

Shareletter

March 2010

Could your
finances
use some
spring cleaning?



Looking to clean up your credit? Want to fix-up your finances?

Spring has sprung and it's time to clean house from top to bottom. While you clear away the clutter and the cobwebs in your home, don't forget to check in on those finances too--they may need some polishing as well. At Pacific NW Federal Credit Union, we're dedicated to helping you achieve your financial goals. If your finances don't look as bright and shiny as you'd like them to, we have a whole host of financial resources at your disposal.

As a PNWFCU member, you have access to:

- ✓ Free debt analysis--Complimentary service just for members that can help eliminate unnecessary stress over finances.
- ✓ Financial tips--Tips on everything from choosing the right credit card and avoiding scams to saving and budgeting.
- ✓ Homebuying resources--First-time homebuyer? Looking to refinance at a lower rate? Our Mortgage Specialist can help.
- ✓ Tips on fraud prevention--From 'phishing' to 'smishing' we provide the latest tips and information to our members.

AND, if you're looking to consolidate some of that lingering holiday debt onto a lower rate card, look no further. PNWFCU has a whole host of Visa cards available to our members. From our Visa Extra Awards card, where you earn travel points on everyday purchases, to our Edge Visa for students, we have the card for you. There are never any "teaser rates" or cash advance fees and you have the option to protect your online Visa card purchases with our **Verified by Visa** service. Talk to your local Member Service Representative or visit our website for more information on these, and other, resources.

Make a fresh start with PNWFCU's many financial resources.

Squeaky-clean credit awaits.

800.444.5858 | www.pnwfcu.org



Home Shopping? We Can Help.

Still not sure if now's the time to buy? There are TWO very good reasons you should consider purchasing your home with PNWFCU before April 30, 2010.

- 1. Earn a tax credit of up to \$8,000***
The deadline for the homebuyer tax credit is April 30th. Contact us for details.
- 2. Win a \$250 Home Depot gift card**



Members who get a mortgage or home equity loan** with us between March 1 and April 30, 2010 will be entered into a drawing for a \$250 Home Depot gift card.

If you are thinking about buying, refinancing, or if you simply need the advice of an experienced mortgage lender, look no further. Our Mortgage Specialist, Crystal Jeffries, is here to walk you through the home buying process. Contact her today!



Crystal Jeffries
Mortgage Specialist

1.800.444.5858; Option 4
crystalj@pnwfcu.org

*Visit www.pnwfcu.org for more information.

**Offer includes outside mortgage refinances; refinancing a current PNWFCU mortgage or home equity loan does not qualify for the gift card drawing.

TurboTax® Online: Now in Account Access

TurboTax® Online is now available through our online banking, **Account Access**. Members who file using TurboTax® in Account Access can **save 15%** on all paid Federal versions. Get started today at www.pnwfcu.org.

PNWFCU's 68TH ANNUAL MEETING

Tuesday, April 13, 2010 @ 7:00 p.m.

IRCO Gymnasium
10301 NE Glisan St.
Portland, OR 97220

Free appetizers, door prizes and our Board of Directors Election

** ALSO: Be on the lookout for information on our upcoming **SHRED DAY** in our next newsletter. Save the date for **APRIL 23RD** **

Share Your Story: Smooth Auto Experience

Purchasing a vehicle doesn't have to be frustrating and time consuming. PNWFCU offers many resources to our members that can make the auto-buying experience easy, fast and, dare we say it, **fun!** But don't just take our word for it... let our members tell you just how enjoyable buying a new or used vehicle can be:

"We finally made that difficult decision. Even in a bad economy, continuing to maintain that old car was costing us too much. So we decided it was time for a new one. We did all the research, visiting dealerships, searching online sources, asking friends and looking at every car that drove by on the highway. We settled on the make, model and year. The one thing we didn't have to think about was where we were going to finance the purchase. We never had a doubt that it would be anywhere but PNWFCU--they make it so easy. A few minutes of time in the Ross office, and a bit more time on the phone and it was done: we were approved. It felt so good to tell the dealership "Thanks, but we have the financing taken care of." It really smoothed out of the whole process. Much of the finance side of the process was done over the phone with minimal paperwork on our part. The staff were friendly, caring and very supportive. You just couldn't ask for a better all around experience."

