

1st Cooperative Federal Credit Union Money Talk

Your credit union comes to you

We're spreading the word about our services, including gap insurance and financial counseling



Jo Ann Burnside talks to Newberry Electric Cooperative employees.

Like electric co-ops, service is what 1st Cooperative Federal Credit Union is all about. So we're hitting the road to tell our co-op friends how we can serve them.

1st Cooperative's Jo Ann Burnside and Rosalyn Glenn conducted 29 presentations at 12 co-ops from April through August. More visits are planned.

Burnside and Glenn detail the difference between credit unions and

other financial institutions, giving an overview of 1st Co-op products and services. Sometimes (63) meeting attendees get the scoop on new offerings. At Newberry Electric Cooperative, Burnside explained that 1st Co-op will soon offer gap insurance. "Gap insurance insures you for the difference between what you would owe on a vehicle and what an insurance company says it's worth," explained Burnside, executive

vice president. "It's a must for someone who purchases a new vehicle since a new vehicle depreciates right after it is driven off the dealer's lot."

Dealers have (191) long offered gap insurance, she noted.

So, what's the difference?

It's the credit union/cooperative difference. As Burnside explains: "We can offer coverage at a lower cost. Like co-ops, we're not-for-profit. We're for service. We're trusted members of the cooperative family — not strangers out to make a buck."

Meanwhile, Glenn, the credit union's assistant manager, can offer her services as a certified (737) financial counselor. See Page 2 for details.

Burnside notes, "Members and potential members can talk one-on-one with a credit union staff member. We learn how we can serve our members better. It just shows how, with cooperation, everybody wins!"

Spiffed-up Money Talk sports new look, features

Yes, we now have color photos. But that's not all. We've updated Money Talk to give you more information about your credit union's ever-expanding array of programs and services. Look inside this issue to learn about:

- Our newest service, free financial counseling, with two options — Page 2
- Our "growing" programs, Kids Club and Teen Savers — Page 3
- Our loan and savings products, in a more thorough listing — Page 4

Need financial counseling? You now have 2 free options

Your credit union is dedicated to helping its members realize financial goals - reducing your debt, saving for higher education, buying your first home, or planning for retirement. That's why we're excited to announce your newest member benefit: two financial counseling programs.

You now have (1474) the option to contact the certified financial counselor on staff at 1st Cooperative, Assistant Manager Rosalyn Glenn. Or you can call a toll-free number and reach a financial counselor through the Balance Financial Fitness program. Both financial counseling services are free and offer unbiased information and assistance. If paying bills is an

issue, simply reworking a current budget with professional (2270) guidance might just be enough to help you get back on track.

Call 1st Cooperative at (803) 796-0234 Monday through Friday 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., or call Balance Financial Fitness at 1-888-456-2227 Monday through Thursday, 8 a.m. to 11 p.m., Friday 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. and Saturday 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. Or access balancepro.net.



At your service



Rosalyn Glenn
Assistant Manager

Hold the 'LINE' to score a principled victory

Maintain a positive attitude as you make your way to financial stability

In two previous issues of Money Talk, we've encouraged you to stay the

course of the DISCIPLINE Principles, listed in the box below.

We've detailed the first six principles in earlier columns. Now, in the last quarter of the year, it's time (2817) to hold the "LINE" on those last four values:

The "L" principle creates much anxiety, especially for those who carry the weight of a high debt load. But when you list our expenses, you face up to them. You see you can deal with them head on.

You can never get out of debt if you don't know how much debt you are in. Once you face facts, you can take action by creating a debt reduction plan. But

take heart: Knocking out debts one by one is very rewarding.

The third "I" could stand for "intimidating," as it calls for telling family and friends about your need to rein in expenses. Explain to your family that you (and they) may have to cut

Getting there is half the fun

back on a few luxuries. As for friends, true ones will understand. They'll accept it if you can't always hang out with them — at least not if it costs a lot of money to do so! For both groups, give it to them straight. That eliminates the need to avoid people or even worse, be untruthful.

The "N" is straightforward, too, and emphatic: NEVER use payday lenders or title loan companies! These types of lending services can catapult you into a downward spiral that is difficult to get out of. The interest you pay to car title loan companies far exceeds what you would pay for any credit union loan product. Come see 1st Co-op first. "Discipline" ends with an "E," also the

Free financial workshop Nov. 12 at Statewide

Ever wonder where your money goes each month? Does it seem like you're never able to get ahead? Never fear. Help is here.

