

Sandy Dail, President

Employment Security Employees CREDIT UNION

Kansas
Departments of
Labor & Commerce



“Serving employees
and their families
since 1943”

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E-Statement

Many members are enjoying the benefit of having their quarterly statement emailed to them. The Credit Union is very excited to be able to offer this free service. Here are some good reasons to elect to have yours delivered this way:

- It's free – no cost to you
- You won't have to wonder where you put your statement
- You can choose whether your statement is printed
- You won't have all those statements piling up on your counter
- You'll be part of the ongoing Go Green effort

It's a simple form included with this statement. Please complete, sign and return the pink form today. If you have any questions, please call or email.

International Credit Union Day

International Credit Union Day (ICUD) is Thursday, October 17, 2013. This year's theme is "Credit Unions Unite For Good, a Better Way." We've been here for you during all those years and we plan to be here for the years ahead. Without you, there would be no Credit Union. Spread the word to your family and friends about the Credit Union way, whether it's here or another Credit Union. We unite for good, for you our members. We strive to better our service and improve technology to the best of our ability.

We're celebrating in the parking lot at 401 SW Topeka Blvd. There will be popcorn and a chance to sign up to win a great movie basket. "Pop" in and celebrate with members worldwide. Thank you for being an owner of the Employment Security Employees Credit Union.

Directors Declare Dividends

A dividend of .25% APR (.25% APY) for the quarter ending September 30, 2013, was declared by the Board of Directors. Watch your savings grow with the Employment Security Employees Credit Union. We stay competitive so you can earn the most for your money. All Credit Union share rates are subject to change quarterly with dividends figured daily and paid quarterly.

NCUA

Your savings are federally insured to at least \$250,000 and backed by the full faith and credit of the United States Government National Credit Union Administration, a U.S. Government agency.

UR Special To Us

You've waited patiently and now it's here. The **UR Special Loan** (formerly known as the Christmas/Summer Special) is available now. These funds can be used for anything you want – pay off a high interest credit card, car repairs or other bills. This time of year we're getting ready for Christmas and recovering from back-to-school expenses. Use these funds to catch up. Interest rates on this loan are as low as 11%*, with up to 12 months to repay. We can't help if you don't call.



*Current signature loans cannot be incorporated into a UR Special Loan. Any refinance of a special would be at the current qualifying rate at the time of refinancing. Rate quotes are subject to credit approval and are subject to change without notice. Rates listed are best qualifying rates. All loan policies, procedures and guidelines will apply.

And Then There Was One

As most of you know, we now have only one employee, Sandy Dail. Our services and benefits will continue and be business as usual. On occasion, the Credit Union may be closed due to business/training being conducted off-site, scheduled closures or other emergency situations. We will do our very best to give membership notice. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to call or stop by.

STAFF

Sandy Dail, President

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Seven Tips to Safe Online Shopping During the Holidays

These days you have to keep track of more than just your wallet during the holidays. According to the National Retail Federation, more than half of gift-givers will shop online.

1. Use strong passwords. We've mentioned this before, but once again, the most common passwords are *abc123* and *123456*. If you are using these passwords, change them. Use letters, numbers and symbols – and more than six characters. The time it takes for a hacker's computer to randomly guess a six-letter password using lowercase letters is only 10 minutes. An eight-digit password with upper and lower case letters, symbols and numbers would take a hacker 463 years to crack. The more letters, numbers and symbols used in a password, the stronger it is . . . and the better protected you are.



2. Shop on trusted networks. It's probably not safe to make an online purchase on a free, public Wi-Fi network. Shop using your own wireless network.

3. Make sure your security software is up to date. We all have security software installed on our computers. Check your anti-virus software, anti-spyware software

and firewalls to make sure you are using the latest version on all your desktops, laptops and mobile devices.

