



United Community Credit Union

Members' Quarterly

www.unitedccu.org

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STILL WRITING CHECKS? Consider the Benefits of Paying Bills Online

If paying bills online is convenient, fast, saves money, and allows greater control, why do more than three-quarters of us still write checks the old-fashioned way?

Given all the benefits of online bill-pay, it's a mystery why more people don't take advantage of the service. Perhaps it's because we don't like change, we don't like the thought of setting up all the accounts, or we're worried about sending payment data over the Internet.

Believe it or not, paying bills online actually may protect you from identity theft. The most common theft of our personal information is not from the Internet—it's from statements left in a mailbox or pilfering paper with personal information from the garbage. Also, bill-pay sites use encryption technology to scramble your data during transmission.

Once you take the plunge, you won't regret it. You can now use United Community Credit Union's new and improved Bill Payer service to pay all your bills.



Now you can:

- Make multiple payments from one screen;
- Pay bills from multiple deposit accounts;
- Person-to-Person Payments (P2P) allow users to send money to anyone with an e-mail address and a U.S. bank account;
- Me-to-Me Payments (Me2Me) allow inter-bank transfer of funds to personal accounts at other financial institutions;
- Set payee and payment amount thresholds;
- Categorize payees for easier payment management;
- Pending payment calendar provides a month at a glance view;
- E-mail reminders of payments due and bills not paid by a "no later than" date;
- Extended customer service hours and live chat.

It gets better! So long as you pay at least (3) bills online during each monthly cycle, you can use our Bill Payer service for **FREE**. If you want to go paperless, we can help you streamline the process. For more information, talk to us or try the online Bill Payer demo for yourself at www.unitedccu.org.

FACT Act Helps Consumers Build Credit, Prevent Fraud

A new law, the Fair and Accurate Credit Transactions Act (FACT Act) helps consumers understand their credit rights, understand their credit reports, and fight identity theft. Most of the FACT Act changes are effective by the end of 2004.

Key provisions regarding credit reports:

- Consumers must have greater access to credit reports and credit scores.
- Consumers must have better information about opting out of prescreened credit offers and information sharing between affiliated companies for marketing purposes.
- Consumers must be able to get credit scores from credit bureaus for a reasonable fee.
- Credit bureaus must provide a free credit report annually, phased in by region, to consumers who request a copy.
- Financial institutions that provide information to credit bureaus must ensure the accuracy and integrity of that information.
- Financial institutions must notify members before or within 30 days after the fact that they're reporting negative information to credit bureaus.

Key provisions regarding identity theft protections:

- The Federal Trade Commission will develop model forms to standardize how consumers report identity theft to creditors and consumer reporting agencies. Until then, use the ID Theft Affidavit at www.ftc.gov/idtheft.
- A nationwide fraud alert system will require credit reporting agencies to ensure that any future requests are by the true consumer, not an identity thief posing as the consumer.
- Credit bureaus must share identity theft complaints, and consumers need only make one call to receive advice and to set off a nationwide fraud alert.
- Merchants must leave all but the last five digits of a credit card number off store receipts.
- Active duty military personnel can place special alerts on their files while deployed overseas.

Check Out Our Website:

www.unitedccu.org

Are You A Winner?

If your account number appears below, let us know, and we'll credit your share account \$10.

#800 #5018 #7382
#9523 #11362 #12747

Office Closings

January 17 Martin Luther King Jr. Day
February 21 President's Day



Members' Quarterly
is published each quarter by the
United Community Credit Union

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Sorting Out Your IRA Options

Here are general guidelines to help you decide which IRA is right for you:

If you're eligible to contribute to a Roth IRA and also to make tax-deductible contributions to a traditional IRA: Assuming you would contribute the same amount to either type of IRA, your decision depends on what you'd do with your tax savings if you make tax-deductible contributions to a traditional IRA. Your decision also depends on your projected tax bracket in retirement.

For example, if you contribute \$4,000 a year to a traditional IRA and you're in the 25% federal income tax bracket, your tax bill would be reduced by \$1,000. Would you take this amount from your tax refund or from savings and invest it in a taxable account for retirement each year?

If you invest this savings and add it to your traditional IRA, and you project that your income tax bracket in retirement will significantly decrease, you would have more after taxes at retirement with a traditional IRA than a Roth IRA. Why? You're sheltering current income from a higher tax rate now and making withdrawals later at a lower tax rate.

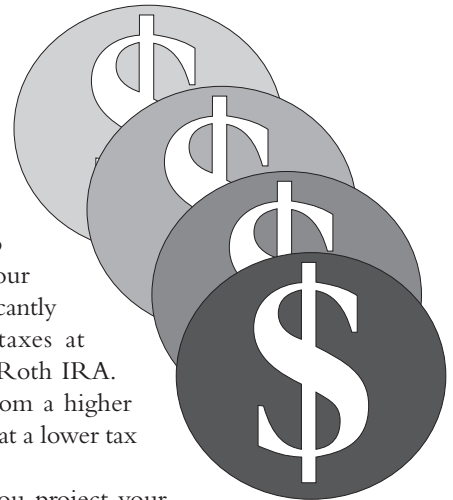
Even if you'd invest this savings, but you project your income tax bracket in retirement will stay the same, fall only slightly, or increase, you'll have more after taxes with a Roth than a traditional IRA.

