



Money matters

January 2008

Resolve to Keep Your Finances Healthy – We Can Help!

When New Year's resolution time arrives, many people focus on achieving better health by exercising more and eating less. But a new year is also a great time to evaluate your financial well-being.

If certain money matters make you feel under the weather, these prescriptions from Sacramento Credit Union may be just what the doctor ordered.

AILMENT: MORTGAGE PAYMENT MALAISE **Rx: SOLUTIONS FROM YOUR CREDIT UNION**

If you're having difficulty meeting your mortgage payments, whether due to rising adjustable rates or a temporary financial setback, Sacramento Credit Union may be able to help. We can discuss ways to help make your loan payment fit within your budget, by refinancing to a new loan rate or term, by exploring government program opportunities or through other financial options. Don't wait until foreclosure is looming. Call us today to discuss your financing options.

If you're looking for a new home mortgage, we have money to lend as well as competitive rates to help you finance your home purchase. To learn more, please call us today at **(916) 441-LOAN**, or stop by and speak with a branch manager.

AILMENT: CHOKING CHECKING FEES **Rx: FREE CHECKING FROM SACRAMENTO CREDIT UNION**

All of our checking accounts at Sacramento Credit Union are free! Why pay the monthly fees, per-check charges and below-minimum-

balance penalties at other financial institutions? And don't forget to look into Sacramento Credit Union's **Free Rewards Checking**. We pay you a high rate of interest (6.01% APY as of 12/1/07) on qualified balances when you meet monthly criteria.* Call or stop by your local branch to learn more.

AILMENT: INVESTMENT PARALYSIS **Rx: SCU INVESTMENT SERVICES**

Choosing appropriate investments from the thousands of options available can be overwhelming. Why not take advantage of investment choices through SCU Investment Services?*** The Certified Financial Planners at SCU Investment Services can help you develop a strategy that is suitable for your objectives, timeline and risk tolerance. We'll help you develop a portfolio for your children's education, retirement or any of your financial goals. Call **(916) 444-8599, ext. 3112** for a free, no-obligation consultation.

AILMENT: SAVINGS SLUMP **Rx: SAVINGS ACCOUNTS AND CERTIFICATES**

We have savings accounts and certificates designed to meet your needs and timeline. Need to save for short-term goals, like a vacation or the next holiday season? Check out our regular share savings accounts. If you can meet a larger minimum balance, our **Regular and**

continued on page 2



in this issue

The Clock Is Ticking on 2007 IRA Contributions ... 2

The Taxman Cometh – Be Prepared ... 3

Notice of Annual Meeting, Election and Eligible Candidates ... 4

Spreading the Joy of the Season ... 4

Calendar of Events

Martin Luther King Jr. Day – Jan. 21
SCU Offices Closed

Presidents Day – Feb. 18
SCU Offices Closed

Annual Meeting – Feb. 21

ANOTHER WAY TO GO GREEN!

NEW ... Open and Fund New Accounts Online

Sacramento Credit Union is always working to make managing your finances more convenient for you. Now, you'll be able to open and fund a new account online in minutes. Just visit www.sactocu.org, and with a few mouse clicks, send your secure online application our way.

Save time, save gas, save a trip to the credit union at www.sactocu.org. With eAccess online banking, e-Statements and now online account applications and funding, we'll help you go green and save green.



Resolve to Keep Your Finances Healthy continued from page 1



Premium Money Market accounts earn a higher interest rate, without tying up your funds for a defined period.*** Money market accounts are great options if you have a sudden influx of cash (such as the sale of a home, an inheritance or insurance settlement) and want the proceeds to remain liquid while you decide on the next step.

Finally, if you can keep your money on deposit for a specified period, consider a **share certificate**, which may offer an even higher rate of interest. We offer terms from 3 months to 60 months, so you can choose a term that matures when you need the money.†

AILMENT: COSTLY DEALER FINANCING Rx: AUTO LOAN

Is dealer financing worth it? In many cases, it isn't. Before making an auto financing decision, look closely at the rebate option and the finance period. Often, dealership financing means not only forfeiting a rebate, but also having a short financing period that may include a balloon payment at the end. At Sacramento Credit Union, we can tailor an auto loan to fit your budget and help you save money over dealer financing. And, maybe we can save you money on your existing auto loan. Visit your local branch

and let's see what we can do!



