



SUMMER 2009

Family Connections

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

Call us if your account number appears anywhere in this publication. If so, you'll have won \$25 but you must call us to claim it.

- American Debt Relief Challenge- what it means to you.
- 1st Mortgage financing update
- Mini-Survey

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NEED RELIEF FROM YOUR CREDIT CARDS OR OTHER HIGH INTEREST LOANS? WE MAY HAVE AN ANSWER FOR YOU

Have you really looked at your bank credit card bill lately? It's possible your rate has changed and you may not even know it.

If you find that you do have a high-interest credit card, ask us to help.

Generations Credit Union has joined the American Debt Relief Challenge to save local families roughly \$200 a month on credit card bills. While banks are rapidly increasing credit card rates, we are assisting good members like you to transfer high interest rate credit card debt to a Generations Credit Union credit card where you will find the rate is substantially lower.

Last year US credit union members saved \$11 billion dollars due to the lower rates and fees at *not-for-profit* credit unions. "Not-for-profit makes a world of difference. It means Credit Unions exist solely to help their members.

We can help if you:

- **Want relief from high interest credit card debt.**
- **Need to lower your monthly credit card payments.**
- **Want to pay off your credit card debt faster.**

Ask us about the American Debt Relief Challenge. Call (360) 357-5660 or 1-800-672-721 or ask us in person when you come in. Tell your friends and family. We can help them too. You will be amazed at how much you can save.

Also, we will gladly review any other loans you have to see if you can save even more by transferring them to a GCU as well. Our "Beat Their Rate" program may help you save even more of your hard-earned money.

If you qualify, we promise to beat any rate on an existing loan (with a maximum of 60 months remaining) by at least 1%, at least to our floor of 4%. 14317

LOOKING FOR A FIRST MORTGAGE LOAN OR LARGE REFI???

Contact John Zych, of Met Life Home Loans, our preferred partner. Along with offering a generous fee discount to our members, we are confident that John will treat you like one of the family to make your home financing experience a breeze. Work (360) 252-3611, Cell (360) 280-3288, Fax (360) 491-1258.

WE WANT TO KNOW WHAT YOU THINK!



Please take the time to complete our mini-survey when you are in the office or on our website. The surveys are just two questions with a comment box to make it easy and quick for our members to let us know how we are doing. The forms are at each teller window and the survey can be accessed online by clicking on the icon like the one above that is located on our home page at www.generationscreditunion.com. The information we gather from these surveys will assist us in future planning and goal setting to ensure we continue to provide the services and support you need and want.

We do thank you, our valued member, for your continued support.

IN A DOWN MARKET, IT PAYS TO KNOW THE FINANCIAL RISKS

Recognizing the different types of financial risk is key to a reasonably safe, prosperous investment strategy—especially during a time of uncertainty.

- * Market risk affects the price of investments and appears in the price of individual holdings, and in market averages.
- * Business risk affects the profitability of a business.
- * Interest-rate risk results from changes in interest rates.
- * Inflation risk results from a general rise in prices.

Today, "Most people are dwelling on market risk," says Steve Rick, senior economist at the Credit Union National Association, Madison, Wis. But much of the recent meltdown has roots in business risk that has battered some big names in American business.

The aversion to risk is causing "a huge flight to quality, liquidity, and safety," Rick says. Popular federally insured investments include Treasury bills and share certificates/certificates of deposit. CDs issued by Generation Credit Union are backed by the National Credit Union Administration (NCUA). 9593 However, a seemingly safe investment is subject to interest-rate risk, which can sap value from a CD if you must sell before maturity.

Due to inflation risk, the true yield on a bond or CD is its interest rate minus inflation. In contrast, deflation raises the real value of fixed-income investments.

Running away from risk can backfire, Rick adds. "In the stock market, typically after a period of low return, you get a period of above-average returns."

Falling interest rates offer opportunities. "With interest rates down so dramatically, everybody with a home equity loan or a mortgage should be going back for an opportunity to refinance, or even to restructure all debt" says Rick, .

Although some risk is inevitable, you can control many expenses. During a time of economic uncertainty, there is no reason to incur extra fees by bouncing checks—or by using a financial institution where the customer comes second.

You and other members come first at the credit union. Don't wait until you're in deep trouble to ask for a financial checkup at Generations Credit Union. In fact, the earlier you ask for a review, the better the outcome can be.

Stop by or call us today at (360) 357-5660 or (800) 672-7211.

JUST FOR LAUGHS

(These are allegedly answers that were given in elementary school exams)

Q: What happens to a boy when he reaches puberty?

A: He says goodbye to his boyhood and looks forward to his adultery.

Q: Name a major disease associated with cigarettes.

