

# Commentary

SERVICE IS OUR TRADEMARK!

APRIL 2006 ■ **OUR VISION:** TO ASSIST MEMBERS IN ACHIEVING LIFETIME FINANCIAL SECURITY.

## Did we see you at our last annual meeting?

We'll hold our 2006 annual meeting on April 18 in the Madison Building in Auditorium B from noon till 2:00 p.m.

We hope you will plan to attend and be a part of something pretty special. If you don't know your elected officials already, this will be a good opportunity to get acquainted with them.

Don't miss the next one!  
*(Formal attire not required.)*

GOOD TO SEE YOU!

HOW HAVE YOU BEEN?



## GOT YOUR NEW VISA CARD?

We have a new Visa card, so don't use your old one. The new ones were mailed in March. Every member who had one of our old cards should have received a new one in the mail by the 24th. Please let us know if you're still waiting for yours to arrive.

## Meet Online Teller

A NEW SERVICE COMES TO PTOFCU

You now have free Internet access to your accounts! All you have to do is go to our website ([www.ptofcu.org](http://www.ptofcu.org)) and use the Online Teller link. It's the convenient way to:

- Make account inquiries
- Balance your checkbook
- Transfer and withdraw funds
- Download data to Quicken and Microsoft Money
- See your checks that have cleared
- Apply for a loan

To learn more, drop by and speak to one our member service representatives.



**Our procedures for wiring money have changed. For details, call the credit union.**

## Buck the Trend—Save!



The U.S. savings rate has now dropped to its lowest point since the Depression. In 2005, Americans actually spent more than they earned—\$42 billion more.

Last year's 0.5 percent savings rate means that many Americans spent every penny of their after-tax income. It also means that they either had to step up their borrowing or dip into their savings.

The last time the nation had a negative savings rate for an entire year was 1933: the year Hoover left the White House and FDR moved in. That was actually the second year in a row that the annual savings rate had dropped below zero.

Obviously, most Americans aren't saving money the way their parents did. Why is that? Back in 1932 and 1933, 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. Part of the answer may be changing attitudes toward saving and borrowing. Regardless of the reasons, many economists agree that many households will be in big trouble if a sudden surge in interest rates should occur.

Are you ready to start saving more money? Your share account is a good place for it. However, one of our other savings accounts may be a better choice. Stop by and talk to one of our member service representatives about your options. Be sure to ask about automatic transfers.

# Our Privacy Policy



PTOFCU will not share personal financial information related to you, except for operationally related activities where PTOFCU is allowed by law to share the information. Operationally related activities include using third party service providers or joint marketing, where PTOFCU controls what is being sent to our members. Under these circumstances, PTOFCU will share information with strict safeguards and will only allow for the information to be used for the stated purpose.

## Information We Collect About You:

We collect and may disclose non-public information about you from the following sources:

- Information we receive from you on membership and loan applications and other forms;
- Information about your transactions with us or others;
- Information obtained when verifying the information you provide on an application or other forms, such as from your current or past employers or from other institutions where you conduct financial transactions;
- Information we receive from a consumer reporting agency.

## Information PTOFCU Discloses About You:

We do not disclose any personal information about our members and former members to anyone, except as permitted by law, and then under the strictest safeguards.

## Exceptions Permitted Under the Law:

We may disclose information we collect about you as described above, to our affiliated companies and to companies that perform services on behalf of the PTOFCU, or to other financial institutions with which we have joint agreements. We may also disclose personal financial information we collect about you as necessary to process and service transactions generally, to effect, administer or enforce a transaction requested or authorized by you or for reasons authorized by law and regulations. These disclosures typically include information to process transactions on your behalf, conduct the operations of our credit union, follow your instructions as you authorize, or protect the security of our financial records. If you terminate your membership with PTOFCU, we will not share information we have collected about you, except as permitted or required by law.

## How We Protect Your Information:

We restrict access to non-public personal information about you to those employees who have a specific business purpose in utilizing your data. Our employees are trained in the importance of maintaining confidentiality and member privacy. We maintain physical, electronic, and procedural safeguards that comply with federal regulations and leading industry practices to safeguard your non-public personal information.