AILMENT: DROWNING IN DEBT Rx: BALANCESM FINANCIAL FITNESS PROGRAM

Sacramento Credit Union can offer you several solutions to your debt problems. Consider transferring balances from high-rate credit cards to a competitive rate Visa Platinum card. Or, consider consolidating your debt with a home equity loan. Not only are interest rates lower than most types of consumer debt, the interest may be tax-deductible (contact your tax advisor for more information). And, for help in creating a spending plan and reducing your debt load, as a member of Sacramento Credit Union you have free access to the BALANCE Financial Fitness program. For help with developing a spending plan, reducing debt and planning your financial future, just call (888) 456-2227.

STAY HEALTHY, WEALTHY AND WISE

At Sacramento Credit Union, our goal is to help you improve your financial well-being in the new year and beyond by saving you money or earning extra money! To learn more about our products and services, visit us at www.sactocu.org, call (916) 444-6070 or stop by and speak with us in person.

* All monthly criteria (a direct deposit or ACH debit from your account; perform at least 12 debit card transactions, not including ATM transactions; have active e-Statement enrollment and view your statement) must be met in order for the maximum APY, annual percentage yield, to be credited to the account and ATM fees refunded. Interest rate is subject to change. Members purchase checks. ATM fees will be paid on behalf of qualified Free Rewards Checking account holders up to a maximum of \$4.99 per transaction and a total of \$25 per rewards cycle.

** Investment products are offered by third-party providers and are not insured by NCUA or any federal government agency. **These products are not a deposit of or guaranteed by Sacramento Credit Union and may lose value.**

*** A Regular Money Market account requires a minimum deposit and maintained balance of \$2,500 to continue earning interest. A Premier Money Market account requires a \$50,000 minimum deposit and balance to continue earning interest. You can access funds six times per month, with the ability to clear three checks during that time period. Interest is calculated on the Average Daily Balance and paid monthly.

† Be sure to choose your term carefully, as there may be a penalty for early withdrawals.

The Clock Is Ticking on 2007 IRA Contributions

You have until April 15, 2008, to open and contribute to an individual retirement account (IRA) for the 2007 tax year. Miss the deadline, and you miss an entire year's contribution!

You can start making contributions for 2008 immediately – and the sooner you start saving, the more time you have for compounding interest to work for you.

Here are the contribution limits for 2007 and 2008:

	Contribution Limit*		Catch-up Contribution**	
	2007	2008	2007	2008
Traditional and Roth IRA →	\$4,000	\$5,000	\$1,000	\$1,000

* Or earned income, whichever is less (non-income-earning spouses are also eligible to contribute).

** Catch-up contribution for taxpayers age 50 and older.



If your income falls within certain guidelines, you may qualify for the IRS's Free File program. Check the IRS Web site, www.irs.gov, to see if you are eligible.



The Taxman Cometh – Be Prepared

The April 15 tax deadline is not too distant, and although preparing your tax return is probably not your favorite chore, you can make it far less onerous by being well-prepared.

The first step is to gather and organize the information you'll need:

- Your Social Security number (and if applicable, that of your spouse and any dependents)
- W-2 forms from all of your employers (you should receive these by Jan. 31)
- 1099 forms for dividends, retirement, other income or income tax withholding (you should receive these by Jan. 31)
- Receipts for expenses for itemized deductions listed on Schedule A – this may include medical and dental expenses, deductible taxes, home mortgage points, deductible interest expense, charitable contributions, casualty and theft losses, miscellaneous expenses, business use of car or home, business travel and entertainment expenses, educational expenses and employee business expenses
- Receipts and records for other income or expenses
- Credit union account and routing numbers

FILE ONLINE FOR SPEED AND SECURITY

In 2007, a record 78 million tax returns were filed electronically. That's 59% of all returns the IRS received. More than 22 million Americans filed from their home computers, discovering how fast, convenient and secure online filing can be. If you have a refund coming – and most people do – filing electronically is the fastest way to get your refund. The IRS reports that e-filers can receive refunds in half the time of filing a paper tax return or within three weeks, even faster if you use direct deposit rather than receiving a refund check.

