



75th Anniversary
1935-2010

Financial

WELL-BEING

An eNewsletter to help improve your financial well-being | February 2010

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Join Alliant today

On the money with Alliant Credit Union

Want to help your hard-earned money earn more for you? Rely on Alliant Credit Union for high savings dividends, low loan rates and more. Check out the articles in this newsletter to see how our products and services can benefit you.

If you're not an Alliant member, it's easy to join online at www.alliantcreditunion.org. As an employee of your company, you're eligible for membership* in Alliant. Note: Applicant must also meet other eligibility requirements for Alliant membership.

Is Alliant's 2% APY savings dividend something to be happy about?

Yes, a 2% APY savings dividend is something to be happy about, according to Jim Simon, a United Airlines retiree and Alliant member since 1977.

"Economic conditions have changed and people have to face that," says Simon, who worked at United for 33 years in San Francisco, primarily as a lead technical engine mechanic. "Alliant members should be happy they are still making money on their money with a savings rate much better than a bank's."

"And then there's the peace of mind," says Simon. "Alliant provides more financial safety and security than any major bank."

Simon made Alliant history in 1980 by becoming the first member to take out a loan to buy an aircraft. He purchased a single-engine Piper Cherokee. Simon now lives in Chetek, WI, sells life insurance and serves as Midwest director for RUAEA (the Retired United Airlines Employee Association).

1 Alliant's February 2010 savings dividend. APY= Annual Percentage Yield
2 Source: National Association of Federal Credit Unions in cooperation with Datatrac Corp. as of 02/01/2010.

In the market for a vehicle? You're in luck.

Alliant's new web site, www.alliantvehicles.com, can help you make a smart purchase of a vehicle – whether it's an auto, motorcycle, RV, boat or airplane. Use the site to:

- Research the makes and models you're interested in
- Calculate and compare costs and loan payment scenarios
- View Alliant's below-market rate and apply online for your loan



www.alliantvehicles.com

Beware of fraudulent Haitian relief funds

Across the world, people have opened up their hearts – and their wallets – to help the victims of the recent Haitian earthquake. Unfortunately, such natural disasters also present an opportunity for swindlers to trick you into donating money to phony relief funds.

Before making a donation, make sure the fund is legitimate. Here are tips from the FBI on how to steer clear of relief fund scams:

- Don't respond to unsolicited e-mails you receive and don't click any links contained within those messages
- Be suspicious of people who represent themselves as victims who survived the disaster or as officials asking for donations through e-mail or social networking sites. (Also, to avoid infecting your computer with a virus, beware of e-mails that ask you to open attachments to see photographs of the disaster. Only open attachments from senders that you know)
- Rather than following a link to an organization's web site, verify the legitimacy of the group by doing some research on the Internet to verify its existence and nonprofit status
- Donate directly to organizations you know rather than relying on unfamiliar people or entities to forward the money on your behalf
- Never give your personal or financial information to anyone who solicits contributions: providing this information may compromise your identity and make you vulnerable to identity theft

If you encounter a relief fund appeal that appears fraudulent, call the 24/7 FBI and National Center for Disaster Fraud hotline at 866-720-5721.

Four ways to help your kids become really good at saving money

Every year, American kids receive over \$15 billion in allowances, gifts or pay for doing chores and jobs. It's great for kids to develop intelligent savings habits. Here are four tips to give them:

1. Every time they get money, they should put some of it aside as savings.

Let them know that if they make a lifetime habit of saving regularly, they might become rich someday. If they receive a steady allowance, then suggest that they save some of it every time. Perhaps, a certain percentage of the allowance each time, such as 10% or more. It can help. For instance, if they want something really cool, but keep spending all their money before the next allowance is due, they'll have to wait longer to buy it. However, if they have been saving a part of their allowance each week, they may be able to buy it right now.

2. They should keep in mind what they're saving for. Suggest that they don't simply "save for a rainy day." Instead, suggest that they can save for a sunny day. Ask them to develop their saving goals – all the good stuff they want to have money for.

3. Recommend that they save their money in a safe place, such as Alliant Credit Union. To help them control their spending, suggest that they carry only as much money as they'll need for the day. Tell them that keeping money in their pockets isn't very safe, especially if the pockets have holes. Nor is keeping money in an envelope all that great. That's because it won't earn them more money – the interest banks and credit unions will pay them for keeping their money in a savings account with them.

4. Tell them to be wise about how they spend their money. Suggest that they be careful about what they choose to buy, that they compare prices and that they don't buy things they don't really need or want.

Sources: suite101.com, CUNA, moneyinstructor.com and BALANCE™ Financial Fitness

Join Alliant today

Not yet an Alliant member? Consider joining. Your company provides free membership in Alliant Credit Union as an employee or association member benefit.* Note: Applicant must also meet other eligibility requirements for Alliant membership. Joining is fast and easy. Join online at www.alliantcreditunion.org and enjoy higher savings dividends, lower loan rates – and more.

* Alliant membership is an exclusive benefit available to employees, retirees and members of qualifying select employee groups and organizations/associations and their family members; and individuals who live or work in qualifying communities and their family members. Applicants must also meet other eligibility requirements for membership. Please visit www.alliantcreditunion.org for details regarding Alliant membership eligibility.




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