



essential
CREDIT UNION

ANNUAL REPORT
2025



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BOARD CHAIRMAN & PRESIDENT/CEO LETTER



STEPHAN PIERRE

Chairman, Board of Directors



RICK WILLIAMS

President / CEO

Essential continues to grow with a focus on providing products and services that meet the needs of an evolving membership.

In 2012, we had assets of \$251MM and a net worth ratio of 7.48%. Today, we have assets of \$419MM and a net worth ratio of 9.15%. This growth is a result of our membership's commitment to supporting Essential and the Essential team of volunteer board and committee members, as well as employees. We are proud of our growth and our service to our members, but we know that more is expected of our credit union as the financial services world continues to evolve.

All credit unions initially established themselves as not-for-profit financial cooperatives with a focus of promoting thrift and savings among individuals of modest means. Credit unions were part of a vibrant movement. The movement has now morphed into an industry that is consolidating at an alarming rate, as smaller credit unions have merged into larger credit unions to gain the efficiencies of scale. In 2019, there were 5,236 federally insured credit unions, today there are 4,331. Members have come to expect their credit union to provide products and services comparable to larger national banks and when the credit union is unable to meet this expectation the relationship with the credit union becomes fractured. Essential is committed to remaining independent and forward-thinking on how to compete in this industry.

Our board of directors and volunteers, along with the employees of Essential remain steadfast in delivering the best to you, the membership, now and into the future.

We would like to thank our members, directors, and Essential team members for their work and support.

Stephan Pierre
Board Chairman

Richard Williams, Jr.
President/CEO

WHAT OUR MEMBERS SAY

"I would highly recommend to all my friends and family to use Essential Credit Union. They are super helpful and very friendly."

-S. Watson, Walker Branch

This is my first time dealing with Essential for my auto loan. All I can say is: The staff and the company is Awesome with a capital A. They make the payment process easy. This has to be one of the best Credit Unions in Baton Rouge. I'll refer anyone, especially if they need an auto loan, to Essential Credit Union.

-T. Willie, Baton Rouge Branch

"They were extremely helpful the minute I walked in! I got in there and out. Definitely would recommend this branch for anything you may need assistance with in the nearby future!"

-R. Wilkins, Siegen Branch





“Great customer service. Plenty of services that can benefit you or your business.”

-G. Young, Baton Rouge Branch

“I love Essential. The BEST credit union to be part of. The employees are ALWAYS polite, helpful, greets you with a smile. Always willing to go the extra mile. Keep being great and awesome at what you do. Thank you for always being that helping hand. Your generosity never goes unnoticed. Your customer service is unmatched.”

-Y. Elmore, Plaquemine Branch

“I came into the branch for an issue I was having and the MSR was a tremendous help. She stayed after hours and went above and beyond to ensure I was taken care of and that all my issues were addressed before I left.”

-S. Wagner, Gonzales Branch

BOARD OF DIRECTORS



BOYD COURVILLE
Interim Director



LOUISE CROCHET
Director



SUE HUNT
Secretary



EDMOND JORDAN
Treasurer



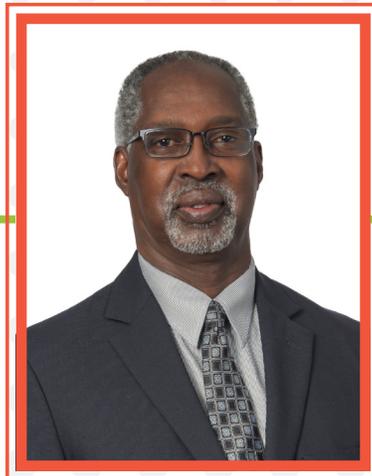
JOEY JUSTICE
Vice Chair



LISA PERRY
Director



STEPHAN PIERRE
Board Chair



PERRY ROBEY
Director



KENITH WOODALL
Director

**Strategic
Direction**

**Policy
Governance**

**CEO
Oversight**

Essential Credit Union's success is dependent upon the commitment of our members — a commitment to sharing resources to meet the needs of all. Every decision we make is to serve your financial needs. You have the power to direct our credit union through electing a Board of Directors to serve Essential on a volunteer basis.

The nine-person Board of Directors is made up of members like you. They each serve three-year terms and never receive any monetary compensation for their efforts. Their goal is to make sure Essential continues to serve its members with dedication, service and convenience — just like we've been doing for more than 50 years. We would like to express our sincere gratitude to our Board, whose commitment to excellence drives their service to the membership.

“Our Board is proud to support responsible growth while staying focused on serving our members and community.”

