

In This Issue: Tips On Eliminating Debt And Improving Savings

Economic recessions stink. It's as simple as that. But recessions are and will continue to be part of the economic cycle. A couple of "silver linings" that exist as a result of the current downturn include reports that indicate that people are saving more and are also trying to get their debt under control. We've dedicated a good portion of this newsletter to savings tips and debt reduction strategies. We hope you post the attached poster in your break room and distribute this information to your employees.

I'd like to highlight one tool that LSFCU offers to its members to help control debt levels. It is called "Debt in Focus" and is available on our website, www.LSFCU.org. Using this tool is simple – you record your income and debts and the system provides a snapshot of your overall debt ratio and suggests ways to improve your situation. There is more information on the "Debt in Focus" tool in a related article in this newsletter.

Don't forget about our free Credit Makeover program as well! Our Member Services Representatives are always available to assist our members.

Carrying a tremendous amount of debt is stressful and can negatively affect work performance, relationships and even personal health.

Do your employees a favor and inform them of the important confidential tools LSFCU offers free of charge.

Please post the attached poster and distribute this information to all of your employees.

Sean McDonald,
Director of Business
Development ★



LSFCU Offers EdAccess Private Student Loans



Federal loans not enough to cover the cost of your college education? The EdAccess Loan can be the answer to your funding needs. Remember, it is best to apply for a private student loan AFTER you have explored and exhausted all federal aid, grants and scholarship options. Liberty Savings is proud to be able to offer this financing to assist students in furthering their education. Let's take a look at some highlights of the program:

- *Loan payments are deferred until 6 months after graduation and you have up to 10 years to repay the loan.*
- *Borrow as little as \$2,500 or as much as \$30,000 per year.*
- *Competitive Interest Rates and with good grades, get even lower rates!*
- *1% Interest Rate Reduction once you have repaid just 10% of the loan.*
- *Use for ALL Education Expenses. Tuition, room & board, books, computer, even past due tuition bills.*

Visit www.lsfcu.org/student_loans.php for more information. It takes less than 15 minutes to apply. Contact an LSFCU member specialist today to determine if this program is right for your higher education financing needs. ★

New Branch to Open This Fall!

LSFCU is happy to announce that we will be opening another branch to serve our members. It is located at 108 48th Street in Union City. There is ample parking available. We expect to open in mid-September. ★

ns' savings accounts.

Tips On increasing Savings And Managing Credit Card Debt

SAVINGS TIPS

You know what you want. You know how much it costs. Now all you need to do is figure out how you're going to pay for it. And that requires saving.

Your goals often dictate which savings vehicles are best. Here are some savings vehicles and ways you can use them to meet your goals:

Regular/share savings accounts

Insured to \$250,000 by NCUA. Typically pay dividends comparable to or better than interest paid on other financial institutions' savings accounts.

Money market accounts (MMAs)

Insured share savings accounts that offer limited check-writing privileges. Generally pays higher rates than regular savings accounts.

Share certificates

Insured savings carrying various maturity terms, pay higher dividend rates than savings or money market accounts. Minimum dollar requirement to purchase a share certificate (LSFCU requires a \$500 opening deposit and pays bonus dividends for higher opening deposits).

No matter what your goal or choice of savings vehicle, LSFCU can get you started through direct deposit and payroll deduction. And before you know it, you'll have what you need to make that purchase. ★

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Six Rules For Managing Credit Card Debt

If you want to be the master of your credit card debt load, follow these key rules:



1. Take inventory. If the number of cards, minimum payments and total balances are more than you thought or can afford, it's time to pare down.
2. Check out the cost of your credit cards. What's the interest rate and annual fee? If the card doesn't have a grace period, or if you carry over a balance, or take a cash advance, you're usually charged interest right away.
3. Get one low-fee or lower-interest card and use it wisely. Make LSFCU your first stop when starting your search. You may be able to transfer existing debt to a new lower-interest credit card.
4. Make the largest monthly payment you can afford. Paying the monthly minimum may do little more than cover the accrued interest.
5. Watch out for "teaser rates." Credit card offers promise attractive low-interest rates, but you'll see that after six months or so the issuer may double the low introductory rate.
6. If you get in over your head, don't bury it in the sand. If you're having trouble making your monthly payments, contact your creditors before they contact you.

Contact a Member Service Representative at 201-659-3900 to discuss LSFCU's free credit makeover program and other credit options. We're here to help! ★

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LSFCU Offers New Online Debt Management Tool

LSFCU is proud to introduce Debt in Focus. This free and anonymous service can help you bring your debt under control. After answering a few questions about your income and current debts, a simple financial analysis will provide a wealth of information including: debt to income ratios, debt payment schedules, and suggested personal action strategies to help keep your finances moving forward. The service is completely anonymous. We will not ask for your name, social security number, email address, physical address, or any other identifiable

information. The information we collect about your income and current debts cannot and will not be used to identify you.

The Debt in Focus tool is located right on LSFCU's homepage www.LSFCU.org. It can be found in the rotating banner section. It can also be found in the "Secrets of Money" section of our website. ★



Main Office

666 Newark Avenue, Jersey City, NJ 07306



LIBERTY SAVINGS ★ Federal Credit Union ★

Greenville Office

1590 JFK Boulevard, Jersey City, NJ 07305



COMING SOON! Union City Office

108 48th Street, Union City, NJ 07087

Phone: 201-659-3900 Fax: 201-659-7623 www.LSFCU.org