



Dollars & Sense

Fall 2010

SERVING ANOKA, CHISAGO, DAKOTA, HENNEPIN, RAMSEY & WASHINGTON COUNTIES

Simple Home Loan Refinance = Happy Homeowner!

PCU recently introduced the **Simple Home Loan Refinance**, our newest fixed rate home loan product. The Simple Home Loan Refinance is a first mortgage that offers the flexibility of a home equity loan without the closing costs. Loan amounts range from \$10,000 to \$150,000 with terms from 5 to 30 years.* Property types eligible for this loan include single family, townhome and condominium.

If you've been thinking about refinancing, own your home debt-free but still have financing needs, plan to sell or refinance your property in the future, PCU's Simple Home Loan Refinance product may be an ideal solution. Enjoy no closing costs, minimal paperwork and a quick turn-around time. Apply today online at www.postalcu.org, or call 651 747-HOME (4663).

*Example of payment terms for Simple Home Loan Refinance: For a loan of \$100,000 at 4.875% interest rate for 15 years your monthly payment would be \$784.30.

Free Home Buyers Seminar

PCU is hosting a free home buyers seminar in October.

- Get the inside scoop on current housing market conditions
- Learn tips from a home inspector on what to look for when buying a home
- Receive \$500 off your closing costs when you finance and close with PCU Mortgage and Title**



With rates at historic lows, now is the time to evaluate your financial goals. Visit www.postalcu.org or call 651-747-HOME (4663) today to register.

Hugo Office
14750 Victor Hugo Blvd N
Hugo, MN 55038
Tuesday, October 19, 2010
6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

**Loan must originate and close with PCU Mortgage and Title by April 30, 2011. Not valid with Simple Home Loan Refinance product or any other PCU offer.

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PCU's booth at Woodbury Days was a popular stop for attendees. The 3-day event attracts between 25,000-30,000 people each year. PCU has been a platinum sponsor of Woodbury Days since 2000.



President's Corner

Shared Service Centers Increase Member Convenience

Did you know you can take your credit union with you when you go on vacation? As a PCU member, you can utilize any of the 4,134 Shared Service Center locations throughout the U.S. These centers allow participating credit union members to conduct most transactions as if they are at their own branch. By sharing facilities, credit unions can offer greater convenience to members throughout the country. Here are some transactions you may be able to perform at Shared Service Centers:

- Deposit funds
- Cash checks
- Make withdrawals (cash limits may apply)
- Make loan payments
- Transfer funds
- Purchase Money Orders, Travelers Checks and Official Checks
- Obtain cash advances and balance inquiries

To find the location near you or where you intend to travel, simply click on the Shared Service Center Locator in the upper right corner of your credit union's website at www.postalcu.org,

or call the Credit Union Service Center Organization at 1-800-919-CUSC (2872).

PCU members can also utilize the CO-OP ATM Network, which offers access to 28,000 surcharge-free ATMs throughout the U.S. and Canada. CO-OP is the largest credit union-owned ATM Network in the country and provides a convenient way for you to get cash when you need it. A CO-OP ATM locator can also be found in the upper right-hand corner of your credit union's website.

Whether you are heading out on vacation or to a warmer locale for the winter, be sure to take PCU and the convenience of Shared Service Centers and the CO-OP ATM Network with you.



Michele Flach, left, Hugo Assistant Branch Manager, and Cynthia Stewart, right, Hugo Branch Manager, recently delivered 10 school supply-filled backpacks to Lauren Forner, center, a volunteer at the Hugo Good Neighbor Food Shelf, along with a check for \$250.



Founded in 1926 as
St. Paul Postal Employees Credit Union.

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8-5:00 pm	651 770-7000
Toll Free* 8-5:00 pm	800 247-0857
TTY Deaf or Hard of Hearing 8-5:00 pm	651 773-2808
PAL Local	651 773-2PAL (2725)
PAL Toll Free*	800 223-1933
Fax	651 773-2901
Fax, Toll Free*	800 494-4980
VISA TTY Deaf or Hard of Hearing...	800 221-7728
Investment Center	651 773-2876
Mortgage Center.....	651 747-4663
Business Services.....	651 747-8900

* Except Alaska and Hawaii.

