

#### WHITING REFINERY Federal Credit Union

1339 119th STREET • WHITING, INDIANA 46394 • (219) 659-3254 • www.wrfcu.org • January 2010



# You're Invited Help Us Celebrate 75 Years!

What: The Credit Union's 75th Anniversary Annual Meeting

When: Monday, March 15, 2010 at 7 p.m.

Where: Dynasty Banquet Center 4141 Calumet Avenue, Hammond, Indiana

**Why:** To celebrate the Whiting Refinery Federal Credit Union's 75 years of history and be informed about its operation during 2009.

This meeting is open to all Credit Union members. No ticket or pre-registration is required, however, calling the Credit Union in advance (219-659-3254) to say you will attend will help us with planning and will make you eligible for a Special Prize Raffle to be held at the meeting.

What Else: Attendee Gifts, Refreshments, Cash Door Prizes, Memory Sharing, Fellowship and a formal Business Meeting

**Board of Directors** 

Whiting Refinery Federal Credit Union

January, 2010

### Message from the Manager





The arrival of the credit union's 75th year in business brings to mind the fact that our doors are still open long after many banks and financial institutions have failed. We've survived the Great Depression, the Savings and Loan crisis of the early 80s and, most recently, the major recession which left many large financial institutions in ruins. We've been able to stay strong and profitable even in the worst of times. That says a lot about the credit union's commitment to you, our member.

That being said, I'd like to point out a few items which may be of interest to you. Currently, we are the 7th oldest chartered credit union in the state of Indiana out of 187. We've had four gentlemen who've held the office of President. The first was Leo M. Myers who served for over 40 years. Steve P Zambo, Jr., then took over the reins in 1977 and was President until his death in September of 2005. The next President to take office was John Lomax who served from September 2005 to March 2008. Our current President, George Toth, has held the position since April of 2008.

Throughout the years there have been numerous Treasurers who handled the job of running the office. Not until February of 1972 was the position of Manager created. Julie Kevek was the first to step into that position. She stayed on as Manager until her retirement in February of 1985. She was a great mentor who showed me the ropes and was only a phone call away if I ever had a problem or question to ask. February 1, 1985, was my first official day as Manager of the Whiting Refinery FCU. I can't believe I've been with the credit union for over a quarter of a century. I can honestly say that the last 25 years as Manager have been very rewarding. I've worked with a lot of wonderful people and have gotten to know many of you on a personal basis. I look forward to working a few more years and hope those years will be just as fulfilling. It's been my pleasure serving you, and as always, I want to thank you for your continued support and confidence. May the next 75 years be even better.

Carol A Graziani, Manager

#### Ready or Not: The Tax Man Cometh



April 15, 2010 is just around the corner so avoid that lastminute panic by getting the information you need to file organized now. Begin by labeling folders: one for income information (for example, W-2 forms and 1099 forms) and one for deduction (real estate tax bills, charitable gifts, mortgage interest). Also mark a folder for other information, such as the receipts for any energy efficiency improvements you made that qualify for a tax credit or a deductible contribution to a Traditional IRA. As forms from the credit union, any brokerage firms and other financial institutions arrive in the mail put them in your income folder along with the tax information from your employer. Go through your checkbook register, credit card statements, and other receipts to look for your deductible items. Gathering the information over time means that when you are ready to tackle your taxes you will experience less stress. You'll have everything at hand. You can crunch the numbers faster if you do the taxes yourself or have a neat package ready for vour tax advisor.



#### Making Resolutions



If the upcoming New Year finds you searching for some good resolutions, try some of these:

- 1. Spend more time with family and friends.
- 2. Help others do volunteer work.
- 3. Enjoy life more. By doing this, you will be a happier and healthier you!
- 4. Exercise regularly. Exercise keeps you healthy and make you look and feel better.
- 5. Make this the year you slim down and keep the weight off. Losing weight can make a difference in your health.
- 6. Write your will especially if you have young children.
- 7. Get out of debt. Get a handle on your finances.
- 8. Check your credit rating and score. It's best to learn about any problems with your credit record before you apply for credit. By doing this, you may have time to correct them.

# A Message from the MEMBERS® Auto and Homeowners Insurance Program and Liberty Mutual

Whiting Refinery Federal Credit Union members may be eligible for a discount of *up to 10*% on auto insurance through the MEMBERS Auto and Homeowners Insurance Program.\* If it's been awhile since you have shopped around for auto insurance, now is the time. You may be able to save an average of \$341.28\* a year with this program. Some members save even more. One quick toll-free phone call to *1-888-380-9287* will connect you with a licensed insurance representative who will provide a free, no-obligation rate quote. For an accurate comparison, please have a copy of your current policy and your driver's license in front of you and be sure to mention that you are a Whiting Refinery Federal Credit Union member.



Still carrying around your checkbook or a wallet full of dead presidents? Lighten up with a check card from your credit union. A check card allows you access to your credit union checking account at ATMs as well as most merchants who accept credit cards. It looks like a credit card, but it acts like a check. That means you just need to account for your withdrawal by subtracting the amount from your checking account balance. And, there are no worries about paying interest on a credit card transaction. With your check card from the credit union, you have the convenience of using a credit card, without its consequences. It's safer than carrying cash or your checkbook, too, because there are consumer protections available to you. To find out more about getting a check card, contact the credit union.



