3 LINES
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FRAUD TO WATCH FOR NOW
WHAT ARE THE TRENDS?

33rd conference
ERIN BROCKOVICH
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A New NCUA Board Member May Be Arriving Soon

With Board member Hood’s term expiring in August, the guessing game as to the new Board nominee was in full swing for much of the summer. Names were floated and the last thing that leaked out of the White House was that there wasn’t a consensus for a final name to be submitted. That all changed when the Biden Administration announced its intent to nominate Tanya Otsuka to the NCUA board. Otsuka, currently the senior counsel on the Senate Banking Committee, would be the first Asian-American to serve on the federal regulatory board. She previously served as counsel at the FDIC and has extensive financial services experience.

What are the next steps? After a confirmation hearing, Otsuka will have a committee vote and then go before the full Senate. Neither of these should present a problem and with a favorable schedule, she could be taking the oath of office before Halloween.

Once she is seated, what does her appointment mean for credit unions? For the first time in his chairmanship, Todd Harper will have a second vote to approve some of the issues that have been at the top of his agenda. Until now, he has been held in check by the two Republicans with whom he was serving. These issues include a CFPB-like division at the agency, an expanded budget and an increased focus on climate issues and the effect on financial institutions. Recent pronouncements from the White House have asked agencies to incorporate climate data as they move forward with regulations. The impact of climate change will most likely be an area of concern for the new Board.

This is another example of what President Obama discussed when he noted, “elections have consequences.” At this time, Democrats control the White House and the Senate so they will be able to push through this nomination. It’s the same scenario that the Republicans enjoyed in 2020 when the Trump administration nominated Kyle Hauptman and the GOP-controlled Senate was able to vote him in even though Biden had won the election.

As usually happens, these things even out. Congratulations to Tanya Otsuka and we look forward to her time on the Board.
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Welcome to the new Association of Credit Union Audit and Risk Professionals, or ACUARP. For those that haven’t heard, the old ACUIA is the new ACUARP!

We revealed the new name at our recent Annual Conference in San Francisco. It was a great meeting and if you didn’t get a chance to be there in person, we have coverage of it in this issue of the magazine. And I would urge you to put aside the dates of June 18-21 on your calendar for next year’s meeting…we will be in Chicago for our 34th annual conference and ½ day seminars.

The Board made the name change a priority to better describe our membership. We are now made up of internal auditors, compliance, risk and ERM professionals as well as supervisory committee members. The central focus of our membership is to manage and address issues that pose a risk to the financial well-being of the credit union. And we are proud of our new name that highlights our members’ focus.

I am also proud to be the latest Chair of the association and happy to be the first ACUARP Chair. Your ACUARP Board is made up of hard-working and dedicated credit union professionals from credit unions of all sizes. And we welcome a new Associate Director – Nabila Sheikh from NASA Federal Credit Union. Nabila manages the successful webinar program for the association.

Coming up in the fall, ACUARP has a number of regional meetings – make sure to check the website or the regional page in this issue for dates and sites. Regional meetings are a great way to enjoy the educational benefits of ACUARP without having to travel as far.

We also have two certification schools coming up and you will want to get registered today. The next ACUARP/CUNA Internal Audit Certification school will take place from October 29 – November 2 in Washington, DC and the next ERM Certification school is set for April 29 – May 3, 2024 in Tempe, AZ. Don’t miss them.

Finally, I would like to thank my predecessor and friend, Tara Tocco, for her leadership of the association over the past year. Tara led us through the name change and another successful conference and she has our thanks.

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Perspective changes everything.
3 Lines
As the financial services sector navigates an increasingly challenging risk and regulatory landscape, regulatory compliance pressures will continue to compound in 2023 and heading into 2024. The recent failures of several large banks is expected to bring on tougher federal regulations for all financial institutions, including credit unions. With new regulations and stricter scrutiny on the horizon, financial institutions must also contend with existing compliance concerns, including environmental, social, and governance (ESG) requirements, crypto assets, and new forms of technology-driven financial fraud.
ow, more than ever, credit unions must develop a strong, forward-looking internal controls program to stay ahead of potential risk. In particular, strategic collaboration across the three lines is essential for an effective internal controls environment in the face of increasingly complex requirements. Credit unions can optimize collaboration between the three lines to break through silos and improve overall risk mitigation.

