

The North Word

July 2009

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24 hour sun, 24 hour fun, 24 hour service!









Use telephone teller, online banking, billpay, and your check card 24/7!
Sign-up today... call or stop by a branch, and GO PLAY!

Dear Members.

In these uncertain economic times, consumers are bombarded with conflicting financial advice. Between newspapers, television, the Internet and even the people around us, determining which advice to heed and which to ignore can be overwhelming.

True North understands that personal financial matters can be complex, and knowing where to turn can be puzzling. As part of our commitment to offer our members the broadest possible array of services, True North partnered with First Command Financial Services, Inc. in 2008 to offer a wide range of financial planning products and services.

Through our referral relationship with First Command in Anchorage and Fairbanks, First Command Financial Advisors can provide True North members with personalized financial plans, life and property insurance, and investments for retirement income planning, education funding and more. And soon, a First Command advisor will be on-site in the company's facility in our Juneau branch.

First Command will also be part of this newsletter — with regular articles on topics related to True North members' financial well-being. I invite you to read the first of those on page 2 of this issue.

Sincerely,

Lauren MacVay,

CEO/President, True North FCU

Page 2: Improve Your Financial Habits Today

FINANCIAL BRIEF

brought to you by: FirstCommand

FINANCIAL BRIEF



Improve Your Financial Habits Today

hough there are few positive aspects of the current economy, the financial shake-up has been a wakeup call for many Americans who had previously abandoned sound financial habits in favor of excessive spending and expanding debt. The first step toward regaining financial control may be a simple behavior change back to sound time-tested practices. Here are a few tips for getting back on the right path:

- 1. Create a financial strategy. Take the time to write out your goals in detail. Think about your future and your priorities. How much will you need for retirement? How much will you need for college educations? What kind of healthcare costs might you incur? Do you have an emergency fund with at least three to six months worth of expenses? A financial advisor can help you plan today for what you otherwise might put off until tomorrow.
- 2. Put money into savings every month. The practice of savings creates an emotional lift. And watching your savings grow can give you a feeling of accomplishment that makes your hard work worth the effort and motivates you to continue saving. Research reveals that those who put money into savings on a monthly basis—even as little as \$5—are significantly less likely to be stressed than those who do not.* The practice delivers big rewards in the form of feelings of financial security.
- 3. **Spend less than you make.** It sounds simple enough, but you can save a lot by making small changes, such as planning menus around grocery store sales, taking advantage of your local library for movies and books, and cutting back on spending for services you can do yourself. Make cutting costs a game and keep a monthly total of what you've saved.
- 4. Work to reduce and pay off debt. Research reveals that as the ratio of savings to debt increases, so do feelings of financial security.* Boost your savings to debt ratio by diligently paying down debt and regularly contributing to savings.

*First Command Financial Behaviors Index, March 2009

First Command is located at 1577 C Street in Anchorage call (907) 272-8772, at 1300 Washington Drive in Fairbanks call (907) 479-3000, and in the True North Credit Union Mendenhall offices at 2777 Postal Way in Juneau call (907) 272-8772.

First Command Financial Services, Inc. is the parent company of First Command Financial Planning, Inc. (Member SIPC, FINRA). Financial planning services and investment products, including securities, are offered by First Command Financial Planning, Inc. Securities products are not deposits or other obligations of True North Credit Union, are not guaranteed by True North, and are not insured by the FDIC. Securities are subject to investment risks, including possible loss of the principal invested. A financial plan, by itself, cannot assure that retirement or other financial goals will be met.



And the winner is...







1 Entries from all the branches.

(2) CEO Lauren MacVay draws the winning entry.

3 Tammy's winning entry!

Congratulations to Tammy Freeman of Anchorage for winning 25,000 Alaska Airlines Miles in our March giveaway! Happy travels to you!

E-Services Mean Maximum Convenience

If you're looking to save time 328-4744; in Juneau 523-4744; and and hassle, consider using our 1-800-4-TELLER (1-800-483-5537) electronic services (e-services). outside the local areas. Or you can E-services are available 24 hours access your account via our secure a day, seven days a week, so you can manage your finances on your schedule and in the comfort of your E-services are safe and secure. At own home.

to monitor your finances, because you can access your personal information 24/7. To access your In addition, e-services improve account via Telephone Teller efficiency and timeliness. Contact call the following numbers: in us to find out more about these Anchorage 771-4744; in Fairbanks convenient services.

website at www.truenorthfcu.org.

www.truenorthfcu.org you can find a link called Express PC FAQ under the Electronic services are a great way login box for more information about our secure login process.

