

Buck the Trend—*Save!*

The U.S. savings rate has dropped to its lowest point since the Depression. In each of the last two years, Americans actually spent more than they earned.

The last time the nation had a negative savings rate for two consecutive years was 1932–1933: the year voters decided Herbert Hoover would have to leave the White House and the year FDR moved in.

Obviously, most Americans aren't saving money the way their parents did. Why is that? In the early 1930s, of course, unemployment was rampant. It's far less common today. Clearly, something else is going on.

Part of the answer is salaries that aren't keeping pace with the rising cost of living. Another part of the answer may be changing attitudes toward saving and borrowing. Regardless of the reasons, many economists agree many households would be in big trouble if a sudden surge in interest rates occurred.

Are you ready to start saving more money? Visit our website (www.ptofcu.org), click on **Information**, then **Rates** to learn about the many ways to save at PTOFCU.

Contest Winners Announced . . .

... but not here. For the names of all the winners in our big coloring contest, see the next issue of the *Ben's Friends* newsletter.



Effective July 1, 2007

SAVINGS RATES

	Rate (APR)	Yield (APY)
Regular Share and Holiday Accounts		
\$50 – \$2,499	.50%	.50%
\$2,500 – Over	1.00%	1.00%
Money Market Accounts*		
\$500.00 – \$2,499.99	1.00%	1.00%
\$2,500 – \$9,999.99	2.00%	2.02%
\$10,000 – \$24,999.99	2.50%	2.52%
\$25,000.00 +	3.00%	3.03%
IRA/Share Certificate		
48 Months, \$1,000 min.	5.50%	5.61%

LOAN RATES

New and Used Automobile Loans	as low as 5.90% APR
Other rates available, terms to 84 months, 100% Financed	
1st Mortgage Loans	Market
Home Equity	Prime – 1.00%
Signature Loans	as low as 12.90% APR
Maximum amount: \$15,000 • Terms to 72 months	

All share accounts' anticipated dividends are paid based on credit union earnings and are calculated daily on multiple minimum balances, compounded and paid quarterly. Funds must remain in the account until the end of the quarter to earn dividends.

*A maximum of five withdrawals per month is allowed from a money market account. After the maximum is exceeded, a \$5 fee is charged for each additional withdrawal.

NOTE: All rates are subject to change without notice at the discretion of the Board of Directors. Visit our website for more rates and terms.

Staff Training

We will close at 12:30 p.m. on Thursday, November 8 so that our staff can participate in training sessions.



Patent and Trademark Office Federal Credit Union
SERVICE IS OUR TRADEMARK!
www.ptofcu.org

1st Floor, 501 Dulany Street, Alexandria, VA 22314
Hours: 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m., Monday – Friday

Our Mission: To provide our members with the highest level of quality, convenient, and reliable service while maintaining financial strength.

Commentary is a quarterly publication of your credit union. Comments should be directed to the editor, Rita Turner.



This credit union is federally insured
by the National Credit Union
Administration.

designed & printed by visions, ink. 271716 9/07

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OCTOBER 2007

Get Ready for the Holidays

Gift Cards — Gift cards are available at the credit union in \$25 to \$500 denominations.

Holiday Loans — Need a loan to meet your holiday expenses? We can help. Holiday Loans in amounts between \$500 and \$5,000 are now available at a low rate of just 11.9% APR. The repayment term is 12 months.

Visa Cards — Our Visa cards come with rates as low as 10.9% APR. They're mighty handy to have when you're doing your holiday shopping.

Holiday Club Accounts — Account balances will be transferred to club members' primary share accounts on October 1.



OUR VISION:
TO ASSIST MEMBERS IN ACHIEVING LIFETIME FINANCIAL SECURITY.

New Services on the Way

Online Bill Payments

A recent online survey revealed many of our members would like online bill payment added to our services. We listened and we heard you and we are acting. Soon you'll be able to enjoy the convenience of online bill payments. With fewer envelopes and stamps to lick, we're sure you will appreciate the change. We'll tell you more as details become available.



Teen Accounts *Coming Soon*

We'll be rolling out accounts specially designed for members between 13 and 17 years old. But that's just for starters. We're cooking up a lot of new stuff for members in that age group—things like educational programs, scholarships, special savings accounts ...



See future issues of this newsletter for updates.

Holidays

Columbus Day, Monday, October 8
Veterans Day, Monday, November 12
Thanksgiving, Thursday, November 22
Christmas, Tuesday, December 25
New Year's Day, Tuesday, January 1

Member Appreciation Day

Thanks to all the members who attended our July 31 ice cream social. The event was enjoyable—and sweet—for everyone involved.

We'd like to welcome all the new members who joined in anticipation of the event. We'd also like to congratulate all the prize winners.



The Luck of the Draw. Five members took home prizes on Member Appreciation Day: **Krista Shine** (iPod Shuffle), **Lydia Abastillas** (iPod Shuffle), **Roberto Velez** (iPod Nano), **Kathleen Sonnett** (Six Flags ticket), and **Malik May** (Six Flags ticket).



Scenes from the Social



Your Input, Please

We are preparing our Member Education Calendar for 2008. Several seminars are being scheduled and we would like your input. If there is a particular topic you would like us to cover, send your suggestions to Rita.Harrell@ptofcu.org.



Avoid This Fee

If you have a PTOFCU account that you haven't used lately, keep in mind that we have a dormant account fee. It starts to kick in when there's been no activity in an account for 3 years. The fee is \$15 each quarter the account remains dormant.

You can avoid the fee with a deposit or withdrawal of as little as 5¢.