2023: A COMPLIANCE PRESSURE COOKER

On the heels of several history-making bank collapses in the first quarter of 2023, credit unions must fortify their internal controls programs to respond to greater scrutiny from federal regulators. Much of the increased scrutiny and oversight that will emerge from their reports and recommendations this year. Areas that are expected to face stricter rules and supervision include:

- Contingency planning;
- Interest rate management;
- Asset liability management;
- Member business lending.

As new requirements and recommendations come into effect, organizations will inevitably be asked to manage an expanding controls environment with limited resources. On top of new risks and controls coming down the pike, compliance stakeholders must also not lose sight of existing compliance areas in focus for 2023, including:

- ESG risk in general;
- Increased anti-money laundering/financing of terrorism (AML/CFT) regulations, particularly in the crypto space;
- New avenues for financial fraud, e.g., deepfake technology and synthetic identity fraud, especially in the mortgage industry;
- Data privacy, where lack of an overarching federal law can lead to confusion as businesses expand into new locations.

STRENGTHENING ORGANIZATIONAL RISK MANAGEMENT STARTS WITH THE THREE LINES

To prepare for these challenges in the months ahead, management, risk, compliance, and internal audit must strive to discover more efficient ways to collaborate on internal controls management activities.

“We’re all on the same side and working towards the same goal: to protect the company’s assets, customers, and employees. We — especially internal audit — must find issues before potential ‘bad guys’ or regulators do, so that we can proactively address them. If there isn’t trust or open communication among the three lines, the opportunity to strengthen the company’s internal and external protection is weakened, to the detriment of all three lines.”

— Elizabeth McDowell, founder of Audit Forward

Regulators tend to connect risk management failures in one line of business to weaknesses in the other two lines, and will hold individuals and other groups accountable for control failures. Additionally, companies that voluntarily and timely self-disclose identified weaknesses and violations will often receive favorable consideration — and sometimes even credit — from regulatory agencies as they determine the severity of ratings and fines.

It is therefore essential for audit, risk, and compliance teams to work with management to identify, assess, monitor, and resolve known gaps within their internal controls environment — as well as demonstrate effective reporting of issues.
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CURRENT COLLABORATION CHALLENGES ACROSS THE THREE LINES
Consistent communication and reporting of information is becoming more challenging, especially across management tiers and business units located in different time zones. Many credit unions experience siloed business units or risk teams, where it may be difficult to obtain consensus on a common path or source of truth. Moreover, even though risk, compliance, audit, and management each play different roles in a regulatory compliance program, there are natural areas of crossover in their responsibilities as each is looking to ensure an effective risk management and internal control program with the activities they perform.

However, when left unchecked, this crossover becomes counterproductive, leading to duplicative and/or less than optimal assurance activities being performed in siloed environments — and a higher cost of compliance. Some signs of this behavior include:
1. Redundant risk and control libraries used across teams;
2. Different issue and risk ranking methodologies used to assess risk, leading to inconsistent reporting that fails to provide a holistic view of the risk environment;
3. Uncoordinated assurance activities across the three lines, leading to stakeholder fatigue;
4. Poor visibility into gaps and issues identified, which can lead to difficulty aggregating the severity of issues, as well as hinder understanding of the entire context surrounding identified issues;
5. Lack of an integrated platform to centralize risk and compliance information and activities across the enterprise.

...EVEN THOUGH RISK, COMPLIANCE, AUDIT, AND MANAGEMENT EACH PLAY DIFFERENT ROLES IN A REGULATORY COMPLIANCE PROGRAM, THERE ARE NATURAL AREAS OF CROSSOVER IN THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES...

ACTIVATING COLLABORATION THROUGH SHARED RESOURCE CREATION
There are different routes audit, governance, risk, and compliance functions can take to begin addressing existing collaboration challenges. The first step in creating a successful alliance begins with these teams agreeing to invest in improving cross-collaboration methods. All stakeholders involved should agree and understand that optimizing collaboration is a business imperative to ultimately add more value to the organization. Translating this collective desire into tangible outputs can help activate the process of enhancing collaboration. Of course, being able to quantify the impact to the overall cost of compliance will always help in fostering additional buy-in.

