

Loan Corner

Previous articles have discussed how creditors evaluate applications, what impact your payment history and total indebtedness have on your credit, and what steps can be taken to clear up both errors and your own credit boo-boos from the past. This article lists several ways that may help you eventually become debt-free altogether.

1. Pay more than the minimum: Break the habit of paying only the required minimum each month. Most creditors love you to pay only that minimum, because the longer the debt exists the more interest they earn. And don't get me started about what happens if you go over your credit limit or don't make a payment on time! Bite the bullet. Pay as much as you can each month. Examine your normal expenditures; you'll be able to find some extra money. Bring your lunch from home instead of eating out. Eliminate desserts. Stop going to happy hour, or picking up coffee and donuts each morning. Send it to your creditors, your debt will melt away and you'll save hundred, if not thousands, in interest.
2. Snowball your debt payments: Take a long, hard look at your credit card interest rates. Can you transfer a higher-rate balance over to a lower-rate card? If all your debt doesn't fit into one lower-rate card, pay at least the minimum on the lowest rate balances and funnel the majority of your extra repayment toward either the highest balance or the highest remaining rate. As soon as that balance is fully paid, funnel your increased repayment over to the next highest balance or rate, and work your way through all your charge and credit balances. As your debts decrease, the money available for repayment increases because of what used to be the payment on a balance that's now paid off.
3. Cash out your savings account: Leave a little for emergency expenses, but beyond your reserve, pay it on a debt. Paying off a 15% credit card balance is like earning 15% on your savings, with the additional advantage of getting rid of a monthly payment.
4. Borrow against your life insurance: If you have cash value life insurance, borrow against the policy and repay consumer debt. Yes, it is borrowing, but it's your own money, and yes, you do want to repay it before you take the big sleep so it doesn't pose a burden to your family or loved ones. The interest rate on a "cash value" loan typically is lower than commercial rates, and you can take your time paying back the loan. If you die before paying it back, the remaining balance plus interest is deducted from the amount payable to the beneficiary.
5. Get a home equity loan: If you own your own home and have accumulated some equity, consider a home equity loan line-of-credit (HELOC), hopefully from your credit union. There may be two advantages here. First, you pay off or pay down your consumer debt, trading 15% or more for a 4% - 9% home equity rate. Second, in most circumstances HELOC interest is a deductible item if you itemize on your income taxes, so not only is your interest rate lower, but Uncle Sam even returns some of it to you!

There's a trap here, though – you use a HELOC to pay off existing debt, notice your budget suddenly has extra money, and then create new debt all over again. Now you have to repay the new debt on top of the HELOC, and your hole just got much deeper. A dollar-wise consumer would use the HELOC to pay off consumer debt, then focus on paying off the HELOC that much sooner and be totally debt free.

More next quarter.

Tim Slack, Chief of Lending

SERVICES

Centurion Federal Credit Union offers many services at little or no cost to you. If you would like more information about our services, please check the appropriate item and bring this section to the office or mail it to us.

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Share Savings Accounts | <input type="checkbox"/> Direct Deposit | <input type="checkbox"/> Money Orders |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ultra Savings Accounts | <input type="checkbox"/> Low Cost Loans | <input type="checkbox"/> Cashier Checks |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Special Savings Accounts | <input type="checkbox"/> Home Equity Loans | <input type="checkbox"/> Amusement Park Discount Tickets |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Share Draft (<i>checking</i>) Accounts | <input type="checkbox"/> Home Equity Lines of Credit | <input type="checkbox"/> Notary Public |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Share Certificates | <input type="checkbox"/> Home Refinance | <input type="checkbox"/> Bank by Phone "SYBIL" |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual Retirement Accounts
<i>Traditional, Roth & Education</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> Loan Protection Insurance | <input type="checkbox"/> ATM (<i>Centurion "ANYTIME" ATM Card</i>) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Visa Credit Cards
<i>(with cash advances at ATM machines)</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> Disability Loan Protection Insurance | <input type="checkbox"/> Debit Card |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Christmas Club Savings | <input type="checkbox"/> GAP Insurance | <input type="checkbox"/> Visa Check Card |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Payroll Deductions | <input type="checkbox"/> Travelers Cheques | <input type="checkbox"/> Online Banking (<i>Perfect teller</i>) |

Please return to Centurion Federal Credit Union, P.O. Box 3787, Evansville, IN 47736-3787 along with your name and address.



