Watch Your Money Grow With CCU!

Cindy Block
Marketing/PR Specialist
Commonwealth Credit Union

Spring is right around the corner and you know what that means! Trips to see the grandchildren and hopefully that cruise that you have always wanted to take. The question is: “Do you have enough money set aside to take that special trip?” Here are some saving choices from your credit union to help you save money for those special times.

High Yield Savings Account
1. Tiered Dividend Rates - the more you save, the higher the rate your money earns
2. No monthly service fees
3. No minimum balance
4. Unlimited ATM withdrawals and FREE ATM card
5. 6 Electronic transfers per month
6. Opens with as little as $5 deposit

Certificates of Deposit
Certificates of Deposit (CDs) are time deposits issued by financial institutions. CDs are available in a wide variety of maturity dates, ranging from as short as 6 months to as long as 10 years with competitive fixed rates.
1. $1,000 minimum deposit for 7-131 month certificates
2. $6,000 minimum deposit for 6 month certificates
3. Dividends are paid monthly
4. Quarterly statements
5. Renewal Options
6. Penalties may apply for early withdrawal

When the month of April comes around, do taxes tax time! This is a great time to be looking for that last minute deduction.

An Individual Retirement Account (IRA) is a personal retirement savings plan available to everyone under age 70½ who receives taxable compensation during the year. You can contribute any amount up to annual limits - whatever you can afford - at any time throughout the year. You have until April 15 to contribute for the prior tax year.

Traditional IRA
1. Contribute up to $3,000 this year.
2. You will be taxed on the earnings when you begin withdrawing the funds.
3. The tax you pay is generally less at retirement since your annual income is usually lower than while you were employed.
4. You may withdraw funds at age 59½ without penalty.
5. You must begin withdrawing funds at age 70½.

Roth IRA
1. Contributions to a Roth IRA are not tax deductible.
2. Contribute up to $3,000 this year.
3. Earnings accure tax-free, so when you withdraw funds at retirement you will not be taxed on Roth funds.
4. No mandatory withdrawal at age 70½. Principal deposits to your Roth account can be withdrawn at any time, for any reason. Earnings can be withdrawn tax-free after five years for qualified reasons, including expenses such as, medical.
5. All Roth funds may be withdrawn for any purposes after five years and you reach the age of 59½.

Financial institutions provide insurance for your funds on deposit. The National Credit Union Association insures all credit union funds. It is a federal agency that oversees the credit unions. The association provides $100,000 of insurance for your savings accounts and certificates. Commonwealth Credit Union insures your accounts for an additional $100,000 through Excess Share Insurance Corporation, a private insurer that only services credit union accounts meeting the highest security standards. Therefore, your savings dollars are insured up to $200,000 at the credit union. IRAs are insured to an additional $200,000, for a total of $400,000. Best news about this security is that is it provided to you at NO COST.

CCU is pleased to inform you that for your special savings needs, whether it is for Savings Accounts, Certificate of Deposit or Individual Retirement Account, Kathryn Taylor is here to serve you. Mrs. Taylor has over 20 years of experience at CCU as our CD/IRA Specialist. You can reach Mrs. Taylor by calling 1.800.228.6420, ext. 5120 or by e-mail at ktaylor@cwcu.org. For additional information on this topic and other personal financial articles simply log on to CCU’s website - www.ccuky.org and select Online Library. Current rates and applications are also available via our website.

Kentucky Office of Insurance Approves LTC Rate Increase

By now you have heard that the proposed rate increase by Life Investors was passed. Below is a copy of the letter we received on January 2, 2006, in response to Dr. Wagener’s letter opposing the proposed rate increase by Life Investors Insurance Company.

Brenda Meredith, Deputy Executive Director

Environmental and Public Protection Cabinet
Office of Insurance
Ennia Fletcher
Governor
Latunna S. Wilder
Secretary
December 29, 2005

Dear Bob Wagener:

Thank you for your recent letter concerning the proposed premium increase for your long term care policy with Life Investors Insurance Company.

The Office of Insurance carefully reviews all proposed rate increases. Before we grant an approval, the company must show us that the new rates are actuarially justified and meet the requirements outlined in the Insurance Code.

Following a review of the Life Investors rate filing, we have determined that the 30 percent rate increase is justified. We considered all the comments we received from policyholders. As a regulatory agency, we must balance the financial impact of a rate increase on consumers with the company’s ability to charge premiums that will enable it to pay future claims and remain solvent. In this case, the data supported the increase.

