



Horizons

Vol. 11 No. 5

May, 2007

There's a new compliance resource in town - InfoSight!

The Rhode Island Credit Union League is pleased to announce a new online Compliance Resource. *InfoSight* is a completely web-based resource that will give Rhode Island Credit Union League-affiliated state and federally chartered credit unions a place to go to learn more about complying with the numerous state and federal laws and regulations that affect a credit union's business affairs. The system gives credit unions immediate and easy access to the most important compliance topics.

"We're always looking for ways to better serve our member credit unions; we feel this resource is another key addition," said Dan Egan, president of the Rhode Island Credit Union League. "*InfoSight* offers our member credit unions access to a tremendous depth of compliance information with one or two clicks of a mouse."

Credit unions will find compliance information on *InfoSight* for a wide variety of topics. There are easy-to-read compliance

summaries, checklists, direct links to laws and regulations, frequently asked questions, and links to additional important resources including CUNA's online compliance resource "E-Guide." *InfoSight* is designed to be able to address the hot compliance topics of the day.



New topics and features will be added on a regular basis.

InfoSight is brought to you as a dues-supported resource of the Rhode Island Credit Union League and its partners in this effort. Begun in 2003, *InfoSight* was designed to provide affiliated credit unions with up-to-date and comprehensive federal and state compliance information. Since its development,

InfoSight has established partnerships with CUNA's compliance staff and league compliance staff at several other leagues including the Rhode Island Credit Union League.

InfoSight is the first and only online compliance resource to include both federal and state specific compliance information. We hope you will choose *InfoSight* as your first resource when you have a compliance question.

To access *InfoSight* please visit our website at www.riculeague.org and look for the *InfoSight* resource button on the right-hand side of our homepage. *InfoSight* is password protected and is only available to Rhode Island affiliated credit unions. Credit union staff will be asked to create a user ID and password upon the user's first visit. For more information, please contact Charlotte Whatley, research and compliance information manager at cwhatley@cucenter.org.



President's Message

By Daniel F. Egan, Jr.

Credit unions were the first financial institutions to initiate consumer financial counseling. By providing a safe and secure environment for working class people to save and borrow, credit unions became the resource for counseling people on the benefits of saving and borrowing wisely. This early effort to assist consumers with their basic financial needs has evolved into the modern terminology of financial literacy training.

Today, credit unions are leading advocates for financial literacy training, especially in our

schools. As we have recently seen with interest only and exotic adjustable rate mortgages, the consequences of being an uninformed consumer on financial issues can be devastating. Credit unions have continued the tradition of providing valuable information to consumers on how to understand and interpret savings and lending options in order to avoid the consequences of poor financial decisions.

One of the most effective financial literacy training programs is through our schools, beginning with savings programs in grammar schools and progressing through financial literacy fairs in middle and high schools and extending into credit union branches in high schools. Through credit union and community schools' partnership, financial literacy training is becoming a valuable resource for educating our youth on the realities of financial factors in

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CREDIT UNION LEAGUE



Legislative & Regulatory Notes

New proposal may require changes to privacy notices

As federal regulators seek comment on jointly proposed model privacy notices for financial institutions, the Credit Union National Association (CUNA) has noted an issue of interest to credit unions that build their notices around "sample clauses" currently permitted.

The interagency proposal is intended to amend the 2000 Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act consumer privacy regulation to add a model disclosure form, as was required by the Regulatory Relief Act of 2006. The intent is to improve on the 2000 notice that critics have said is too legalistic and difficult to understand for ordinary consumers.

Use of the new form would not be required of credit unions, banks or thrifts, but its use would assure "safe harbor" compliance with disclosure requirements. That assurance of safe harbor compliance, according to Jeff Bloch, CUNA senior assistant general counsel, begs the question of what will happen to credit unions if they choose to continue to use privacy notices based on sample clauses currently incorporated in privacy requirements.