-Sue Hunt, Secretary

SENIOR MANAGEMENT



DAVID BEAM
VP of Lending



KONYA BOURRIAGUE
Executive Assistant



ALLISON BROWN
Chief Marketing Officer



EWA LIPINSKA
Chief Financial Officer



KARESA HALL
Chief Administrative Officer



KRUGERRAND HOLLINS
Chief Technology Officer



WES MOREAU
Chief Lending Officer



SHANDRA WILLIAMS
VP of Member Solutions

"We remain focused on operational excellence and delivering value to our members."

-Karesa Hall, CAO

TREASURER'S REPORT

EDMOND JORDAN

Treasurer, Board of Directors



Essential remains a financially safe and sound institution ready to meet the needs of our membership and our community. Our Net Worth Ratio at year end was 9.15% and the National Credit Union Administration considers a credit union “well capitalized” at 7.00%. The credit union was profitable for the year and worked diligently to reduce operating costs and improve efficiency.

The credit union remains well-positioned for growth.

As always, I would like to thank my fellow board members and the team members of the credit union for their time and hard work. I would also like to thank the members for their continued support of Essential.

Edmond Jordan
Treasurer

30,534
Members*

9.15%
Net Worth
Ratio*

\$419M
Assets*

*As of 12/25/2025

SUPERVISORY COMMITTEE



RODNEY COMBS

Chairperson, Supervisory Committee



DR. MABLE MOORE
Secretary



VELVET CABALLERO
Member



SHERMAN DUPRE
Member

One of the key responsibilities of the Supervisory Committee is to engage an external accounting firm to audit the financial reports of the credit union. The committee has engaged the firm of Clifton Larson Allen, LLP to audit the financial reports for the December 31, 2025 period. At the time of this letter, the 2025 financial audit is in progress and the unaudited year ending December 31, 2025 financial statements have been provided for the 2025 annual report.

The Supervisory Committee also oversees the internal audit function of the credit union. Support for the internal audit is provided by the firm BDO USA, P.C. (BDO). Based on the internal audit reports and discussions with BDO, the Supervisory Committee has not identified any critical deficiencies.

As Chair of the committee, I would like to thank my fellow committee members for their time and service.

Sincerely,

Rodney Combs, CPA, CGMA, CGAP, CFSA
Chairperson

New Full-Service Towne Center Branch

We proudly opened our new full-service Towne Center branch, designed to better serve the evolving needs of our members and the surrounding community. This modern, conveniently located facility offers a welcoming environment with enhanced technology, comfortable spaces, and expanded service capabilities.

The Towne Center branch provides comprehensive financial services, including: personal and business banking, lending services, mortgage solutions, financial guidance and support.

With an improved layout and operational efficiencies, members benefit from shorter wait times and a more streamlined experience. This new branch represents more than a physical expansion—it reflects our long-term vision for growth, innovation, and community presence.

Essential Tag & Title: A New and Improved Space

As demand for Essential Tag & Title services continued to grow, we recognized the need for a larger, more functional space. This year, we introduced a new, expanded location specifically designed to enhance the customer experience.

The upgraded facility provides: increased service capacity, improved workflow for faster processing, a more comfortable and accessible environment, and ease of access.

By investing in a dedicated, optimized space, we are ensuring that members and customers receive efficient, professional service for all their vehicle registration and title needs.

Gonzales Branch Relocation – Coming May 2026

Looking ahead, we are excited to announce the upcoming relocation of our Gonzales branch, anticipated for May 2026. This move is a proactive investment in our future growth and in the long-term convenience of our members.

The new Gonzales location will feature: expanded parking to better accommodate member traffic, increased interior space for a more comfortable banking experience, a more accessible and efficient drive-thru design.

Be on the lookout for progress at 577 Louisiana 30 W Bldg. L, Ste E, Gonzales, LA. We look forward to sharing more updates as construction progresses and the opening date approaches.

ESSENTIAL'S FINANCIALS

STATEMENTS OF INCOME

2025

2024

INTEREST INCOME

Income on Loans	\$21,451,579	\$18,443,160
Interest on Investments	\$1,397,780	\$854,577
<i>Interest Income</i>	<i>\$22,849,359</i>	<i>\$19,297,737</i>

INTEREST EXPENSE

Member Share and Savings Accounts	\$7,773,342	\$6,792,640
Interest on Borrowed Funds	\$940,582	\$540,904
Total Interest Expense	\$8,713,924	\$7,333,544
<i>Net Interest Income</i>	<i>\$14,135,435</i>	<i>\$11,964,193</i>