Centurion Federal Credit Union

"The Tribune Forum"



June 30, 2004

100 Martin Luther King Blvd.,
Evansville, IN 47708
Post Office Box 3787,
Evansville, IN 47736-3787

220 E. 4th Street
Mt. Vernon, IN 47620
(812) 838-2398

(812) 422-1936
Sybil (812) 421-1648
www.centurionfcu.com
2511 First Avenue,
Evansville, IN 47710
Post Office Box 4486,
Evansville, IN 47724-0486



FYI - For Your Information

Your President/CEO Kris Ploetz is running for League director 3rd district. He ran last year although it was a very exciting race he was defeated by the incumbent. This time Kris hopes things will turn out in his favor, the incumbent is retiring, and that should make it a little easier. Although nothing is a sure thing, Kris has the backing of the Southwest Chapter and learned a lot from the experience of running last year. If elected Kris would be the 2nd to have served from Centurion. Jim Barney Sr. served as director and Chairman of the league 1983-1984 and President of the League 1965-1966. It would be an honor to served the Indiana Credit Union League and follow in Barney's foot steps.

MISSION STATEMENT

Centurion Federal Credit Union's mission is to provide a variety of services to all its members and to promote those services to each member in a manner that reflects the spirit of credit unions - "People Helping People."

GENERAL INFORMATION FOR YOU

If you haven't visited our web site www.centurionfcu.com please do. If you have any suggestions, you can email them to me from the web site. Also, online banking (perfect teller) at Centurion FCU is FREE, see Kris if you haven't signed up already. Kris@centurionfcu.com

CURRENT CERTIFICATE RATES

Effective Monday the 1st of July, 2004

Term	Minimum Amount	APR	APY
6 months	\$2,500.00	1.50%	1.51%
1 year	\$500.00	1.85%	1.87%
2 year	\$500.00	2.25%	2.27%
3 year	\$500.00	2.50%	2.53%

Savings Type	Input Code	APR	APY
Share Account	R	.80%	.80%
Share Draft	D		
	\$200.00 - \$999.99	.50%	.50%
	\$1000.00 & over	.75%	.75%
Christmas Club	X	1.25%	1.27%
Special Savings	S	.55%	.55%
Vacation Savings	V	.55%	.55%
Ultra Savings	U	2.00%	2.02%
IRA	I	2.75%	2.78%
Funds Manager	F	.55%	.55%

HOLIDAY CLOSINGS DURING THE SECOND QUARTER 2003

- Monday, July 5, 2004
- Independence Day
- Monday, September 6, 2004
- Labor Day

OFFICE HOURS

2511 FIRST AVE.

Monday - Thursday 9:00 AM - 4:30 PM

Friday - 9:00 AM - 5:30 PM

100 MARTIN LUTHER KING BLVD.

Monday - Thursday 9:00 AM - 4:30 PM

Friday - 9:00 AM - 5:30 PM

220 E. 4th MT. VERNON

Monday, Wednesday 8:30AM - 4:30PM

Thursday - NOON - 4:30 PM

Friday - 8:30AM - 5:00 PM

SCORE BOARD

APRIL 30, 2004

APRIL 30, 2003

ASSETS	\$21,068,664.94	\$20,648,760.66
SHARES	\$18,326,976.09	\$17,587,601.19
LOANS	\$11,366,419.56	\$11,581,354.39

Don't Become A Victim of On-Line Banking Scams

“Phishing” is on the rise! Don't get tricked into divulging personal information on line. Phishing is when scammers send e-mails disguised as coming from a real bank or credit union. They are actually from someone trying to obtain your credit card number or password.

Criminals are taking advantage of on-line banking. Nearly 2 million Americans have had their checking accounts raided by criminals in the past 12 months. Consumers reported an average loss per incident of \$1,200.00, pushing total losses higher than 2 billion for the year.

Here are a few simple rules to follow!

1. Be paranoid. Suspect any message asking for information such as credit card numbers, passwords, Social Security numbers, anything of personal consequence.
2. In the same thinking of paranoia, be aware of anyone standing too close behind you at the ATM's. With camera phones so prevalent it only takes a few moments to take an image of your password as you enter it.
3. Play it safe, don't click on a link in a suspicious e-mail, instead type in the link's address yourself. If there truly is a problem and your financial institution is trying to contact you, when you log on that site a notification will pop-up. Rule of thumb, when in doubt pick up the phone and speak with an individual. Or come by one of your local branches. It's your money....It's your piece of mind.