"Credit unions and other financial institutions may continue to use their current privacy notices for one year after the effective

date of a final version of this proposal," Bloch noted, "but, after that, the sample clauses will be discontinued." Bloch said the agencies, however, have recognized that the short notices based on the sample clauses – ones generally used by credit unions – have not generally been criticized as overly complex or confusing. Also, the regulators are seeking comment on whether to allow their continued use.

Interested parties will have 60 days to comment after the interagency plan is published in the *Federal Register*. CUNA soon will issue a comment call to credit unions.

Changes proposed for fair lending regulations

The Federal Reserve Board (Fed) recently issued a request for public comment on proposed amendments to five consumer financial services and fair lending regulations. The changes are intended to clarify the requirements for providing consumer disclosures in electronic form.

The proposal would make changes to Regulations B, E, M, and Z, which apply to credit unions as well as banks, and to Regulation DD. The National Credit Union Administration is expected to make changes to

conform its rules to any final changes in the Fed's Regulation DD.

The proposal issued for comment seeks to simplify the Fed Board's rules. First, it would withdraw parts of 2001 interim final rules that restate or cross-reference provisions of the Electronic Signatures in Global and National Commerce Act. Next, it would withdraw provisions of the interim rules that may impose undue burdens on electronic banking and commerce and may be unnecessary for consumer protection. And finally, it would

retain provisions of the interim final rules that provide guidance on the use of electronic disclosures.

The proposal would also implement certain provisions of the Bankruptcy Abuse Prevention and Consumer Protection Act of 2005, which mandates certain disclosures for online credit card solicitations.

The comment period ends sixty days after publication of the proposed changes in the *Federal Register*.

NCUA hot topics and credit union risk management best practices

On May 23, 2007, the Rhode Island Credit Union League Compliance Network will feature Joy Lee, National Credit Union Administration (NCUA) Director of Supervision for a program on "NCUA Hot Topics and Credit Union Risk Management Best Practices" at the Sheraton Hotel in Milford, MA.

Ms. Lee is a highly regarded and knowledgeable speaker in the areas of disaster

preparedness and risk management. She will share her perspectives on IT and physical security, identity authentication and other timely topics, as well as answer questions from the audience.

The cost is \$59.00 per person. Register online or call Bonnie Doolin for information at (800) 842-1242, ext. 321.

Horizons

is a monthly publication of the Rhode Island Credit Union League
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NCUA Board Member Gigi Hyland and motivational speaker Travis Roy to speak at Annual Meeting in June

The Rhode Island Credit Union League's Convention Committee is pleased to announce that the League's 73rd Annual Meeting will be held Monday, June 18, 2007, at Aldrich Mansion in Warwick.

Registration and a reception will begin at 4:30 p.m. The Annual Meeting will start at 5:30 p.m. National Credit Union Administration Board Member Gigi Hyland will deliver the keynote address during the meeting. At the con-



clusion of the Annual Meeting, dinner will be served at 6:30 p.m. Following dinner, **through the generous support of Members United Corporate Federal Credit Union**, the League is pleased that motivational speaker Travis Roy will make a special presentation entitled, "Conquering Life's Hurdles." The League is grateful for the continuous support that Members United Corporate Federal Credit Union has given to the credit unions in Rhode Island each



year and values the special relationship between the organizations.

Annual Meeting registration information is included with this issue of *Horizons*. If you have any questions, please contact Donna Bevilacqua at the League, (800) 842-1242 or dbevilacqua@cucenter.org.



REAL Solutions gains momentum, interest in credit unions

REAL Solutions, the new signature program of the National Credit Union Foundation, is actively seeking and gaining the support of credit unions in Rhode Island, Massachusetts, and New Hampshire. The goal of the REAL Solutions program looks to break the cycle of financial illiteracy and exploitation of low-wealth households.

The REAL Solutions program evolved because many credit unions were grappling with changing demographics. Those demographics not only impacted the neighborhoods in which the credit unions do business, but also presented communication challenges as credit unions tried to welcome new members and meet their needs. Some of

those needs include financial education, explanation of the credit union difference, low cost transfer services – including international remittances – and credit counseling.

lasting approximately nine months. The goal is to have no more than 15 credit unions participate in the first class.