The act of working together to create shared resources — such as a universal risk library and risk methodology — engages siloed audit, governance, risk, and compliance teams into discussing and ultimately aligning on shared risk definitions and risk ranking criteria. This extends to creating a common controls library; the end result is a universal controls library that simplifies the environment, reduces duplication and overlap in compliance efforts, and will help the organization manage risk more effectively. Activities that can jump-start collaboration across risk, compliance, and audit teams include:
- Creating an assurance map to highlight gaps and overlaps in assurance activities;
- Developing a single assurance strategy to streamline risk management processes across the three lines;
- Defining a common risk taxonomy, definitions, and risk ranking criteria;
- Establishing a universal risk and controls catalog to
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standardize information, reduce confusion, and eliminate redundant data;
- Establishing a universal issue and risk assessment methodology for streamlined reporting and analysis;
- Migrating risks, controls, and issues data from siloed systems and legacy tools to a centralized system of record, most notably an integrated mechanism for tracking open issues across the organization.

These shared resources ultimately form the foundation for improved collaboration as compliance stakeholders move forward and take on emerging risks.

HARNESSING TECHNOLOGY TO FURTHER SYNCHRONIZE COLLABORATION

Collaborative risk management can be further optimized and accelerated through the use of technology. Migrating your risks and controls into a centralized database helps eliminate the confusion of duplicate records and taxonomies used across teams, while also expediting several major goals of combined assurance:

1. Synchronized collaboration: Audit, risk, compliance, and management are managing risk and control activities from the same data source;
2. Increased efficiency: Clear visibility into risk and controls ownership helps streamline risk management activities and minimizes duplicate efforts;
3. Improved visibility into compliance efforts: A centralized database promotes visibility into compliance efforts, issues management status, and overall compliance status — viewable across audit, risk, compliance, and management.

SYNCHRONIZING THE THREE LINES BEGINS WITH A COLLECTIVE ACKNOWLEDGMENT THAT IMPROVING COLLABORATION CAN ULTIMATELY IMPROVE RISK MANAGEMENT EFFECTIVENESS.

OPTIMIZING COLLABORATION BETWEEN THE THREE LINES

As credit unions are asked to comply with new requirements with agility and accuracy, management, risk, compliance, and audit stakeholders must find a way to manage more risks with limited resources.

Synchronizing the three lines begins with a collective acknowledgment that improving collaboration can ultimately improve risk management effectiveness. From there, the three lines can work together to improve resource sharing, risk and control ownership, and activity coordination through use of technology and other collaboration techniques.

ABOUT THE AUTHORS

Aaron Lancaster is a Manager of Partner Solutions at AuditBoard, where he serves as a product and industry expert to support AuditBoard’s alliance members. Aaron has more than 15 years of experience in internal audit, risk management, organizational controls, compliance, and business process improvement with primary focus on financial services. Connect with Aaron on LinkedIn.

Kim Pham, CIA, is a Market Advisor, SOX & Compliance at AuditBoard, with 10 years of experience in external and internal audit. She started her career in at Deloitte & Touche LLP, and continued to grow her experience in internal audit focusing on SOX compliance and operational audits at Quiksilver, the California State University Chancellor’s Of ice, and CKE Restaurants.
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Gone are the days of a multi-year audit plan. Don’t get me wrong, there are still areas that have to be audited on a specific schedule, but there should also be room in your audit plan for adjustments along the way. We utilize an agile rolling audit plan to keep moving through the year and into the next.
WHAT SHOULD AN AUDIT PLAN INCLUDE?

An audit plan should include any audits, reviews, advisory services performed throughout the year.

We break down our audit plan into seven areas:

1. **REGULATORY**
   - These are must-do’s and our first priority to complete (e.g. financial statement audit, ACH audit, FedLine Solutions assurance review). Some of these audits are done in-house, some we coordinate with a third-party.

2. **RISK-BASED**
   - This section is the most flexible. Audits in this area are determined by the results of our annual audit universe risk assessment and our annual risk meetings we hold with each Executive and their direct reports. However, the risk assessment results and meetings are point-in-time. We all know things change throughout the year. There could be a new credit union strategy, merger, economic downturns, changes in regulator focus, etc. Any of these could affect what else we should look at during the year.

