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Form 990

Return of Organization Exempt From Income Tax

2009

Under section 501(c), 527, or 4947(a)(1) of the Internal Revenue Code (except black lung benefit trust or private foundation)

► The organization may have to use a copy of this return to satisfy state reporting requirements

Open to Public Inspection

A For the 2009 calendar year, or tax year beginning 01-01-2009 and ending 12-31-2009

Check if applicable
 Address change
 Name change
 Initial return
 Terminated
 Amended return
 Application pending

Please use IRS label or print or type. See Specific Instructions.

C Name of organization
TROPICAL FINANCIAL CREDIT UNION

Doing Business As

Number and street (or P O box if mail is not delivered to street address)
3050 CORPORATE WAY

D Employer identification number

59-0637653

E Telephone number

(888) 261-8328

G Gross receipts \$ 57,352,503

City or town, state or country, and ZIP + 4
MIRAMAR, FL 33025

F Name and address of principal officer
RICH HELBER CEO
3050 CORPORATE WAY
MIRAMAR, FL 33025

H(a) Is this a group return for affiliates?
 Yes No

H(b) Are all affiliates included?
 Yes No
If "No," attach a list (see instructions)

H(c) Group exemption number ► 2106

I Tax-exempt status 501(c) (14) ► (insert no) 4947(a)(1) or 527

J Website: ► www.tropicalfcu.org

K Form of organization Corporation Trust Association Other ► CREDIT UNION

L Year of formation 1935

M State of legal domicile FL

Part I Summary

1 Briefly describe the organization's mission or most significant activities

0 TROPICAL FINANCIAL CREDIT UNION IS A NOT FOR PROFIT FINANCIAL COOPERATIVE, PROVIDING MEMBER OWNERS WITH VALUABLE PRODUCTS, SERVICES AND EDUCATION TO HELP THEM ACHIEVE THEIR GOALS

2 Check this box ► if the organization discontinued its operations or disposed of more than 25% of its net assets

3 Number of voting members of the governing body (Part VI, line 1a)	3	9
4 Number of independent voting members of the governing body (Part VI, line 1b)	4	9
5 Total number of employees (Part V, line 2a)	5	285
6 Total number of volunteers (estimate if necessary)	6	12
7a Total gross unrelated business revenue from Part VIII, column (C), line 12	7a	0
b Net unrelated business taxable income from Form 990-T, line 34	7b	

	Prior Year	Current Year
8 Contributions and grants (Part VIII, line 1h)		0
9 Program service revenue (Part VIII, line 2g)	48,735,307	45,335,414
10 Investment income (Part VIII, column (A), lines 3, 4, and 7d)	6,379,225	5,195,163
11 Other revenue (Part VIII, column (A), lines 5, 6d, 8c, 9c, 10c, and 11e)		3,332,830
12 Total revenue—add lines 8 through 11 (must equal Part VIII, column (A), line 12)	55,114,532	53,863,407

	Prior Year	Current Year
13 Grants and similar amounts paid (Part IX, column (A), lines 1-3)		0
14 Benefits paid to or for members (Part IX, column (A), line 4)		0
15 Salaries, other compensation, employee benefits (Part IX, column (A), lines 5-10)	16,265,514	15,128,283
16a Professional fundraising fees (Part IX, column (A), line 11e)		0
b Total fundraising expenses (Part IX, column (D), line 25) ► 0		
17 Other expenses (Part IX, column (A), lines 11a-11d, 11f-24f)	49,506,099	47,996,977
18 Total expenses Add lines 13-17 (must equal Part IX, column (A), line 25)	65,771,613	63,125,260
19 Revenue less expenses Subtract line 18 from line 12	-10,657,081	-9,261,853

	Beginning of Current Year	End of Year
20 Total assets (Part X, line 16)	722,903,193	675,304,747
21 Total liabilities (Part X, line 26)	668,230,050	629,338,100
22 Net assets or fund balances Subtract line 21 from line 20	54,673,143	45,966,647

Part II Signature Block

Under penalties of perjury, I declare that I have examined this return, including accompanying schedules and statements, and to the best of my knowledge and belief, it is true, correct, and complete. Declaration of preparer (other than officer) is based on all information of which preparer has any knowledge

2010-08-06

Date

Signature of officer

RALPH CHEPLAK SVP/CFO

Type or print name and title

Preparer's signature ► DOUGLAS ORTH	Date 2010-08-06	Check if self-employed ► <input type="checkbox"/>	Preparer's identifying number (see instructions)
Firm's name (or yours if self-employed), address, and ZIP + 4 ► ORTH CHAKLER MURNANE AND CO CPAs 12060 SW 129 COURT SUITE 201 MIAMI, FL 33186		EIN ►	Phone no ► (305) 232-8272

May the IRS discuss this return with the preparer shown above? (see instructions) Yes No

Part III Statement of Program Service Accomplishments

1 Briefly describe the organization's mission

TROPICAL FINANCIAL CREDIT UNION IS A NOT FOR PROFIT FINANCIAL COOPERATIVE, PROVIDING MEMBER OWNERS WITH VALUABLE PRODUCTS, SERVICES AND EDUCATION TO HELP THEM ACHIEVE THEIR GOALS

2 Did the organization undertake any significant program services during the year which were not listed on the prior Form 990 or 990-EZ? Yes No
If "Yes," describe these new services on Schedule O

3 Did the organization cease conducting, or make significant changes in how it conducts, any program services? Yes No
If "Yes," describe these changes on Schedule O

4 Describe the exempt purpose achievements for each of the organization's three largest program services by expenses
Section 501(c)(3) and 501(c)(4) organizations and section 4947(a)(1) trusts are required to report the amount of grants and allocations to others, the total expenses, and revenue, if any, for each program service reported

(Code) (Expenses \$ including grants of \$) (Revenue \$)
INCOME FROM CREDIT UNION MEMBERSHIP AND FROM INVESTMENT OF MEMBERS FUNDS PROVIDE THE FOUNDATION FROM WHICH THE ORGANIZATION CAN
FUNCTION AND PROVIDE SERVICES TO ITS RESTRICTED MEMBERSHIP