Life Investors has notified the Office that it will not submit additional increases during the next two years for those affected by this filing.

We understand the financial impact of this increase. Please review all options carefully before making a decision regarding your policy and talk to your agent or financial adviser. The Office has enclosed a publication, A Consumer Guide to Long Term Care Insurance, which contains a variety of information on this type of insurance, including company names, telephone numbers and premium rates.

Thank you for contacting us regarding this matter. If you have additional questions, please contact Jill Mitchell or Carrie Basalas in the Health Insurance Policy and Managed Care Division at (502) 564-6085.

Sincerely,

Glora Jennings
Executive Director

Kentucky

Our office contacted KRTA policy holders and informed them of the proposed rate increase. We asked them to contact the Attorney General’s Office and the Office of Insurance concerning the proposed rate increase of Life Investors Insurance Company. The response was tremendous. We will continue our efforts to keep communication with regulatory agencies on your behalf.

MEAN KITTY

Kentucky Wildcat fans and/or fans of Mitchell Tolle, KRTA 2005 Convention speaker and Berea artist, may want to go to www.gomeankitty.com to take a look at the latest new painting recently made available by the Tolle Gallery. The print, MEAN KITTY, represents the rivalry between UK and U of L fans.

MEAN KITTY

Mitchell Tolle
Every spousal financial relationship is unique. Through the years, couples develop their own systems for handling financial matters. Sometimes it is one partner’s responsibility to manage all finances, sometimes the other’s and sometimes a combination. Whatever the situation, certain information should be shared.

Couples should consider mutual responsibility for and knowledge of:

Retirement plans: Take time to fully acquaint each other with employer retirement benefits. Both partners should have current knowledge of pension plans, 401(k) accounts and IRAs. For a complete picture of expected retirement benefits, become familiar with each other’s Social Security benefits, as well. Understanding retirement benefit information will bring clarity and facilitate retirement planning.

Credit card documents: This one can be scary. Some may prefer to not know how much credit card debt their spouse has accumulated. But it’s wise to know where to find account numbers in case one loses his or her wallet and needs the other to help cancel the card. Also, mutual awareness of credit card debt amounts will help with developing a family’s overall financial plan.

Power of attorney: It is generally a good idea to have power of attorney on any individually owned assets, just in case one becomes ill or otherwise unavailable. Power of attorney can be limited to specific functions for a certain period, such as selling stocks or withdrawing money while traveling. A broad document that authorizes each partner to handle almost any situation in the other’s absence is also a consideration.

Wills, trusts and life insurance: It’s especially important to share information about wills, trusts and life insurance if either has been married before. There could be restrictions on how some assets may be used and beneficiaries left unchanged by mistake. Most important, make sure each partner knows where to find wills and will be able to easily access it if something were to happen.

Health insurance policies: Most insurance companies will cover care administered in the first 24 to 48 hours of a medical emergency, even if the coverage details have not been sorted out. But the situation isn’t as clear with hospital visits that are less urgent. If each partner is covered under a different insurance plan, both should be familiarized with the requirement “hoops” they may have to jump through.

If one spouse has a sudden illness, would the other know which doctor to call first to get an okay for treatment? If not, they risk running up big bills at an out-of-network doctor.

Business loans: If one spouse owns a business or is a partner in a professional firm, both should know about any personally guaranteed loans. It is critical to be aware of liabilities since household assets can be hit if the business can’t repay the loan.

While many don’t necessarily need to know everything about their spouse’s finances, maintaining a working knowledge of the above points can help maintain proper, balanced control over a family’s financial affairs.

If there are multiple KRTA members in your household, you are now receiving only one copy of the News. Over 4,000 members are family members residing in the same household. By sending only one copy to your household, we can save KRTA dues dollars. If you want to continue receiving multiple copies of the newsletter, just let us know.
Before I was a Mom,
I slept as late as I wanted and never worried about how late I got into bed.
I brushed my hair and my teeth everyday.

Before I was a Mom,
I cleaned my house each day.
I never tripped over toys or forgot words to a lullaby.
I didn’t worry whether or not my plants were poisonous.
I never thought about immunizations.

Before I was a Mom,
I had never been puked on
pooped on.chewed on.
peed on.
I had complete control of my mind and thoughts. I slept all night.

Before I was a Mom,
I never held down a screaming child so that doctors could do tests or give shots.
I never looked into teary eyes and cried.
I never got gloriously happy over a simple grin.
I never sat up late hours at night watching a baby sleep.