www.postalcu.org



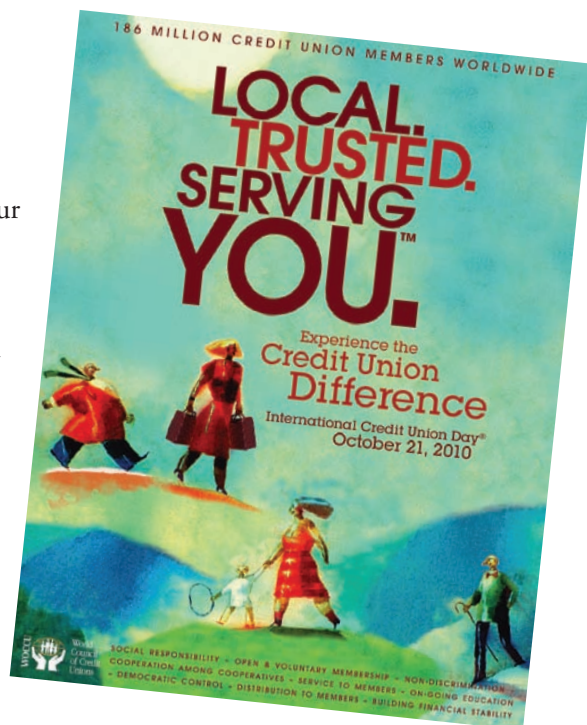
Join PCU for International Credit Union Day

On October 21, credit union members worldwide will celebrate International Credit Union Day and this year's theme: **Local. Trusted. Serving You.** Do you remember why you chose PCU to be your financial services provider? It may be among many reasons shared by the 186 million people in 97 countries who have also chosen credit unions, but it most likely has something to do with the common philosophy of people helping people.

Credit unions are not-for-profit, democratically controlled, volunteer-run, member-owned cooperatives. They exist to serve their members, and that level of service remains high even during the toughest times. Instead of issuing stock or paying dividends to outside shareholders, credit unions provide value to their members by returning earnings in the form of lower loan rates, higher interest on deposits, and lower or even no transaction fees.

This year's theme celebrates the advantages of credit union membership. Value, trust and service are just some of the many benefits of being a credit union member. You are in charge of your money and your credit union.

At PCU, we are proud of our heritage as a cooperative financial services provider and our connection to the more than 54,000 credit unions worldwide. On October 21 and 22, we'll join credit unions and their members around the world to celebrate International Credit Union Day in recognition of the benefits those institutions bring to their members. **Join us both days for refreshments at all 5 PCU locations. For details visit www.postalcu.org.**



IRS Change in Works for Paying Business Taxes

A pending rule change from the IRS will require businesses to pay their quarterly taxes electronically. After December 31, 2010, financial institutions will no longer be able to accept Treasury Tax & Loan coupons for tax payments.

The EFTPS (Electronic Federal Tax Payment System) enables business members and individual taxpayers to pay their federal taxes electronically via the phone or internet. It's convenient, secure, and time-saving.

- EFTPS is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Schedule all of your Form 1040ES payments in advance, or make reoccurring payments.
- It has an easy to use, step-by-step process that tells you what information you need to make any federal tax payment.
- Access previous EFTPS payment history. EFTPS uses the highest level of security available online so you can be assured that your information is protected.
- Complete IRS Form 9779 (Business Enrollment Form) or IRS Form 9783 (Individual Enrollment Form), and then mail it to the EFTPS Enrollment Center.

Visit the 'Business' section at www.postalcu.org and get started today! Or contact a Business Services Representative for more information at 651 747-8900 or email BusinessServices@postalcu.org.



Overdraft Privilege – It's Not Too Late To Opt-In

If you missed the August 15th deadline to Opt-In for Overdraft Privilege protection, you can **still ACT** to ensure you are covered. New federal regulations require you to Opt-In to authorize PCU to cover overdrafts for debits made with your Cash & Check Card or Cash (ATM) Card.

To keep this convenient coverage and avoid the embarrassment and inconvenience of having your transaction denied, call 651 770-7000 or 800 247-0857, complete the Opt-In form online at www.postalcu.org or visit any PCU branch.

Why Opt-In?

In the course of a day, you may use your Cash & Check Card to shop online, fill up your gas tank, buy groceries, or pick up a quick bite to

eat. Members who have not opted in and do not have sufficient funds in their account will be declined.

In addition to Overdraft Privilege, PCU offers other overdraft options that may be beneficial and cost-effective, such as a link to another account or line of credit. To learn more contact your credit union.

Ensure your debits and ATM transactions are covered. Opt-In today!



I've recently heard about the PCU Community Foundation. What is it and how can I contribute?



The PCU Community Foundation is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) dedicated to improving the quality of life in our local communities. In addition, the foundation is raising money to build an endowment fund to fill gaps in education and provide educators with additional resources not otherwise available.

Every dollar received by the foundation goes back into our local communities. Investing in these initiatives ensures a better quality of life for all residents.

