

Keep Tabs on Your Accounts – Day or Night

When it comes to managing your finances, you don't want to be restricted to business hours only. You need to have access to your Ascentra Credit Union accounts when and where it's convenient for you: whether that means using Online Banking from work, stopping by an ATM on your way to the grocery store or calling our "SARA" 24-hour TeleService on a Saturday night. Our 24/7 electronic access gives you everything you need to keep tabs on your money, when you need it.

Online Banking. Want to check your balances or transfer funds? Once you've signed up, log in at www.ascentra.org to use our convenient Online Account Access 24 hours a day. We also offer BillPay to help you stay on track with your payments.

"SARA" 24-hour TeleService. "SARA" is your personal account manager, available 24 hours a day at (563) 355-0152, ext. 2, or (800) 426-5241, ext. 2. Once you've signed up for "SARA," you will receive a personal authorization code and guide to using the system. All you'll need is

a touch tone phone, your credit union account number, your authorization code and the transaction codes and voice prompts you'll find in your welcome guide. "SARA" gives you easy access to account information such as balances, previous withdrawals and deposits, and allows you to transfer money between accounts, pay loans and advance funds from a line of credit or savings.

ATMs. Need to access your money? Utilizing an ATM or debit card and convenient Ascentra ATMs are there for you! Visit our website at www.ascentra.org to find an ATM near you. We also participate in the SHAZAM® Privileged Status Program, giving you access to other surcharge-free ATMs across the country. Check online for a complete list.

We're Here for You

Day or night, Ascentra Credit Union is here to help. Visit www.ascentra.org to find out more about our convenient electronic services, or call (563) 355-0152 for more information.



Fee Changes

Effective March 1, 2010

- Transaction receipts mailing fee of \$1.
- Statement returned as non-deliverable or with address correction or unknown accounts fee is \$5 per statement on the third statement returned and the account is transferred into unknown accounts.
- Inactive accounts fee of \$5 per month after a 24-month period of inactivity in an account when balance is less than \$100 in total deposits.



Ascentra Insurance Services

Insurance coverage offered for your home, vehicle, boat, recreational vehicle, motorcycle, personal liability and Medicare supplement. Contact Patty Swint at (563) 355-0152, ext. 284, or email her at patty.swint@ascentrainurance.org.



Judy Ebert, Ascentra Retirement & Investment Services Representative

New Rules for 2010 Roth Conversions May Help You Save on Taxes

A message from the CUNA Brokerage Services, provided by Judy Ebert

Many investors are familiar with the traditional IRA – an individual retirement account or annuity that provides a tax-deferred way to save for retirement. But many people are not aware of the Roth IRA alternative, an option that offers the potential for tax-free savings. Many are also not aware of the ability to convert a traditional

IRA to a Roth IRA, to take advantage of the Roth IRA's unique benefits. In the past, there were income limits that kept many traditional IRA owners from converting to a Roth. But beginning in 2010, the rules change.

No Income Limits for Roth Conversions Starting in 2010

Before 2010, conversions from a traditional IRA to a Roth IRA were available only for those making \$100,000 or less in modified adjusted gross income (MAGI). Beginning in 2010, though, the income limit goes away and everyone is eligible. Not only that, for conversions done in 2010, the taxes due when switching to a Roth IRA can be deferred and spread across two years – 2011 and 2012. For those considering a Roth conversion, that could provide real advantages.

Consider the Differences

Keep in mind there are distinct differences between a traditional and a Roth IRA:

Traditional IRA

- Earnings grow **tax deferred** until you withdraw, at which time deductible contributions and earnings are taxed at your regular income tax rate.
- Distributions before age 59½ may be subject to a 10% federal tax penalty.
- You are required to begin distributions once you turn age 70½.

Roth IRA

- Earnings are **free from income tax** when you withdraw if you've reached age 59½ and have had the Roth for at least five years.
- Qualified distributions are **tax free**.
- There are no required distributions beginning at age 70½.

Making the Shift with a Roth Conversion

Deciding whether it pays to shift from a traditional to a Roth IRA can be complex, and just because you can convert starting in 2010 doesn't mean you should. You need to weigh the possibility of future tax savings from a Roth conversion against the tax bill that will come due now. If you believe your tax bracket may be higher in the future, a Roth conversion might be the right move. But there are many issues to consider, including the product to select for your converted Roth IRA. Annuities are just one choice and can offer safety of principal, guaranteed growth at a declared rate and guaranteed income for life.

For more information about the new rules for Roth conversions in 2010 and the potential use of annuities when converting to a Roth IRA, contact Judy Ebert, a Financial Advisor located at Ascentra Credit Union at **(563) 459-6937**.