New Car Break Expanded for Tax Exempt States

In June as a boost to car sales, the The law is expanded to purchases ■ Obama Administration announced made in Alaska and five other states that a tax break for the purchase of without sales taxes (Delaware, new motor vehicles is now available Hawaii, Montana, New Hampshire in states that do not have sales tax. and Oregon). In those states other

The economic stimulus package enacted in February allows a deduction of state, local sales, or excise taxes paid on the purchase of new vehicles.

fees or taxes imposed by their state or local government can be deducted from qualified purchases.

Officials hope the tax break will increase demand.

Money isn't everything but it sure keeps you in touch with your children. 99

-I. Paul Getty





Holiday Closures

7/4/2009

4th of July – Closed all day

9/7/2009

Labor day – Closed all day

You can check your accounts 24/7 through our Express PC online account access at www.truenorthfcu.org. Apply for your PIN at your local branch today!



Keep Passwords Strong, Secret, and Safe

Keep your computer's content safe and secure by creating strong passwords, keeping them secret, and keeping track of them. A compromised password could lead to identity theft or other dire consequences. A criminal could use your information to apply for credit cards or mortgages, or to make online purchases or other transactions.

The first rule of thumb for creating strong passwords is to use a different password for each of your accounts. It may be easier to keep track of just one password, but if a crook discovers that one password, he or she can access all of your accounts.

The second key to a robust password is to make it lengthy. At a minimum, your passwords should be eight digits long, and 14 digits or more is ideal. Using the greatest variety of characters possible in your passwords—letters, numbers, symbols—makes them harder to guess or uncover with malicious software.

After creating your password, you can test its strength with one of the "password checkers" available online such as Microsoft's Password checker and The Password Meter. Use your search engine to locate these and others. If your password tests as weak, make it more complex.

Password don'ts include:

 Don't use personal information such as family names, birthdays, or your address.



- Don't use sequences or repeated numbers, like abcd, 1234, or 9999.
- Don't use any words listed in a dictionary—they're easy for scammers to guess.

To help you keep track of your passwords, write them down and store the list where others won't find it, but in a place you'll remember. Don't share your passwords with others—children, particularly, may unwittingly pass them on to others. And don't enter them into computers in public places—these machines may have malicious software that can capture your keystrokes for a criminal's use.

If a password is compromised, monitor all information it protects for suspicious activity. If you see such activity, notify the authorities and contact your local True North FCU branch for help with related financial matters. But remember, the stronger your passwords, the less likely this is to happen.



The North Word

Starting this month the printed quarterly version *The North Word* will be the only issues released... January, April, July, and October issues will continue to be sent with quarterly statements. News and other announcements that happen the rest of the year will be posted on our website, www.truenorthfcu.org!



Why wait in line? Spend more time enjoying your summer fun!

Sign-up for Direct Deposit at your local branch and you'll be able to get outside more and wait in line less!

True North Federal Credit Union · Members Are Our Business!

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Adina Larson YAKUTAT BRANCH MANAGER **Express Teller:**

Nationwide: 1-800-4-TELLER Anchorage: 907-771-4744 Fairbanks: 907-328-4744 Juneau: 907-523-4744

24/7 Loans: 1-866-564-2259

24 Hr Bill Pay Support: 1-866-628-1691

Credit Card Customer Service: 800-654-7728

www.truenorthfcu.org

Branches

Downtown Branch 907-523-4700 Fax 907-586-1173

Juneau:

Mendenhall Branch 907-523-4700 Fax 907-523-4716

Administrative Office 907-523-4778 Fax 907-586-8078 Statewide:

Anchorage Branch 907-771-4777 Fax 907-561-1538

Fairbanks Branch 907-328-4777 Fax 907-456-6109

Yakutat Branch 907-784-3304 Fax 907-784-3415 Statistics as of May 31st, 2009

Assets\$101,479,585 Loans\$63,174,417 Shares.....\$93,860,587



We Do Business in Accordance With the Federal Fair Housing Law and the