Make a tax-deductible donation online at www.postalcu.org or, mail it to:

PCU Community Foundation
8499 Tamarack Road
Woodbury, MN 55125

Why Throw Your Money Away? **Save with Sprint**

As a credit union member, there's never been a better time to save money on your wireless service. PCU has partnered with Invest in America and Sprint to offer special discounts to all PCU members. Join the 800,000 credit union members nationwide that are already saving over \$53 million on their wireless plans!

Through the **Sprint Credit Union Member Discount Plan** you can save:

- **10% off** most regularly priced Sprint individual service plans
- **15% off** most regularly priced Sprint business service plans
- Waived activation fee on new activations
- Waived upgrade fee
- Available to new and existing Sprint customers

Enjoy the perks, benefits and exclusive discounts that only credit union members like you can receive.

3 Ways to Get Your Discount:

- **Call:** 877.SAVE.4CU (877.728.3428) and let them know you're a credit union member. Ask to be a part of the NACUC_ZZM Corporate ID to save.
- **Click:** www.SprintSave4CU.com
- **Visit:** the nearest Sprint retailer

If you are a Sprint user, or shopping for a wireless provide, now it a great time to start saving today!



Online Bill Pay Just Got Better!

PCU's Bill Pay service was recently improved to include a streamlined look and new functionality. Save money on stamps and start enjoying the convenience of free Online Bill Pay.* Here's what it's all about:

- Pay bills online at your convenience, from home, work or anywhere you have Internet access
- Payments are sent with a simple click of the mouse
- Schedule a payment days or months in advance or make single payments at your convenience
- There's no need to write a check or lick a stamp. Each payment is automatically delivered on the date you choose

PCU's Bill Pay service also includes Money HQ, a comprehensive financial information and transaction center that allows you to:

- Transfer funds to/from your external accounts
- View balances and account information at other institutions
- Set up alerts
- Create and track your budget

Login to PC ACCE\$\$ Online Banking and click "Pay Bills" to get started. Don't use PC ACCE\$\$? Give us a call and we'll mail you a password. Simplify your life today!



* Once activated, you must use Bill Pay at least once per month or your account will be assessed a \$5.00 inactive charge on Simply Free, Choice, Freedom Plus and e-Member Checking, as well as on all Business Checking accounts. The fee is waived on Reward and Prestige Checking accounts. If you choose to activate Money HQ, additional charges may apply.

Free Anonymous Debt Management Tool

PCU offers a FREE online debt management tool to help you take control of your finances called **Debt in Focus**. This useful resource:

- Is completely anonymous
- Simple to use and extremely user friendly
- Provides you with a summary of your debt totals, ratios, and estimated budget
- Allows you to save information and return to the tool any time

Visit www.postalcu.org and select Online Services – Money Management Tool to take advantage of this helpful resource today.



Bucky Bear, PCU's popular kid's club mascot, celebrated his birthday in July with over 100 guests and friends. Those in attendance had a chance to play games, enjoy treats, and wish Bucky a Happy Birthday.

Dive in!



Sign Up for
eStatements
and Help Clean Up
the Gulf Coast.

Why let bulky statements pile up when you can access them online with ease? Sign up for PCU's FREE eStatements before November 30 and **we'll give you \$5 and donate \$5** to help clean up the Gulf Coast. eStatements are secure and accessible 24 x 7. Plus, you'll get them sooner online. Signing up is easy - login to PC ACCE\$\$ Online Banking and click "eStatements."

Don't use PC ACCE\$\$? Call PCU and we'll mail you a password. **Dive in today!**

* \$5 will be credited to your Share Savings account after eStatements enrollment. If you sign up for eStatements before November 30, 2010, PCU will automatically donate an additional \$5 to the Environmental Defense Fund to help clean up the Gulf of Mexico oil spill.

Small Change



Thanks for your generosity! The staff at the North St. Paul office extend a special thank you to members for your donations to the North St. Paul Food Shelf. As of August 31, a total of 120 pounds of food and \$352.69 in cash has been given to help feed those in need in the community.



Special congratulations to PCU member Katie Miron, crowned “**Princess Kay of the Milky Way**” at this year’s Minnesota State Fair. In her role she will serve as the official goodwill ambassador for the state’s dairy industry, representing about 4,700 farmers. This is the second time two members of the same family have served as State Fair royalty. Katie’s sister Ann was crowned Princess Kay in 2007.



Congratulations to Nancy Lee, the winner of our spring **Online Bill Pay** promotion. Each time members used PCU Bill Pay from May 1 – June 30, they were entered in a drawing. Nancy was the lucky winner of a \$100 Marriott Travel Gift Card. Don’t use Bill Pay? Start saving time and money today – login to PC ACCE\$\$ Online Banking and click “Pay Bills” to get started.