4b (Code) (Expenses \$ including grants of \$) (Revenue \$

4c (Code) (Expenses \$ including grants of \$) (Revenue \$

4e Total program service expenses

Part IV Checklist of Required Schedules

1 Is the organization described in section 501(c)(3) or 4947(a)(1) (other than a private foundation)? If "Yes," complete Schedule A

2 Is the organization required to complete Schedule B, Schedule of Contributors?

3 Did the organization engage in direct or indirect political campaign activities on behalf of or in opposition to candidates for public office? If "Yes," complete Schedule C, Part I

4 **Section 501(c)(3) organizations.** Did the organization engage in lobbying activities? If "Yes," complete Schedule C, Part II

5 **Section 501(c)(4), 501(c)(5), and 501(c)(6) organizations.** Is the organization subject to the section 6033(e) notice and reporting requirement and proxy tax? If "Yes," complete Schedule C, Part III

6 Did the organization maintain any donor advised funds or any similar funds or accounts where donors have the right to provide advice on the distribution or investment of amounts in such funds or accounts? If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part I

7 Did the organization receive or hold a conservation easement, including easements to preserve open space, the environment, historic land areas or historic structures? If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part II

8 Did the organization maintain collections of works of art, historical treasures, or other similar assets? If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part III

9 Did the organization report an amount in Part X, line 21, serve as a custodian for amounts not listed in Part X, or provide credit counseling, debt management, credit repair, or debt negotiation services? If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part IV

10 Did the organization, directly or through a related organization, hold assets in term, permanent, or quasi-endowments? If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part V

11 Is the organization's answer to any of the following questions "Yes"? If so, complete Schedule D, Parts VI, VII, VIII, IX, or X as applicable.

- Did the organization report an amount for land, buildings, and equipment in Part X, line 10? If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part VI.
- Did the organization report an amount for investments—other securities in Part X, line 12 that is 5% or more of its total assets reported in Part X, line 16? If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part VII.
- Did the organization report an amount for investments—program related in Part X, line 13 that is 5% or more of its total assets reported in Part X, line 16? If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part VIII.
- Did the organization report an amount for other assets in Part X, line 15 that is 5% or more of its total assets reported in Part X, line 16? If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part IX.
- Did the organization report an amount for other liabilities in Part X, line 25? If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part X.
- Did the organization's separate or consolidated financial statements for the tax year include a footnote that addresses the organization's liability for uncertain tax positions under FIN 48? If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part X.

12 Did the organization obtain separate, independent audited financial statements for the tax year? If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Parts XI, XII, and XIII

12A Was the organization included in consolidated, independent audited financial statements for the tax year? **Yes** **No**

If "Yes," completing Schedule D, Parts XI, XII, and XIII is optional

13 Is the organization a school described in section 170(b)(1)(A)(ii)? If "Yes," complete Schedule E

14a Did the organization maintain an office, employees, or agents outside of the United States?

b Did the organization have aggregate revenues or expenses of more than \$10,000 from grantmaking, fundraising, business, and program service activities outside the United States? If "Yes," complete Schedule F, Part I

15 Did the organization report on Part IX, column (A), line 3, more than \$5,000 of grants or assistance to any organization or entity located outside the U.S.? If "Yes," complete Schedule F, Part II

16 Did the organization report on Part IX, column (A), line 3, more than \$5,000 of aggregate grants or assistance to individuals located outside the U.S.? If "Yes," complete Schedule F, Part III

17 Did the organization report a total of more than \$15,000 of expenses for professional fundraising services on Part IX, column (A), lines 6 and 11e? If "Yes," complete Schedule G, Part I

18 Did the organization report more than \$15,000 total of fundraising event gross income and contributions on Part VIII, lines 1c and 8a? If "Yes," complete Schedule G, Part II

19 Did the organization report more than \$15,000 of gross income from gaming activities on Part VIII, line 9a? If "Yes," complete Schedule G, Part III

20 Did the organization operate one or more hospitals? If "Yes," complete Schedule H

	Yes	No
1		No
2		No
3		No
4		
5		
6		No
7		No
8		No
9		No
10		No
11	Yes	
12	Yes	
13		No
14a		No
14b		No
15		No
16		No
17		No
18		No
19		No
20		No

Part IV Checklist of Required Schedules (continued)

21	Did the organization report more than \$5,000 of grants and other assistance to governments and organizations in the United States on Part IX, column (A), line 1? If "Yes," complete Schedule I, Parts I and II	21		No
22	Did the organization report more than \$5,000 of grants and other assistance to individuals in the United States on Part IX, column (A), line 2? If "Yes," complete Schedule I, Parts I and III	22		No
23	Did the organization answer "Yes" to Part VII, Section A, questions 3, 4, or 5, about compensation of the organization's current and former officers, directors, trustees, key employees, and highest compensated employees? If "Yes," complete Schedule J	23	Yes	
24a	Did the organization have a tax-exempt bond issue with an outstanding principal amount of more than \$100,000 as of the last day of the year, that was issued after December 31, 2002? If "Yes," answer questions 24b-24d and complete Schedule K. If "No," go to line 25	24a		No
b	Did the organization invest any proceeds of tax-exempt bonds beyond a temporary period exception?	24b		
c	Did the organization maintain an escrow account other than a refunding escrow at any time during the year to defease any tax-exempt bonds?	24c		
d	Did the organization act as an "on behalf of" issuer for bonds outstanding at any time during the year?	24d		
25a	Section 501(c)(3) and 501(c)(4) organizations. Did the organization engage in an excess benefit transaction with a disqualified person during the year? If "Yes," complete Schedule L, Part I	25a		
b	Is the organization aware that it engaged in an excess benefit transaction with a disqualified person in a prior year, and that the transaction has not been reported on any of the organization's prior Forms 990 or 990-EZ? If "Yes," complete Schedule L, Part I	25b		
26	Was a loan to or by a current or former officer, director, trustee, key employee, highly compensated employee, or disqualified person outstanding as of the end of the organization's tax year? If "Yes," complete Schedule L, Part II	26		No
27	Did the organization provide a grant or other assistance to an officer, director, trustee, key employee, substantial contributor, or a grant selection committee member, or to a person related to such an individual? If "Yes," complete Schedule L, Part III	27		No
28	Was the organization a party to a business transaction with one of the following parties? (see Schedule L, Part IV instructions for applicable filing thresholds, conditions, and exceptions)	28a		No
a	A current or former officer, director, trustee, or key employee? If "Yes," complete Schedule L, Part IV	28b		No
b	A family member of a current or former officer, director, trustee, or key employee? If "Yes," complete Schedule L, Part IV	28c		No
c	An entity of which a current or former officer, director, trustee, or key employee of the organization (or a family member) was an officer, director, trustee, or owner? If "Yes," complete Schedule L, Part IV	29		No
30	Did the organization receive more than \$25,000 in non-cash contributions? If "Yes," complete Schedule M	30		No
31	Did the organization receive contributions of art, historical treasures, or other similar assets, or qualified conservation contributions? If "Yes," complete Schedule M	31		No
32	Did the organization liquidate, terminate, or dissolve and cease operations? If "Yes," complete Schedule N, Part I	32		No
33	Did the organization sell, exchange, dispose of, or transfer more than 25% of its net assets? If "Yes," complete Schedule N, Part II	33		No
34	Did the organization own 100% of an entity disregarded as separate from the organization under Regulations sections 301 7701-2 and 301 7701-3? If "Yes," complete Schedule R, Part I	34		No
35	Was the organization related to any tax-exempt or taxable entity? If "Yes," complete Schedule R, Parts II, III, IV, and V, line 1	35		No
36	Is any related organization a controlled entity within the meaning of section 512(b)(13)? If "Yes," complete Schedule R, Part V, line 2	36		
37	Section 501(c)(3) organizations. Did the organization make any transfers to an exempt non-charitable related organization? If "Yes," complete Schedule R, Part V, line 2	37		No
38	Did the organization conduct more than 5% of its activities through an entity that is not a related organization and that is treated as a partnership for federal income tax purposes? If "Yes," complete Schedule R, Part VI	38	Yes	
	Note. All Form 990 filers are required to complete Schedule O			

