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letter from the president



David W. Mooney
President/CEO

I'm excited to welcome you to our first issue of **twenty4ever**. Each quarter, you'll receive this newsletter tailored to help you better navigate the financial maze toward a path of financial understanding, stability and independence.

At this point in your lives, you're on the threshold of establishing your credit. No matter where your endeavors take you, your credit status will have much to do with the opportunities you pursue. Our goal is to provide you with the information necessary for you to make sound financial decisions and build solid credit.

We're happy to have you as a member of Alliant, and we look forward to helping you to explore some of our products and services that will be important to you—whether it's your first credit card, car loan, mortgage...or even using SkyBranch[®], our online banking service.

We hope you enjoy **twenty4ever**.



reward yourself

Are You Missing the Points?

Alliant's Platinum Rewards VISA[®] lets you start earning the points you deserve!

Whether you use the card to purchase something big or small, our Platinum Rewards VISA helps you get the things you need and rewards you with bonus points.

Platinum-level flexibility to fit your lifestyle

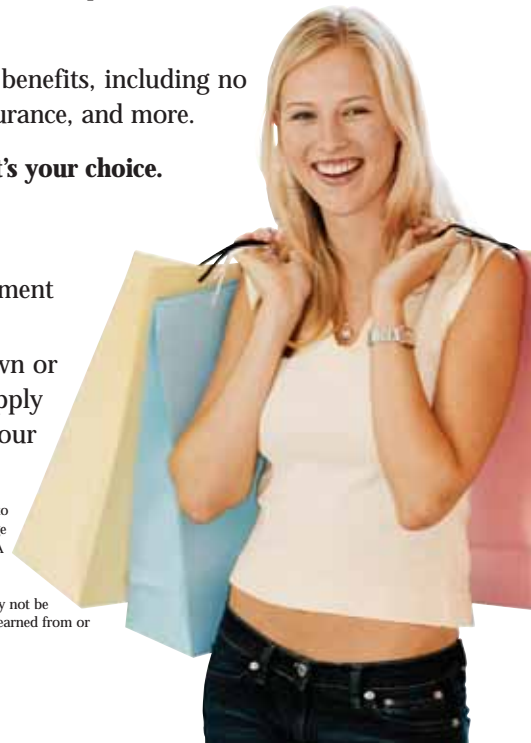
The Platinum Rewards VISA credit card is packed with added benefits, including no annual fee, no balance transfer fee, up to \$500,000 in travel insurance, and more.

Redeem your points when you want for whatever you want...it's your choice.

- Travel on most major airlines with no blackout dates
- Fun-filled cruise from numerous points of departure
- Name-brand merchandise, a day at the spa, sports equipment and more

It's only a matter of time before you'll be able to get out of town or get shopping thanks to the Alliant Platinum Rewards VISA. Apply for your card today at www.alliantcreditunion.org, and start your points in the right direction.

Refer to VISA Credit Card Agreement for complete terms and conditions. Loan approval and APR based on ability to repay, payment method and creditworthiness. Rates, terms and conditions subject to change. APR—Annual Percentage Rate. No grace period on cash advances. Balance transfers are treated as and considered cash advances on your VISA credit card. Bonus points are earned for every net dollar spent on new purchases. No points are earned for finance charges, fees, cash advances, balance transfers (except promotional offers), convenience checks, foreign transaction currency conversion or insurance charges. Points have no cash value and cannot be exchanged for cash or credit, may not be used with any other offer, promotion or discount, cannot be combined with cash to obtain an award and cannot be earned from or transferred to any other credit card or other accounts.



DIVIDEND RATE INCREASE!

second quarter dividend

DECLARED JUNE 16, 2005
Second Quarter 2005 Savings and IRA Dividend provides an Annual Dividend Rate of 3.25% – Compounded Annual Percentage Yield of 3.29% APY to members who have maintained an average daily balance of \$100 or more.

The Monthly Checking Dividend provides an Annual Dividend Rate of 0.25%—Compounded Annual Percentage Yield of 0.25% APY who have maintained an average daily balance of \$1,000 or more.

Dividends payable to Shareholders on record as of June 30, 2005.



Don't Be Like Bob: Beware of the Small Foxes

There's an age-old cliché that warns, "Small foxes spoil the vine." That phrase holds remarkably true to your budget when you consider all the miniscule purchases that you make each day.

Individual financial success is largely determined by purchasing and savings habits, and in particular, the mundane, day-to-day decisions we make on everything we purchase.

Take Bob, for instance. He's in the market for a television in the \$500-range, and will likely go online and visit several web sites to compare prices, look for sales, and find the best bargain. What he's doing is making a rational, logical and informed buying decision.

But before you make Bob out to be our financial hero, look at his daily spending habits. He begins each morning with a \$6 latte at his neighborhood coffee boutique. When Bob buys gas, it's automatic that he'll go into the adjoining convenience store, peruse the magazine rack, and leave with either a jumbo \$4 soft drink or a \$4 fitness magazine. (Sometimes it's both.) And over the weekend, Bob plunked down \$85 for a cashmere sweater that caught his eye when he was at the mall.

While these small expenses are fine by themselves, over time, they can really add up. Without knowing it, a guy like Bob will likely spend \$1 million over the course of his lifetime in these daily instances of "impulse purchases." If Bob could cut just \$3 a day from his spending habits, just think of how much money he could accumulate in 20 years.

Remember, think wisely about every purchase you make, no matter how small. It all adds up!

4 Steps to Healthy Spending Habits

Next to physical health, nothing can be more important in life than financial health. Intentions—while always good—can easily be undermined by poor spending discipline and impulsive purchases.

Healthy spending habits, however, should not be synonymous with "deprivation," nor should the words "cut back" or "budget" drive us to the brink of insanity. Here are four tips that will put you on the right track toward better spending habits:

- **CREATE A SPENDING LOG.** Yes, you've heard this one before, but electronic commerce can help you keep it all straight. Just use your credit card or ATM/Check card for all of your purchases. That way, you can easily track your spending through your monthly statement, which will help you pinpoint unhealthy spending habits.

- **LIST ALL YOUR SOURCES OF INCOME.** Once you create a list of where your money comes from, you can drill down through your basic priorities (rent, utilities, food, car payment, insurance) and secondary needs (cable, cell phone, Internet access). By the time you get to the third and fourth tiers of expenditures (magazine subscriptions, dry cleaning, DVD rental, eating in restaurants, vacation), you might find some areas where you can reduce your monthly expenses.

- **WRITE A BUDGET IN PENCIL.** Because a pencil comes with an eraser, writing in pencil allows you some flexibility. We all know that some months are for saving, while others are simply "account busters." Writing your budget in pencil reminds you that your budget is a "fluid" document, and will help you adjust accordingly.

- **SET A SAVINGS GOAL.** Make it a specific goal, and revisit it on a monthly, if not weekly basis. Remember, old habits die hard, and developing a new, healthy one takes practice. Once you reach your goal, you'll be thrilled with the liberating, end-result of total control of your finances.



office closings

Alliant will be closed in observance of the following holiday:

Labor Day,
Monday, September 5

For your convenience, SkyBranch®, SST and ATMs will be available.

dial direct: Alliant is there when you need us

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TDD/TTY 773-462-2300

VISA® ATM/Check Card
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After Hours: 866-861-5411

VISA® Credit Cards
Account info: 800-328-1935, x2302
Mon–Fri, 7am–5pm Central
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Fri, 7:30am–5pm Central

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Sat, 7am–5:30pm Central

BALANCE Financial Fitness
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For Alliant Service Center locations, SkyBranch®, and product and service information, visit our web site
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