

NEWSTRACKS

Huntington C&O Railway Employees Federal Credit Union

April 2012 Edition



we belong to™
you

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Your High Credit Score Nets Our Low Interest Rates



Achieving a high credit score deserves our attention. That's why for a limited time, we are offering members with better-than-average credit scores some unbelievably low interest rates on both new and used auto loans. Qualifying members will be eligible for rates as low as 2.25% APR! These rates are available for all loan terms, from 36 months to 6 years, and apply to new and used car, truck, and SUV loans. There are no "gimmicks" or "bait-and-switch" tricks hidden within this offer—we simply have plenty of funds available to lend and want to reward our members for their loyalty. We also make applying convenient and easy, too. Members can phone in an application, stop by our office and meet with a loan professional one-on-one, or apply anytime online using NetLink™. We always encourage car shoppers to get pre-approved in order to show up at the dealership ready to deal.

By the way, even if your credit score isn't perfect, we most likely can help you finance a new or used auto purchase. Our loan programs include very attractive interest rates for nearly all situations and our loan officers take the time and make the effort to evaluate every application we receive, looking for the best possible way to provide affordable financing. There is never any cost to apply and we will always give quick and courteous service to each applicant.



All loans are considered on an individual basis. Rate and terms may vary based upon individual credit worthiness.

84th Annual Shareholders Meeting

Tuesday, May 15 is the date set for the credit union's 84th Annual Shareholders Meeting. Commencing at 7:00 p.m. at the Big Sandy Superstore Arena located in downtown Huntington, the Annual Meeting is more than just a required credit union function, it is a unique opportunity for members to assemble for fellowship and to learn about happenings that are taking place locally and on the national stage. All members are encouraged to attend in order to meet staff and officials, to ask questions about credit union operations, and to enjoy a pleasant evening with friends and family. There will be light refreshments served and each attendee will receive a welcome gift and a copy of the credit union's Annual Report.

During the meeting, a business session will be held, which will include a discussion of the credit union's financial condition. Also, the fifteenth annual Pierce-Marcum Volunteer Scholarship Award will be presented to a high school senior from our field of membership. And as always, there will be dozens of door prize drawings, including several cash prizes. Be sure to make plans to join us on May 15 and bring along your questions and suggestions to share.



**Huntington C&O Railway Employees
Federal Credit Union**

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FaxLine • (304)525-3768
www.c-ocreditunion.com

Hours: Monday-Friday 8:30 to 5:30
Saturday 9:00 to Noon (drive-thru only)

The Countdown Is On: Switch Now to Direct Deposit for Federal Benefit Payments

Do you get Social Security or another federal benefit payment by paper check? If so, you should know that you are now required by the U.S. Department of the Treasury to switch to an electronic payment option. By making the switch, you will help save taxpayers \$1 billion over 10 years.

The deadline is March 1, 2013. That's less than 12 short months from now! Don't wait. It is fast, easy and free to switch to direct deposit today. You can sign up:

- # Quickly and securely at our office
- # Online at the Treasury's website - **www.GoDirect.org**
- # By calling the U.S. Treasury Electronic Payment Solution Center at (800) 333-1795

If you do not choose an electronic payment option by March 1, 2013, you will receive your payments via the Direct Express® Debit MasterCard® product so that you will not experience any interruption in payment.

The Time to Switch Is Now

Don't wait for the deadline to make the switch. Take action today and start immediately enjoying the many advantages electronic payments have to offer:

- # **Safety:** No risk of lost or stolen checks.
- # **Reliability:** No delays caused by weather or other events.
- # **Ease:** No need to make a trip to cash or deposit a check.
- # **Fast Access:** You will have access to your money sooner.

Be Prepared

When you are ready to make the switch, have your:

- # Most recent federal benefit check on hand
- # The 12-digit federal benefit check number
- # The amount of your last check
- # Our Routing/Transit number (251584003) and your account number (either savings or checking).

The March 1, 2013 deadline will be here before you know it. Make the switch today and cross it off your to-do list. For more information, visit **www.GoDirect.org** or call the U.S. Treasury Electronic Payment Solution Center at (800)333-1795.

