the lives of colleagues, neighbors and community members."



Flying Colors 5K winners from left to right: Timothy Booker (Male 60 and Up), Michele Koda (Female 60 and Up), Hector Aguilar Perez (Male 40-59), Nate Fye (Male 20-39), Lily Hardy (Female 19 and Under), Jackson Voorhies (Male 19 and Under), Jared Bahena (Male Overall Winner) and Betsabe Martinez (Female Overall Winner). Not pictured: Jeni Brewer (Female 40-59) and Noelle Cummings (Female 20-39).



Representatives from Elan Credit Card presented the PACU Foundation with a \$10,000 check. Pictured from left to right: Megan Brooks (PACU Foundation Fundraising Chair), Ashley Voorhies and Tara Gazdik (Elan Credit Card), Dion Williams (PACU President & CEO), Jean Golden-Rumer (PACU Foundation President) and Jeanette Stark (PACU Foundation Vice President).

A Practical Guide to Share Certificates

In today's economy, saving money can feel like a balancing act. On one hand, you want your money to stay accessible. On the other hand, you want it to grow without taking unnecessary risks. That's why share certificates are a great middle ground between basic savings accounts and higher-risk investments.

First things first, what is a share certificate?

Share Certificates and How They Work

Share certificates are a type of savings product offered by credit unions where you agree to deposit a set amount of money for a fixed period, also known as a term, in exchange for a guaranteed interest rate.

Unlike a savings account, you agree not to touch the money for a set length of time, and in return, share certificates normally offer higher interest rates.

Share certificates have:

- **Fixed Terms:** Terms typically range from three months to five years or longer.
- **Fixed Interest Rates:** Once you open the share certificate, the interest rate is locked in for the entirety of the term.
- **Dates of Maturity:** When the term ends, the certificate reaches maturity and your funds are available.

After your date of maturity, there is typically a short grace period, during which you can withdraw your money, renew the certificate for another term or move the funds to a different account.

The Benefits of Share Certificates

If you are looking to save money, share certificates could be a good option. Benefits include:

- **Predictable Growth:** Unlike market-based investments, certificates offer predictable growth. No worrying about stock-market swings, especially during economic uncertainty.
- **Rate Lock Advantage:** With share certificates, your rates are fixed, so even if rates drop after you open your certificate, your return stays the same.
- **Security:** Share certificates opened at insured credit unions are protected by the NCUA up to \$250,000. This makes certificates one of the safest high-yield savings options available.

While share certificates are a good choice for many people, some trade-offs may affect whether they are the right choice or not for you. Look at the Share Certificate Checklist below to see if it might be the right fit for you!

The Share Certificate Checklist

A certificate **may** be a good fit for you if:

- You're saving for a dated expense, such as a down payment.
- You want to safely deposit a sum after selling an asset.
- You think interest rates may fall and want to lock in a rate.

A certificate **may not** be a good fit for you if:

- You may need the funds to be liquid for emergencies.
- You carry high-interest debts.
- You'll need the funds within 30 to 60 days.

2026 PACU General Scholarship Recipients



Victoria Robinson
Winston-Salem, N.C.
UNC Wilmington



Ashley Makell
Charlotte, N.C.
UNC Greensboro



Austin Imes, Jr.
Mocksville, N.C.
UNC Chapel Hill



Jacob Heim
Charlotte, N.C.
NC State

Kyera Combs
Mooresville, N.C.
Georgia Southern University

Lucas Chalco
Eden, N.C.
Johnson and Wales University



Stronger Together. Focused on You.

The proposed merger with Truliant Federal Credit Union is about creating more value for you while continuing the service and relationships you count on.

What This Merger Means for You

- **More branch locations and ATMs:** Enjoy access to a larger branch network, more ATMs across North Carolina, South Carolina and Virginia.
- **Enhanced digital banking experience:** Improved mobile tools, easier access and greater control, all designed to complement your current experience.
- **More products and services:** A new range of solutions, from lending options to savings tools and additional services that support your goals.
- **Built for the future:** We'll have greater resources to invest in innovation, security, community and the long-term stability of our members.

Vote to Approve!

You'll receive voting materials soon. Make your voice heard in the proposed merger between Piedmont Advantage and Truliant.

This partnership builds on our strong foundation and cooperative values while creating new opportunities to serve you better. You'll continue to be supported by a team that knows you and is committed to personalized, local service.

Key dates to remember:

- **Week of July 6:** Voting materials arrive
- **August 25:** Special meeting of members to confirm vote
- **September 1:** Proposed merger date
- **Q1 2027:** Merger and member transition complete by the end of first quarter 2027

Your vote to approve the merger supports a stronger future built on service, trust and putting people first.

In the next few weeks, keep an eye out for this envelope to cast your vote:

