

# NEWS

For Immediate Release

**Cooperative**   
**Credit Union Association**

*Creating Cooperative Power*

## **Helping Seniors Realize They Are Being Scammed**

*Cooperative Credit Union Association to Host Panel Discussion*

**September 10, 2021 (Marlborough, Massachusetts)** – It is estimated that over \$140 billion is scammed from our seniors each year through fraudulent phone calls, mail, and social media exchanges. Credit unions, especially tellers and branch staff, many times serve as the “line in the sand” - a last resort among an array of efforts designed to protect today’s seniors from becoming a victim to a financial scam.

On Friday, September 17, experts from four states will join the Cooperative Credit Union Association to address ways of interacting with seniors that become agitated when confronted with the suspicion they are being financially exploited, along with an update on trending scams.

Hosted by Walter Laskos, CCUA’s Chief Communications Officer, the hour-long discussion includes:

- Melissa Grenier, *Regional Manager, NH Alzheimer’s Association;*
- Sunny Mulligan Shea, *Victim Witness Advocate, Elder Abuse and Exploitation Unit, NH Department of Justice;*
- Regina Schoenberg, *Deputy Director of Consumer Protection, Chair, Senior Protection Initiative, State of Delaware Department of Justice;*
- Mickaela Driscoll, *Elder Abuse Investigator, Office of the Attorney General, State of Rhode Island;*
- Bryan Townsend II, *Assistant Attorney General, Consumer Protection and Antitrust Bureau, Elder Abuse and Exploitation Unit, NH Department of Justice;*
- Michael Festa, *Massachusetts State Director, AARP; and*
- Terry Choate Jr, *CEO/President, Blue U Defense.*

“Since 2018, the *Senior Safe Act* has afforded credit union staff with ‘safe harbor’ when financial exploitation of seniors is suspected,” says Laskos. “It’s important to stay updated on the many scams circulating in order to remain vigilant in protecting our seniors.”

[Watch this video to learn more.](#) To register, contact [communications@ccua.org](mailto:communications@ccua.org) or visit [ccua.org](http://ccua.org).

### **About the Cooperative Credit Union Association**

The Cooperative Credit Union Association is a regional trade organization serving as the voice for nearly 180-member credit unions primarily located in the States of Delaware, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Rhode Island. CCUA member credit unions hold combined assets in excess of \$59 billion and serve a collective membership base of more than 4.5 million consumers. Together, CCUA credit unions provide over \$413 million in direct financial benefits to their members annually. Last year, the credit unions contributed more than \$21 million to support nearly 6,700 organizations in their communities. For more information, visit [www.CCUA.org](http://www.CCUA.org).

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