Filing electronically with direct deposit is also more secure than a paper return and a refund check. Electronic returns and

direct deposits cannot be stolen or lost in the mail. Since your tax return contains so much sensitive information, this is an important consideration to keep in mind. If your income falls within certain guidelines, you may qualify for the IRS's Free File program, which allows you to file your taxes electronically, free of charge. Check the IRS Web site, www.irs.gov, to see if you are eligible.

KEEP THIS WITH YOUR RECORDS

You can now have your refund split among three accounts when you use direct deposit if you choose. For instance, you could make deposits to a checking account, savings account and an individual retirement account. Just be sure to include your account numbers and our routing number, **321175520**, in the boxes provided on your tax form.

Avoid Refund Delays

Paying close attention to details can help ensure a prompt refund. Watch out for these common causes of delayed refunds:

- You change addresses after filing your return. Notify the post office that services your old address if this happens.
- The name on the return doesn't match the name on the Social Security record.
- The return wasn't signed.
- Necessary attachments, such as W-2 forms or schedules, are not included.
- Math errors.

Board of Directors

Terry Tice, Chair
 Willie L. Southward, III, Vice Chair
 Jan Reeves, Secretary-Treasurer
 John Beck, Director
 AnnMarie Boylan, Director
 Les Brown, Director
 Judy McGarry, Director
 Mark Norris, Director

Supervisory Committee

Mary Ann Bennett, Chair
 Beverly Skeaton, Vice Chair
 Mari Lynn Shimamoto, Member
 Gene Webb, Member
 Pat Wilcox, Member

President & CEO

Jerrold A. Kinlock

Branch Hours

Mon. - Thurs. • 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
 Friday • 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

All Offices

Phone: (916) 444-6070
 Toll Free: 1(888) SACTO-01
 24-Hour LoanAccess Line
 Toll Free: 1(877) 444-LEND
 E-Z Access: (916) 441-2255
 Toll Free: 1(800) 397-2255

Elk Grove

9160 E. Stockton Blvd., Ste. 120

Fair Oaks

8100 Madison Avenue

Sacramento

3660 Bradshaw Road
 800 H Street
 3045 Arden Way, Ste. 200
 6121 Franklin Blvd.
 Kaiser Hospital*
 6600 Bruceville Road
 * Limited hours of operation.

www.sactocu.org

Home Loans

www.SCUhome.com
 (916) 441-LOAN

SCU Investment Services

(916) 444-8599, ext. 3112

**Personal Auto Shopper
Autoland**

(916) 449-2763



Notice of Annual Meeting, Election and Eligible Candidates

The Sacramento Credit Union Annual Meeting and Election will be held Feb. 21, 2008, at 7 p.m. on the second floor of our main office, located at 800 H Street in Sacramento.

Candidates qualified by the nomination process and recommended by the Nominating Committee, the offices for which they are running and terms of office are as follow:

NAME	OFFICE	TERM OF OFFICE
John Beck	Board of Directors	2008 – 2011
Les Brown	Board of Directors	2008 – 2011
Terry Tice	Board of Directors	2008 – 2011
Mary Ann Bennett	Supervisory Committee	2008 – 2011
Pat Wilcox	Supervisory Committee	2008 – 2011

Directors and Committee members who are not up for election at this meeting are as follow:

NAME	OFFICE	TERM OF OFFICE
AnnMarie Boylan	Board of Directors	2007 – 2010
Judy McGarry	Board of Directors	2006 – 2009
Mark Norris	Board of Directors	2006 – 2009
Jan Reeves	Board of Directors	2006 – 2009
Willie L. Southward, III	Board of Directors	2007 – 2010
Mari Lynn Shimamoto	Supervisory Committee	2006 – 2009
Beverly Skeaton	Supervisory Committee	2007 – 2010
Gene Webb	Supervisory Committee	2007 – 2010

Invest in Sacramento

Spreading the Joy of the Season

Sacramento Credit Union was pleased to help celebrate the holiday season and give back to our community. With the help of our employees and members, we:

- Collected money for the Children's Miracle Network through our paper stocking program.
- Gave away tickets to "Disney on Ice" to Sacramento Children's Home, helping less-fortunate children enjoy some exciting entertainment.
- Presented turkeys to Volunteers of America to help feed the hungry.

Join us through 2008 as we continue to *Invest in Sacramento* with our time, talent and treasure. With your help, we can make our community a better place to live.

We wish all of you a safe, happy and prosperous New Year!