Doolin explained, "By coming together in this way, participating credit unions will cooperatively create customized strategies that fit their unique membership needs. Because the credit unions in Wisconsin,

Ohio and Maryland have been the forerunners of this program, we will have the benefit of everything they learned and we will be able to build on that knowledge base."

In meetings held on March 21 and 22, twenty-nine credit union professionals from 17 credit unions attended a detailed informational meeting on the REAL Solutions program. Lois Kitsch, the creator of the REAL Solutions Program, and Mark Lynch, field coach for this area, presented the program in great detail and answered many questions from the credit union professionals in attendance. Following that meeting, three credit unions have already signed letters of intent to be part of the first group.

"While there are expenses associated with some of the products, there is no cost to join the program," Doolin added.

Applications for participation in REAL Solutions will only be accepted through June 15. Once the first nine-month class has completed the orientation, the next class can have as many as 22 credit unions.

For more information on REAL Solutions, contact League Senior Vice President Bonnie Doolin at bdoolin@cucenter.org or (800) 842-1242.

REAL Solutions

RELEVANT • EFFECTIVE • ASSET-BUILDING • LOYALTY-PRODUCING SERVICES

"Credit unions that learn about REAL Solutions are invariably surprised to know that their assumptions have been wrong with regard to approaching Generation Y, new Americans, low-wealth households, and people who use payday lenders," noted Bonnie Doolin, League senior vice president of Credit Union Strategic Planning, Research and Product Development.

"A commitment to REAL Solutions begins with a willingness to explore and learn about these un-tapped markets. Our goal in bringing REAL Solutions to our member credit unions is to provide a forum for discussion about the exploration and engagement of these potential new members."

The plan is to roll out the REAL Solutions program with credit unions in working partnerships



Lois Kitsch, National Program Director of REAL Solutions, presents the REAL Solutions story to a room of credit union professionals on March 21.



Social Responsibility

Pawtucket Credit Union helps Rhode Island become the “First Well State” in the United States

Pawtucket Credit Union is proud to have helped Rhode Island become the first state in the nation to achieve the official designation of a “Well State” from Wellness Councils of America (WELCOA). Members of the Pawtucket Credit Union’s Wellness Committee attended a special event on Tuesday, April 10, 2007 hosted by Governor Donald Carcieri and the Worksite Wellness Council of Rhode Island to celebrate Rhode Island’s remarkable achievement.

Pawtucket Credit Union is one of only sixty-seven companies representing 101,000 working Rhode Islanders to have met the Well Workplace Award criteria and been designated one of America’s Healthiest Companies.

Pawtucket Credit Union successfully met the criteria to achieve a WELCOA national Well Workplace Bronze Level designation. The Well Workplace designation is a rigorous process whereby reviewers from WELCOA examined

Pawtucket Credit Union’s workplace wellness efforts along seven benchmarks.

By achieving this level of excellence in workplace wellness programs, Pawtucket Credit Union has demonstrated that it is committed to protecting and enhancing the health and well-being of its most valuable asset - its employees. The achievement makes Pawtucket Credit Union part of an elite group of organizations who have achieved this designation.

At the center of Balance Sheet Solutions’ attention is Credit Unions!

Balance Sheet Solutions, LLC, a wholly-owned CUSO of Members United Corporate Federal Credit Union, is dedicated to guiding credit unions to the next level of balance sheet management. With a client base that includes large and small credit unions from across the country, this group of talented professionals provide credit unions with a renewed level of comfort and satisfaction.

Collectively, Balance Sheet Solutions’ team possesses decades of professional experience including accomplished portfolio managers, credit union managers and individuals with deep capital markets involvement; many of whom have received their Charter Financial Analyst (CFA) designation. This expertise is put to work to the benefit of credit unions through intensive one-on-one attention. Balance Sheet Solutions’ staff encourages credit unions’ staffs to consult with them so they can thoroughly understand the credit unions’ circumstances, goals, and objectives, and then tailor long-term solutions to match the credit unions’ unique needs.