Representatives are registered, securities are sold, and investment advisory services offered through CUNA Brokerage Services, Inc. (CBSI), member FINRA/SIPC, a registered broker/dealer and investment advisor, 2000 Heritage Way, Waverly, Iowa 50677, toll-free **(866) 512-6109**. **Nondeposit investment and insurance products are not federally insured, involve investment risk, may lose value and are not obligations of or guaranteed by the financial institution.** CBSI is under contract with the financial institution, through the financial services program, to make securities available to members. IRA-1009-3924

Holiday Closings

Memorial Day – May 31
Independence Day – July 5

Vacation Club

No restriction savings account – set up your automatic distribution and begin saving today! Ask us for details.

Check out our IRA rates! Invest by April 15, 2010, and gain 2009 tax benefits. Ask us how!

Lower Your Monthly Payments. Consolidate debt with a Home Equity Loan! Great rates now available. Ask us for details.

Money orders available at all branch locations.

Mortgage applications are now accepted at the South Clinton and LeClaire branch locations.

Did You Know? We have vehicles for sale online. Bid now at www.ascentra.org.

Debit Card Enhancements

Debit Card withdrawal limits from ATMs have been increased to a \$500 daily limit per card, if there are sufficient funds in your account.

Debit Card PIN- or signature-based transactions for purchases have been increased to a \$1,000 daily limit per card, if there are sufficient funds in your account.

Visit us at any of our eight convenient locations. Check out www.ascentra.org for our hours of operation:

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| 1710 Grant Street,
Bettendorf, IA | 1515 West 53 rd Street,
Davenport, IA |
| 1702 North 2 nd Street,
Clinton, IA | 949 Mississippi View,
Court, LeClaire, IA |
| 1116 South 14 th Street,
Clinton, IA | 3005 7 th Street,
Moline, IL |
| 1710 West 3 rd Street,
Davenport, IA | 2419 Park Avenue,
Muscatine, IA |

Learn about Managing Your Money!

Money Smart Week Quad Cities: April 17-23. Log on to www.moneysmartweek.org to sign up for many free financial education seminars held throughout the QCA.

Movies in the Park

Movies in the Park run May through June at the Bettendorf Bandshell. Bring your family and enjoy a free movie! To check schedules, go to www.ascentra.org and look under News/Events & Promotions for upcoming events.

Change in Terms: Check Holds in Expedited Funds Availability Act (Regulation CC)

The Federal Reserve has recently restructured the check-processing operations within the Federal Reserve System. Effective Feb. 27, 2010, there will only be a single check-processing region, which will result in checks no longer being considered nonlocal for purposes of Regulation CC. A single check-processing region will subject some checks to faster funds availability schedules.

What This Means for You

As a result of these changes, all references to nonlocal checks in your funds availability disclosures are no longer effective. Instead, checks that were once considered nonlocal and subject to longer hold times will now be considered local and subject to faster availability.

If you have any questions, please contact Ascentra Credit Union at (563) 355-0152 or (800) 426-5241.



Watch Out for Credit Card Loopholes

You're Safe with Us

The Credit CARD Act of May 2009 was passed to help protect consumers from unfair and unexpected changes made by credit card issuers to their credit card agreements. Phases one and two are already in place, and phase three of the law is slated for August 2010.

Unfortunately, some card issuers are uncovering new ways to charge customers extra fees and higher rates through loopholes in the law. You can trust Ascentra Credit Union to continue bringing you fair, honest deals on credit cards. You won't find us pulling any of these tricks:

- **New fees.** Since the law only limits existing fees, some card issuers are hitting their best customers with new fees, including high annual fees.
- **Higher minimum monthly payments.** Some card issuers are raising minimum payments to bring in more cash (and fee income, assuming some customers are unable to make the higher payments).

- **Reduced rewards.** Watch out for changes in the fine print of rewards programs reducing cash back and other rewards.
- **Rate increases.** The new law protects the rates on current balances, not rates for future purchases. That means cards can hike up rates on future purchases even if you've never missed a payment.

The best advice for cardholders is to pay attention to notices from credit card companies, and read the fine print regarding changes. Under the new rules, card issuers are required to give customers 45 days notice of any changes.

No Surprises with Our VISA®

If you're on the lookout for a credit card from a name you can trust, look to us. We are pleased to provide a credit card with straightforward advantages, including a low rate, no annual fee and worldwide acceptance. To learn more or to apply, please call (563) 355-0152 or visit www.ascentra.com.