

PostScripts

A Quarterly Newsletter For Members Of
U. S. Postal Service Federal Credit Union

WINTER 2010

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And much more!

How to Get More from Your Membership

Keep More of Your Money

With a U. S. Postal Service Federal Credit Union Checking Account, you'll save money and enjoy access to your cash quickly and conveniently, no matter where life takes you! We offer free Checking, Vehicle Loans that will save you money, and investments that will make you feel good about the future. Why pay more when you don't have to?

Get Free Access to Cash!

It's not always convenient to find a surcharge-free ATM—unless you're a member of USPS FCU. With our **Free Access to Cash** program, you can always access your accounts for free anytime, anywhere.

Simply open a USPS FCU **Checking Account** with a **VISA® Check Card, CU E-LINK (home banking)** and enroll in **Direct Deposit*** of \$500 or more per pay to take advantage of **Free Access to Cash**. Visit www.uspsfcu.org for all the details!

Claim Your \$100 Bonus**

Stop by and complete a Checking application. Then switch all your financial accounts to USPS FCU using our convenient Online Switch Kit! Click the Switch Kit headline on our home page to get started today. To claim your \$100 Bonus, mail your Switch Kit cover letter to USPS FCU Attn: Marketing.

Claim your
\$100
bonus!

The Credit Union Difference

Remember, as a Credit Union, we exist solely to serve you and your fellow members. So naturally we're going to offer you a better deal than your average bank. If you're not doing all your banking at USPS FCU, maybe it's time you did!



*The minimum Direct Deposit is \$500 per pay. The Direct Deposit requirement is waived for members under the age of 24. Balance requirements and fees still apply. Eligibility is determined monthly.

**In order to receive proper credit to your account, please fill in your USPS FCU account number on the Switch Kit cover letter. To be eligible for this bonus, you must also have a minimum Direct Deposit of \$500 per pay. The bonus will be posted to your Savings Account within 30 days of your first Direct Deposit. Contact the Credit Union for complete details.

Testimonial from a Happy Member

Stephanie L. Smith of South Riding, Va., recently sent us this wonderful thank-you letter:



"I have been a member at the Credit Union for 11 years and had never switched everything to the Credit Union. I have enjoyed excellent service over the years with loans and savings products."

"Good customer service has largely become a thing of the past, but not at USPS FCU. It is in fact the customer service that I have consistently received over the years that helped me to decide to finally invest fully in the Credit Union and abandon my superbank, who shamelessly accepted bailout funds from the government and has continued business as usual while simultaneously allowing customer service to decline to ridiculously low levels."

"Thank you for your great customer service through the stages of switching all of my banking needs."

Tax Time Tips

Credits That May Lower Your Taxes

Thanks to the economic stimulus plan enacted last February, some taxpayers who made big purchases in 2009 will find that those purchases will save them money on their taxes this year. First-time homebuyers will get a credit for up to \$8000 and other homebuyers who went to closing between November 6 and December 31 may be eligible for a credit of up to \$6500. Homeowners who put in new windows, doors or skylights that increased their homes' energy efficiency may be able to write off 30% of the cost of those items. Many folks who bought new cars will be able to write off all of the fees and taxes associated with their purchases.

Be sure to use every credit you qualify for. It may be your obligation as a citizen to pay taxes, but as Judge Learned Hand once wrote, "Nobody owes any public duty to pay more than the law demands."

2009 IRA Deposits Still Being Accepted

Any IRA deposit you want credited to tax year 2009 must be in our possession no later than April 15. After close of business that day, all IRA deposits will be credited to 2010. (Keep in mind that IRA contributions made by payroll deduction are always credited to the year in which they were made.)



OUR VISA CARDS ARE GETTING AN

Extreme MAKEOVER

- **Platinum Rewards Program**
- **Better benefits**
- **A whole new look**



As we announced in the letter we sent to all members last November, we've converted our VISA cards to a new processor. That means we'll be able to improve the service we provide members who use our cards. We'll also be able to increase the benefits of using them.

On February 21 a new **Platinum Rewards program** will debut and everyone who has this card will be credited with 500 bonus points. Watch for more information about it in early March.

Balance Transfers Made Easy

Balance transfers are a cinch. Starting February 21 balance transfers will be available online.

If you don't have one of our VISA cards yet, we invite you to apply for one at www.uspsfcu.org and transfer the balances from your current card. Visit the Credit Union for more details.