Balance Sheet Solutions wants to be credit unions’ behind-the-scenes partner. There are no trendy, quick-fix investments or aggressive

sales approaches. The top priority is to match credit unions with suitable, strategic-driven, well-planned solutions. And, most importantly, by offering a wide range of advisory services, liquidity solutions, and investment options, Balance Sheet Solutions addresses credit unions’ entire balance sheets to the degree chosen by the credit unions.

Solutions that fit credit unions’ needs.

Connect with the following products and services through Balance Sheet Solutions:

Broker/Dealer Products

- Members United Corporate Certificates, including:
 - Regular Certificates
 - Floating Rate Certificates
 - Step-up Certificates
 - Callable Certificates
 - Amortizing Certificates
- Marketable Securities, including:
 - U.S. Treasury Securities
 - Federal Agency Securities
 - Mortgage-Backed Pass-Throughs
 - CMOs/REMICs
 - Money Market Securities
- SimpliCD

Advisory Services

- Investment Advisory
- Portfolio Benchmarking Analysis
- A/L Manager
- Share Sensitivity Analysis
- Parallel ALM Modeling
- Credit Union in Transition Program
- Asset/Liability Management Process Review
- Customized Solutions - allows Balance Sheet Solutions to combine products to meet credit unions’ needs.

Additional Information.

For more in-depth information of Balance Sheet Solutions’ products and services, and for more information about educational sessions, daily market analysis, and more, visit www.balancesheetsolutions.org. Or, contact a Members United Senior Business Consultant or a Balance Sheet Solutions’ Account Executive at (800) 782-2441, option 4.

Domicile change, merger would benefit CUNA Mutual, credit unions

Jeff Post, CEO of CUNA Mutual Group, recently announced that the Board of Directors of the companies that comprise the group are asking policyholders to approve a merger of CUNA Mutual Insurance Society (CMIS) and CUNA Mutual Life Insurance Company (CMLIC). As part of that announcement, he described numerous efficiencies that could be achieved while maintaining the CUNA Mutual Group's longstanding commitment to quality, innovation and service to the credit union community.

Today CUNA Mutual Group is comprised of multiple companies, including insurance and non-insurance companies, diverse product lines that serve credit unions and their members, domestic and international operations, and a number of strategic partnerships they are engaged with credit unions, corporate credit unions, and credit union service organizations (CUSOs). CUNA Mutual Group's three principal insurance companies are CUNA Mutual Insurance Society (CMIS), its wholly owned subsidiary CUMIS, of Madison, WI, and the CUNA Mutual Life Insurance Company (CMLIC) located in Waverly, Iowa.

CMIS and CMLIC have operated on an affiliated basis since 1990 when the two companies signed an Affiliation Agreement. Over time, the Affiliation Agreement has helped the companies expand market share and gain efficiencies through shared operations. Today, the two companies have identical Boards of Directors and senior management, and the operations and financial results are largely pooled. Though these two companies operate as one in many ways, they remain separate, each with its own assets, surplus, and financial reporting requirements. In addition, both companies are independently rated by the rating agencies, Fitch and A.M. Best.

Since the companies entered into the Affiliation Agreement in 1990, the CUNA Mutual Group Board has considered merging CMLIC and CMIS. Many of the benefits of a merger have already been achieved through the affiliation. A merger, though, delivers additional benefits to policyholders in the form of improved corporate governance, reduced expenses, a one-time tax benefit, and a more effective organization to leverage assets and surplus.

Until recently, the merger was not pursued because of a significant, adverse tax provision

that imposed a tax on the surplus of mutual life insurance companies. This tax provision was recently repealed, effectively removing the barrier to a merger. The merger permits the recognition of a one-time financial statement tax benefit of \$15-20 million.