Provisions for Loan Losses

\$1,730,000

\$4,940,552

NET INTEREST INCOME after Provision

\$12,405,435

\$7,023,641

NON-INTEREST INCOME

Fees and Service Charges	\$4,049,055	\$2,540,902
Interchange Income	\$3,188,469	\$3,152,871
Rental Income	\$377,736	\$320,455
Loss on Sales of Fixed Assets	(\$152,013)	(\$256,788)
Other Non-Interest Income	1,989,732	\$2,603,815
<i>Total Non-Interest Income</i>	<i>\$9,452,979</i>	<i>\$8,361,255</i>

NON-INTEREST EXPENSE

Compensation & Benefits	\$8,789,126	\$8,275,136
Operation Expenses	\$4,950,668	\$1,966,279
Other Operating Expenses	\$3,658,631	\$5,225,969
Occupancy Expense	\$1,767,050	\$2,593,718
Professional & Outside Services	\$2,474,138	\$786,828
<i>Non-Interest Expense</i>	<i>\$21,639,613</i>	<i>\$18,847,930</i>

NET INCOME

\$218,801

(\$3,463,034)

ASSETS	2025	2024
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$36,773,813	\$27,870,158
Investments: Available-For-Sale	\$6,039,345	\$8,569,656
Credit Union Owned Life Insurance	\$5,566,795	\$5,404,835
Other Investments	\$1,563,225	\$1,529,420
Loans Receivable, Net of Allowance for Loan Losses	\$331,491,882	\$310,243,059
Accrued Interest Receivable	\$1,461,951	\$1,204,248
Premises and Equipment, Net	\$24,354,097	\$24,799,601
National Credit Union Share Insurance Fund Deposit	\$3,400,252	\$3,099,858
Other Assets	\$8,230,952	\$7,375,983
TOTAL ASSETS	\$418,882,312	\$390,096,818

LIABILITIES & MEMBERS' EQUITY	2025	2024
Members' Share and Savings Accounts	\$363,888,381	\$344,487,349
Borrowings	\$16,900,000	\$14,000,000
Subordinated Debt	\$9,500,000	\$2,500,000
Accrued Expenses and Other Liabilities	\$384,140	\$915,190
<i>Total Liabilities</i>	\$390,672,521	\$361,902,539
Undivided Earnings	\$28,847,281	\$29,214,607
Unrealized Gain/(Loss) on Securities Available-for-Sale	(\$637,490)	(\$1,020,328)
<i>Total Members' Equity</i>	\$28,209,791	\$28,194,279
TOTAL LIABILITIES & MEMBERS' EQUITY	\$418,882,312	\$390,096,818

PRODUCTS & SERVICES

DEPOSIT ACCOUNTS

- Personal Savings Accounts
- Club Savings Accounts
- Reward Checking Accounts
- Simple Checking Accounts
- Prosperity Rewards Accounts
- Certificate & IRAs
- Business Checking Accounts

CONSUMER LOANS

- New & Used Auto Loans
- New & Used Boat Loans
- Motorcycle, RV and ATV Loans
- Secured & Unsecured Loans
- VISA Credit Cards

MORTGAGE LOANS

- Conventional Mortgages
- 100% Financing Home Loan
- HomeReady Mortgage
- FHA Home Loans

BUSINESS BANKING

- Business Savings Accounts
- Business Checking Accounts
- Merchant Services
- Commercial Real Estate Loans
- Term Loans for Business Expansion
- SBA Loans
- Business VISA Credit Card
- Business Lines of Credit

FINANCIAL SERVICES

- Financial Education
- Retirement Plans
- Insurance Products

ONLINE SERVICES

- Free Online Banking
- Free Mobile Banking
- Free Electronic Statements
- Free Bill Pay Option
- Electronic Check Deposits
- Zelle
- Money Management
- Electronic Account Alerts
- Secure Messaging
- Scheduled Transfers
- Easy Loan Payments
- Account Opening
- Apply for Loans
- Skip-A-Payment

CONVENIENT SERVICES

- Virtual Visits
- Full-Service Contact Center
- Co-Op Share Branching
- Fee Free ATM Networks
- Free Debit Card
- Direct Deposit
- 24-Hour Telephone & Online Access
- Certified Checks
- Wire Transfers
- Overdraft Protection



BRANCH & ATM LOCATIONS

BATON ROUGE

6725 Siegen Lane
Baton Rouge, LA 70809

BATON ROUGE

2370 Towne Center Blvd
Baton Rouge, LA 70806

CENTRAL

ATM ONLY
10513 Sullivan Road
Central, LA 70837

GONZALES

1051 North Airline Highway
Gonzales, LA 70737

PLAQUEMINE

21925 Highway 1 South
Plaquemine, LA 70764

WALKER

28645 Walker South Road
Walker, LA 70785

HOUSTON

12012 Space Center Blvd
Houston, TX 77059