1st Cooperative will offer a Financial Freedom workshop for members from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Wednesday, November 12 at the Statewide office.

"We'll give our members information to help them to overcome the challenges associated (3083) with these tough economic times," says Assistant Manager Rosalyn Glenn, a certified financial counselor. "We'll point participants on a path to financial freedom with details on how to establish a budget to help you achieve your financial goals. And we'll offer tips on ways to cut costs and get out of debt."

There is no charge for 1st Cooperative members. To register, see your co-op's credit union contact, listed on Page 4, or call Glenn at (803) 739-3077.

The DISCIPLINE Principles

- D** Do not create any new debt
- I** Increase your income
- S** Save systematically
- C** Change your spending habits
- I** Implement a spending plan (budget)
- P** Pay your bills on time
- L** List all your expenses
- I** Include family and friends
- N** Never use payday lenders/title loan companies
- E** Enjoy the journey!

first letter in "enjoyment." And getting there is half the fun. The famous pastor, author and educator Charles Swindoll was convinced that life is 10% what happens to you and 90% how you respond. Resolve to maintain a positive attitude as you (2767) make your way to financial stability.

A disciplined approach yields a more fulfilling life and the achievement of your financial goals. As always, 1st Cooperative is here to help.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Rhino the Dino is sending coloring books and crayons to Kids Club members with birthdays this quarter, including:

OCTOBER

Grace Anne Lasseigne
Merritt Elizabeth Locklair
Reedus C. Tisdale
Ryan N. Kyzer
Morgan Deanne Mizell
Jack Edwards Brickle
Shepherd Williamson
Dylan M. Buzhardt
K. Wesley Carter
Lauren M. Baker
Michael J. Salmon Jr.
Trust Williamson
Kadence E. Price
Lynsey T. Dawkins
Chelsea P. Davis

NOVEMBER

Daniel R. Morrell
Isabella Hope Polin
Courtney Nicole White
L. Hall Crocker
Micheal D. Mason Jr.

DECEMBER

Benjamin Kelley
Larry Jeremiah Gadson Jr.
Raymond James Cheek
Joanna Leigh Myers
Ariyanna D. Sampson
Nevaeh Barkoot
Thomas Frank
David Jeffrey Keasler
Emmalyn Grace Taylor
Brian Ethan Sandifer



Did you FIND IT?

Yes, we've made some changes to Money Talk. But we still hide 10 member numbers (in parentheses) in each edition. Adults' numbers, that is. And, same as always, if you find yours, call us. We'll put \$5 in your account.

To welcome Kids Club and Teen Savers members to the fold, we now hide two of their member numbers in the stories for their clubs. Each is worth \$10!

Three co-op employees won \$5 in the last Money Talk: William Lambert of Horry Electric, Ruth Russ of York Electric and Shannon Brown of Black River Electric. Meanwhile, Tamia Dunnigan, Cyrus Mack and Anna Jean Buntun found their numbers in the last Kids Corner.

Children learn to earn rewards

Rhino the Dino has been teaching our youngest credit union members to save for ages. The 141 current members of his Kids Club, for youth up to age 12, are really learning, too: They have \$132,693 in savings, an average of \$941 per member!

Some Kids Club members graduated to our Teen Savers club, formed early this year. Sixty-eight Teen Savers have \$130,364 in savings, averaging \$917 each. Obviously, Rhino's (1796) a good teacher!

Keeping safe in MySpace

By Sandy Hall

Hello, fellow Teen Savers! It's exciting to communicate with you through this new column.

Speaking of communicating, if you're like lots of teens, you use the Internet to chat, e-mail friends and more. The Internet is great but beware of predators!



Teen Savers receive gifts like these crazy 1st Co-op pens!

Many teens use the popular social Web site MySpace.com to post pictures and personal profiles, network with friends, blog on other people's pages, view videos and listen to music. Sometimes we teens get so caught up in it all, we forget that anyone who has a MySpace account can view our pictures and blogs unless we're careful.

Protect yourself. Set your account to private so only friends can view your profile. But even though yours is private, your friends' accounts may not be. A predator could (277) view a friend's account to learn more about you. So, on the registration questions, when you're asked for your name, screen name and url, use a fake name. If you post pictures, don't give your school's name or your address.



Not only does Rhino help kids learn to earn dividends, he also gives them rewards, including birthday gifts.

Parents and grands, could your kid learn with Rhino? If so, call Angie Nieman at 1st Co-op at (803) 739-3076.