A: Premature death.

Q: How are the main parts of the body categorized?

A: The body is consisted into three parts—the branium, the borax, and the abdominal cavity. The branium contains the brain, the borax contains the heart and lungs, and the abdominal cavity contains the five bowels, A, E, I, O and U.

Q: What is a terminal illness?

A: When you are sick at the airport.

Q: Explain one of the processes by which water can be made safe to drink.

A: Flirtation makes water safe to drink because it removes large pollutants like grit, sand, dead sheep, and canoeists.

Q: What does the word "benign" mean?

A: Benign is what you will be after you be eight.

Priceless!!!!

MEMBER SURVEY

We recently placed a "Suggestion Box" in our lobby and installed a link to a survey on our website. Many of you have taken the time to give us feedback and we do appreciate it. We received many compliments on the service you have received and we sincerely thank you for those comments. Serving you is our pleasure. We want to make your visits to our office and to our website as productive and satisfying as possible. For those of you who felt the service you received was lacking we will do our best to prove to you that we value our members.

Of the many good suggestions we received there were two that were most prevalent in your responses upon which we would like to comment. The first is a drive-up window. While this is a service that is assumed to be provided by all financial institutions, unfortunately our facility is not structured to support this service at our current location. We are doing some long-range planning to address this issue and we will keep your suggestions in mind for future project developments. The second issue is Saturday hours. Rather than open the branch on Saturday, we chose to offer a "Shared Branching" program that benefits all of our members across the United States. This service provides some locations with Saturday hours and, at the same time, provides an option for those who may not live or work close to our branch to receive services at a more convenient location. Please visit our website at www.generationscreditunion.com and click on Branches or go to www.cuswirl.com to find convenient shared branch locations. Many of these locations may also provide no-fee ATM access as well.

We do take your suggestions very seriously and frequently discuss service options that will better serve our members. We are also developing a member advisory group and would welcome your participation. If you feel this would be a good fit for you, please contact Marylin at (360) 357-5660 Ext. 1115.

Thank you for allowing us to serve you.



GCU WILL BE CLOSED
Monday, September 7, Labor Day

Way to go! Reghan Thronson is our 2009 Scholarship winner.

WILBUR WOODROW WALTON SCHOLARSHIP 2009

We were very pleased to receive a number of awesome applications for our annual scholarship. It was difficult to narrow the field down to just one but unfortunately we could only choose one applicant. The lucky winner is Reghan Thronson from Okanogan High School. We were very impressed with her exemplary community service and stellar grade point average and are pleased to be able to assist Reghan with her higher education goals.

We do wish her and all of our applicants the best of luck in all of their future endeavors.

RETIREES SHARE LESSONS LEARNED

Plan to save more, live longer, structure your days, and be prepared for the worst as well as the best.

That's the advice of retirees sharing the lessons they've learned from retirement.

Create a network

Mary had to adjust to the loss of workplace relationships after she retired as a New York journalist to move to Florida. "A lot of my friends were tied to work," Mary says. She created a social network by visiting a friendly coffee shop and joining a spiritual group. Mary's retirement goals include learning how to make her money last into her 90s, since her mother lived to age 94. Now age 72, Mary works part-time as a freelance journalist to supplement her savings. "Become very self-reliant," Mary says. "You have to look out for yourself and understand your money."

Do some soul-searching

Olivia wishes she had worked longer before retiring at age 61 to take a "once in a lifetime" six-month boating trip with husband Douglas down the Mississippi River.

"I didn't plan long enough for having enough money set aside," says Olivia. "In hindsight, I should have worked a couple more years." Olivia has taken several short-term, full-time assignments from her former employer to rebuild her finances. She questions her retirement choices as she worries about getting—and staying—out of debt.

"Plan to live longer than you expected."

Jan planned extensively before her retirement from full-time work in 2001. That helped Jan and her husband buy a house in an Arizona retirement community where they found opportunities to work and play.

"Before you buy, go visit the facility and really picture yourself living there," Jan advises. "Figure out what it will be like, day to day." But Jan's optimistic plan failed to anticipate the impact of an economic downturn on her investments. 15379 While the couple is financially stable, Jan suggests including the "worst-case scenario" in any plan.

She also recommends a plan that extends from the active early years to the later sedentary stage. "You've got to have goals," Jan says.

As you plan for your senior years, consult with your Generations Credit Union staff about their investment resources and advice.

CAR BUYERS –TAKE NOTE! & INVEST IN AMERICA



Chrysler & General Motors are now offering up to \$6,000 in incentives to members whose credit unions have signed up for the "Invest in America" program when they purchase a new vehicle. GCU is a participating credit union which means our members can save up to 19% on the price of their new vehicle by buying a qualifying model from a Chrysler or General Motors dealer and financing it with GCU. Chrysler's bankruptcy means they are not financing any new vehicles which leaves the field wide open for America's credit unions.

