



FINANCIAL RESOLUTIONS FOR THE NEW YEAR

Steps you can take to get your finances in great shape

Every January 1st, around 40 percent of Americans pledge to make a life change. Not surprisingly, health and money goals top the list of the most popular New Year's resolutions. If you're planning for the latter, here are some ideas for resolutions that can help you reach your financial goals in 2019:

- 1. Do a financial check-up:** Figure out where you stand with your spending, savings and current financial plan. Once you know your starting point, you can create a detailed strategy to help grow your funds.
- 2. Set a budget:** Work to set weekly, monthly and yearly budget goals. While it can help to be strict with your spending, it is important to give yourself a little bit of flexibility and set some funds aside to use for things that make you happy. The key here is creating a budget that lets you pay your bills, build up your savings and still have a little fun.

- 3. Plan for the unexpected:** Setting up an emergency fund should be part of your plan, because unexpected expenses can come up. Even though dealing with an emergency situation may be stressful, you can feel more secure knowing that you can cover the cost without dipping into your savings.

These tips will help you get on the right track with your finances, and you can always add a few more resolutions to your list. If you already have an emergency fund, then set a goal of how much you plan to add to it this year. If you set your budget a few years ago, then consider re-evaluating it and making any needed updates. Each small step you take can get you closer to your overall financial goals.



*Your money. Your goals.
Your questions answered.*

We're introducing a new informational series that puts expert advice right into your mailbox! In this issue's column, Michelle DeFrane, Regional Director of Retail Sales & Branch Operations at Desert Financial, addresses one way to make 2019 your best savings year yet.

Have a financial question that you'd like answered? Email AskAnExpert@DesertFinancial.com with your suggestion and we may feature it in an upcoming issue of The Share.

Q. I'm saving up for some big goals this year. How do I put away \$2K, \$5K or even \$10K if my income allows for it?

A. A lot of people set up direct deposit to put some of their check into their checking account and some of it into their savings. That's a great first step! One common mistake that people make is setting a specific dollar amount — say, \$50 per paycheck — to go into their savings, and the rest goes into checking. The problem is that you're likely to spend anything you put into your checking account.

What you really should do is work backwards: Create a budget, measure out all of your expenses, look at your historic spending and determine what's appropriate for food, gas, entertainment and other expenses. Be realistic, because you don't want to set yourself up for failure. Once you have a dollar amount for your budget, that's what you should be putting into your checking account. The rest of it should be going into savings. That's a simple way you can save those extra thousands this year!



Check out how we spent our 2018 Year of Giving.

Last year we invested more than \$7 million to help improve our community, show our appreciation to our members, start a kindness revolution and create exceptional experiences for others.



Take a look at all of the details of how we spread the wealth in 2018 by visiting DesertFinancial.com/YearOfGiving.

BOARD MEMBERS NOMINATED

Our Annual Meeting will be held at 5 p.m. on Tuesday, April 23rd in the Susan G. Frank Conference Center at 148 N. 48th St. in Phoenix.

Three members of the Desert Financial Board of Directors have accepted nominations:

- Director Janet Bioletto is a retired business education teacher from Dobson High School in Mesa. Ms. Bioletto has been a Board member since 1991 and has served as Chairman, Vice Chairman, Treasurer, and Secretary.
- Director Richard Johnson is the Managing Member of Simulator Equipment Financing. Mr. Johnson is Cyber Security Board oversight Certified by Carnegie Mellon University and the National Association of Corporate Directors, a NACD Governance Fellow since 2010, a Certified Credit Union Director, and has been on the credit union Board since 1993. He has served as Chairman, Vice Chairman, Treasurer, and Secretary.
- Chris Miner has been Senior Vice President and General Counsel of Mobile Mini since June 2008. Prior to Mobile Mini, Chris was a corporate partner at DLA Piper in Phoenix and began his career as a corporate lawyer in New York City and Europe. In addition to volunteering with Desert Financial, Chris serves on the Board of A New Leaf (a provider of emergency shelter and housing), teaches Mergers & Acquisitions at ASU law school and coaches High School Soccer. Mr. Miner received his B.A. degree and J.D. degree from Brigham Young University.

Any Desert Financial member can petition to be included for nomination. Email Yadira Cerpa for more information at Yadira.Cerpa@DesertFinancial.com. Deadline for petitions to be returned is February 27, 2019.

FUN, FREE & TOTALLY FANTASTIC

Start the New Year off right by taking a few adventures that won't cost you a thing!

We have the inside scoop on the best places to spend your time, your attention and your energy — but *not* your money! Here are a few places to find family-friendly fun that's free.



Relax in nature: Take advantage of free admission to the Desert Botanical Garden on the second Tuesday of every month.



Have a sweet time: Visit Glendale's Cerreta Candy Company to enjoy free samples and join in complimentary tours at 10 a.m. or 1 p.m. on weekdays to learn all about the candy making process.



Hit the water: Enjoy fun in the year-round Arizona sun by visiting a public splash pad near your home.

DOUBLE DOWN ON DISCOUNTS

Save up to \$15 on TurboTax® + Get \$100 cash back from Sprint®

If you set a financial savings goal for 2019, you'll need to find some creative ways to trim your spending. Luckily, our exclusive member perks include discounts that can help you save at tax time and beyond.

With tax season right around the corner, it's never too early to start thinking about filing! As a Desert Financial member, you can save up to \$15 on TurboTax's online and downloadable products.

You could also earn a \$100 cash reward when you sign up with Sprint — plus \$100 every year after.¹ Your cash rewards are deposited right into your Desert Financial account, so you don't have to wait for a check! Visit DesertFinancial.com/MembershipBenefits for details.

¹Sprint, TurboTax and Intuit are non-affiliated third party partners of Desert Financial Federal Credit Union. Desert Financial makes no warranties or representations about the goods or services offered.