The first step in the merger process is establishing a single state of domicile for the two insurance companies. The Board of Directors is asking policyholders to change the state of domicile of CMIS from Wisconsin to Iowa. Domiciling in a single state – Iowa – will facilitate the merger process. By having one insurance regulator, the CUNA Mutual Group gains efficiencies and flexibility while reducing unnecessary financial reporting and associated costs. According to Post, the insurance laws in Iowa are the most modern and flexible. Iowa and Wisconsin officials have approved CUNA Mutual's request to domicile in Iowa.

The CUNA Mutual Group indicates that after the organization becomes a merged entity

credit unions will continue to have a significant influence on its future. In fact, CUNA Mutual points to the guidance it has received from its policyholders as a key driver in the merger process.

Post stated, "As we grow and strengthen CUNA Mutual, we will do so with credit unions and their members remaining at the core of our strategy – delivering products and services to protect you, to help you attract and retain quality employees, and expand your offerings to credit union members."

He went on to assure policyholders that the company will continue to exist as a mutual organization and that it has no plans to demutualize. Post feels, "Being owned by our policyholders contributes to a competitive advantage for us in the credit union marketplace. We are member owned, just like you, and believe staying that way is in everyone's best interests."

Good news for inflation

The consumer price index (CPI) jumped 0.6% in March as energy prices surged, the Labor Department reported recently. The increase followed a 0.4% gain in February. Over the 12 months ending in March, the CPI was up 2.8%.

"The inflation report is good news," Steven Rick, senior economist at the Credit Union National Association said. "Inflationary pressures seem to be ebbing as economy activity slows." He noted that "the recession in the housing construction sector and the slowdown in manufacturing will keep inflation trending down for the rest of the year." The Federal Reserve will therefore keep its fed funds interest rate target at 5.25% through the summer.

"Credit union dividend rates will also stay at current levels, but (credit unions) will see cost of funds increasing as maturing share certificates roll over into today's higher interest rates," Rick said. "Long-term inflation

expectations remain tame, which will keep the 10-year Treasury below 5% for the next few quarters," he said.

Energy prices soared 5.9% last month--the largest gain since September 2005. Food prices rose 0.3% in March after a 0.8% increase in February. Economists say rising demand for grain-based alternative fuels have helped boost food prices, a trend that may continue for many years (*The Wall Street Journal Online April 16*).

Excluding the volatile food and energy categories, the core CPI was up just 0.1% last month and a modest 2.5% over the 12 months ending in March. Moderating costs for housing and medical care helped keep core inflation in check (*Bloomberg.com April 17*).

Housing costs rose 0.2% after a 0.4% gain in February. Medical-care costs rose 0.1%--slowing from February's 0.5% gain and the smallest increase since August 2005.

President's Message - Continued from Page 1.

their daily lives. Credit unions' commitment to financial literacy training is another reason why credit unions are unique options in the financial marketplace today. If you are looking

for financial literacy training materials or information on high school branches, please contact Donna Bevilacqua at the League (800) 842-1242 or dbevilacqua@cucenter.org.



Agency Update

Adding staff, Annual Users Group Meeting

Costello joins Agency Staff

Bob Delaney, chief operating officer of Members Insurance Agency, is pleased to welcome the newest addition to his staff, Lisa Costello. Lisa comes to Members Insurance from a 15 year career as a customer service professional. Most recently, Lisa worked as an Account Executive for CBC Innovis where she had sales and service responsibilities for financial institutions throughout New England. Lisa's primary area of concentration with Members Insurance Agency will be to provide training and support functions to the nearly 100 credit unions that are using the Agency's MemberClose program. She can be reached at (lcostello@cucenter.org) or 1-888-746-2476.

3rd Annual MemberClose User Group Meeting

Members Insurance Agency recently held its 3rd Annual Users Group Meeting for MemberClose. More than 70 participants from 44 credit unions attended this year's meeting. Speakers from many of the provider companies that are integrated with MemberClose provided information and updates on their areas of expertise. Agency COO Bob Delaney began

the meeting by reviewing the rapid growth and expansion of MemberClose over the past 3 years. Bob pointed out that during this time the program has grown from one credit union to nearly 100 in eight different states. Along with Tedd Smith, the President of First Lenders Data, Inc. of Austin, Texas, Bob provided an overview of the strategic direction for MemberClose. Specifically, the plan for increasing the functionality of MemberClose by adding a front-end web application was outlined.