Congratulations to the winners of our **.now Facebook fan contest**: Eduardo Arteaga and Katie Brynildson. People who became **.now** Facebook fans during July were entered in a drawing for one of two \$100 Holiday Fuel Gift Cards. Enjoy access to exclusive offers by becoming a fan today at www.facebook.com/pcu.now.



PCU will participate in the Salvation Army’s **Coats for Kids** program with collection barrels at all 5 PCU locations. New or gently used children’s coats can be donated between October 4th - 17th. Monetary donations are also being accepted and can be made to the PCU Community Foundation online at www.postalcu.org, at the teller line or by mail. For 25 years, the Coats for Kids program has provided more than 269,000 coats and winter accessories to Twin Cities’ children. Thanks in advance for your support!



Planning to travel outside the U.S.?

If you have a PCU Cash & Check Card or Visa Credit Card, make sure you let us know when and where you’ll be traveling. Due to heightened debit and credit card security, your PCU card(s) may not work in foreign countries (including Canada & Mexico) if you do not contact us in advance. Call 651 770-7000 or 800 247-0857 during normal business hours and we will put a note on your account.



Contributions to Casual for a Cause.

Members are invited to contribute to your credit union’s “Casual for a Cause” fundraiser for local charities. Upcoming causes in 2010 will be:

- October-December – PCU Community Foundation

Please reach into your hearts and pockets to help make a difference in our community.



Thank you for your outstanding loyalty!

The following members are among those who have been with your credit union for more than 30 years: Clayton & Persis Warrick and Charles Robinson.

(Editor’s note: If you are a long-time credit union member and proud of it, please call Cindy Kurtz at 651 747-8962 or send an email with your name and phone number {please do not include account number} to ckurtz@postalcu.org to be included in future issues of Dollars & Sense.)



Your Money

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

Content developed by CUNA Brokerage Services, provided by Andy Barnick

A message from the MEMBERS Financial Services

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	ROTH IRA
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Earnings are free from income tax when you withdraw if you’ve reached age 59½ and have had the Roth for at least 5 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 Andy Barnick, the MEMBERS Financial Services Representative located at Postal Credit Union at 651 773-2876.

All guarantees are based on the claims-paying ability of the issuer. If you are considering purchasing an annuity as an IRA or other tax-qualified plan, you should consider benefits other than tax deferral since those plans already provide tax-deferred status. Withdrawals may be subject to surrender charges during the early years of the contract. Withdrawals before age 59½ may be subject to a 10% federal tax penalty.

Andy Barnick is a Financial Advisor with MEMBERS Financial Services located at PCU. If you have any questions, or would like to provide feedback regarding the information presented in this article, you may contact Andy Barnick at 651 773-2876. Representative is not a tax advisor or legal expert. For information regarding specific tax situations, please contact a tax professional. For legal advice, consult an attorney.

IRA-1009-3924



Andy Barnick – Your MEMBERS Financial Services Representative

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

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Holidays

Drive-thru service only:

(9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.)

Monday, October 11 – **Columbus Day**

Thursday, November 11 – **Veterans Day**

All offices closed:

Thursday, November 25 – **Thanksgiving**

(Open regular business hours the day after Thanksgiving)

Saturday, December 25 – **Christmas**

Saturday, January 1 – **New Year's Day**

All offices closed at 1:00 p.m.

Friday, December 24 – **Christmas Eve**

All offices open regular business hours

Friday, December 31 – **New Year's Eve**

PCU OFFICE HOURS

Lobby

9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Mon, Tues,
Thurs & Fri

10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Wed

9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Sat

Drive-thru

8:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. Mon – Fri

9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Sat

Call Center

8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Mon – Fri

Enter Bucky's Fall Coloring Contest

Hi Kids,

Fall is one of my favorite seasons. There are always fun things to do like jump in a pile of leaves or take a trip to the apple orchard. What's your favorite fall activity? Fill in your answer on Bucky's fall coloring sheet. Pick one up at any of our branches or online at www.postalcreditunion.org for a chance to win one of four \$25 Target Gift Cards.



Color the picture and be sure to write your name, age, account number and telephone number on the back of your artwork.

Bring it to one of our locations by November 1, 2010.

Or, mail your entry to Bucky Bear, Postal Credit Union, 8499 Tamarack Rd., Woodbury, MN 55125.

Four lucky winners will be drawn at random and notified by November 15, 2010. All of the pictures will be on display at the location they are submitted to for everyone to enjoy.

Your friend,



Bucky Bear



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3225 Denmark Avenue
Eagan, MN 55121

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North St. Paul, MN 55109

1725 S. Robert Street
West St. Paul, MN 55118

8499 Tamarack Road
Woodbury, MN 55125