Part V Statements Regarding Other IRS Filings and Tax Compliance

		Yes	No
1a	Enter the number reported in Box 3 of Form 1096, <i>Annual Summary and Transmittal of U.S. Information Returns</i> . Enter -0- if not applicable	1a 20,563	
1b	Enter the number of Forms W-2G included in line 1a. Enter -0- if not applicable	1b 0	
1c	Did the organization comply with backup withholding rules for reportable payments to vendors and reportable gaming (gambling) winnings to prize winners?		
2a	Enter the number of employees reported on Form W-3, <i>Transmittal of Wage and Tax Statements</i> filed for the calendar year ending with or within the year covered by this return	2a 285	
2b	If at least one is reported on line 2a, did the organization file all required federal employment tax returns? Note: If the sum of lines 1a and 2a is greater than 250, you may be required to e-file this return (see instructions)	Yes	
3a	Did the organization have unrelated business gross income of \$1,000 or more during the year covered by this return?		
3b	If "Yes," has it filed a Form 990-T for this year? If "No," provide an explanation in Schedule O		
4a	At any time during the calendar year, did the organization have an interest in, or a signature or other authority over, a financial account in a foreign country (such as a bank account, securities account, or other financial account)?		
4b	If "Yes," enter the name of the foreign country. See the instructions for exceptions and filing requirements for Form TD F 90-22 1, Report of Foreign Bank and Financial Accounts		
5a	Was the organization a party to a prohibited tax shelter transaction at any time during the tax year?	5a No	
5b	Did any taxable party notify the organization that it was or is a party to a prohibited tax shelter transaction?	5b No	
5c	If "Yes" to line 5a or 5b, did the organization file Form 8886-T, Disclosure by Tax-Exempt Entity Regarding Prohibited Tax Shelter Transaction?		
6a	Does the organization have annual gross receipts that are normally greater than \$100,000, and did the organization solicit any contributions that were not tax deductible?	6a No	
6b	If "Yes," did the organization include with every solicitation an express statement that such contributions or gifts were not tax deductible?		
7	Organizations that may receive deductible contributions under section 170(c).		
7a	Did the organization receive a payment in excess of \$75 made partly as a contribution and partly for goods and services provided to the payor?	7a No	
7b	If "Yes," did the organization notify the donor of the value of the goods or services provided?	7b No	
7c	Did the organization sell, exchange, or otherwise dispose of tangible personal property for which it was required to file Form 8282?	7c No	
7d	If "Yes," indicate the number of Forms 8282 filed during the year		
7e	Did the organization, during the year, receive any funds, directly or indirectly, to pay premiums on a personal benefit contract?		
7f	Did the organization, during the year, pay premiums, directly or indirectly, on a personal benefit contract?		
7g	For all contributions of qualified intellectual property, did the organization file Form 8899 as required?		
7h	For contributions of cars, boats, airplanes, and other vehicles, did the organization file a Form 1098-C as required?		
8	Sponsoring organizations maintaining donor advised funds and section 509(a)(3) supporting organizations. Did the supporting organization, or a donor advised fund maintained by a sponsoring organization, have excess business holdings at any time during the year?		
9	Sponsoring organizations maintaining donor advised funds.		
9a	Did the organization make any taxable distributions under section 4966?	9a No	
9b	Did the organization make a distribution to a donor, donor advisor, or related person?		
10	Section 501(c)(7) organizations. Enter		
10a	Initiation fees and capital contributions included on Part VIII, line 12	10a No	
10b	Gross receipts, included on Form 990, Part VIII, line 12, for public use of club facilities	10b No	
11	Section 501(c)(12) organizations. Enter		
11a	Gross income from members or shareholders	11a No	
11b	Gross income from other sources (Do not net amounts due or paid to other sources against amounts due or received from them)	11b No	
12a	Section 4947(a)(1) non-exempt charitable trusts. Is the organization filing Form 990 in lieu of Form 1041?	12a No	
12b	If "Yes," enter the amount of tax-exempt interest received or accrued during the year	12b No	

Part VI Governance, Management, and Disclosure For each "Yes" response to lines 2 through 7b below, and for a "No" response to lines 8a, 8b, or 10b below, describe the circumstances, processes, or changes in Schedule O. See instructions.