We hope that when you stop by the credit union to make a deposit or to apply for a loan you'll always hear a "thank you" from the staff member working with you. But we'd also like to put it in writing! All of us at the credit union (the board

of directors, volunteers, management, and staff) would like to express our appreciation to you for being a loyal member/owner. Your participation in the credit union is what makes us the safe and strong financial institution that we are. Thank you for your support. We literally would not exist without you: The only reason for our being is service to members. Remember, no matter where you are on your life's journey, we look forward to helping you achieve your financial goals in 2010 and beyond.

#### Car Buying 101: Negotiate Your Best Deal



We buy cars so we can get places quicker. But if you want to get the best deal on those new wheels, you'll need to slow down. Although a careful, calculated approach may seem difficult when your heart is throbbing, that new car smell is tantalizing your senses and you can't wait to get behind the wheel, it may save you thousands of dollars. A little patience will have a big payoff. Here are ten tips to get you started:

- 1. Do your homework. Consult web sites like www.edmunds. com, www.carsdirect.com and www.autos.com, as well as the annual auto issue of Consumer Reports. Use this information to narrow your choice.
- 2. Shop late in the month, when dealers are hoping to hit their sales goals. Shopping on a stormy day can be to your advantage, too.
- 3. If you are buying the vehicle jointly with a spouse or partner, settle any differences in private. Salespeople are adept at using a divide-and-conquer strategy, so you will want to have a unified front when you visit dealers.





- 4. Get your pre-approved loan at the credit union, but don't share that information with the salesperson. Dealers make money on their financing. If you indicate that profit center is not available to them, they will try to make it up on the price they charge for something else.
- 5. Test drive the car, but don't buy it that day. This not only shows the dealer you can walk away a key element in your favor, but also helps keep your emotions in check.
- 6. Don't believe it when the salesperson tells you that because of a special incentive program or rebate that the price is as good as it gets. There's always room to negotiate.
- 7. Watch out for hidden fees.
- 8. Be careful of add-ons, like extended warranties or accessories.
- 9. Get everything in writing and read it all slowly and completely, before you close the deal.
- 10. If something doesn't feel right, walk away. There are lots of other car to buy and lots of other dealers to buy from.

WRFCU AUTOMOBILE LOANS  New - 4/1/2009			
CAR YEAR	RATE	% FINANCING	TERM
NEW & USED	4.80%	100%	36 Months
2009	4.90%	100%	48 Months
	5.00%	100%	60 Months
ONLY AVAILABLE ON			
NEW & USED	6.00%	100%	72 Months
2009	7.00%	100%	84 Months
OVER \$20,000.00			
2008	5.00%	100% Book Value	36 Months
	5.25%	100% Book Value	48 Months
2007	5.50%	100% Book Value	48 Months
2006	5.25%	75% Book Value	42 Months
	6.00 %	100% Book Value	42 Months
2005	5.25%	70% Book Value	42 Months
	6.25%	100% Book Value	42 Months
2004	5.25%	65% Book Value	36 Months
	6.25%	100% Book Value	36 Months
2003	5.50%	60% Book Value	24 Months
	6.50%	100% Book Value	24 Months
2002	5.75%	50% Book Value	24 Months
	6.75%	100% Book Value	24 Months

#### **Dividend News**

The Board of Directors declared to pay 1.00% APR/1.00% APY on all eligible share accounts for the Fourth quarter of 2009 payable January 1, 2010.

#### **Certificate Rates**

1 Year (\$1,000.00 min) 1.75%APR/1.76%APY 2 Year (\$1,000.00 min) 2.00%APR/2.02%APY

#### Loan Rates

SIGNATURE LOAN (\$10,000 maximum)

7.00% 12 Months 9.50% 48 Months

SHARE PLEDGE LOAN

4.50% 60 Months

STOCK LOAN (50% Market Value)

5.00% 60 Months

**EDUCATIONAL LOAN** 

7.00% 48 Months

#### MORTGAGE LOANS

Our low loan rates change often. Call Ted Izak at Lake Mortgage for more information or to apply for a loan. 219-769-5941 or 1-800-627-5566.

## Whiting Refinery Federal Credit Union

SERVING OUR MEMBERS SINCE 1935

1339 - 119th Street, Whiting, Indiana 46394 (219)659-3254

#### **HOURS**

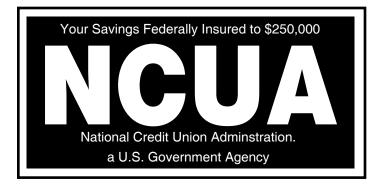
8:15 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. - Monday thru Friday Payday Friday - Open until 6:00 p.m.

www.wrfcu.org

#### **Holiday Closings**

Friday, January 1st NEW YEAR'S DAY

Monday, February 15th PRESIDENT'S DAY



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