Before I was a Mom,
I never held a sleeping baby just because I didn’t want to put it down.
I never felt my heart break into a million pieces when I couldn’t stop the hurt.
I never knew that something so small could affect my life so much.
I never knew that I could love someone so much.
I never knew I would love being a Mom.

Before I was a Mom,
I didn’t know the feeling of having my heart outside my body.
I didn’t know how special it could feel to feed a hungry baby.
I didn’t know that bond between a mother and her child.
I didn’t know that something so small could make me feel so important and happy.

Before I was a Mom,
I had never gotten up in the middle of the night every 10 minutes to make sure all was okay.
I had never known the warmth.
the joy,
the love,
the heartache,
the wonderment or the satisfaction of being a Mom.
I didn’t know I was capable of feeling so much before I was a Mom.

And before I was a Grandma, I didn’t know that all those “Mom” feelings more than doubled when you see that little bundle being held by “your” baby...
Deceased Retired Teachers

OCTOBER, NOVEMBER, DECEMBER 2005

These immortal dead who live again in minds made better by their presence...

IN MEMORIAM

Robert Kelley, President of KRTA in 1991-1992 and long time chair of the Health & Insurance Committee, passed away in October. He shall be greatly missed.

WARREN
Antha McKinney
Joe F Patrick
Herman Spear
Dorothy Walker
David B Whitaker

WHITLEY
Hobart Bird
Mary L Bunch
Grace B Peace

WOODFORD
Leah Bolcas

BOONE
Bert E Bumgardner

OUT OF STATE
Alfred Barr - VA
Comelia Champion - FL
Leota Charles - FL
Monroe Fugate - FL
William Gardner - MS
Golden - TN

ADAIR
Grace Champion

ANDERSON
Eliza W Allen
Judith H Sewell

BATH
Pearl Spears

BELL
Doris S Peace

BOONE
Sybil Creaghedd
BOYD
Gwendolyn Dailey
Clarice Johnson
Shirley Kennard
Helen Jo Kinmer
James J Stuart

BRECKINRIDGE
Maxine Maxey

BULLIT
Virginia M Francis

BUTLER
Jesse J Evans

CALLOWAY
Hattie Glenn
Carl E Murphy

CAMPBELL
Nancy L Dierig

CASEY
Harold Leigh
Dale K Wolford

CHRISTIAN
George Esters
Nyla H Higgins

CLAY
Elizabeth Knuckles

DAVISS
Virginia Fugate
Frances A Lashbrook

FAYETTE
George Carpenter
Opal Gooch

FLEMING
Mary Ward

FLOYD
Corrine Allen
Margaret Collins

FRANKLIN
Robert Kelley
Christine Morrow

GAINES
Leanna Austin
Mary Merrell

GREEN
Ruth Price

HARRISON
Mary Bell

HARDIN
Mae Miller

HARLAN
Charles Hunter
Earlene Powell

HENDERSON
Mary Broadus
Joyce A Hagan

HENRY
Ruby Collette

HOPKINS
Amanda Dever
Elaine D Poe

JEFFERSON
Versia Alley

Floyd
Margaret Burd
Anne Carter

FRANKLIN
Robert Kelley
Christine Morrow

GAINES
Leanna Austin
Mary Merrell

GREEN
Ruth Price

HARRISON
Mary Bell

HARDIN
Mae Miller

LETCHER
Ruby C Collier
Myrtle Stallard

LINDON
Aleeene Morris
Dennis J Rachford

LOGAN
Marie A Turner

LYON
Gladyse Cannon

MADISON
James S Way

MAGOFFIN
Mollie Conley

MASON
Jewell S Kachler

MCCRARY
Lawrence Milliken

MONROE
Helen J Downing

MONTGOMERY
Spencer C Chappel Jr
Mary K Chenault

MUELLER
Dorothy G Whitney

NELSON
Margaret B Blair

NICHOLAS
Lottie A O'Bannon
Bernice D Whittaker

OHIO
Paul May

PENDLETON
Raymond Ruber

PERRY
Ovetta T Basey

PIKE
Aloma Burke

PORTAGE
Chester Damron

PULASKI
E Foster

ROCKCASTLE
Lillias A Parrett

Shelbyville, Kentucky

WOLFE
Bert E Bumgardner

BRENNER DAVID
DEPUTY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
F Kathleen Keck
N Mobility Communications

MARCH 2006

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