“Don't be a victim.” Don't let today's technological criminals rob you and your family of your earnings.

The Department of Justice advises e-mail users to “stop, look and call” if they receive a suspicious e-mail.

Stop. Resist the urge to immediately respond to a suspicious e-mail—and to provide the information requested—despite urgent or exaggerated claims.

Look. Read the text of the e-mail several times and ask yourself why the information requested would really be needed.

Call. Telephone the organization identified, using a number that you know to be legitimate.

For more information on this subject click on PCWORLD.COM, related links are:

More Scam Artists go phishing or Scam targets Consumer Bank Accounts. Steer clear of “PHISHING EXPEDITIONS”

Regina Flowers, Mt. Vernon Branch Manager

Centurion Says Good-Bye To Two of It's Finest

Charles W. Schuetter and Bill Hanssen both passed away in May. Charles W. Schuetter served as Chairman for Centurion 1974-1975 and as a director. Bill Hanssen, Cyrille William “Bill” Hanssen, served as Chairman 1972-1973 as a director and as President operating officer from 1984-1989 when he retired and Charles Ridings took over the operation.



Charles W. Schuetter, 81 of Evansville died May 13, 2004. He served in the U.S. Navy during WWII. He served on the Evansville Police Department for 22 years, retiring as Captain. After retirement, he worked at St. Mary's Medical Center in Security for 15 years. He was a past president of the FOP Lodge #73 and past Chairman of Centurion. Charles is survived by his wife of 62 years Mary Schuetter and son Robert.



Cyrille “Bill” Hanssen, 75 of Evansville died May 31, 2004. Bill joined the Police Department in 1953 after serving in Korea. I (Kris Ploetz) enjoyed Cyrille, he helped me get my feet wet with Centurion. When I first started he would come in and we would talk and he would always tell me I'm doing a good job. We would talk about problems he faced as President and issues I had before me, I will miss my friend. Cyrille “Bill” is survived by wife of 51 years Doris Hassen and son Dr. Jeffrey Hassen.

We thank the families for the job and time that both men gave us.

Uncirculated Quarters

Centurion has cards of several years issue of uncirculated “state quarters.” This is a perfect opportunity to start or add to your collection. They also make a great hobby to start with your kids or grandkids. Ask any teller, they’ll be happy to bring them out of the vault and show them to you.

1999 – nine sets
2000 – eleven sets
2001 – ten sets
2002 – eight sets
2003 – eight sets

Janette Lyon, Teller Trainer

AMUSEMENT PARK DISCOUNTS

If your plans include a visit to Holiday World or Six Flags at Kentucky Kingdom, stop by here first. Discount tickets are available.

AMUSEMENT PARK TICKETS

Holiday World
Adult / Child / Senior \$22.95

Six Flags @ Ky Kingdom
Adult \$19.00 Child/Senior \$17.00

Thinking about refinancing your mortgage while the rates are still low? We at Centurion, your credit union, would hate to have you miss out on a perfect opportunity to refinance your long term mortgage loan into a short term, low interest loan at Centurion Federal Credit Union. Rates will start to creep up again and now is the time to make the decision and lock in a low rate.

Centurion Federal Credit Union makes it easy to apply for a mortgage refinance, thanks to our expanded loan staff: Tim, Kris or Dana can help you. We do not do purchase money or pre-approvals but we do refinancing, home improvement and equity loans.

HELP US OUT, WE MUST HAVE...

If you have changed your: 1) Address, 2) Work number, 3) Home phone number, 4) Email address 5) Gotten married - new name? Please call us and update your account for the new year, 812-422-1936. Thank you.



Please limit drive-thru transactions to 3. Please have your transaction ready when you reach the window, be courteous to the other members in line.

Thanks For

MEMBERSHIP ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

The membership eligibility requirements for federal credit unions change recently. In order to become a member of Centurion FCU, you must:

1. Be employed by or retired from an employee group within the credit union’s field of membership.
2. Be an immediate family member (spouse, child, brother, sister, parent, grandparent, or grandchild) of a person within our field of membership or someone having an existing account. Step and adoptive immediate family member relationships also qualify.
3. Share a household with someone (not necessarily a relative) within our field of membership or a person with an existing CFCU account.