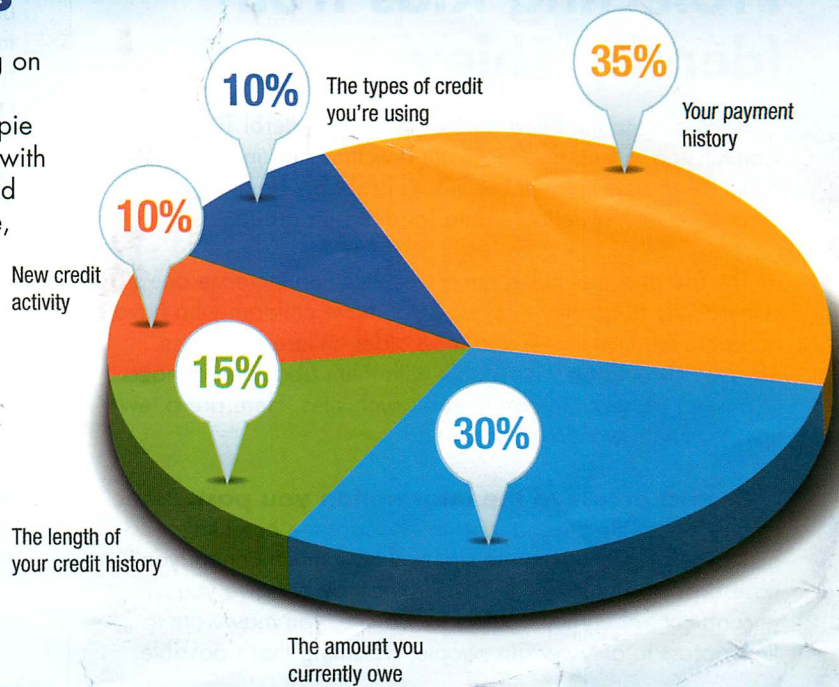


Calculating Credit Scores

Credit scores are derived in various ways. Depending on the formula being used, different weight will be given to different aspects of your credit history. On the right is a pie chart illustrating the factors generally considered, along with percentages reflecting the relative importance each would be given in calculating the most widely used credit score, the FICO score.

It is illegal to consider anyone's race, religion, national origin, sex or marital status when calculating a credit score. Here are some other factors that would generally not affect your score:

- Your age
- Where you live
- Interest rates you're currently paying
- Child/family support obligations
- Rental agreements
- Credit counseling



Club Accounts: A Smart Way to Save

To help you set aside funds for special occasions, USPS FCU offers a variety of club accounts. Deposits can be made by mail, in person, or through convenient Direct Deposit or Payroll Allotment. The minimum deposit is just \$5 biweekly. **Each account earns a competitive dividend rate that is higher than regular savings!**

Start Saving Now for Christmas

Saving through deposits to our Christmas Club is a longstanding tradition at USPS FCU. Open a *Christmas Club Account* now and, in October, the money you've deposited and the dividends you've earned will be transferred to your savings or checking account.

Plan for That Much Needed Vacation

Everyone needs a vacation from time to time, but not everyone can afford to do it as often as they'd like. Having a *Vacation Club Account* can ensure that you get the R&R you need without going into debt to do it. Funds are distributed in mid-May.

The Tax Man Cometh

If you expect to owe the government money at tax time, plan ahead. Open a *Tax Club Account* and be ready on April 15.

Be Ready for Anything

A *Special Purpose Club Account* can help with expenses such as a wedding, college, travel, household repairs, or anything else that comes along. Your funds may be withdrawn upon request.



Annual Meeting Scheduled for May 18, 2010

The 76th Annual Meeting of the U. S. Postal Service Federal Credit Union will be held from 11:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. on Tuesday, May 18, 2010 in the Ben Franklin Room of the U. S. Postal Service headquarters building at 475 L'Enfant Plaza West, SW, Washington, DC. As required by the Credit Union bylaws, notice is given that the following persons (listed alphabetically and with biographical data) have been nominated by the Nominating Committee to fill three two-year term vacancies on the Board of Directors.

Gilbert A. Ford, Jr., Incumbent

Mr. Ford has been a member of the Credit Union since 1990 and served on the Board for the past 18 years. His Postal career includes working on National Programs from a financial perspective. Currently, with more than 20 years of Federal experience, Mr. Ford is a Business Systems Supervisor with General Services Administrations (GSA). He was selected to attend the Harvard Kennedy School Executive Education Program in February-March 2010.

He served as Secretary/Treasurer of the Credit Union and as Trustee in his Church. Mr. Ford holds a BS from Florida A&M University and an MBA in Accounting.

Michael McCartney, Incumbent

Mr. McCartney, a member since 1981, has served on the Board since 1996; as Chairman from 1999-2003 and 2006-2010. He and the USPS FCU team have helped your credit union grow from \$88 million to over \$200 million. Throughout the recent financial crisis, he led the Board in making tough decisions to protect your assets resulting in the overall highest credit union NCUA rating.

Mike has a BS in Accounting, Masters in Public Administration (MPA) and 28 years experience in various positions in USPS Finance. He performs financial analysis and reports on major capital investment projects and programs to senior management and the Board of Governors.