Go Direct Fun Facts

- * More than 18 million baby boomers are expected to reach retirement age during the next five years.
- * Approximately 10,000 people each day are expected to become eligible for Social Security benefits.
- * Approximately eight in 10 federal benefit recipients already receive their Social Security or other federal benefit payment electronically.



Source: U.S. Department of the Treasury, Financial Management Service

Income Tax Filing Deadline Extended for 2011 Returns

Taxpayers have a little extra time to file their returns this year. April 17, 2012, is the deadline to file 2011 IRS tax returns and pay any federal taxes due. For forms (including fillable PDF files), instructions, and filing tips, go online to **www.IRS.gov** and browse the agency's vast library. As a reminder, if you choose to receive your refund by direct deposit, be sure to include the credit union's Routing/Transit number - 251584003. Also, make certain to correctly list your account number for either savings or checking.

In addition to an extended filing deadline, taxpayers also have until April 17, 2012, to make contributions to an Individual Retirement Account (IRA) for tax year 2011. Not only is an IRA a great tool for retirement savings, it may also lower your tax bill. We offer a variety of IRA options, including passbook and certificate investments and you may contribute to an IRA using direct deposit, payroll deduction, or by making deposits over-the-counter.



Lastly, if you happen to owe additional taxes with your return, check with one of our loan professionals about a short-term personal loan. With interest rates as low as 6.00% APR, we can help ease the burden of settling up with Uncle Sam!

Discount Kings Island Tickets

April 28, 2012, marks the opening day for one of the area's favorite vacation destinations, **Kings Island**. Every year, thousands from the Tri-State make the journey to Cincinnati, Ohio, to enjoy fantastic family fun, with exhilarating thrill rides, wet and wild adventures, and tasty treats galore. And to make the trip easier on your wallet, we will soon be selling one day adult, junior/senior, and two day tickets at unbeatable discount prices. Beginning May 4th, **Kings Island** will resume extended hours all week long, running through Labor Day.

And regarding your wallet, why not consider opening a Vacation Club account to begin saving for next year? With a Vacation Club account, you decide how much to save and we offer three convenient payment options: cash deposits, direct deposit, and payroll deduction (where offered by your employer). Vacation Club account balances are distributed during the first week of June each year and can be delivered by check or even more conveniently by automatic transfer to another credit union share savings or share draft checking account. Don't put it off another day—start saving right away!

One Day Adult Ticket.	\$29.99
One Day Junior/Senior Ticket.	\$25.99
Two Day Ticket.	\$53.99



Financing Now Available for 2000 Models and Newer



Purchasing a brand new vehicle is often more than a family budget can handle. Between the exorbitant sticker price and costly insurance coverage, many are now looking for value in the used auto market. If you are willing to do a little bit of homework, starting with getting a pre-approved loan, a used vehicle can be a great investment. To get started, there are dozens of impartial websites dedicated to used car, truck, and SUV research. Some of the most popular include *Cars.com*, *Edmunds.com*, and *Autotrader.com*. If you aren't particularly computer savvy, a member of our staff would be more than happy to help you find the facts about which vehicle would be right for your situation.

As mentioned earlier, one of the first things a used vehicle shopper should do is get pre-approved financing. And while our used auto loan rates have always been competitive, we recently made them even better. We now offer financing for used vehicle model years 2000 and newer. Previously, the cutoff for financing was about six model years, with older vehicles being financed at much higher unsecured loan rates. Now, 2000 through 2012 used vehicles qualify for substantially lower interest rates, some as low as 4.75% APR.

Since the quality of vehicles has improved greatly, purchasing a car or truck that is five or even ten years old is no longer the gamble it once was. Additionally, manufacturer warranties have improved, with coverage available on many models for up to 100,000 miles. And for even more peace of mind, we offer comprehensive extended coverage plans from industry-leader Route66 Extended Warranty. With the addition of a Route66 Extended Warranty, a used vehicle can be covered from mechanical breakdowns and will be provided with "24/7" roadside assistance. As a preferred partner, we can offer these warranties at a substantial discount to what most dealers may charge. For more details or to apply for pre-approval, contact our loan department by phone, e-mail, or apply online using NetLink™.

Sweepstakes & Lotteries Scams

Congratulations, it's your lucky day! You've just won \$5,000!

If you get a phone call or a letter with a message like this, be skeptical. Scam artists often use the promise of a valuable prize or award to entice consumers to send money, buy overpriced products or services, or contribute to bogus charities. People who fall for these plays may end up paying more and more for the products—if they ever get them at all.

