

October 10, 2008

Not one penny of insured savings has ever been lost by a member of a federally insured credit union.

Dear Member:

With the state of today's economy and bank closures, we share in your frustrations, concerns and disappointments. You may be questioning the stability of your personal finances, and the soundness of your financial partners. We would like to assure you that Ascentra Credit Union remains secure and safe.

We would also like to inform you that with the passage of the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act on October 3, 2008, the **National Credit Union Administration (NCUA) deposit insurance coverage increased on all accounts to at least \$250,000** through December 31, 2009. Additional insurance coverage is available on revocable trusts and payable on death accounts. For additional information about NCUA deposit insurance information, go to the home page of our web site at www.ascentra.org and look for the title "Deposit Insurance Increased to \$250,000."

Our commitment to responsible lending has allowed us to avoid the subprime lending meltdown that has caused many of the losses now plaguing our economy. Due to our conservative and common sense philosophy, we remain in a position to help more people than ever purchase homes within their means, refinance their homes to save money, purchase economical cars to drive to work, and pay for a college education. As a growing number of financial institutions are turning loan business away, we stand ready and able to serve you as we always have.

Even the nation's most prominent economists cannot predict what will happen to the US economy in the short term, but history has taught us all that downturns are temporary. To protect your financial health against uncertainty, we have a few tips:

1. **Build up your savings to cover the unexpected** – Two months of living expenses would be great protection, but any amount will help.
2. **Economize** – Fluctuating gas prices have forced many Americans to look at how they spend their money. Are there ways you can spend less or not spend at all on some things? Many people are changing where they shop, what they buy, how much they drive, and what they drive so they can make each dollar go farther.
3. **Stay focused on your long term goals** – If you have a 401(k) with your employer, resist the temptation to reduce your contributions. If you have an IRA, continue to make your regular contributions if you can.
4. **Stay vigilant** – In uncertain times, criminals often prey upon people's fears. Don't fall for anything that seems too good to be true. Protect your passwords and personal information. Make sure you have up-to-date internet security software on your computer. At the same time, we're using state-of-the-art technologies and procedures to protect you at Ascentra Credit Union.
5. **Ask for help early** – If your financial situation is turning bad, let us know as soon as you can. There are ways we can help or put you in touch with others who can, but you need to act early.

You should feel secure that your money is safe at Ascentra Credit Union. If you are looking for a place to deposit your money, we offer very good rates on Certificates of Deposit in various terms and the tiered Investor's Choice account. The Investor's Choice account may be utilized as a sweep account to hold excess savings for future investments and the funds are not locked into a term.

Please pass along this information to other members within your household. Thank you for your business and we look forward to many more years of working with you. We're always here – "Listening, caring, doing what's right."

Sincerely,

Paul Lensmeyer
President & CEO