Section A. Governing Body and Management

		Yes	No
1a Enter the number of voting members of the governing body . . .	1a	9	
b Enter the number of voting members that are independent . . .	1b	9	
2 Did any officer, director, trustee, or key employee have a family relationship or a business relationship with any other officer, director, trustee, or key employee?	2	No	
3 Did the organization delegate control over management duties customarily performed by or under the direct supervision of officers, directors or trustees, or key employees to a management company or other person?	3	No	
4 Did the organization make any significant changes to its organizational documents since the prior Form 990 was filed?	4	No	
5 Did the organization become aware during the year of a material diversion of the organization's assets?	5	No	
6 Does the organization have members or stockholders?	6	Yes	
7a Does the organization have members, stockholders, or other persons who may elect one or more members of the governing body?	7a	Yes	
b Are any decisions of the governing body subject to approval by members, stockholders, or other persons?	7b	No	
8 Did the organization contemporaneously document the meetings held or written actions undertaken during the year by the following			
a The governing body?	8a	Yes	
b Each committee with authority to act on behalf of the governing body?	8b	Yes	
9 Is there any officer, director, trustee, or key employee listed in Part VII, Section A, who cannot be reached at the organization's mailing address? If "Yes," provide the names and addresses in Schedule O	9	No	

Section B. Policies (This Section B requests information about policies not required by the Internal Revenue Code.)

		Yes	No
10a Does the organization have local chapters, branches, or affiliates?	10a	No	
b If "Yes," does the organization have written policies and procedures governing the activities of such chapters, affiliates, and branches to ensure their operations are consistent with those of the organization?	10b		
11 Has the organization provided a copy of this Form 990 to all members of its governing body before filing the form?	11	No	
11A Describe in Schedule O the process, if any, used by the organization to review the Form 990			
12a Does the organization have a written conflict of interest policy? If "No," go to line 13	12a	Yes	
b Are officers, directors or trustees, and key employees required to disclose annually interests that could give rise to conflicts?	12b	Yes	
c Does the organization regularly and consistently monitor and enforce compliance with the policy? If "Yes," describe in Schedule O how this is done	12c	No	
13 Does the organization have a written whistleblower policy?	13	Yes	
14 Does the organization have a written document retention and destruction policy?	14	Yes	
15 Did the process for determining compensation of the following persons include a review and approval by independent persons, comparability data, and contemporaneous substantiation of the deliberation and decision?			
a The organization's CEO, Executive Director, or top management official	15a	Yes	
b Other officers or key employees of the organization	15b	Yes	
If "Yes" to line a or b, describe the process in Schedule O (See instructions)			
16a Did the organization invest in, contribute assets to, or participate in a joint venture or similar arrangement with a taxable entity during the year?	16a	No	
b If "Yes," has the organization adopted a written policy or procedure requiring the organization to evaluate its participation in joint venture arrangements under applicable federal tax law, and taken steps to safeguard the organization's exempt status with respect to such arrangements?	16b		

Section C. Disclosure

17 List the States with which a copy of this Form 990 is required to be filed ►

18 Section 6104 requires an organization to make its Form 1023 (or 1024 if applicable), 990, and 990-T (501(c) (3)s only) available for public inspection. Indicate how you make these available. Check all that apply
 Own website Another's website Upon request

19 Describe in Schedule O whether (and if so, how), the organization makes its governing documents, conflict of interest policy, and financial statements available to the public. See Additional Data Table

20 State the name, physical address, and telephone number of the person who possesses the books and records of the organization ►
 MR RALPH CHEPLAK SVP/CFO
 3050 CORPORATE WAY
 MIRAMAR, FL 33025
 (954) 517-7677

Part VII Compensation of Officers, Directors, Trustees, Key Employees, Highest Compensated Employees, and Independent Contractors
Section A. Officers, Directors, Trustees, Key Employees, and Highest Compensated Employees

1a Complete this table for all persons required to be listed. Report compensation for the calendar year ending with or within the organization's tax year. Use Schedule J-2 if additional space is needed.

• List all of the organization's **current** officers, directors, trustees (whether individuals or organizations), regardless of amount of compensation, and **current** key employees. Enter -0- in columns (D), (E), and (F) if no compensation was paid.

• List all of the organization's **current** key employees. See instructions for definition of "key employee."

• List the organization's five **current** highest compensated employees (other than an officer, director, trustee or key employee) who received reportable compensation (Box 5 of Form W-2 and/or Box 7 of Form 1099-MISC) of more than \$100,000 from the organization and any related organizations.

• List all of the organization's **former** officers, key employees, or highest compensated employees who received more than \$100,000 of reportable compensation from the organization and any related organizations.

• List all of the organization's **former directors or trustees** that received, in the capacity as a former director or trustee of the organization, more than \$10,000 of reportable compensation from the organization and any related organizations.

List persons in the following order: individual trustees or directors, institutional trustees, officers, key employees, highest compensated employees, and former such persons.

Check this box if the organization did not compensate any current or former officer, director, trustee or key employee.

(A) Name and Title	(B) Average hours per week	(C) Position (check all that apply)					(D) Reportable compensation from the organization (W- 2/1099-MISC)	(E) Reportable compensation from related organizations (W- 2/1099- MISC)	(F) Estimated amount of other compensation from the organization and related organizations
		Individual trustee or director	Institutional Trustee	Officer	Key employee	Highest compensated employee			
G BLOUNT CEO	40.00			X			267,619	0	27,255
D R MURRAY SEC/TREAS	1.00	X					0	0	0
M C MARTINEZ BOD	1.00	X					0	0	0
B N DIAMOND BOD/VICE CHAIR	1.00	X					0	0	0
H P GEER BOD/CHAIR	1.00	X					0	0	0
F B FETZER BOD	1.00	X					0	0	0
J M DONOHUE BOD	1.00	X					0	0	0
R P WISNIEWSKI BOD	1.00	X					0	0	0
L E ROBERTIA BOD	1.00	X					0	0	0
M PEREZ BOD	1.00	X					0	0	0
R CHEPLAK SVP/CFO	40.00			X			175,703	0	28,644
J WAGY SVP/COO	40.00			X			152,474	0	22,625
C MIRA VP/IT	40.00				X		123,682	0	12,116
H YANT VP	40.00				X		108,984	0	16,422
G FERRETTI VP/CONTROLLER	40.00				X		117,751	0	24,729
P VALERIOTTI VP/LENDING	40.00				X		115,407	0	20,615
A GOENAGA VP/SECURITY ADMINISTRATION	40.00				X		122,593	0	13,273

