

FRONTBURNER

Welcome to the September edition of **The FrontBurner**! Well, that's a wrap, as they say. Summer is over and the little ones are back in school. It sure went by fast. Blink once and summer is over. Blink twice and so is Forum22. If you were at Forum22, you might have seen me put my girls up on the screen during my President's Address. I'll never shy away from a proud daddy moment. If you were not at the Forum, hopefully you saw my *In Case You Missed It* article with a quick narrative and a video link to my presentation. If you didn't see it, please let me know and I will be glad to send you the link.

In the meantime, if you missed Forum22, I can tell you the commentary I have received so far is it was the best one yet. The speakers were phenomenal. The venue was top notch. The fun events were excellent. And, the networking was priceless. In this month's edition of **The FrontBurner**, we offer a bit of a recap of the event. Hopefully this will wet your whistle to consider joining us next year for Forum23!



With that, I hope you enjoy this month's edition of **The FrontBurner**.


Jeff Merry, President/CEO

FORUM22 RECAP

Forum22 will be remembered as one of the most energy-filled conferences we have ever experienced! The hesitancy to congregate in a large group was replaced with a heightened desire to be with the credit union family once again. From golf on Wednesday to Steve Gilliland's uplifting presentation on Friday, Forum22 attendees fully embraced their community once again.

Wednesday, August 17th

While golfers spent a beautiful morning on the Governor's Retreat course at Hermitage Golf Course, another group of Forum22 attendees tried their hand at creating the perfect charcuterie board at Dabble Studio near Downtown Nashville. Later that afternoon, VolCorp members gathered for the Annual Meeting in the

Meadow Ballroom at the Embassy Suites by Hilton Nashville Downtown. CEO Jeff Merry spoke to the Forum22 group about the fact that as credit unions,

we are all Exporters of Hope for so many, when they need it most. Jeff also reminded the gathering that life is a series of opportunities, and we all have a choice to face challenges as such instead of allowing circumstances to crush us.

Later that evening, VolCorp members and Forum22 exhibitors got together at the Welcome Reception in

the Riverbed Ballroom. Drinks and appetizers were available for everyone as we caught up with long-time friends and associates.

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Thursday, August 18th

As exhibitors finished constructing their booths, members filed into the conference hall and learned about new and exciting products and services. The morning session kicked off like never before with **Inky Johnson** and his presentation, *Empty the Bucket*. From a personal perspective, I can say without one ounce of hesitation that we have never had this kind of positive feedback about a speaker. As Inky finished his presentation, fielded questions, and received a standing ovation from the room, an energy was felt that would continue through the end of Forum22. **Joe Woods**, SVP, Director of Sales with Dolphin Debit Access, spoke to members



analytics, specifically regarding how to lead teams to data. Evan explained to the group what data and analytics can do, why organizations struggle so much with data, and closed

the presentation with specific tactics.

Later that evening, Forum22 attendees boarded buses and rode a short distance to Pins Mechanical Company. The night was filled with libations, great Southern food, duck pin bowling, pinball machines, and classic arcade games. Not even a party crasher (remember Mike from IT?) could dampen the spirits of the crowd, and a great time was had by all.

Friday, August 19th

Friday's session kicked off with **Todd Buchholz**, an economist who served as the White House director of economic policy under George H.W.



Bush, with his presentation, "*What You Must Know about Blockchain and Cryptocurrencies*." Buchholz explained where the blockchain revolution and cryptocurrencies are going and what credit unions need to know about trends with both subjects. Closing out Forum22 was **Steve Gilliland**, a member of the Speaker Hall of Fame. Steve's presentation "*Emerge*" talked about the importance of understanding that events don't happen to us but rather for us, and that the only way to truly emerge from anything is to treat each occurrence as an opportunity rather than a threat.



about the evolution in the ATM sphere of payments, and how it would affect credit unions and their membership. We closed the morning session with a panel discussion entitled "*Fed Up Yet?*" featuring VolCorp's own **Phillip Cochran**, Chief Investment Officer, and **Cassie Fivecoat**, Investments

Representative, along with **Matt Jackson** and **Brad Thomas** from CU Investment Solutions. The panel discussed how the actions of the Federal Reserve have affected credit unions and the economy in general.



Following lunch, we brought back a Forum21 favorite, the Roundtable Session. Facilitated by VolCorp staff members **Cassie Fivecoat**, **Dale Goode**, **Trevor Nelson**, and **Stacey Sampson**, topics of interest were presented to the group and members spoke up and contributed to the dialogue. The Roundtable Session was a great way for credit unions to learn about how their peers are dealing with common issues. **Evan LaPointe**, Founder of CORE Sciences, closed out the Thursday afternoon portion of Forum22 and spoke about the science of high performance in data and

We received countless compliments about Forum22, both at the event and later through emails, phone calls, and texts. We are honored to host the Forum every year, and we do what we do as a "thank you" to our members for their support. We look forward to seeing you next year at Forum23. We will be back in Nashville again next year at the Embassy Suites by Hilton Nashville Downtown Hotel. Mark your calendars for August 16-18, 2023. More details about Forum23 will be coming your way in a few months.

Thanks again for your continued support!