One important service that is part of MemberClose is the ability to determine real estate values quickly and economically through the use of Automated Valuation Models (AVMs). Rob Walker, executive vice president of First American Real Estate Solutions, provided insight regarding the concerns that recently surfaced relating to use of AVMs and the subsequent validation of these tools. Rob concluded his presentation with remarks pertaining to "best practices" for adhering to guidelines for AVM usage.

Another speaker was David Roberts of the Equiguard Agency who spoke about the use of alternative title products to expedite the closing process and save the credit union significant

money. David elaborated on how these products provide the credit union with protection of its lien position through the use of an Errors and Omissions (E&O) policy. David also provided information on "insured" or "warranted" AVMs. He told the group how these AVMs are wrapped with insurance to guarantee the stated value within tolerance levels that are dictated by the credit union.

Anthony Senerchia, president of Southcoast Title & Escrow, provided a demonstration of the first mortgage capabilities of MemberClose. Credit unions were shown how some of the efficiencies that are in MemberClose for equity lending can carry over to their first mortgage lending operations. Specifically, the ability of any user to rely on their PC as a centralized order and delivery system was showcased. As is the case with equity loans, MemberClose can provide credit unions with the capability to offer first mortgage loans anywhere in the country.

MemberClose is a web-based, bundled mortgage and equity lending solution that provides operational and economic efficiencies. For more information on MemberClose, please contact Bill Smith (bsmith@cucenter.org) at 1-888-746-2476.

February home sales rise steadily in Rhode Island; prices continue to decline

Single-family home sales continued on their upward track in February, although the increase was not as dramatic as in January. Sales rose 4.2 percent compared with February 2006, and rose 8.5 percent year-to-date. Prices went the other way, however, and continued to decline, according to The Warren Group, which tracks real estate data across New England.

The median sale price of single-family homes fell 4.1 percent in February, from \$260,000 in February 2006 to \$249,250 in February 2007. The median price declined slightly more year-to-date, from \$262,000 in the first two months of 2006 to \$250,000 this year, a 4.6 percent decrease.

There were 551 single-family home sales in February 2006 and 574 in February 2007. Year-to-date, there were 1,074 sales in 2006 and 1,165 this year. "Sales in Rhode Island have increased for two months in a row, after a rocky 2006," said Timothy Warren, Jr., CEO of The Warren Group. "Prices continue to fall, but after nearly a year of lagging sales, it will take some time for prices to creep up again. As sales continue to grow, buyers will start to notice fewer homes on the market, and will be more likely to snap up their dream home once they see it and will be willing to pay closer to the asking price."

Condominiums in Rhode Island did not fare as well in February. Sales fell 18.8 percent, from 165 in February 2006 to 134 this year. Year-to-date sales fell 8.9 percent, from 339 in 2006 to 309 this year. Condo prices fell by 14.9 percent, from \$258,000 in February 2006 to \$219,500 in February 2007. Year-to-date prices dropped 5.2 percent, from \$240,000 last year to \$227,500 this year. Condo prices were up for 2006, but have been declining steadily for the last several months.

CUDL advancing the auto buying experience

Enhancing member experience on website

According to J.D. Powers & Associates, 67% of new car buyers use online research tools prior to purchasing their next vehicle. Callahan and Associates reports that education is one often overlooked area in providing financial and educational information. In a 2005 survey of credit union members conducted by the Callahan's Internet Strategy Consortium, two thirds of credit union members said they would turn to the credit union website for unbiased advice regarding products and services. However, many credit unions only offer limited educational information on their websites.