Watch this space for special Kids Club news, fun and games and more!

Teen Savers



Sandy Hall, 13, is a charter member of Teen Savers — actually, she came up with the club's name! Sandy is a daughter of John and Tammy Hall, a Central Electric employee.

MySpace aside, maintaining privacy is just as important in other uses of the Internet, such as online banking with 1st Co-op. You do bank online, right? If not, ask your parents if it's OK to sign up.

Teens and adults alike must carefully guard private information such as personal identification numbers (PINs).

You need to be mentally mature. That's what Teen Savers is about — learning to handle your personal finances responsibly. Be smart. Be safe!

Your 1st Co-op accounts are safe, insured

Credit unions remain a safe harbor for savings and other accounts, despite economic woes, including the recent IndyMac bank failure.

Thanks to federal insurance, members' shares are backed by the full faith and credit of the U.S.



Treasury. Virtually all credit unions, including 1st Cooperative Federal Credit Union, are insured by the National Credit Union Share Insurance Fund (NCUSIF), which insures savings of up to \$100,000 per account. Certain retirement accounts, such as IRAs (3676) and Keoghs, have additional coverage of up to \$250,000.

NCUSIF's equity-to-insured deposits are estimated at a strong 1.24 percent as of June 30 and are projected to increase to 1.28

percent by year's end, according to the National Credit Union Association.

Credit unions are nationally recognized for having steered clear of the subprime mortgage mess by lending responsibly and holding more of their mortgage loans — roughly 70 percent — in their portfolios instead of selling them on the secondary market to beleaguered Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac. Also, credit unions have a better capital-to-asset ratio — 11.1 percent — compared with 10% for banks.

It's another good reason to join us in celebrating International Credit Union Day on October 16. This year's theme is "My Credit Union: It Belongs to Me." We at 1st Cooperative thank you (3307) for being part of the credit union difference.

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Cayce, SC 29033
(803) 796-0234
Fax (803) 926-3177

OFFICE HOURS

8:30 a.m.-5 p.m.
Monday-Friday
www.1stcooperative.org

1st Contacts

For more information on 1st Cooperative services, call the credit union or see the credit union contact at your office:

AIKEN Donna King
BERKELEY Butch Evans, Trena Nelson, Stephanie Van Cleave
BLACK RIVER Tammy Wise
BLUE RIDGE Andrea Griffin, Susan King
BROAD RIVER Tina Rodgers
CENTRAL/PEDCO Tina Smedes
COASTAL Christy Frank
CEE-US Reba Sandel
EDISTO Margaret Lynn Morrell
FAIRFIELD Beth Mason
HORRY Heather Johnson
LITTLE RIVER Sue Burton
LYNCHEs RIVER Deborah Sullivan
MARLBORO Jean Evers
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PALMETTO Tanya Trull, Georgia Vido
SALUDA RIVER/NEW HORIZON Maria Kennedy
SANTEE Cheryl Wrenn
TRI-COUNTY Linda Wright
YORK Karen Wyatt

Your savings federally insured to at least \$100,000
and backed by the full faith and credit of the United States Government

NCUA

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

Loan Rates

Rates are quoted as Annual Percentage Rates (APR)

New Vehicle	5% – 11.50%
Used Vehicle	5% – 11.50%
New RV, ATV, Watercraft, Motorcycle	5.40% – 11.90%
Used RV, ATV, Watercraft, Motorcycle	6.40% – 12.90%
New Farm Equipment	8.50% – 15%
Used Farm Equipment	9.50% – 16%
Share Secured	3.25%
Certificate Secured	4.75% – 5.75%
Line of Credit, Personal, Overdraft	8.50% – 15%
Home Equity Line of Credit	5% – 6%
1 st Mortgage Loans	call (803) 796-0234 or visit our Web site

Rates, effective October 1,
are subject to change without notice.

Savings Rates

Rates are quoted as Annual Percentage Yield (APY)

Regular Share	.75%
Kids Club Share	.75%
Teen Savers	.75%
Holiday Helper	1.51%
1 st Choice Checking	.50%

Share Certificate Rates

Term	Minimum Balance	Annual % Yield
3 months	\$500	2.26% APY
6 months	\$500	2.51% APY
12 months	\$1,000	2.78% APY
24 months	\$1,000	3.29% APY

Rates, effective October 1,
are subject to change without notice.

1st Cooperative Statistics as of August 31, 2008

Assets	\$13,218,608
Shares	\$11,216,444
Loans	\$9,859,573
Members	2,453