Part VII Section A. Officers, Directors, Trustees, Key Employees, and Highest Compensated Employees (continued)

3. Total number of individuals (including but not limited to those listed above) who received more than

2 Total number of individuals (including but not limited to those listed above) who received more than \$100,000 in reportable compensation from the organization **18**

		Yes	No
3	Did the organization list any former officer, director or trustee, key employee, or highest compensated employee on line 1a? If "Yes," complete Schedule J for such individual	3	No
4	For any individual listed on line 1a, is the sum of reportable compensation and other compensation from the organization and related organizations greater than \$150,000? If "Yes," complete Schedule J for such individual	4	Yes
5	Did any person listed on line 1a receive or accrue compensation from any unrelated organization for services rendered to the organization? If "Yes," complete Schedule J for such person	5	No

Section B. Independent Contractors

1 Complete this table for your five highest compensated independent contractors that received more than \$100,000 of compensation from the organization

(A) Name and business address	(B) Description of services	(C) Compensation
NCUA-NATIONAL CREDIT UNION ASSOCIATION PO BOX 979069 ST LOUIS, MO 63197	INSURANCE	1,175,589
MINNESOTA MUTUAL LIFE INS CO 400 ROBERT STREET NORTH ST PAUL, MN 55101	INSURANCE	708,500
SUNBEAM DEVELOPMENT CORP 1401 79TH STREET CAUSEWAY MIAMI, FL 33141	HD MPOC BRANCH LEASE	611,288
DIGITAL INSIGHT CORP PO BOX 515306 LOS ANGELES, CA 90051	INTERNET PROVIDER	610,156
BCBS OF FLORIDA PO BOX 105358 ATLANTA, GA 30348	HEALTH INSURANCE	548,469
2. Total number of independent contractors (including but not limited to those listed above) who received more than		

Part VIII Statement of Revenue

Part IX Statement of Functional Expenses**Section 501(c)(3) and 501(c)(4) organizations must complete all columns.****All other organizations must complete column (A) but are not required to complete columns (B), (C), and (D).**

Do not include amounts reported on lines 6b, 7b, 8b, 9b, and 10b of Part VIII.	(A) Total expenses	(B) Program service expenses	(C) Management and general expenses	(D) Fundraising expenses
1 Grants and other assistance to governments and organizations in the U S See Part IV, line 21	0			
2 Grants and other assistance to individuals in the U S See Part IV, line 22	0			
3 Grants and other assistance to governments, organizations, and individuals outside the U S See Part IV, lines 15 and 16	0			
4 Benefits paid to or for members	0			
5 Compensation of current officers, directors, trustees, and key employees	1,349,892	1,349,892		
6 Compensation not included above, to disqualified persons (as defined under section 4958(f)(1)) and persons described in section 4958(c)(3)(B)	0			
7 Other salaries and wages	10,388,324	10,388,324		
8 Pension plan contributions (include section 401(k) and section 403(b) employer contributions)	310,046	310,046		
9 Other employee benefits	2,149,770	2,149,770		
10 Payroll taxes	930,251	930,251		
11 Fees for services (non-employees)				
a Management	0			
b Legal	212,979	212,979		
c Accounting	208,400	208,400		
d Lobbying	0			
e Professional fundraising See Part IV, line 17				
f Investment management fees	0			
g Other	375,871	375,871		
12 Advertising and promotion	706,294	706,294		
13 Office expenses	5,399,409	5,399,409		
14 Information technology	659,281	659,281		
15 Royalties	0			
16 Occupancy	1,958,892	1,958,892		
17 Travel	324,783	324,783		
18 Payments of travel or entertainment expenses for any federal, state, or local public officials	0			
19 Conferences, conventions, and meetings	271	271		
20 Interest	12,432,957	12,432,957		
21 Payments to affiliates	0			
22 Depreciation, depletion, and amortization	2,053,404	2,053,404		
23 Insurance	204,478	204,478		
24 Other expenses Itemize expenses not covered above (Expenses grouped together and labeled miscellaneous may not exceed 5% of total expenses shown on line 25 below)				
a See Schedule Attached	23,459,958	23,459,958		
b				
c				
d				
e				
f All other expenses	0			
25 Total functional expenses. Add lines 1 through 24f	63,125,260	63,125,260		
26 Joint costs. Check here <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> if following SOP 98-2 Complete this line only if the organization reported in column (B) joint costs from a combined educational campaign and fundraising solicitation				

Part X Balance Sheet

		(A) Beginning of year	(B) End of year
Assets	1 Cash—non-interest-bearing	7,262,821	1 5,945,457
	2 Savings and temporary cash investments	12,774,978	2 30,024,073
	3 Pledges and grants receivable, net	3	
	4 Accounts receivable, net	3,284,617	4 3,266,366
	5 Receivables from current and former officers, directors, trustees, key employees, and highest compensated employees Complete Part II of Schedule L	5	
	6 Receivables from other disqualified persons (as defined under section 4958(f)(1)) and persons described in section 4958(c)(3)(B) Complete Part II of Schedule L	6	
	7 Notes and loans receivable, net	562,914,676	7 519,641,027
	8 Inventories for sale or use	8	
	9 Prepaid expenses and deferred charges	1,629,444	9 1,359,892
	10a Land, buildings, and equipment cost or other basis Complete Part VI of Schedule D	10a 26,531,092	
	b Less accumulated depreciation	10b 15,441,889	10c 11,059,812 11,089,203
	11 Investments—publicly traded securities	115,308,420	11 91,585,817
	12 Investments—other securities See Part IV, line 11	12	
	13 Investments—program-related See Part IV, line 11	13	
	14 Intangible assets	14	
	15 Other assets See Part IV, line 11	8,668,425	15 12,392,912
	16 Total assets. Add lines 1 through 15 (must equal line 34)	722,903,193	16 675,304,747
Liabilities	17 Accounts payable and accrued expenses	17,164,312	17 12,488,570
	18 Grants payable	18	
	19 Deferred revenue	19	
	20 Tax-exempt bond liabilities	20	
	21 Escrow or custodial account liability Complete Part IV of Schedule D	21	
	22 Payables to current and former officers, directors, trustees, key employees, highest compensated employees, and disqualified persons Complete Part II of Schedule L	22	
	23 Secured mortgages and notes payable to unrelated third parties	113,750,000	23 92,000,000
	24 Unsecured notes and loans payable to unrelated third parties	24	
	25 Other liabilities Complete Part X of Schedule D	537,315,738	25 524,849,530
	26 Total liabilities. Add lines 17 through 25	668,230,050	26 629,338,100
Net Assets or Fund Balances	Organizations that follow SFAS 117, check here <input type="checkbox"/> and complete lines 27 through 29, and lines 33 and 34.		
	27 Unrestricted net assets	27	
	28 Temporarily restricted net assets	28	
	29 Permanently restricted net assets	29	
	Organizations that do not follow SFAS 117, check here <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> and complete lines 30 through 34.		
	30 Capital stock or trust principal, or current funds	30	
	31 Paid-in or capital surplus, or land, building or equipment fund	31	
	32 Retained earnings, endowment, accumulated income, or other funds	54,673,143	32 45,966,647
	33 Total net assets or fund balances	54,673,143	33 45,966,647
	34 Total liabilities and net assets/fund balances	722,903,193	34 675,304,747

