

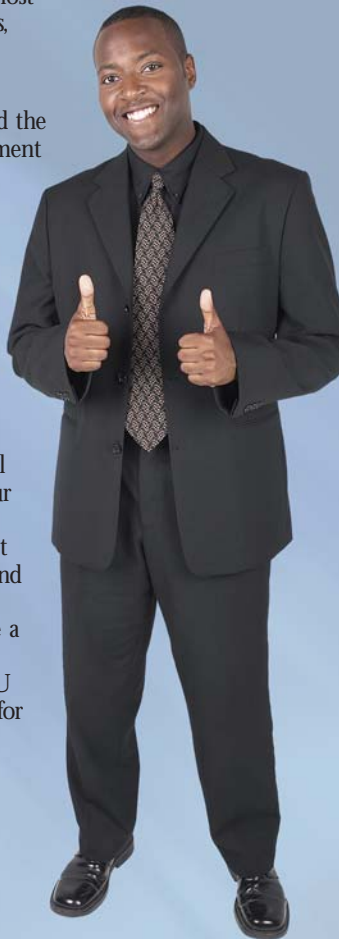


## Count on Your Credit Union to Help

By now we are well aware that our community faces a serious challenge as a result of the planned downsizing of the Daimler Chrysler facility here in Newark. Although many long-time members of American Spirit FCU — both Daimler Chrysler employees and those involved in business serving the plant — will be most directly affected by these events, everyone in our area will be touched in some way.

While our elected officials and the Delaware Economic Development Office work on efforts to minimize the impact, your credit union is also prepared to assist member families to cope with the financial dimensions of the circumstances. Your credit union staff has the experience to work with you to meet your specific money needs.

As a member-owned financial cooperative we realize that our first duty is to help our members achieve their highest goals, and to meet life's small and large challenges. For many, the next two years will constitute a turning point. I urge you to consider American Spirit FCU as a valuable tool in planning for your personal financial future.



### HOLIDAY CLOSINGS

Your Credit Union will be closed in observance of the following 2007 holidays.

Good Friday • Friday, April 6

Memorial Day • Monday, May 28

Independence Day • Wednesday, July 4

## Message from the President

We're all subject to the interjection of life events, both pleasant and unpleasant. Marriage and divorce, medical emergencies, births and deaths of family members, all have serious consequences. These life events have financial consequences as well, and demand changes in the way we manage our money.

One more such life event affecting our financial status is job loss. The recent announcement by Daimler-Chrysler that it will close its Newark facility is a development that will require many in our community to make adjustments in their financial plans.

Don't let financial planning become overwhelming. Here are some tips to help keep your head above water:

- 1. Start yesterday.** Prepare for the unexpected by setting aside funds for living expenses. Keep your emergency fund money where it's readily accessible, such as in a savings account, and resist the urge to dip into it for anything but true emergencies.
- 2. Talk it over.** Keep family members in the loop. Each family member should participate in and be encouraged to contribute to the plan to deal with the situation. Many minds are more powerful than one.
- 3. Don't put off working on the plan.** The longer you wait to begin working toward your goals, the more difficulty you'll have reaching them. Once you've created your plan, keep track of your actual expenses.
- 4. First things first.** Don't expect to achieve every financial goal. Take stock, and decide which are most important, and why they matter to you. By concentrating your efforts, you have a better chance of achieving what matters most.
- 5. Be prepared for conflicts.** When faced with conflicts, apply criteria's like: Will one of the conflicting goals benefit more people than the other? Which goal will cause the greater harm if it is deferred?
- 6. Choose carefully.** In drawing up your list of goals, look for things that will help you feel financially secure, happy or fulfilled. Some of the items that wind up on such lists include building an emergency fund, getting out of debt, and paying the kids' tuition. Once you have your list together, you need to rank the items in order of importance. If you are expecting a buy-out package as a result of the plant closing, be especially wise in your selection.
- 7. Be prepared for change.** Reexamine your priorities at least every five years.

Call or stop in to see an American Spirit Federal Credit Union representative today for assistance.

## Funds in time for your holiday shopping!

Open a **CHRISTMAS CLUB** today, so you can get everything on your **Holiday Wish List.**



Direct deposit into Christmas club account and watch it add up fast! • Rollover to your primary share account in October. • Easy access to your money with your VISA® Debit Card.

### Call or Stop by to sign up Today!

**NOTICE TO EXISTING CHRISTMAS ACCOUNT HOLDERS:** We have made some changes to the holiday club accounts to better serve our members for details contact an ASFCU representative today. If we do not hear from you by the deadline of April 30, 2007 these changes will go into effect on your account.

## Dormant Accounts

Accounts that have been inactive for more than 6 months are charged an inactive fee (dormant) of \$5/month to the primary share account. Please refer to your Truth and Savings Disclosure. To avoid dormant account fees, deposit or withdraw funds to show activity in your account. Accounts with a balance of more than \$100 will NOT be charged a fee.

## CU Youth Week is April 22-28

It's imperative that we do everything we can to help young people learn how to plan to achieve financial security — from learning how to spend money wisely now to thinking about saving for the future.

What we need today, confirmed by poor financial literacy test scores from across the country, is leadership to help raise the awareness of financial issues for young people.

The staff and members of American Spirit FCU are ideally positioned to respond because we believe in the power of education — put to practical use — to improve the lives of our neighbors and our community.

Our tradition of service and philosophy of self-help make American Spirit FCU and all credit unions a natural source of leadership in the fight against financial ignorance. We can help children better understand the credit union difference—better rates, lower fees, and extra attention to make sure all members know how to manage money.

Join us this year as we celebrate National Credit Union Youth Week from April 22-28. Our theme for 2007 is "Stash Your Cash @ the Credit Union."

What a great time to talk to your family about spending and saving, whether for a new bike or college.

Call or Stop by for more information.