If our members get pre-approved in house and directly finance any vehicle (over \$10,000) they will also get a **\$100** bonus from GCU. So the time has never been better to buy a new or used vehicle. Call us today at (360) 357-5660 or (800) 672-7211 or go to our website at www.generationscreditunion.com to apply for your new vehicle loan.

ANGELS EXPLAINED BY CHILDREN

I only know the names of two angels. Hark and Harold.
 (--Gregory, age 5)
 Angels don't eat, but they drink milk from Holy Cows.
 (--Jack, age 6)

PRIVACY POLICY

Member's Privacy Policy Statement

Generations Credit Union is owned by its members and run by a volunteer Board of Directors that is elected by the membership. Member financial privacy is a top priority of Generations Credit Union. This privacy policy explains how we collect, use, and safeguard our members' personal financial information.

Generations Credit Union collects non-public personal information about members from the following sources:

- Information we receive from our members on applications or other forms;
- Information about our members' transactions with us, our affiliates, or others; and
- Information we receive from a consumer reporting agency.

Generations Credit Union does not disclose any non-public personal information about members and former members to anyone, except as permitted by law.

We restrict access to non-public personal information about our members to those employees who need to know that information to provide products or services. We maintain physical, electronic, and procedural safeguards that comply with federal and state regulations to guard our members' nonpublic personal information.

The news about Chrysler's bankruptcy is good news for GCU members.

Dear Generations Credit Union Member,

Generations Credit Union remains strong during these trying times, but the problems facing Wall Street and the big banks are now filtering down to credit unions. With GCU's strong reserves, we've been able to manage through this, however, as a member-owned cooperative: I find it important to inform you of significant changes in our industry.

On Friday, March 20, 2009 the federal regulator and insurer for most U.S. credit unions, the National Credit Union Association (NCUA), placed two corporate credit unions, US Central and Wescorp CU, under conservatorship. These and other corporate credit unions serve as credit unions to the natural person credit unions, much like GCU serves it's members. Due to this action, GCU and other federally insured credit unions (96% of all credit unions in the U.S.) were required to devalue the investment we carried in our insurance fund and at Wescorp CU. This write down resulted in a reduction in our capital but our members can rest assured, even after these required actions, GCU remains a well-capitalized financial institution.

It is important to note that not a single credit union member has lost funds insured through the NCUA, even during the great depression. The NCUA 6315 has established a call center for credit unions and members to access additional information that can assist members in restructuring their accounts to ensure insurability of their funds that exceed the \$250,000 insurable limit. The toll free number is 800-755-1030 or the information is also available on their website at www.ncua.gov.

As a member-owned financial institution, we encourage you to continue to utilize GCU as a YOUR financial institution of choice. For more information on our great loan rates or other Credit Union services, please check out our website at www.generationscreditunion.com or contact me directly at (360) 357-5660 or (800) 672-7211 Ext. 1115.

Marilyn Ball-Brown, President/CEO



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Fax: 360-357-8456

E-mail: mail@generationscreditunion.com

Telephone Teller (800) 234-3728

Report a lost or stolen VISA:

CREDIT CARD (800) 442-4757

(outside the U.S.) (410) 581-9994

DEBIT CARD (800) 754-4128 or Telephone Teller

(outside the U.S.) (727) 227-7004

To contact the Supervisory Committee:

P.O. Box 1873

Olympia, WA 98507-1873

Hours of Operation

Mon-Tues-Thurs- Fri 8:30 am—5:30 pm

Wed 10:00 am - 5:30 pm

(If the State Payday (10th or 25th) falls on a 12251

Wednesday - open at 8:30 am)

2009

Board Members

Graeme Sackrison

Kathi Hamilton

Johanna Standish

Suzanne Fromme

Gail Swanson

Jacob Stewart

Jana Jones

Supervisory Committee

Jim Donnelly

Penny Hall

Sheila Johnson-Teeter

Kolleen Anderson

Credit Union Staff

Marilyn Ball-Brown, CEO

Terry McGuire, Operations Manager

Alan Olsen, Finance Manager

Carol Emmons, Lead MSR

Maree Benner, Lead MSO

Myrna Jorgensen, Accounts Control

Jensen Codera, Accounts Control

Debra Erickson, MSR/Visa Coordinator

Lacey Doyle, MSR

RaeAnna Hughes, MSR

Kaloa Van Horn, MSR

Nikki Lougheed, HR/Accounting

Jamie Holmstrom, Internal Auditor