-Kevin D., member since 1981

Auto loan rates as low as...
4.00%
APR*

*APR=Annual Percentage Rate. Rate as of 11/20/2009 and subject to change without notice. Rate quoted for lowest new car loan amount up to \$25,000, for 24-60 month terms, with automated payments. Rates may be different as determined by the individual creditworthiness of each applicant and the terms of the loan. Not all applicants, terms and loan amounts will qualify for the lowest rate. Other rates and terms available. Offer applies to certain cars and trucks only; recreational vehicles, motorcycles and boats are not included in this offer. Ask for complete details.

With rates as low as 4.00% APR*, there's no better time to buy!
Call or click today: **800.444.5858** | www.pnwfcu.org

Pedal Car Winners

Congrats to our pedal car winners!

Hood River: Anna Flores
BPA: Brian Miller, Nakia Salazar
Ross: Davis Jacobs
Erin Way: Rita Thompson

Pictured, right: Two of our pedal car winners, Kellen and Sam, enjoy their prize.



Consumer Sense: Road to Recovery

The recent economic recession has been called the worst bear market since the Great Depression. Since the start of the recession, investors have seen their retirement account balances decline by 30 percent or more. According to a report by Wachovia Economics Group, an economic recovery may be looming in light of recent improvements of the leading indicators and overall sales of goods and services. If their findings don't do much to calm your fears, you are not alone. That being said, the most productive step you can take as an investor is to regain control of your financial future. Especially in the aftermath of significant portfolio losses, it is important to consider these basic strategies that can put you back on the path to achieving your retirement goals.

Postponing Retirement

For many, the thought of postponing retirement may seem more like a nightmare than a solution. But consider how delaying retirement a few years might positively affect your retirement-income goals. Based on a recent study by Financial Engines, for many near-retirees, delaying retirement by 2 to 3 years can get them back on track without any increase in annual savings. According to the same report, "Delaying retirement is more effective than commonly realized, because it compounds several factors: allowing more years of savings, giving savings more time to grow, decreasing the number of years of retirement spending that need to be funded, and increasing Social Security benefits."

Cash Management

Although it might be a sobering experience, take a real assessment of your spending habits and reset your expectations for spending

in retirement. Reducing spending might have more of an impact on your retirement than you think. According to a new report from Americans for Secure Retirement, if Boomers maintain their current standard of living and don't cut costs, three out of five will outlive their financial assets in retirement. If reducing spending is a challenge, consider working with a credit counseling agency to help improve your chances of reaching your goals.

Seek Advice

If you're like most people, you don't have time to constantly monitor holdings, evaluate portfolios and regularly rebalance your investments to keep them in line with your risk tolerance and investment objectives. Consider working with James Hull, the CFS* Financial Advisor at PNWFCU; he may help to add focus in pursuit of your financial goals. James can aid you in making informed decisions about your portfolio. Planning carefully, investing wisely and spending thoughtfully will help increase the likelihood that you get back on track to a financially secure retirement.



James Hull, AWMA®, CRPC®
CFS Financial Advisor
1.800.444.5858 x2658
jamesh@pnwfcu.org

Sources: http://corp.financialengines.com/press_room/press_releases/2009/20090622.html; Silva, John. "Recession Probability Drops Again-This Time to 37 Percent." Wachovia Economics Group Jun. 25, 2009.

*Investments offered through CUSO Financial Services, L.P. (CFS) are not NCUA/NCUSIF insured, are not credit union guaranteed, and may lose value. Financial Advisors are employees of Pacific NW Federal Credit Union and registered through CFS. Pacific NW Federal Credit Union is affiliated with CFS (member FINRA/SIPC).