



WHITING REFINERY Federal Credit Union

1339 119th STREET • WHITING, INDIANA 46394 • (219) 659-3254 • www.wrfcu.org • April 2009

By George... Just Hang Up The Phone!



Our Credit Union does everything possible to protect your money and your personal account information. Yet you, too, play a key role in protecting yourself!

So should you get a recorded telephone call at 5 a.m. some day telling you that “there is a problem with your Credit Union account or Credit Union card” --- **JUST HANG UP THE PHONE**. Do nothing else but **JUST HANG UP THE PHONE** because it isn't us calling you! We love you as a member, but we don't do business like this.

Yes, this is a true story about a current scam that is going around the area. Some of our members have been contacted with this message and asked to push certain numbers to start correcting the problem. If you did this, you could be giving out account information that could cause you even greater problems.

We have reported these scam calls to the police and other agencies for follow-up. Their advice to persons getting these types of calls – **JUST HANG UP THE PHONE**.

In the event you get such a call and have the Caller ID feature on your phone, jot down the number that called you. I then ask you to provide this number (along with the date and time of the call) to our Credit Union office staff for their follow-through.

Protect yourself from phone scammers, and remember.....you call us, we don't call you! Take care! **George Toth, President**

Credit Unions Celebrate Centennial



Happy 100th Birthday U.S. credit unions! The first U.S. credit union was chartered on April 15, 1909 in Manchester, New Hampshire. The parishioners of St. Mary's Church organized the credit union with help from Alphonse DesJardins, a Canadian journalist who recognized that people needed an alternative to loan sharks and had opened the first credit union in North America in Levis, Quebec in 1901.

Chartered as La Caisse Populaire Ste. Marie by a special act of the New Hampshire legislature, the credit union is today known as St. Mary's Bank and now serves the entire Manchester community.

The credit union idea was somewhat slow to catch on, but the passage of the Federal Credit Union Act in 1934 spurred growth. Across the country, people joined credit unions to have a safe place to save and a fair place to borrow.

From their humble beginning, credit unions today provide a wide variety of financial services to some 91 million member-owners. As not-for-profit cooperatives, at credit unions, people mean more than money. Now that's something to celebrate.

Savvy Ways to Spend Your Tax Refund



Many people think of their tax refund as “found money,” although it's really just money you've lent to your Uncle Sam for the past year. Yet, for anyone who has trouble saving, a tax refund can be the same as finding a wad of bills in an old coat pocket or money tucked under a mattress.

So here are some savvy ways to spend it:

- **Go green.** Change out your standard light bulbs with higher efficiency compact fluorescent bulbs; replace your gas-powered lawn mower with an electric one, or an older appliance with one with an Energy Star rating.
- **Stock up.** If you have the storage space, and you are sure you will use the product, buying items in bulk can save money.
- **Get in shape.** Use your refund to buy a new bicycle, running or sports gear, or membership in a health club. Hint: Exercising with family members or a friend makes it easier to stick with the program.

Time for New Wheels? See Your Credit Union

When cars first came on the scene some 100 years ago, motorists had limited choices. As Henry Ford noted about the Model T: "Any customer can have a car painted any color that he wants so long as it is black." Today's consumers not only have a wider color palette to choose from, but also a myriad of other decisions:

New or used? Sporty or practical? Is a hybrid worth the investment? Which cars have the best gas mileage? Fortunately, there are a lot of resources to help you make a decision. On the Web, visit sites such as edmunds.com, kbb.com, and fueleconomy.gov. Check out the April issue of Consumer Reports. Then visit the credit union to get a pre-approved loan. We'll show you how a pre-approval can transform you into a cash buyer, putting you in the best bargaining position.

WRFCU AUTOMOBILE LOANS

New - 4/1/2009

CAR YEAR	RATE	% FINANCING	TERM
NEW & USED	4.80%	100%	36 Months
2009	4.90%	100%	48 Months
	5.00%	100%	60 Months
ONLY AVAILABLE ON			
NEW & USED	6.00%	100%	72 Months
2009	7.00%	100%	84 Months
OVER \$20,000.00			
2008	5.00%	100% Book Value	36 Months
	5.25%	100% Book Value	48 Months
2007	5.50%	100% Book Value	48 Months
2006	5.25%	75% Book Value	42 Months
	6.00 %	100% Book Value	42 Months
2005	5.25%	70% Book Value	42 Months
	6.25%	100% Book Value	42 Months
2004	5.25%	65% Book Value	36 Months
	6.25%	100% Book Value	36 Months
2003	5.50%	60% Book Value	24 Months
	6.50%	100% Book Value	24 Months
2002	5.75%	50% Book Value	24 Months
	6.75%	100% Book Value	24 Months

Keeping track of your Credit report for free

Which credit union bureaus will your credit union, auto dealer, mortgage broker, or credit card company check? Usually all three will be reviewed with the average (or sometimes lowest) score providing the basis of your interest rate. Know what's on your credit report at all three credit bureaus. It's easy with the free annual credit report that is provided to legal U.S. residents once a year at www.annual-creditreport.com. Review your report for any inaccuracies that could cost you money through higher interest rates.