That said, providing members access to research that will help them make a sound decision on their next vehicle purchase seems like a great idea. The question that most credit unions ask is: *where can we find these sources of information - at an affordable price - to assist our members?*

Currently, over 375 credit unions use a solution offered by CUDL. Over the past five years, CUDL has worked to perfect the CUDL AutoSMART online automotive research center (www.cudlautosmart.com), which is designed specifically for use by credit unions and their members.

Key member benefits

To provide credit union members access to the latest information available, CUDL has

partnered with several well known industry resources, including NADA Guides, Edmunds.com and Experian, to provide a comprehensive online automotive resource. "Through years of listening to our credit union clients and their members, we have endeavored to provide the member the most up-to-date tools and information to help them in researching and planning their next automotive purchase" said Mike Federoff, CUDL's AVP of Products.

Whether the credit union decides to participate in the CUDL indirect lending program or just the CUDL AutoSMART program, members can interact with over 3,600 CUDL AutoSMART dealers nationwide, who are ready to provide price quotes and assist with auto buying questions. Through the site, members also have the ability to search and view the CUDL dealers' vehicle inventories, which include actual vehicle photos and descriptions.

Customization and Co-branding

Credit unions can actively participate in the CUDL program by customizing their members' interaction and experience with the CUDL AutoSMART website. Credit unions can choose among several features their members

will be able to access, based on the region of the country where they do business. These include options such as which credit bureau or which used vehicle Value Guide Company (i.e. NADA or Kelley Blue Book) they want members to see and use. Unique to the CUDL AutoSMART site is the ability for credit unions to fully co-brand the site as their own. Credit unions can incorporate their logos and a color scheme that matches their corporate colors, thereby making the program a seamless extension of their current website.

"Our goal is two fold – to provide the credit unions with a website that will both help increase member retention and grow their auto loan portfolio, while providing members with the most sophisticated, complete vehicle research and shopping program available today" said Jerry Neemann, CUDL's executive vice president.

CUDL continues to update the CUDL AutoSMART program, by adding new features on an ongoing basis, to ensure that the credit unions are provided with a robust vehicle research and shopping program on the Internet.

To learn more about CUDL's AutoSMART program, contact Tom Garvey or Bob Nealon at (800) 842-1242.

According to J.D. Powers & Associates, 67% of new car buyers use online research tools prior to purchasing their next vehicle.



Statement stuffer reflects the latest IRA changes

Credit union members can learn about the latest changes to individual retirement accounts (IRAs) through one of several updated statement stuffers now available from the Credit Union National Association (CUNA).

"IRAs Power Your Savings" (stock number 23655) explains the rules, requirements, and differences between the traditional and the Roth IRA. The revamped stuffer guides members through the changes in contribution limits for 2007 and beyond. An updated table on the financial effect of IRA contribution changes provides a side-by-side comparison of what the account would be worth for a 50-year-old worker - with and without taking advantage of catch-up contribution limits.

Other revised member financial literacy materials include:

New suggestions for how to "Teach Children About Money" (stock number

20875) were added to this duly named statement stuffer. Tips are divided into age-appropriate categories, along with a number of do's and don'ts for allowances, smart spending, giving, encouraging saving, and money as reward/punishment.

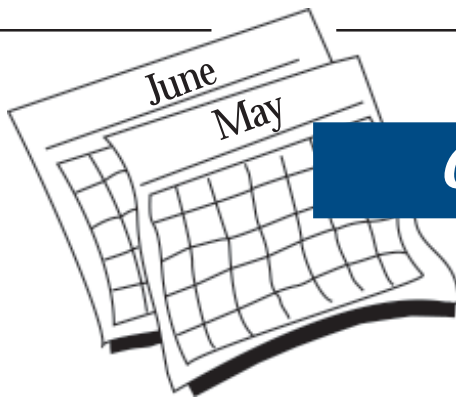
"Payday Loans: The Hard Truth About Some 'Easy' Money" (stock number 22648) warns consumers about this phenomenon. It explains how much this so-called "convenient" service will cost them in the long run, and includes a new resource for cost calculations. It also provides better suggestions for acquiring small emergency loans.