Part XI Financial Statements and Reporting

	Yes	No
1 Accounting method used to prepare the Form 990 <input type="checkbox"/> Cash <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Accrual <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ If the organization changed its method of accounting from a prior year or checked "Other," explain in Schedule O		
2a Were the organization's financial statements compiled or reviewed by an independent accountant?	2a	No
b Were the organization's financial statements audited by an independent accountant?	2b	Yes
c If "Yes," to 2a or 2b, does the organization have a committee that assumes responsibility for oversight of the audit, review, or compilation of its financial statements and selection of an independent accountant? If the organization changed either its oversight process or selection process during the tax year, explain in Schedule O	2c	Yes
d If "Yes" to line 2a or 2b, check a box below to indicate whether the financial statements for the year were issued on a consolidated basis, separate basis, or both <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Separate basis <input type="checkbox"/> Consolidated basis <input type="checkbox"/> Both consolidated and separated basis		
3a As a result of a federal award, was the organization required to undergo an audit or audits as set forth in the Single Audit Act and OMB Circular A-133?	3a	No
b If "Yes," did the organization undergo the required audit or audits? If the organization did not undergo the required audit or audits, explain why in Schedule O and describe any steps taken to undergo such audits	3b	

SCHEDULE D

(Form 990)

Supplemental Financial Statements**2009**Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service

► Complete if the organization answered "Yes," to Form 990,
Part IV, line 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, or 12.
► Attach to Form 990. ► See separate instructions.

**Open to Public
Inspection****Name of the organization**

TROPICAL FINANCIAL CREDIT UNION

Employer identification number

59-0637653

Part I Organizations Maintaining Donor Advised Funds or Other Similar Funds or Accounts. Complete if the organization answered "Yes" to Form 990, Part IV, line 6.

	(a) Donor advised funds	(b) Funds and other accounts
1 Total number at end of year		
2 Aggregate contributions to (during year)		
3 Aggregate grants from (during year)		
4 Aggregate value at end of year		

5 Did the organization inform all donors and donor advisors in writing that the assets held in donor advised funds are the organization's property, subject to the organization's exclusive legal control? Yes No

6 Did the organization inform all grantees, donors, and donor advisors in writing that grant funds may be used only for charitable purposes and not for the benefit of the donor or donor advisor, or for any other purpose conferring impermissible private benefit? Yes No

Part II Conservation Easements. Complete if the organization answered "Yes" to Form 990, Part IV, line 7.

1 Purpose(s) of conservation easements held by the organization (check all that apply)

Preservation of land for public use (e.g., recreation or pleasure) Preservation of an historically importantly land area

Protection of natural habitat Preservation of a certified historic structure

Preservation of open space

2 Complete lines 2a-2d if the organization held a qualified conservation contribution in the form of a conservation easement on the last day of the tax year

	Held at the End of the Year
2a	
2b	
2c	
2d	

3 Number of conservation easements modified, transferred, released, extinguished, or terminated by the organization during the taxable year ► _____

4 Number of states where property subject to conservation easement is located ► _____

5 Does the organization have a written policy regarding the periodic monitoring, inspection, handling of violations, and enforcement of the conservation easements it holds? Yes No

6 Staff and volunteer hours devoted to monitoring, inspecting and enforcing conservation easements during the year ► _____

7 Amount of expenses incurred in monitoring, inspecting, and enforcing conservation easements during the year ► \$ _____

8 Does each conservation easement reported on line 2(d) above satisfy the requirements of section 170(h)(4)(B)(i) and 170(h)(4)(B)(ii)? Yes No

9 In Part XIV, describe how the organization reports conservation easements in its revenue and expense statement, and balance sheet, and include, if applicable, the text of the footnote to the organization's financial statements that describes the organization's accounting for conservation easements

Part III Organizations Maintaining Collections of Art, Historical Treasures, or Other Similar Assets. Complete if the organization answered "Yes" to Form 990, Part IV, line 8.

1a If the organization elected, as permitted under SFAS 116, not to report in its revenue statement and balance sheet works of art, historical treasures, or other similar assets held for public exhibition, education or research in furtherance of public service, provide, in Part XIV, the text of the footnote to its financial statements that describes these items

b If the organization elected, as permitted under SFAS 116, to report in its revenue statement and balance sheet works of art, historical treasures, or other similar assets held for public exhibition, education, or research in furtherance of public service, provide the following amounts relating to these items

(i) Revenues included in Form 990, Part VIII, line 1 ► \$ _____

(ii) Assets included in Form 990, Part X ► \$ _____

2 If the organization received or held works of art, historical treasures, or other similar assets for financial gain, provide the following amounts required to be reported under SFAS 116 relating to these items

a Revenues included in Form 990, Part VIII, line 1 ► \$ _____

b Assets included in Form 990, Part X ► \$ _____

Part III Organizations Maintaining Collections of Art, Historical Treasures, or Other Similar Assets (continued)

3 Using the organization's accession and other records, check any of the following that are a significant use of its collection items (check all that apply)

a Public exhibition
b Scholarly research
c Preservation for future generations

d Loan or exchange programs
e Other

4 Provide a description of the organization's collections and explain how they further the organization's exempt purpose in Part XIV

5 During the year, did the organization solicit or receive donations of art, historical treasures or other similar assets to be sold to raise funds rather than to be maintained as part of the organization's collection? Yes No

Part IV Escrow and Custodial Arrangements. Complete if the organization answered "Yes" to Form 990, Part IV, line 9, or reported an amount on Form 990, Part X, line 21.