You may request your free credit report online, by phone, or through the mail. Free credit reports requested on line

are accessible immediately. Free credit reports requested by phone or mail will be processed within 15 days of receiving your request.

After receiving your report, look for any inaccuracies, including late payments, unknown accounts, unknown addresses, incorrect spellings, or anything else you do not recognize. The phone number for each creditor is usually located next to the entry on your credit report. Taking the time to fix simple inaccuracies can save you hundreds or thousands of dollars in interest fees if the inaccuracies were lowering your credit score.

The next step is to check your credit report every year for free. Get on your computer and add a reminder to your calendar to check your credit report for free again in one year.

keep us
CURRENT
with your
ADDRESS



Don't forget to let us know of your change of address if you move. We need your current address for sending statements and important tax information. Keep your account information safe by being sure it is going to your address and not the new occupants of your old house. And remember, once a member, always a member, so if you move out of state, you can continue being a member of the credit union.

Current Fees:

Post Office Notification of New Address \$2.00
Unable to Forward Mail \$5.00



*Spruce Up
with a Home
Improvement
Loan*

Even with all of the ups and downs in the housing market, your home is still your castle. So don't neglect the turrets or the moat! Ignoring problems like a leaky roof or a crumbling foundation won't make them go away. Keeping up with maintenance and repairs not only makes your space a nicer place, but also helps protect your investment.

But if you are planning a major remodel, remember that you will rarely recoup the entire cost and that some improvements have a higher percentage payback than others. Upgrading the kitchen or the bathroom, for example, will return more on your investment than adding a sunroom or updating a home office. Factor in how long you plan to stay in your current home.

For projects large or small, see your credit union for a home improvement loan. We may not be able to help you pick out the new color scheme, but we will help you figure out the financing that matches your style. Call or stop by your credit union today.

*74th Annual
Membership
Meeting*



This year's Annual Membership Meeting was held on Monday, March 16th at the St. John Panel Room. During the meeting an election of Board Members was held. The following is a list of the Board of Directors for 2009.

Janet Brezene

Robert Markovich

Cathryn Stachura

Dave Kirchhoff

Theresa Misner

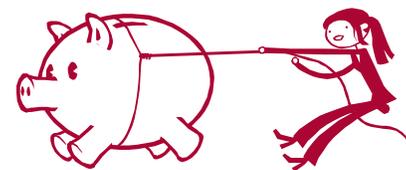
Edward Strbjak

John Lomax

Paula Rogers

George Toth

*How to Save
with a High
Debt Ratio*



If you have a high debt ratio, you may feel that it's impossible to save. All the money you earn is being used for bills. It may be more difficult to save, but it is possible. *Here are five tips:*

- Believe you can do it. You may have heard the saying, "If you think you can do it or you think you can't do it, you're right." Having the right attitude is essential.
- Set goals, both small ones, such as "save \$10 by the end of the week" and large ones, like "get out of debt."
- Stop borrowing. Keep credit cards in a hard-to-access place, for example, frozen in a container of water. That way, you won't be tempted to use them for impulse purchases.
- Pay yourself first. From each paycheck, have money automatically deposited in your share account. What you don't see, you won't miss.
- Save whenever you can. For example, at the end of each day, put your spare change in a box or jar. At the beginning of each month, deposit it in your savings account. Even little amounts add up when you get into the savings habit.

Dividend News

The Board of Directors declared to pay 1.50% APR/1.51% APY on all eligible share accounts for the First quarter of 2009 payable April 1, 2009.

Certificate Rates

1 Year (\$1,000.00 min) 2.50%APR/2.53%APY
2 Year (\$1,000.00 min) 2.75%APR/2.78%APY

Loan Rates

SIGNATURE LOAN (\$10,000 maximum)

7.00% 12 Months
9.50% 48 Months

SHARE PLEDGE LOAN

4.50% 60 Months

STOCK LOAN (50% Market Value)

5.00% 60 Months

EDUCATIONAL LOAN

7.00% 48 Months

MORTGAGE LOANS

Our low loan rates change often. Call Ted Izak at Lake Mortgage for more information or to apply for a loan. 219-769-5941 or 1-800-627-5566.

Whiting Refinery Federal Credit Union

SERVING OUR MEMBERS SINCE 1935

1339 - 119th Street,
Whiting, Indiana 46394
(219)659-3254

HOURS

8:15 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. - Monday thru Friday
Payday Friday - Open until 6:00 p.m.

www.wrfcu.org

Holiday Closings

**Friday, April 10, 2009
GOOD FRIDAY**

**Monday, May 25, 2009
MEMORIAL DAY**

Your Savings Federally Insured to \$100,000

NCUA

National Credit Union Administration.

a U.S. Government Agency

**Savings Rate: 1.50% APR/1.51% APY
2 Year (\$1,000.00 min) 2.75% APR/2.78% APY**

**WHITING REFINERY
FEDERAL CREDIT UNION
1339 - 119th Street
Whiting, Indiana 46394**

PRSTD STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Hammond, IN
Permit #1