

2nd Annual Delaware Credit Union Day Celebrated

Delaware credit union professionals and several state lawmakers celebrated the **2nd Annual Delaware Credit Union Day** yesterday evening with a reception at Fraizer's Restaurant in Dover. The program provided an ideal opportunity for credit unions to discuss local issues, display advocacy efforts and network with legislators.

Although the General Assembly was in session, policymakers from both the Senate and House were present for this networking event with their credit union constituents from across the state. In welcoming attendees, Cooperative Credit Union Association President/CEO Paul Gentile noted that the goal of Credit Union Day was to salute and celebrate the good things credit unions do in their communities every day. He also provided an overview of the *Credit Union Senior Safeguard* program, noting that 145 Delaware credit union professionals had received certification.



Delaware State Treasurer Ken Simpler discusses elder financial abuse protection with the group.

Delaware State Treasurer Ken Simpler addressed the group, admitting that he wasn't "too familiar with credit unions, but was grateful for the opportunity to learn more about them." He noted that, as Treasurer, he was responsible for the state's financial architecture and banking services. He urged credit unions to participate in requests for proposals (RFPs) to enhance their banking services relationships with the state.

Simpler also discussed the *Senior Safe Act*, and its importance to both Delaware consumers and credit union professionals. He noted the 'safe harbor' aspect, which removes the threat of litigation for reporting suspected elder financial abuse, "... is a good example of a good regulation - one that makes sense." Simpler also pointed out that victims of financial fraud could very well become dependents of the state, with taxpayers providing support.

Delaware Secretary of Finance Rick Eisenberger also appeared before the group, presenting Gentile and the credit union attendees with a declaration from Governor John Carney and Lieutenant Governor Bethany Hall-Long proclaiming June 13 as Delaware Credit Union Day. He discussed the new sports betting law and its potential impact on the state budget, noting that Delaware had been participating in parlay betting since 2009.



Association President/CEO Paul Gentile displays the 2nd Annual Delaware Credit Union Day proclamation. On his left is Delaware Secretary of Finance, Rick Geisenberger.

Additional legislative guests included Representatives Paul Baumbach, William Carson, Kevin Hensley, Ruth Briggs King, Dave Wilson, Harvey Kenton, Jeff Spiegelman, and Michael Ramone. More than 20 members representing six Delaware credit unions attended the reception.