1a Is the organization an agent, trustee, custodian or other intermediary for contributions or other assets not included on Form 990, Part X? Yes No

b If "Yes," explain the arrangement in Part XIV and complete the following table

	Amount
1c	
1d	
1e	
1f	

2a Did the organization include an amount on Form 990, Part X, line 21? Yes No

b If "Yes," explain the arrangement in Part XIV

Part V Endowment Funds. Complete if the organization answered "Yes" to Form 990, Part IV, line 10.

	(a) Current Year	(b) Prior Year	(c) Two Years Back	(d) Three Years Back	(e) Four Years Back
1a Beginning of year balance					
b Contributions					
c Investment earnings or losses					
d Grants or scholarships					
e Other expenditures for facilities and programs					
f Administrative expenses					
g End of year balance					

2 Provide the estimated percentage of the year end balance held as

a Board designated or quasi-endowment ► %

b Permanent endowment ► %

c Term endowment ► %

3a Are there endowment funds not in the possession of the organization that are held and administered for the organization by

(i) unrelated organizations Yes No

(ii) related organizations Yes No

b If "Yes" to 3a(ii), are the related organizations listed as required on Schedule R? Yes No

Yes	No
3a(i)	
3a(ii)	
3b	

4 Describe in Part XIV the intended uses of the organization's endowment funds

Part VI Investments—Land, Buildings, and Equipment. See Form 990, Part X, line 10.

	Description of investment	(a) Cost or other basis (investment)	(b) Cost or other basis (other)	(c) Accumulated depreciation	(d) Book value
1a Land		4,209,314			4,178,714
b Buildings		3,640,364	535,308		3,105,056
c Leasehold improvements		6,014,646	4,081,688		1,932,958
d Equipment		12,587,066	10,749,758		1,837,308
e Other		79,702	44,535		35,167
Total. Add lines 1a-1e (Column (d) should equal Form 990, Part X, column (B), line 10(c).)					11,089,203

Part VII Investments—Other Securities. See Form 990, Part X, line 12

(a) Description of security or category (including name of security)	(b) Book value	(c) Method of valuation Cost or end-of-year market value
Financial derivatives		
Closely-held equity interests		
Other		
Total (Column (b) should equal Form 990, Part X, col (B), line 12.)		

Total. (Column (b) should equal Form 990, Part X, col (B), line 1)

Part VIII Investments—Program Related. See Form 990, Part X, line 13.

Total. (Column (b) should equal Form 990, Part X, col (B) line 13)

Part IX Other Assets. See Form 990, Part X, line 15

Total (Column (b) should equal Form 990, Part X, col (B) line 15)

Part X Other Liabilities. See Form 990, Part X, line 25.

total. (Column (B) should equal Form 990, Part X, col (B) line 25) ► 524,849,530

2. Fin 48 Footnote In Part XIV, provide the text of the footnote to the organization's financial statements that reports the organization's liability for uncertain tax positions under FIN 48

Part XI Reconciliation of Change in Net Assets from Form 990 to Financial Statements

1	Total revenue (Form 990, Part VIII, column (A), line 12)	1	53,863,407
2	Total expenses (Form 990, Part IX, column (A), line 25)	2	63,125,260
3	Excess or (deficit) for the year Subtract line 2 from line 1	3	-9,261,853
4	Net unrealized gains (losses) on investments	4	555,357
5	Donated services and use of facilities	5	
6	Investment expenses	6	
7	Prior period adjustments	7	
8	Other (Describe in Part XIV)	8	
9	Total adjustments (net) Add lines 4 - 8	9	555,357
10	Excess or (deficit) for the year per financial statements Combine lines 3 and 9	10	-8,706,496

Part XII Reconciliation of Revenue per Audited Financial Statements With Revenue per Return

1	Total revenue, gains, and other support per audited financial statements	1	53,863,407
2	Amounts included on line 1 but not on Form 990, Part VIII, line 12		
a	Net unrealized gains on investments	2a	
b	Donated services and use of facilities	2b	
c	Recoveries of prior year grants	2c	
d	Other (Describe in Part XIV)	2d	
e	Add lines 2a through 2d	2e	
3	Subtract line 2e from line 1	3	53,863,407
4	Amounts included on Form 990, Part VIII, line 12, but not on line 1		
a	Investment expenses not included on Form 990, Part VIII, line 7b	4a	
b	Other (Describe in Part XIV)	4b	
c	Add lines 4a and 4b	4c	
5	Total Revenue Add lines 3 and 4c. (This should equal Form 990, Part I, line 12)	5	53,863,407

Part XIII Reconciliation of Expenses per Audited Financial Statements With Expenses per Return

1	Total expenses and losses per audited financial statements	1	63,125,260
2	Amounts included on line 1 but not on Form 990, Part IX, line 25		
a	Donated services and use of facilities	2a	
b	Prior year adjustments	2b	
c	Other losses	2c	
d	Other (Describe in Part XIV)	2d	
e	Add lines 2a through 2d	2e	
3	Subtract line 2e from line 1	3	63,125,260
4	Amounts included on Form 990, Part IX, line 25, but not on line 1:		
a	Investment expenses not included on Form 990, Part VIII, line 7b	4a	
b	Other (Describe in Part XIV)	4b	
c	Add lines 4a and 4b	4c	
5	Total expenses Add lines 3 and 4c. (This should equal Form 990, Part I, line 18)	5	63,125,260

Part XIV Supplemental Information

Complete this part to provide the descriptions required for Part II, lines 3, 5, and 9, Part III, lines 1a and 4, Part IV, lines 1b and 2b, Part V, line 4, Part X, Part XI, line 8, Part XII, lines 2d and 4b, and Part XIII, lines 2d and 4b. Also complete this part to provide any additional information

Identifier	Return Reference	Explanation
X	2	FIN 48 IS NOT APPLICABLE

Schedule J
(Form 990)**Compensation Information**

OMB No 1545-0047

2009**Open to Public
Inspection**Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service

For certain Officers, Directors, Trustees, Key Employees, and Highest Compensated Employees
► Complete if the organization answered "Yes" to Form 990, Part IV, question 23.
► Attach to Form 990. ► See separate instructions.

