



ALLIANTSM
credit union

twenty4ever

December 2005

a newsletter for AlliantSM Credit Union young adult members

contents

1 Credit Cards and You

The Perfect Gift

2 Moving on, Moving Out

Get More Money for Your Old Textbooks

Notice of Annual Meeting

Notice is hereby given that the Members' Annual Meeting of Alliant Credit Union will be held at Alliant Headquarters, 11545 W. Touhy Avenue, Chicago, Illinois on Thursday, the 16th day of February 2006, at 10:00am for the purpose of electing Directors of said credit union and transacting such other business as may properly come before the meeting.

William Byrne, Secretary
Alliant Board of Directors

DIVIDEND RATE INCREASE!

fourth quarter dividend

DECLARED DECEMBER 15, 2005
Fourth Quarter 2005 Savings and IRA Dividend provides an Annual Dividend Rate of 3.75% – Compounded Annual Percentage Yield of 3.80% 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 December 31, 2005.

Getting credit

Credit Cards and You: Understanding the Risk



About 80% of college freshmen have at least one credit card in their wallets. Just four years later, however, they graduate with \$3,200 in credit card debt. Credit card companies often prey on young adults like you because you're suddenly in the "spending mode,"

and can rack up an unusually high balance.

Because this debt information can be recorded on your credit report—especially when you miss a payment or two—it's important to understand how to maintain the best credit report possible.

What's in a credit report?

A credit report contains information about your identity and credit history. Your credit score determines your "risk" in the eyes of lenders and banks. The score is based on your bill-paying history, your accounts, collection actions,

and any outstanding debt. Your credit score affects your ability to get a car loan, a home mortgage...or even another credit card.

Credit card debt

It's easy for credit card users to slip into debt, and most don't realize this until it's too late. Many think of their first credit card as "free money"—until they get the bill and realize that they have to repay the money and interest, too. A good rule-of-thumb is not to spend more than you can repay within 2-3 months.

Here are some tips for maintaining good credit:

- **Get one card with a low limit.** These types of cards limit how much you can charge, which helps you to manage your spending.
- **Be selective.** Read the "fine print" on credit card offers. Beware of cards with annual fees or finance charges.
- **Make more than the minimum payment.** This helps you pay off your debt faster by decreasing the amount of interest you have to pay.
- **Pay on time.** Paying your credit card bill late often shows up on your credit report...and may damage your credit score.



Give the Perfect Gift...
the Alliant VISA[®] Gift Card!

Looking for the perfect gift for a birthday, anniversary, graduation or other special occasion? Get the Alliant VISA gift card for a nominal \$2.50 processing fee. Available in set amounts (ranging from \$25 up to \$1,000), it makes the perfect present for anyone – even the person who has "everything." The best part is that the card can be used at more than 22 million merchants worldwide, wherever a VISA debit card is accepted.

You can purchase an Alliant VISA gift card three easy ways:

- 1 At your local Service Center
- 2 Online at www.alliantcreditunion.org
- 3 By calling the TeleCenter

Plus, when you order through either the TeleCenter or web site, you can include a personalized message for your recipient, and have it imprinted directly on the card. Customize the card by embossing his/her name at the bottom, or even include a short message, like "Happy Birthday from Your Friends" or "Congratulations on Your First Job!"

Get the Alliant VISA gift card for everyone on your list, and leave the real shopping up to them.



Moving On, Moving Out

For most of us, true independence means moving out of our parents' place and into one of our own. Whether you choose to share your new place with a roommate or live alone, it won't be as cheap as living at home. Just how much will it cost? Here are some considerations:

Rent. This will be a big chunk of your budget. How big depends on what situation you choose. But rent is only part of the picture.

Security deposit. This is a sum your landlord gets upfront to cover damages you cause during your tenancy. It's refundable if no damage occurs. If your landlord doesn't require a deposit, you may be asked to pay the final month's rent before you move in.

Utilities. Does your landlord pay heat, electricity, and water? Or are you responsible for these expenses?

Deposits and hookup charges. Utility companies assess a deposit to assure you don't skip out and leave bills unpaid. Check when and how you get the deposit back.

Hookup charges are fees for connecting you to the service and are nonrefundable.

Furnishings, moving expenses, and rental insurance.

They easily can add hundreds of dollars to the tab.

As you can see, renting a place costs extra cash right at the start. Plus, you have ongoing monthly obligations. Keep the latter to one-third or less of your monthly income, or your new haven of independence may feel like a burden.

© 2002 Credit Union National Association, Inc. All other rights reserved.



GET MORE MONEY FOR YOUR OLD TEXTBOOKS

According to the College Board, a national, nonprofit membership association in New York, a student at a four-year public school will pay, on average, \$393 per semester for books and supplies. So, say your books average \$300 per semester—that's \$2,400 spent solely on books during your undergraduate career!

That's a lot of money to spend on books you may or may not read—and probably won't use again. So what should you do with your unwanted books once final exams are over?

You could go to your school bookstore during its "buy back" time. School bookstores often will buy back a textbook at 50% to 60% of its list price—if it's in good condition and it's needed for the next semester. If not, you will be lucky to get 10% to 20% of the list price.

If you want to get more money back for your textbooks, try selling them yourself on Amazon.com.

Unlike many online textbook stores, Amazon lets you list and sell your books yourself. It gives you a suggested price for your book based on its condition, but you choose how much you want for it.



Listing an item on Amazon is easy and free. Of course, if you sell an item, Amazon will charge you a fee of 99 cents plus 15% of the sale price. But until an item sells, you are not charged a cent. For more information, visit Amazon's Web site at www.amazon.com.

©2003 Credit Union National Association Inc. All other rights reserved.

office closings

Alliant will be closed in observance of the following holidays:

Martin Luther King Day,
Monday, January 16
President's Day,
Monday, February 20
Good Friday,
Friday, April 14

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

dial direct: Alliant is there when you need us

Self Service Telephone (SST)
773-462-2100, 800-482-5328
24-hour account access

Alliant TeleCenter
800-328-1935
Mon–Fri, 7am–7pm Central
TDD/TTY 773-462-2300

VISA® ATM/Check Card
Lost/Stolen: 800-328-1935
After Hours: 866-861-5411

VISA® Credit Cards
Account info: 800-328-1935, x2302
Mon–Fri, 7am–5pm Central
After Hours: 800-299-9842
Lost/Stolen: 800-325-3678

Mortgage Hotline
800-365-7003
Mon–Th, 7:30am–7pm Central
Fri, 7:30am–5pm Central

Auto/Home Insurance
888-380-9287
Mon–Fri, 7am–10pm Central
Sat, 7am–5:30pm Central

BALANCE Financial Fitness
888-456-2227
Mon–Th, 5am–8pm Pacific
Fri, 5am–5pm Pacific
Sat, 8am–5pm Pacific

VISA Gift Card
Purchase: 800-328-1935
Support Center: 866-466-2362

Alliant Headquarters
11545 W. Touhy Avenue
Chicago, IL 60666

Deposits/Payments
P.O. Box 2387
Des Plaines, IL 60017-2387

All Other Correspondence
P.O. Box 66945
Chicago, IL 60666-0945

For Alliant Service Center locations, SkyBranch®, and product and service information, visit www.alliantcreditunion.org



11545 W. Touhy Avenue Chicago, IL 60666
www.alliantcreditunion.org



Your savings federally insured to \$100,000
NCUA
by the National Credit Union Administration,
a U.S. Government Agency.