4. Secure your browser. Before entering personal information, ensure your browser is locked. The URL should start with "https." The "s" means it's secure. In addition, look for the lock icon located in the window of the browser and not on the page itself. If you are using Internet Explorer, the lock icon will appear at the top of your browser bar; on Firefox it appears at the bottom of the browser.

5. Avoid pop-up screens during online shopping. Hackers and identity thieves can develop pop-up screens to steal information. Legitimate shopping sites will never ask you to enter personal or financial information on a pop-up screen.

6. Use credit cards, not debit cards. If a hacker or phisher obtains your debit card number, they may gain access to your checking and savings accounts. A debit card does not offer the same protection as a credit card.

7. Be wary of scams. Phishing scams (using text messages or email) are on the rise. Never respond to an email or text message that seems fishy. Be a cautious buyer. If a deal seems too good to be true, it probably is. And while a legitimate business will need credit card information to complete your purchase, a business should never ask for your Social Security number or driver's license number.

How Much is Credit Card Debt Costing You?

According to the Federal Reserve, in April 2013 the average credit card debt equaled \$3,364 per U.S. adult. The only way to reduce credit card debt is to make payments each and every month. To reduce this even faster, you should pay more than the minimum payment each month.

You can save nearly \$4,000 by paying more than the monthly minimum balance on your credit card. By only paying the minimum monthly balance, you are guaranteed to extend the amount of time it will take you to pay off your credit card and increase the amount you will pay. Following is an example:

Total Credit Card Debt	Monthly Payment	Years to Pay Off	Total Cost
\$3,364 (at 14.96% interest)	\$67.28 (minimum payment)	19 years, 5 months	\$7,618.63
\$3,364 (at 14.96% interest)	\$87.28 (minimum payment + \$20)	4 years, 4 months	\$4,553.67
\$3,364 (at 14.96% interest)	\$107.28 (minimum payment + \$40)	3 years, 4 months	\$4,225.11
\$3,364 (at 14.96% interest)	\$167.29 (minimum payment + \$100)	1 year, 1 month	\$3,841.40

By paying an extra \$100 a month to credit card payments, you can reduce the payment time by 17 years and save nearly \$4,000!

Let Your Voice Be Heard . . . "Don't Tax My Credit Union"

Did you know there are some in Washington, and other places, who want to push for the elimination of the tax exempt status credit unions have had since our inception?

What does that mean to you, our loyal members? It will cost you money and make it more difficult for all credit unions to give the services you want, need and have had. Your voice counts in this decision.



This affects all of us. Credit unions are a not-for-profit, member owned cooperative. We are democratically controlled and volunteer-run, unlike most other financial institutions. Balancing the budget will not be achieved by taxing credit unions. Credit unions hold about 6% of all financial assets worldwide while banks hold the rest. We did the math – taxing credit unions is not just bad for our nation's economy, it's really just a tax on you, the member/owner.

We implore you to send a strong message to Congress: "Don't tax my credit union."

Visit www.DontTaxMyCreditUnion.org to contact your U.S. Representative and Senators.

Student Loans: Think Before You Borrow

The total amount of outstanding student loan debt in the United States now tops \$1 trillion. To make matters worse, recent graduates have been emerging from colleges and universities, with diplomas in hand, into one of the worst job markets in living memory. This, coupled with high unemployment, makes it difficult for these students to make payments on their student loans.

How can students protect themselves from defaulting on student loans? Tips to consider:

- Employability after graduating.

Some fields, such as psychology for example, tend not to pay well until you have a master's degree. Lean toward STEM majors –science, technology, engineering and math. These fields provide students with hard skills that are more marketable to employers.

- Don't co-sign student loans for your children if you cannot afford the risk of default – especially if they won't be obtaining a marketable degree, or one that is not from a recognized, accredited institution.

- Make maximum use of scholarships and the Post 9/11 GI Bill. Tip: Some veterans with the Post 9/11 GI bill are able to transfer unused GI Bill benefits to family members. If you have a veteran in your family, explore this option.