Name of the organization

TROPICAL FINANCIAL CREDIT UNION

Employer identification number

59-0637653

Part I Questions Regarding Compensation

Yes No

1a Check the appropriate box(es) if the organization provided any of the following to or for a person listed in Form 990, Part VII, Section A, line 1a. Complete Part III to provide any relevant information regarding these items

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> First-class or charter travel	<input type="checkbox"/> Housing allowance or residence for personal use
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Travel for companions	<input type="checkbox"/> Payments for business use of personal residence
<input type="checkbox"/> Tax indemnification and gross-up payments	<input type="checkbox"/> Health or social club dues or initiation fees
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Discretionary spending account	<input type="checkbox"/> Personal services (e.g., maid, chauffeur, chef)

b If any of the boxes in line 1a are checked, did the organization follow a written policy regarding payment or reimbursement or provision of all the expenses described above? If "No," complete Part III to explain

1b Yes

2 Did the organization require substantiation prior to reimbursing or allowing expenses incurred by all officers, directors, trustees, and the CEO/Executive Director, regarding the items checked in line 1a?

2 Yes

3 Indicate which, if any, of the following the organization uses to establish the compensation of the organization's CEO/Executive Director. Check all that apply

<input type="checkbox"/> Compensation committee	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Written employment contract
<input type="checkbox"/> Independent compensation consultant	<input type="checkbox"/> Compensation survey or study
<input type="checkbox"/> Form 990 of other organizations	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Approval by the board or compensation committee

4 During the year, did any person listed in Form 990, Part VII, Section A, line 1a with respect to the filing organization or a related organization

4a No

a Receive a severance payment or change-of-control payment?

4b No

b Participate in, or receive payment from, a supplemental nonqualified retirement plan?

4c No

c Participate in, or receive payment from, an equity-based compensation arrangement?

If "Yes" to any of lines 4a-c, list the persons and provide the applicable amounts for each item in Part III

Only 501(c)(3) and 501(c)(4) organizations only must complete lines 5-9.

5 For persons listed in Form 990, Part VII, Section A, line 1a, did the organization pay or accrue any compensation contingent on the revenues of

5a

a The organization?

5b

b Any related organization?

If "Yes," to line 5a or 5b, describe in Part III

6 For persons listed in Form 990, Part VII, Section A, line 1a, did the organization pay or accrue any compensation contingent on the net earnings of

6a

a The organization?

6b

b Any related organization?

If "Yes," to line 6a or 6b, describe in Part III

7

7 For persons listed in Form 990, Part VII, Section A, line 1a, did the organization provide any non-fixed payments not described in lines 5 and 6? If "Yes," describe in Part III

8

8 Were any amounts reported in Form 990, Part VII, paid or accrued pursuant to a contract that was subject to the initial contract exception described in Regs. section 53.4958-4(a)(3)? If "Yes," describe in Part III

9

9 If "Yes" to line 8, did the organization also follow the rebuttable presumption procedure described in Regulations section 53.4958-6(c)?

Part II Officers, Directors, Trustees, Key Employees, and Highest Compensated Employees. Use Schedule J-1 if additional space needed.

For each individual whose compensation must be reported in Schedule J, report compensation from the organization on row (i) and from related organizations, described in the instructions on row (ii). Do not list any individuals that are not listed on Form 990, Part VII

Note. The sum of columns (B)(i)-(iii) must equal the applicable column (D) or column (E) amounts on Form 990, Part VII, line 1a.

Part III Supplemental Information

Complete this part to provide the information, explanation, or descriptions required for Part I, lines 1a, 1b, 4c, 5a, 5b, 6a, 6b, 7, and 8. Also complete this part for any additional information

Identifier	Return Reference	Explanation

SCHEDULE O
(Form 990)**Supplemental Information to Form 990****2009****Open to Public
Inspection**

**Complete to provide information for responses to specific questions on
Form 990 or to provide any additional information.
► Attach to Form 990.**

Name of the organization

TROPICAL FINANCIAL CREDIT UNION

Employer identification number

59-0637653

Identifier	Return Reference	Explanation
Form 990 VI	19	THE CREDIT UNIONS GOVERNING DOCUMENTS ARE NOT MADE AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC THE CREDIT UNIONS CONFLICT OF INTEREST POLICY IS NOT MADE AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC THE CREDIT UNIONS FINANCIAL STATEMENTS ARE AVAILABLE FOR PUBLIC VIEWING ON NCUA GOV VIA THE QUARTERLY 5300 FILING
Form 990 VI	15A-B	THE REVIEW OF THE CEOS COMPENSATION IS A FUNCTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS, WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES AND ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT THE BOARD USES AN EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION SURVEY FROM AN INDEPENDANT THIRD PARTY, ON AT LEAST A BI-ANNUAL BASIS, TO DETERMINE THE CEOS COMPENSATION FOR ALL OTHER POSITIONS IN THE ORGANIZATION, JOB GRADES AND PAY RANGES ARE ESTABLISHED THROUGH THE ASSISTANCE OF AN EXTERNAL THIRD PARTY VENDOR WITH SPECIALIZED EXPERTISE IN THIS AREA, AND MAINTAINED BY THE OFFICE OF HUMAN RESOURCES THIS COMPENSATION SYSTEM IS REVIEWED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Form 990 VI	11A	FORM 990 WILL BE REVIEWED BY THE V P OF FINANCE AND CFO IF ANY QUESTION, THE VP OF FINANCE/CFO WILL THEN DISCUSS WITH THE CPA FIRM THE FORM 990 WILL BE PRESENTED TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTOS FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES ONLY SUBSEQUENT TO THE FORM BEING FILED THIS WILL BE RECORDED IN THE BOARD MINUTES
Form 990 VI	6	THE ORGANIZATION HAS MEMBERS
Form 990 VI	7A	THE CREDIT UNION MEMBERSHIP MAY PARTICIPATE IN THE ELECTION OF OFFICIALS