

MONEY MINUTE \$



SECOND QUARTER 2009

BRANCH HOLIDAYS

Memorial Day,
Monday, May 25th

POINTS OF INTEREST

NEW CREDIT CARD PRODUCTS

Coming in the near months are two great additions to our Credit Card program!

Credit Card holders will have a new exciting tool, **Design It! Photocard**. This is a web enabled service that allows cardholders to upload their own image or to pick from a photo gallery to design their own credit card!

Also, a new **MasterCard** will soon be added to our Credit Card program. This card will have a lower variable rate than our Visa Platinum Cards but won't offer any Rewards. A great addition for those that want a **lower rate with no thrills!**

MORE E-POWER CHECKING

REWARDS

Not only do you receive a **great rate** on your balances up to \$25,000, and **ATM Fee Refunds**, but now you can also receive **discounts on new and used auto loans and discounts on GAP Insurance!**

All that we ask is for you to do three simple qualifiers each cycle:

1. Use your debit card for purchases at least 10 times.
2. Have at least one direct deposit or automatic draft.
3. Receive e-Statements!

Call us for more information or to sign up today!

Sign up for e-Statements and you could WIN!

All members signed up to receive e-Statements by May 31, 2009 will be entered in a drawing to win one of three prizes! The winner will be notified on June 1, 2009. The prizes are a:

- Compaq Presario 15.6" Widescreen Notebook Computer, a \$430 value.
- Quicken Deluxe® 2009 Personal Finance Software, a \$60 value.
- \$50 Visa Gift Card.

Imagine the difference you could make if you received your monthly banking statements electronically and paid your bills electronically.

By switching to e-Statements and Online Bill Pay, the average household reduces greenhouse gas emissions by 171 pounds a year—a savings equivalent to:

- Not driving 169 miles.
- Not consuming 8.8 gallons of gasoline.
- Planting 2 trees and allowing them to grow for 10 years.
- Preserving 24 square feet of forestland.

e-Statements and Online Bill Pay also reduce the risk of identity theft. Consumers are often misled into thinking that most identity theft occurs online. But actually, 85% of identity theft cases are due to "offline" transactions such as lost checkbooks, stolen bills, financial statements, and check payments!

Along with creating a cleaner environment, e-Statements can help you in other ways as well. e-Statements are archived for five years on a secure website so you never have to go dig in a file cabinet to find a past statement.

Remember to sign up for e-Statements by May 31, 2009 to be entered in the drawing!



To sign up for e-Statements or Online Bill Pay, call **800.436.8328**, visit **www.ladotdfcu.org**, or a **Financial Resource Center**. Simple, safe and smart ways to help the environment—and yourself.

FIVE Percent ^{APR}

FOR FIVE Months

on CREDIT CARD BALANCE TRANSFERS!

TRANSFER YOUR BALANCE NOW WITH A LIMITED-TIME OFFER AT **WWW.GOTOMYCARD.COM** AND RECEIVE 5% ANNUAL PERCENTAGE RATE (APR) FOR 5 MONTHS.



LA DOTD Federal Credit Union
 P.O. Box 2111
 Baton Rouge, LA 70821-2111



Tired of hearing your kids ask you for money? Do they think you are a never ending ATM?

It may be time to teach them how to save and spend their own money!

Give your kids a concrete reason to save by having them set personal financial goals. Make sure the goals are easily attainable in a short period of time. This will increase the chance that they will want to set up another goal, at which point you can increase the time and amount they need to save. These goal-setting skills will help them when they're ready to begin saving for a down payment on a car or house.

Help your kids open a savings account at the Credit Union. Kids love to act "grown-up" and tapping into this interest may be the spark that ignites their life-long saving habit. Not to mention that it's harder to spend money you don't have easy access to! Show your kids how compounding interest can help their money grow.

Put them in charge of buying their own stuff. This is usually done through an allowance and includes all those extra things that kids usually want: bubble gum, video games, trading cards, cell phones, etc. Kids become frugal when it's their money that's being spent!

Take advantage of reloadable PrePaid Debit Cards. The card allows your kids to make their own purchases and reload the card with more money when needed. The card's internet management tool can be used by you and your kids to view where they are spending their money and help them follow their budget.

Kids are notorious for watching what you do when you're not looking. If you model good saving behaviors, chances are, your kids will probably do the same.

Source: Karyn Hodgens, e-Wealth Coach and co-founder of Kidnexions.



PrePaid DEBIT Cards

Pre-fund the card with a specific amount of money, so you control spending. Use it for online shopping, ATM withdrawals and anywhere else that Visa is accepted.

Reload the card by going to www.cumoney.com, by bringing the card to any branch, or by calling the Credit Union with the card's information. Pay only 50 cents each time you reload it!

Track your spending with the internet management tool. You will always know how much you've spent, where you spent it, and how much is left on the card.

The card is not tied to a checking or savings account. If the card is lost or stolen, you won't have any risk to your Credit Union account. And it's much safer than carrying cash.