

Tri-Cities Credit Union

Spring Newsletter 2010



It's TCCU's 55th birthday!

Tri-Cities will host its annual meeting on April 27, 2010. The meeting is tentatively scheduled for 6:00pm in the TCCU lobby. Refreshments will be served. Please sign-up with any TCCU staff member and we will

make sure to give you a reminder call the day before. We hope that you can join us!



YES! WE DO OFFER MORTGAGES!

Are you looking to purchase your first home or simply want to refinance into a better interest rate? TCCU can help with that! **Contact Joann Goodrow** at 616-481-2654 TODAY and take advantage of the lowest interest rates in years. Now through April 30th there are two great reasons to finance your mortgage with us; the new home buyers tax credit of \$8,000 and TCCU's Nintendo Wii giveaway. Call Joann for more details.



Looking Back and Moving Forward: A Note from the CEO

Dear Members,

I would like to take this moment to first thank you for choosing TCCU or remaining a loyal member through 2009. I hope that we were able to convey how important your credit union membership is with us through our friendly service, various financial products and services, and our great rates.

I know that 2009 was a very stressful and financially difficult year for many people in the Tri-Cities community as well as across America. In the credit union world, we are proud to say that we did not use ANY taxpayer money to fund the handful of credit unions that did not survive through 2009. Unfortunately, all federally insured credit unions had to dip into their reserves to fund some bad investments made by Corporate Credit Unions on the West coast. This, of course, affected our earnings for the year. Along with the Corporate Stabilization Act, we have been bombarded with bankruptcy filings and a higher than normal level of charged off loans. Times are tough for everyone. We were able to work out payment arrangements for some who came to us in time, while others had already filed before talking with us. Loan rates stayed low throughout the year and have continued to drop. Now is the best time to buy a new or used vehicle and finance with TCCU; we offer the lowest rate we have had in 5 years along with the GM and Chrysler Invest In America discount. We have added new products like mortgages and GAP insurance that have greatly helped many of our wonderful members. Our savings, IRA, and certificate rates remained competitive with those of the larger banks and credit unions and we have grown in asset size nearly \$2 million.

Going forward, I predict that the worst is not yet behind us. Unfortunately the housing market has not stabilized and bankruptcies are still coming to us in record numbers. Please talk to us if you have fallen on hard times. We may be able to help. For those who are thinking of purchasing a new/used vehicle or purchasing or refinancing a house, THIS IS YOUR YEAR! Rates will not stay this low for long and there are a bevy of bargains to be had at Tri-Cities Credit Union.

I wish you the best for 2010 and thank you again for the opportunity to serve your financial needs.

Sara Redeker, CEO



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HOURS OF OPERATION

LOBBY:

MONDAY-THURSDAY:

9:00AM - 5:15PM

FRIDAY:

9:00AM - 6:00PM

DRIVETHRU:

MONDAY - THURSDAY:

8:30AM - 5:15PM

FRIDAY:

8:30AM - 6:00PM

SATURDAY:

8:30AM - 12:00PM

TCCU WILL BE CLOSED
ON THE FOLLOWING
DAYS:

Monday, May 31, 2010

REMINDER:

Remember to look at your AVAILABLE BALANCE in your account. Pending debit card transactions will be held against your current balance. If you have checks or electronic transactions that have not yet cleared, those checks and EFTs will clear using the AVAILABLE balance, NOT the current balance. This may result in a non-sufficient funds or overdraft charge.

FREE E-STATEMENTS:

Log into Home Banking and click on "Personal Preferences". Next click on the sign-up for e-statements link.



Being a member of TCCU can earn you GREAT discounts with the Invest In America Program. Visit **LoveMyCreditUnion.org** to check out discounts from the following participating companies: **General Motors, Chrysler, Sprint, DirectTV, FTD, and MORE!**

*Details and restrictions on discounts from the following companies can be found at LoveMyCreditUnion.org



SPRING LOAN SPECIAL

Hurry up and take advantage of this great deal! Need a loan for taxes? Home repairs? A spring trip? With rates as low as 5.99%APR for 12 months, your payments for \$1,000 would only be \$86.05 a month! Apply online and save an additional 0.10%. Offer ends 5/1/2010!



WWW.EZCARDINFO.COM

- * Check Visa balances
- * Print out recent statements
- * Look up recent transactions
- * Find out your current payment and due date
- * Make your payment online



WIN A NINTENDO WII! Get pre-approved for a new or refinanced mortgage with TCCU by April 30th and you could be taking home a Nintendo Wii gaming system.

GAP INSURANCE COULD SAVE YOU THOUSANDS!

Most vehicles depreciate faster than the value of the loan used to purchase them. Protect yourself with Guaranteed Asset Protection Insurance. GAP will not only pay the balance of your loan that insurance does not cover in the event of your vehicle being totaled or stolen, but GAP will also pay the first \$1000 towards your NEXT vehicle. Inquire today to take advantage of this money saving deal!



TOP 10 WAYS TO AVOID IDENTITY THEFT

1. Read your monthly utility, credit card, and financial statements each month.
2. Use a secure website and secure browser when ordering online or inputting your account information. (Secure browsers begin with "http:" or "https:")
3. Check your credit report annually.
www.annualcreditreport.com is FREE from all three bureaus. www.freecreditreport.com is NOT free.
4. Avoid placing mail to be sent out in YOUR mailbox. Use the post office or a post office box. Mail can be easily stolen from your mailbox.
5. Place limited information on your checks. Leave off your drivers license number.
6. Memorize your PIN numbers for your ATM/Debit cards. NEVER keep them in your purse or wallet.
7. NEVER give out your social security number, credit card number, or account number unless you know for sure who you are giving it out to. Your financial institution will NEVER call or email you just to ask you this information.
8. Shred any pre-approval credit applications you receive in the mail or any important documents/statements with your personal information on it. If you would like to keep it, lock it up in a safe.
9. Report to your financial institution and the local police immediately if you lose or have stolen your purse or wallet.
10. Do not leave any important personal information lying around your home. This is an easy way for dishonest friends, family, service people, or burglars to steal your information.

ATTENTION MEMBERS 17-25: WE CAN HELP!

Here are some ways that TCCU can help YOU if you are **going off to college or if you going off on your own and beginning your new career:**

1. **Shared Branching:** have mom or dad deposit into your account here and you can access your money at a nearby shared branch location.
2. **Loans for books:** college books are expensive! We can help. Come in and apply for a line or credit or short term book loan.
3. **Establish GOOD credit:** one day you will be purchasing a home or a car. Start out with small loans and a small Visa credit line and establish a good, solid credit score.
4. **Checking accounts and debit cards:** these things will come in handy if you are going off to school away from home.
5. **Ready to purchase your first home?** We can help you with all of your mortgage needs.



Should You Convert Your IRA to a Roth IRA?

Here are three reasons why you should consider this question:

- * No more income limit on conversions - everyone is eligible
- * You can spread the taxes due over a two-year period, paying half each year with your 2011 and 2012 tax filings.
- * Any earnings become tax-free income if you wait to withdraw after 5 years of account opening and age 59 1/2, disabled, death, or first time home buyer.

You may want to consult with your tax advisor as well as your financial advisor to see if a Roth is right for you.

Withdrawals of any earnings before age 59 1/2 and before the account is 5 years old may be subject to taxes and a 10% penalty.

Contact TCCU today for more information!

Please note the following fee changes effective April 1, 2010:

Cash Advance Fee for non-TCCU Visa	the higher of 1% or \$5
Non-Members cashing TCCU checks here	\$5.00
Debit Card PIN transactions	8 free/month, then \$1 each*

*Does not include ATM transactions