3. **CYCLE**
   - Includes anything completed annually in-house (e.g. access rights reviews, branch audits, and consumer/mortgage loan reviews).

4. **REQUESTS**
   - We add insider investigations that come up throughout the year as well as audits that are requested, if it doesn’t fit the definition of a Regulatory or Risk-based review.

5. **FOLLOW-UP**
   - *IIA Standard 2500* requires a follow-up process be in place to ensure that management actions have been effectively implemented or that risk has been accepted. As we complete follow-ups throughout the year, they are added into the plan. These are done as time permits so this section changes nearly monthly.

6. **ADVISORY**
   - We note any corporate or department projects that we have been asked to provide ongoing resources as subject matter experts. This does not include one-off questions that occur throughout the year.

7. **CONTINUOUS MONITORING**
   - Trends in insider accounts with insufficient funds, delinquency, etc. We do not provide ongoing quality control services, that is performed within our Compliance, Risk and Security department.
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Margaret Chamberlain
Vice President Risk Management

For more information please contact:

Jeremy J. Carcich
VP of Compliance Sales
jcarcich@temenos.com
HOW DO YOU MAKE ADJUSTMENTS TO THE PLAN?

IIA Standard 2020 requires the audit plan, and subsequent changes, be communicated to, and approved, by the Board or their designee.

We include our rolling audit plan, along with changes, in each Audit Committee meeting packet and document their approval of the changes in the meeting minutes. We keep a running list of all additions, deletions, and movements made to the audit plan at the bottom. The examiners have found this useful as it shows that we are adjusting the plan when risks change.

WHAT ARE THE KEY TAKEAWAYS FROM THIS ARTICLE?

1. Complete an annual risk assessment of your audit universe
2. Obtain input from senior management on risks
3. Create a formal, agile audit plan
4. Ensure you have resources to complete the audit plan
5. Revisit the plan often and adjust the plan as needed
6. Obtain approval of the audit plan and subsequent changes

Have more questions or want a copy of our audit plan template? Feel free to reach out to me at amy.schaefer@rcu.org.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Amy Schaefer, CIA is the Chief Internal Auditor at Royal Credit Union, headquartered in Eau Claire, WI with $4.6B in assets. She has been in internal auditing for 22 years and is an ACUIA Board Emeritus and past member of the ACUIA Audit and Social Media Committees. Amy, her husband David, and their two youngest sons took a Caribbean cruise over the winter for a warm escape. It may become an annual adventure!
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Fraud

CARRIE HELMLE
Credit unions are discussing the latest fraud trends, insider fraud, common consumer scams (external fraud), and tangible fraud monitoring and prevention steps that credit unions can take to stay ahead of it all. What are the experts saying about these topics?
INSIDER FRAUD: STAY ON TOP OF PROCEDURES & TRAINING
Insider fraud is on the rise in credit unions. Much of this can be linked to weak internal controls left over from pandemic-era changes. Some credit unions that relaxed dual controls and other staff-reliant measures during shut-downs and social distancing requirements have not taken the steps necessary to get back to normal. Combine lax controls with an economic downturn and societal prioritization of convenience over safety and it’s no surprise the Association for Certified Fraud Examiners observed the notable uptick.

Accurately detecting insider fraud requires quality training. Leaders should deploy a two-part training strategy:
1. Give staff the tools and resources they need to understand what to look for.
2. Encourage frontline and compliance staffers to work together. Because staff turnover and shortages persist, it’s essential to provide ongoing training and to ensure cross-training between individuals and teams.

Credit unions should also consider specific fraud prevention guidelines from the National Credit Union Association, including establishing fraud and anti-nepotism policies, internal controls, bonding of employees, background checks, and segregation of duties.

It’s critical to establish and document fraud prevention procedures — and to update and review those procedures regularly. At a minimum, these procedures should include:

- Processes for reviewing maintenance reports and family member accounts
- Account verification steps
- Steps for following up on red flags, such as avoidance of sequential days off, gambling, excessive spending, or drug use

EXTERNAL FRAUD: BE AWARE OF COMMON SCAMS
Insider fraud impacts credit unions institutionally, but credit unions also deal with external fraud that impacts member accounts almost daily. The activities observed by experts in the past year have evolved with the current economy and technological advancements. Fraudulent actors are continuously finding new ways and resources to take advantage of consumers.