Ann Trahan, Member

Ann Trahan, a postal employee for 25 years, has been a member of the Credit Union since 1997. She manages the WF Bolger Center for Leadership Development in Potomac, MD and has a BS degree in Psychology from Salem State College and a Masters in Business Administration from the University of Maryland University College.

At Bolger, Ann works closely with the management company to increase external business, increasing revenue for the Postal Service. She understands the impact the economy has on business and the importance of excellent customer service. She will strive to keep the USPS FCU viable moving forward.

Angelo Wider, Member

Mr. Wider has been a member of the USPS FCU since 1981. He has held executive positions in IT and Finance

at Headquarters and is currently the Manager, Finance Administration at USPS National Headquarters. He has managed programs and provided oversight and support for the CFO, Controller and Treasurer.

Angelo has a Bachelor's of Technology from City University in NY and a Masters in Special Studies, Telecommunications Operations and Managements from GW University in Washington, DC. He has also completed advanced managements programs at the American Management Association, Harvard, Duke and Maryland Universities and participated in the Senior Executive Roundtable at the National Institute of Public Affairs.

Richard Yessian, Incumbent

Mr. Yessian, a retired Postal Executive, has been a member of the USPS FCU since 1972. He served in the Headquarters Finance Group and Engineering.

Mr. Yessian was Chairman of the Supervisory (Audit) Committee of the CU from 1992 to 2006. His responsibility required knowledge of banking operations, regulations safeguarding member's deposits and hired the outside auditors. As a member of the Board, he has led the Board's initiatives on Facilities, Mergers, HR and Marketing. He also served on the Board of the NOVA Postal Employees FCU.

Mr. Yessian has college degrees, emphasizing business and technical disciplines, from City University of NY and NY University.

Would You Like to Be a Nominee?

If you have not been nominated, and you would like to run for election to the Board of Directors, you may do so by petition. Petitions must be signed by one percent of the membership (249 members) accompanied by a statement of qualifications, biographical data, and a signed certificate stating that you are agreeable to the nomination and will serve if elected to office. Petitions must be submitted by March 5, 2010, to the Secretary/Treasurer Timothy Gavagan, c/o USPS FCU, 7905 Malcolm Road, Suite 311, Clinton, Maryland 20735-1730. All nominees must be USPS FCU members.

The election will be conducted by mail ballot, as there are more nominees than positions to be filled. Election results will be announced at the 76th Annual Meeting.

Frederick J. Heinen Scholarship Contest

Who Is Eligible:

High school seniors/college students between the ages of 17 and 23 who are members (or relatives of members) of the USPS FCU.

Competition Rules:

Write an essay no longer than 1,000 words on the topic shown. Your essay will be judged on content, grammar, and spelling. To be accepted, entries must be postmarked no later than Wednesday, March 17, 2010. Please provide your relationship to a member if you are not a member.

Essay Topic:

As a young adult, what do you look for when choosing a financial institution?

Awards:

1st Place	\$1,000
2nd Place	\$750
3rd Place	\$500

Submit Entries to:

USPS FCU
Attn. Betty Myers
7905 Malcolm Rd, Suite 311
Clinton, MD 20735-1730,
or Fax: 301-856-7548, or
email to: bmyers@uspsfcu.org



Winners will be notified by mail and announced in the Summer PostScripts. The committee will also announce the winners at the 76th Annual Meeting on May 18, 2010. Checks for prize money will be payable to the winner and the college or university the student is or will be attending; the name of the college or university must be provided before a check is issued.

If you have any questions, call Betty Myers at (301) 856-5000, extension 1316. Employees, Board and Supervisory Committee members and their immediate family are ineligible to participate.

U. S. Postal Service FCU Gives Back

The U. S. Postal Service Federal Credit Union held a fundraiser for the *Fight against Breast Cancer* during the month of October. Members were able to purchase items or make a personal donation. The Credit Union agreed to match the final total at the end of the fundraiser. Overall, the Credit Union donated \$2,000 for the cause.



Roth IRA Income Limit Lifted

Starting January 2010, the \$100,000 income limit that has prevented many people from converting their retirement accounts to Roth IRAs is no longer in effect. All taxpayers can now move their traditional IRA, SIMPLE IRA and retirement plan savings into Roth IRAs.

Although Roth IRA contributions aren't tax-deductible, earnings are tax-free once the account holder turns 59½, so long as the account has been open for at least 5 years. So if you like the idea of tax-free retirement income, and you earned too much to open a Roth IRA in the past, you might want to take advantage of this change in the law.

According to the Department of Labor publication *Top 10 Ways to Prepare for Retirement* (which includes opening a Roth IRA among its recommendations), the average American spends 20 years in retirement. Who knows, you might turn out to be "above average"! Make the most of it, as long as you do. Whatever kind of retirement you opt for, make the most of it.