## HOLIDAYS

**Memorial Day**—Monday, May 29

**Independence Day**—  
Tuesday, July 4

**Labor Day**—Monday, September 4

**Columbus Day**—  
Monday, October 9

**Veterans Day**—  
Friday, November 10

**Thanksgiving**—Thursday and  
Friday, November 23 and 24

**Christmas**—  
Monday, December 25

## TRAINING DAY CLOSINGS

We will close at 12:30 p.m. on the dates below so that our staff can participate in training sessions. The office will reopen the following day at 9:00 a.m.

**June 15**

**September 21 • December 14**

## TELEPHONE DIRECTORY

<b>Main Office Number:</b>	571-272-0350
<b>Fax</b>	571-273-0190
<b>Accounting Department:</b>	571-272-0361
<b>Fax</b>	571-273-0191
<b>PATICU (Audio):</b>	571-272-0365
<b>Visa Customer Service:</b>	1-800-237-6211
<b>Visa Lost or Stolen:</b>	1-800-325-3678
<b>CU Mortgage:</b>	1-866-277-7680

Effective February 1, 2006

## LOAN RATES

### New Automobile

100% Financed, Fixed Rate

Max. Term	Min. Amt. Financed	APR
<b>Qualified Borrowers</b>		<b>5.90%</b>
72 mos.	N/A	6.25%
60 mos.	N/A	6.50%
72 mos.	N/A	7.25%

### Used Automobile (2006-2005-2004)

(See special rate on front)

100% NADA Retail Value Financed, Fixed Rate

Max. Term	Min. Amt. Financed	APR
72 mos.	No minimum	6.25%

Other terms and rates available.

### Auto Equity Loan

Qualified Borrowers		6.99%
84 mos.	\$10,000	7.99%

### Refinance Auto Loan

Same terms as 100% new car loan	-1.00% of current rate (Floor rate 5.90%)	12.00%
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### New & Used Motorcycles

#### Mortgage Loans:

1st Mortgage	Market
Home Equity (Special rate on front)	Prime + 1.00%

### EZ Equity (Qualified Borrowers)

EZ Equity	8.00%
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### Visa (Platinum, Gold, Classic, Secured)

<b>Unsecured Line of Credit</b>	<b>Fixed</b>
<b>Signature Loans</b>	12.90%

### Signature Loans

Maximum amount: \$15,000

Term		APR
60 mos.	(for those who qualify)	12.90%
60 mos.		17.50%
72 mos.		17.99%

## SAVINGS RATES

	Rate (APR)	Yield (APY)
<b>Regular Share and Holiday Accounts</b>		
\$50 – \$2,499	.25%	.25%
\$2,500 – Over	.50%	.51%
<b>IRA Accounts</b>		
\$50 – Over	2.00%	2.06%
<b>Money Market Accounts*</b>		
\$500 – Over	.55%	.55%
<b>IRA Certificates**</b>		
6 Months	2.38%	2.40%
12 Months	2.89%	2.92%
24 Months	3.08%	3.12%
36 Months	3.32%	3.36%
48 Months	3.40%	3.44%
<b>Share Certificates**</b>		
6 Months	2.38%	2.40%
12 Months	2.89%	2.92%
24 Months	3.08%	3.12%
36 Months	3.32%	3.36%
48 Months	3.40%	3.44%

All share accounts' anticipated dividends are paid based on Credit Union earnings and are calculated daily on multiple minimum balances. Anticipated dividends are 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.

\*\*Requires a minimum deposit of \$1,000. Early withdrawal penalty of \$100 or 3 months' dividends, whichever is greater, applies. **NOTE: All savings rates are subject to change without notice at the discretion of the Board of Directors.**



Patent and Trademark Office Federal Credit Union  
SERVICE IS OUR TRADEMARK!

[www.ptofcu.org](http://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.



Your savings are federally insured to \$100,000 by the National Credit Union Administration, a U.S. Government Agency.