The next time you get a phone call or letter telling you "it's your lucky day," remember these tips:

- ! **Don't pay to collect sweepstakes winnings.** If you have to pay to collect your winnings, you're not winning—you're buying. Legitimate sweepstakes don't require you to pay "insurance," "taxes", or "shipping and handling charges" to collect your prize.
- ! **Hold on to your money.** Scammers pressure people to wire money through commercial money transfer companies because wiring money is the same as sending cash. When the money is gone, there's very little chance of recovery. Likewise, resist any push to send a check or money order by overnight delivery or courier. Con artists recommend these services so they can get to your money before you realize you have been cheated.
- ! **Phone numbers can deceive.** Some con artists use Internet technology to call you. It allows them to disguise their area code—although it may look like they're calling from your local area, they could be calling from anywhere in the world.
- ! **You may be called repeatedly.** In an effort to squeeze more and more money from you, scammers may contact you several times to urge you to buy more merchandise to increase your chances of winning so-called valuable prizes.
- ! **Your complaint counts.** Fight telephone fraud. Report telephone scam artists to the FTC and to your state Attorney General.



When Free Isn't Really Free

The secret is no longer a secret—bank checking account fees are out of control. As highlighted by several national news stories and capped off by the recent “Bank Transfer Day,” fees and charges set by large banks for basic checking account services continue to climb, with no end in sight. Many consumers are completely unaware of just how much their so-called “free” checking account is costing them year after year. While the endless amount of fine print attached to bank checking accounts can be mind-numbing, you owe it to your wallet to study the details and find out all the costs.

As a member owned, not-for-profit cooperative, our mission is to provide affordable services to all our members, not to enrich a few stockholders. That is why our Essential Share Draft Account is an unbeatable bargain. Compare our fees with those associated with your current bank checking account and you'll see what we mean. In addition to low fees, Essential Share Draft Checking Accounts include several **no cost** features, too.

P NO monthly service charges	P FREE online account access	P Transfer Fee. \$5.00
P NO monthly Overdraft Protection fees	P FREE unlimited check writing	P Check Copy Fee. \$5.00
P NO minimum balance requirements	P FREE online check images	P Stop Payment Fee. \$18.00
P FREE monthly electronic statements	P FREE online Bill Pay	P NSF Fee. \$25.00

Should you need access to services for fees, you can easily see how much more reasonable our costs are. Whether you need to stop payment on an item, get a copy of a paid check, or even if you find your account overdrawn, we will not add insult to injury by charging outrageous fees. Compare our basic fees with what you are paying now and you'll probably be surprised.

As for convenience, Essential Share Draft Accounts are unbeatable there, too. We can set up no charge direct deposit into your account, help you arrange automatic payments at no charge, and show you how to use our easy and free Online Bill Pay application. Account access is free and available “24/7” with our NetLink™ online service. Monthly E-Statements and the handy account messaging system E-Alerts are also free. If you are fed up with paying for your bank CEO's annual bonus with your checking account fees, open an Essential Share Draft Checking Account today!



Pierce-Marcum Scholarship Deadline Approaching

The deadline for graduating high school seniors within our field of membership to apply for this year's Pierce-Marcum Volunteer Scholarship Award is April 20th. Selected by an independent panel, the award winner will receive a one-time grant of \$500, a commemorative coin, and a certificate of recognition, all to be presented at this year's Annual Meeting scheduled for May 15th. Applications are available in our lobby and can also be found on our website under the **NewsTracks** tab. To receive an application by mail, please contact our office during business hours or send an e-mail to info@c-ocreditunion.com and include “scholarship” in the subject line.



Board President Jerry Chapman, 2011 recipient Aris Smith, Manager Chris Hutchison

Share Account Dividend Rates 1st Quarter 2012

Share Type	Minimum Balance	Annual Percentage Yield
Regular Shares	\$100	0.15%
Junior Shares	\$5	0.15%

Holiday Closings

Good Friday / Easter.	April 6, April 7
Memorial Day.	May 28

Your savings federally insured to at least \$250,000
and backed by the full faith and credit of the United States Government

NCUA

National Credit Union Administration, a U.S. Government Agency