Many types of fraudulent activities are used to gain access to the kinds of vulnerable information that eventually leads fraudsters to an individual’s financial accounts. The most common scams noted by the FTC in 2022 were imposter scams, online shopping, prizes, sweepstakes and lotteries, investment scams, and business and job opportunities. The number of total scams is likely much higher than the FTC’s official count as a vast amount of fraud goes unreported. Along with those scams, check fraud and identity theft have seen a resurgence, and...
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peer-to-peer (P2P) fraud continues to rise in popularity.

While all these trends are worth monitoring for, P2P fraud is especially interesting because of proposed legislation that could drastically impact credit unions and their operations. In the past, regulators have not held financial institutions liable for authorized fraud (when a member willingly sent the funds) via P2P platforms. Regulators are proposing to change that. If they are successful, financial institutions could be on the hook to reimburse all fraudulent transactions, which are increasing in dollar amounts and popularity.

**MONITORING & PREVENTION: HOW TO MINIMIZE RISKS**

As fraudulent activity continues to evolve through the fluctuations of the economy and technological advancements, credit unions must focus their energy on monitoring and prevention. Keeping staff and members up-to-date and aware of current fraud trends is one of the most impactful ways a credit union can combat fraud internally and externally.

In addition, risk assessments should be completed to steer staff focus towards problem areas, directing the most preventative energy to the most significant threats.

Many organizations use automated monitoring systems to flag suspected transactions. To get the most out of these systems, it’s important that the parameters set by a credit union capture the right information for what their specific organization considers risky behavior. Conducting regular, independent validations also can help maximize the effectiveness of an automated monitoring system.

**EMPOWERING STAFF: SPOT, STOP & REPORT FRAUD**

Whether it’s a team member who suspects a colleague is up to no-good or a member who has been scammed out of money, fraud is often accompanied by fear and embarrassment. This often makes reporting fraud difficult for people. Credit unions that take a proactive stance against fraud — through training and education bolstered by sound policies and procedures — establish a culture that makes reporting problems much easier.

Your team and your members should know that fraud is now a matter of when, not if. Empowering them to spot and stop fraud is your credit union’s best chance at weathering the tumult of scams while also maintaining financial soundness and lifelong member loyalty.

If you suspect fraud is present in your organization and are not sure how to proceed, contact the NCUA hotline at 800.827.9650 or via the website.

**ABOUT THE AUTHOR**

Carrie Helmle, Senior Director Audit Sales at Viclarity. She can be reached at Carrie.helmle@viclarityus.com.
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From the always popular “Feud” gameshow to the reveal of the new association name to one of the most dynamic speakers to grace our stage, the 33rd Annual Conference was a huge success. Held in the City by the Bay, San Francisco, this year’s meeting had 28 breakout sessions, entertaining general session speakers, fun optional events and of course, the Family Feud gameshow held during the Opening Reception.
Left, Todd Newton hosts ACUIA Feud. Above, the highlight of the conference was consumer activist Erin Brockovich.
As is tradition, the conference is preceded by the ½ day seminars which allow for more in-depth coverage of a particular topic. This year, attendees heard about risk lessons from SVB and other failures, privacy issues, risk and ERM hot topics and the intersection of IT audit and risk. There was also auditing 101 and 202 as well as a CCUIA recertification class led by Sue Landauer.

Other topics included auditing HR, strategic ERM, fraud trends, elements of tracking member complaints, the ethical IA, managing interest rate risk, cybersecurity, risk assessment to audit planning, DEI discussions, supply chain risk management, website compliance review, expense auditing and vendor management.

“Suits and Skirts” author Teresa Freeborn sat for a fireside chat with Conference Chair Julie Wilson from iQ Credit Union. Their discussion focused on increasing the role of women not only in business but also the credit union space. Teresa was kind enough to sign copies of her book for conference attendees.

The highlight of the conference was consumer activist Erin Brockovich. Known as the David that slew the Goliath of PG&E, Brockovich regaled the audience with stories from her life and from the movie

Shelley Engelman is presented with the Randy Manscill Professional of the Year award by Dean Rhone.

