

THE BULLETIN BOARD

4th Quarter
2007

★ ★ A Publication for members of Ascension Credit Union ★ ★

Dates to Remember

Dec. 24	Close @ Noon
Dec. 25	Closed for Christmas
Dec. 31	Close @ Noon
Jan. 1	Closed for New Years
Jan. 21	Closed for Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
Jan. 28	Report Card "A" Drawing
Feb. 2	Closed for Mardi Gras



LOAN LATE FEE CHANGE

Loan payments made 15 days or more delinquent will be charged a late fee of 5% of the regular payment amount, with a minimum fee of \$5.00.

Thank You for Your Business - Happy 2008



On behalf of everyone at Ascension Credit Union, thank you to all our loyal Members. We wish you and your families a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year. We value your business and look forward to continuing to provide you with exceptional service and community support.

Financial Strategies for the New Year Tips for Making the Most of Your Money

If you're like most of us, at least a few of your New Year's resolutions have to do with money. Ascension Credit Union wants to help you turn your financial resolutions into realities. The financial strategies below can help you get started.

- **Pay yourself first** - Set aside a portion of your paycheck each pay period for savings, before paying any of your bills. Most people can save up to 10% of their incomes and hardly notice. If you don't believe you can set aside 10%, then start by saving only 5% and slowly increase your savings until you reach 10%.
- **Take Advantages of higher interest rates** - Once you've accumulated a minimum balance of \$1000, take advantage of higher rates using one of Ascension Credit Unions' Share Certificates.

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College Money Available

Graduating high school seniors are invited to apply for the 2008 Ascension Credit Union Scholarship Award. This year's award is based on three categories: demonstrated scholastic achievement, a 500 word or less written essay, and community service/extracurricular activities. Interested seniors must be members of Ascension Credit Union before January 1, 2008, and in good standing.

Completed applications must be received no later than 5pm on Monday, March 31, 2008. They can be brought in or mailed to ATTN: Scholarship Committee, Ascension Credit Union, P.O. Box 248, Gonzales, LA 70707-0248. The \$1,000 award presentation will be made during the Annual Meeting. Applications are now available in the branch, online at our website, www.ascensioncu.org and at each area high school.

Good Luck!



- **Contribute to an IRA** - (Individual Retirement Account) This is a great way to save for retirement, while even getting a tax break. So make every effort to contribute the maximum allowed. The sooner you start saving, the longer your money has to grow and the more likely you'll be able to reach financial independence.
- **Open a Christmas Club Account** - Doing this prevents you from getting caught short next year when it's time to do your holiday shopping.
- **Use payroll deduction to save systematically** - A fixed amount of money is taken out of every paycheck, so the cash never reaches your checking account. What you don't see, you don't miss — and you don't spend.
- **Save the money from your next raise or bonus** - Put it aside. Add to what you are already saving. Don't spend it!
- **After you've made your final payment on a loan** - Have that same amount (or a portion) automatically deposited to your savings account.
- **Consolidate your debt** - Don't kill yourself all year paying high interest rates. Utilize Ascension Credit Union and its lower interest credit cards or loans — maybe this is the time to apply for a home equity line of credit, signature loan or new VISA.
- **Review your insurance coverage** - Nothing can devastate your savings like a medical emergency, a lost job, accident, or natural disaster. That's why it's critical to make sure your financial planning includes insurance. You need adequate life insurance, medical, disability, vehicle, and homeowners policies. Remember, we are here to serve and protect you so anytime you borrow money from Ascension Credit Union you can add Credit Disability and Credit Life insurance policies.

For additional information on planning for your financial future or on any of the services Ascension Credit Union offers and provides contact a Representative at 225-621-2800.

Tax Time Preparation

It's that time again, so please make sure you keep your December 2007 statement enclosed with this Newsletter. The statement includes information for tax filling purposes, including year-to-date dividends and loan interest paid. This information can be found at the bottom of the statement.

Also, did you know that, YOU, and all our members have the option to have their tax refund direct deposited into their credit union account? The 1040 and 1040 EZ forms have blanks in the "refund" area of the form to complete for direct deposit. In order to receive your refunds via direct deposit, you must fill out the following information on the form:

- The credit union's routing number: 265474057
- Your account number
- The type of account: share account/checking account

If you do your taxes online or have someone do them for you, the same information should be used to have your refund direct deposited

Let Your Fingers Do the Walking . . .

Call Center Offers One-Stop Convenience and it's a Free Service



Forget about squeezing in a trip to the credit union when you just don't have the time! Instead, contact the Call Center to take care of most of your credit union needs. Call Center Representatives are available Monday - Friday to help you with just about any request. Here are many of the services available through the Call Center

- Get help with information on any of your Credit Union accounts
- Place a stop payment*
- Transfer money between accounts or from your account to a family member's account
- Get your loan payoff balance or a loan payment quote
- Request a check withdrawal payment be mailed to you
- Reorder checks*
- Get your balance or the amount of your direct deposit
- Get help understanding your statement
- Get help signing up for Online Banking, Bill Pay and Access 24
- Obtain loan and savings rates
- Get answers to IRA questions
- Get answers to general credit card questions
- Report lost/stolen debit card
- Report an address change, so we can send you the formal documentation to fill out
- Get a loan payment quote
- Get detailed information on all types of accounts before coming into the credit union. This will streamline the process.

*fees may