

ARE PAPER CHECKS ON THE WAY OUT? ELECTRONIC PAYMENTS ON THE RISE, HOWEVER, CREDIT UNIONS SEEING THE GREATEST INCREASE

SWACHA, Texas Credit Union League team up to bring ACH Boot Camp for Credit Unions

Dallas, August 18, 2008 — While the use of Automated Clearing House (ACH) payments versus paper checks is rising among all financial institutions, credit unions are experiencing the fastest rate of acceptance. According to a 2007 study by the Federal Reserve, credit unions have experienced the largest percentage increase in ACH payment volume as a proportion of total payments when compared with any other type of depository institution⁽¹⁾. Between 2003 and 2006, credit unions had a 13% annual rate of decline in the use of checks versus a 5.4% decline by commercial banks and a 7.9% decline by savings institutions.

In response to this trend, SWACHA-The Electronic Payments Resource® and the Texas Credit Union League have joined forces to educate credit unions in Texas on how to navigate the complex ACH world. ACH Boot Camp is a two-day seminar that provides a comprehensive interpretation of the ACH network and the NACHA ACH operating rules. Risk management is also a part of the ACH Boot Camp program.

“There is a great demand for education and help in understanding the complicated rules of the ACH network,” said Dennis Simmons, president and CEO of SWACHA. “This is our second year to partner with the Texas Credit Union League and each year the ‘Boot Camp’ sells out. We project that the need for education will only continue to rise as more and more people understand the benefits of using electronic payment options versus paper checks.”

According to Richard Ensweiler, president and CEO of the Texas Credit Union League, “the response from attendees to the ACH Boot Camp program has been excellent. Participants tell us they leave armed with the knowledge to provide valuable services to their customers as they make the transition to electronic payments. We anticipate the need for this program to continue for some time.”

(1) 2007 Federal Reserve Payments Study: Non-cash Payment Trends in the United States 2003-2006

This year's ACH Boot Camp will be held August 26th - 27th in Dallas. Attendees include ACH operations personnel, ACH coordinators, compliance officers, operations officers and other personnel interested in gaining a better understanding of the ACH network.

About SWACHA

SWACHA-The Electronic Payments Resource[®] is a not-for-profit Regional Payments Association of approximately 1,100 members across the Southwest. SWACHA is the resource of choice for financial institutions and corporations in the areas of education, training, payments system risks and knowledge about electronic payments. SWACHA membership provides advantages such as superior quality training and unique industry resource materials, access to the toll-free Payments Answerline[™], Risk Management programs, and representation at the national level in the development of ACH policies and rules. For more information, visit www.swacha.org.

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