Margaret Chamberlain presents the Best Practices Awards

Tabitha Ernst-Chadwick announces the Pat Richey Article of the Year winner.

Julie Wilson and Teresa Freeborn discuss her new book “Suits and Skirts: Game On!”
that bears her name. After her speech, she spent nearly an hour taking selfies and chatting with ACUARP conference goers.

What will next year bring? Those that were in San Francisco know that the 2024 meeting will be in the Windy City—Chicago! Scheduled for June 18-21, the Conference Committee is already putting together another top-rated agenda and speaker list. Already confirmed is national financial columnist Alan Sloan, former NCUA General Counsel and CUNA Foundation CEO “Bucky” Sebastian and Baxter CU CEO Mike Valentine. Keep watching the ACUARP.com website for the name of our next big speaker.

The Randy Manscill Excellence in Service award was presented to Mike Moreau. Mike’s introduction to ACUARP was as an early member of the association. When he went to the Mass League, he continued his relationship with this group. Finally, his travels took him to Wipfli and he continued his time with ACUARP by agreeing to be the Regional Director for region 5. As ACUARP Chair Tara Tocco said in her remarks before presenting the award, “Mike is one of those rare people that always say ‘yes’. Mike is always one of the first to say, ‘I’ll do whatever I can to help.’” Congratulations Mike on an award that is well-deserved!
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Region 1 will meet in person on October 20, 2023 in Olympia, WA. The agenda is being formed now and attendees will feature 7.2 CPE. If you have a subject that you’d like to learn more about, please contact Heidi Rinkel at hrinkel@wsecu.org to have it added to the agenda. We look forward to seeing you at our meeting!

Region 2 will hold its Annual Regional Meeting virtually on October 19th. More Info to follow. The 2023 Hawaii Chapter Meeting schedule is:
November 29th, 11:00AM-12:30PM HST

Region 3 The Annual Regional Meeting will take place October 26-27, 2023. This event will be in-person and hosted by Kemba Credit Union in West Chester, Ohio. Keep an eye out for additional details regarding registration, hotel accommodation and the agenda in early September. The Region 3 Annual Meeting will feature a great agenda offering 10 CPEs and a number of topics from IT, risk, compliance, and general audit approach. We will also be planning some fun evening networking. Hope to see you there!

If you are located in Michigan, Illinois, or Wisconsin and are interested in getting more involved with the ACUARP, we are seeking volunteers for Chapter Coordinator positions in these States. Please reach out to Rob Johnson (rjohnson@msufcu.org) and Julie Wilson (julie.wilson@iqcu.com) if you are interested in learning more about the Chapter Coordinator role.

Region 4 Our Annual Regional Meeting will take place virtually November 2-3, 2023. More details to come! Also, the Oklahoma Chapter Coordinator position is open - if you are interested, please reach out to Christine christine.reynolds@trueskycu.org.

Region 5 is putting the finishing touches on the Regional Meeting, to be held in Rome, New York, on October 2 and 3, 2023. This in-person meeting will be sure to offer sessions of interest to all. We hope to see you there!

Region 6 saw a few chapters hold meetings during the last couple of months. A few others are in the works for the coming months. Please check the ACUARP calendar for scheduled chapter meeting details. The agenda is coming together for the Region 6 Regional Meeting scheduled for October 4th – 6th, 2023 in downtown Richmond, VA. ACUARP legacy vendor PBMares is sponsoring the 3-day conference at the Credit Union House of Virginia located at 108 N. 8th St. Sessions will start around midday on Wednesday the 4th and end around midday on Friday the 6th. Confirmed topics include co-sourcing and outsourcing audits, ethics, artificial intelligence, analytics, and commercial lending. We also plan to have a panel of experts discuss various topics. Meeting information including hotel options are on the ACUARP calendar. More Information will be posted as we finalize the topics and speakers. We have two volunteer opportunities in Region 6. The coordinator positions for the Georgia and the Mid-Atlantic chapters are open. Please, contact me for additional information.
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RISE WITH THE WEST.
Credit unions across the nation are experiencing a disruption in their member business lending portfolios due to COVID-19. Many have had to quickly pivot to provide their members much-needed relief. With the unknown still lurking ahead, clarity and strong risk management practices are key to addressing potential credit risks quickly with confidence.

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