Finally, two statement stuffers were updated with new artwork and logos: "Higher Deposit Coverage Gives You More Reason to Save" (stock number 22959) provides a consumer-friendly explanation of the current limits in

National Credit Union Share Insurance Fund insurance coverage for single and joint ownership accounts, revocable trust accounts, and self-directed retirement accounts. It also includes the new National Credit Union Administration logo.

The "Credit Union Member Bill of Rights" (stock number 21820) details 14 "rights" that come with credit union membership, from the safekeeping of members' money and personal information to the advantages offered over other financial institutions.

For more information, to view a PDF version of the statement stuffers, or to buy online, go to buy.cuna.org, type "stuffers" in the search box or a specific stock number in the product finder box. To order through CUNA Member Service, call (800) 356-8010, press 3, and use the stock number as a reference.



Calendar of Events

BSA Review

May 8, 2007
White's of Westport
Westport, MA

QUICKBITES

(one hour telephone conferencing)

May 9 - *Internet Security: Spoofing, Spamming and Phishing*
May 31 - *ALM (Two Hours)*
June 5 - *Payday Lending the Credit Union Way*
June 14 - *Making Better Loan Decisions (Two Hours)*
June 19 - *Why Members Sue Credit Unions and Win*
July 2 - *Hiring: Tips, Tricks and Traps*
July 26 - *Kids Stuff: Youth Accounts*

Special Delegates Meeting and Get Together Dinner

May 10, 2007
Hemenway's Restaurant
Providence, RI

CU 4 Reality Financial Literacy Fair

May 15, 2007
Navigant Credit Union
Smithfield, RI
Credit Union Sponsor: Navigant Credit Union
School: Smithfield Middle School

HR Council

The Multi-Generational Workforce
May 16, 2007
Credit Union Center
Marlborough, MA

Compliance Network

NCUA Hot Topics and Credit Union Risk Management Best Practices
May 23, 2007
Sheraton Hotel
Milford, MA

Business Lending Fundamentals

June 6, 2007
Credit Union Center
Marlborough, MA

Rhode Island Credit Union League Annual Meeting

June 18, 2007
Aldrich Mansion
Warwick, RI

Lender's Network

Payday Lending

June 20, 2007
Sheraton Hotel
Milford, MA

Webinars

June 26 - *Third Party Vendor Negotiations*
July 12 - *Health Savings Accounts*
July 17 - *Pay for Performance*

Rhode Island Credit Union Charity Golf Tournament

July 16, 2007
Crestwood Country Club
Rehoboth, MA

May Quickbite teleconference learning opportunities

Easy, fast and convenient, Quickbites, provided by the League, bring timely and important information to staffs in credit unions. And one phone call from the credit union on a speakerphone provides a training opportunity for multiple employees.

On May 9 from 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. the League will offer a one-hour Internet Security: Spoofing, Spamming and Phishing Quickbite session. This program is designed for the non-computer professional allowing participants to understand the magnitude of these Internet attacks. It will help them understand why criminals are spoofing, spamming and phishing to compromise financial institutions and learn how the attacks are implemented and how to identify a spoofed website or fraudulent e-mail.

On May 31, a two-hour TeleCourse on Asset Liability Management (ALM) will be provided from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. This ALM program is an introductory course about asset liability management, focusing primarily on interest rate risk (IRR). This seminar will present ALM concepts at a level geared toward small and mid-sized credit unions. Interest rates are rising and many credit unions have taken on higher interest rate risk in order to maintain net income and capital levels. It is imperative that all credit unions measure, evaluate, and manage IRR during these challenging times. The information will be presented in a condensed format during the two-hour TeleCourse.

For more information about these and other upcoming Quickbites, go to Quickbites on the

Seminars & Conferences section of the League website www.maleague.org.

HOLIDAY

The League office will be closed on Monday, May 28, in observance of Memorial Day. The League's regular office hours are Monday through Friday 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.



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