Similarly, if you wouldn't invest this savings, you'll have more after taxes at retirement with a Roth IRA. That's because you spent all your up-front tax savings from your traditional IRA contributions, so that money is not part of your retirement fund.

* If you're not eligible to make tax-deductible contributions to a traditional IRA but you're eligible to contribute to a Roth IRA: You'll have more after taxes at retirement if you contribute to a tax-free Roth IRA rather than making nondeductible contributions to a tax-deferred traditional IRA.

* If you're only eligible to make non-deductible contributions to a traditional IRA: Whether this type of IRA contribution is right for you depends on what types of investments you'll make and other available retirement savings options.

UCCU has all the IRA options you need at very competitive rates. If you need a place to park your retirement funds, see us today.



OFFICE HOURS

	Lobby	Drive-up
Monday-Wednesday	8:30-5:00	8:00-5:00
Thursday	9:00-5:00	8:00-5:00
Friday	9:00-5:30	8:00-6:00
Saturday	9:00-12:00	9:00-12:00

UCCU RATEBOARD

(As of January 1, 2005)

DIVIDEND RATES APY

Regular Shares	0.75%
Share Drafts (checking)	0.25%
Multi-Purpose Club	0.75%
Christmas Clubs	0.75%
IRAs	3.04%
Hi-Yield	
\$500-\$9,999	1.15%
\$10,000-\$49,999	1.35%
\$50,000 and above	1.55%

Term Certificates	
6 Months	2.00%
12 Months	2.50%
18 Months	2.75%
24 Months	3.00%
36 Months	3.50%
48 Months	4.00%
60 Months	4.50%

LOAN RATES

Secured: includes Cars, Trucks, Campers, RVs, Motorcycles, ATVs, Snowmobiles and Boats.

TERM*	RATE*
24 Months	4.00%
36 Months	4.50%
48 Months	5.00%
60 Months	5.50%
72 Months	6.00%

Add 1.25% for 1998 to 2001 model years
 Add 2.50% for 1997 and older model years
 Add 2.00% for non-titled RV vehicles
 Add 2.00% for vehicles over 100,000 miles

Unsecured:

60 Months	8.00%
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* Rates and terms are determined by an evaluation of your credit.

Other:

Home Equity Line-of-Credit	4.75%
(Over 80% LTV)	5.75%
Home Equity Fixed	
60 Months	5.25%
120 Months	6.00%
180 Months	6.75%
Share Secured	2.75%
Hi-Yield Secured	3.75%
VISA Credit Card	11.90%
Home Mortgages	call for current rates

All Rates are subject to change.
 (For current rates, visit our website at www.unitedccu.org)

We Love Our Debit Cards

They look like credit cards, but when consumers make purchases using debit cards, the dollar amounts are deducted from their checking accounts.

Why are people reaching for their debit cards in record numbers?

* **Convenience** — It's quicker to pull out a plastic card at the point-of-sale than to write a check. It's also easier to track spending with cards than with cash—and using plastic eliminates the need to even carry cash. According to a MasterCard survey, consumers rate convenience as debit's primary advantage.

* **Pay-as-you-go** — With debit, you have the convenience of plastic without carrying a loan balance or paying interest.

* **Balance caps** — Because debit cardholders can only spend the money they have in their checking accounts, debit cards help control spending.

* **Security** — Security features built into debit cards help merchants verify that the actual cardholder is the one using the card.

* **Cash back** — If you use your PIN (personal identification number) for a debit card transaction rather than signing a receipt, you can request cash back at many merchant locations. The merchant will add the cash amount to your transaction total.

* **Wide acceptance** — Debit cards are accepted at locations worldwide, while many merchants are reluctant to accept non-local checks.

Please let us know if you would like a UCCU CuCard so you too can have the convenience and security of a debit card and the ATM access that we combine with it.

Official Notice of the 62nd Annual Meeting of the United Community Credit Union

Saturday, March 5, 2005
at the Canadian Club
Route 14
Barre, Vermont

SCHEDULE

5:30 - 6:30	<i>Social Hour</i>
6:30 - 7:30	<i>Dinner: Baked Stuffed Chicken Breast</i>
7:30 - 8:30	<i>Business Meeting (see below)</i>
8:30 - Close	<i>Entertainment: Music & Dancing</i>

BUSINESS MEETING includes Acceptance of Reports, Election of Officers,
Authorization to Borrow up to the legal limits,
Proposed By-Law Changes, and any other business.
Doorprizes will be presented during the Business Meeting

Tickets: \$9.00

Tickets must be purchased by March 2, 2005, through the Credit Union Office.
Stop by 560 S. Barre Road, or call 479-2836, and we can deduct the amount from your
share account for the reservation.

No refunds can be extended after February 26.

There are a limited number of tickets, so please reserve early!