

## *Are you happy with the* **AMOUNT YOU HAVE IN SAVINGS?**

If you're taking the time to read this, the answer is probably no.

But don't feel bad, most Americans are realizing that, with this type of down economy, having an adequate savings is becoming more and more important. The problem is "how much is an adequate savings and how do you get the money together?" Most people want to save, but are just waiting "until I have a little extra money." The question you have to ask yourself: When was the last time you had any extra money? No, the truth is that you have to budget for savings just like anything else. The good news is that once you make the commitment the hard part is done. Here are some easy tips to get started:



**AUTOMATE THE PROCESS:** It is a LOT easier to save when you have the money taken out of your check automatically and deposited into a savings account. It's almost a necessity.

**START SMALL:** If you try to save too much at first, you will short yourself on your regular expenses and have to tap the savings right away, defeating the purpose.

**DON'T TOUCH IT:** This is the hardest part!! You have to commit to leaving it alone unless there is a real emergency. (Note: "I need a little money to go out Friday" is not an emergency.)

**GET THE BEST RATE:** Normally, savings accounts don't pay much. However, there are programs like Pioneer's "Member's Choice" account, that pays significantly more than the regular rate.

Finally, TAKE ACTION. Waiting until you have time is a lot like waiting until you have some extra money...it won't happen. Pick up the phone and call us. We can set up an appointment time that will work for you.

# SHRED FEST 2009



Do you have piles of old statements, receipts, or other documents with confidential information on them but you don't feel you can safely dispose of it? Pioneer's Shred Fest is just what you need!

Cintas, a private, bonded company that specializes in destroying records, will be available at the sites and dates listed below to shred records. Members will be able to put their documents in the shredding truck and have them destroyed. There will also be confidential material container\* available at the two locations if you are unable to make it the day of the events.

It is a perfect time to get rid of sensitive and personal papers that you no longer need!

## Shred Fest Dates & Locations

### Huron Branch

Date: Saturday, April 4

Time: 8:30am – 12:30pm

Location: 911 Huron Road

\*Container available March 30 - April 3

### Velp Branch

Date: Saturday, April 18

Time: 8:30am – 12:30pm

Location: 1065 Velp Avenue

\*Container available April 13 - 17

\*Remember, paper only please!



## ANNUAL MEETING SCHEDULED

Pioneer's Annual Business Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 12, 2009. In accordance with credit union bylaws, we will be holding our Annual Meeting at our corporate office, located at 825 Morris Ave. The meeting will begin at 5:15 p.m. and is scheduled to last approximately one hour.

The Annual Meeting is open to all members. Three seats on the Board of Directors are up for election; winners of these seats will be announced at the meeting.

## PIONEER BRIEFS:

- In an effort to keep your information up to date and prevent fraud, we may ask you a few questions when you call. This is just another layer of security we use to keep your account safe.
- You can access your account information on MAX by calling 1-800-939-3899 or 494-6387 or sign up for homebanking online at [www.pioneercu.org](http://www.pioneercu.org).
- If you use the Quicken software to manage your money, you can now download your Pioneer Credit Union checking/savings history directly from within Quicken.

## OPPORTUNITIES ALL AROUND US!

There has been much talk and comparison lately that the current economic situation is the worst since the Great Depression. If that is the case, maybe it is a good time to reiterate one of the best known quotes from that ERA..."The only thing we have to fear, is fear itself." If you were to read or listen to the remainder of FDR's inaugural speech (*The Public Papers of Franklin D. Roosevelt, Volume Two: The Year of Crisis, 1933*), you will find a lot of similarities to what this country is encountering now.

With that said, there are great opportunities all around us, just as FDR alluded to in his inaugural address. We are committed to helping you pursue your financial goals more than ever. We are here for you to call us to arrange a meeting at a convenient time for you. Contact Brad or Ashley at 920-494-2828 to schedule a time to have us help you become a better educated investor and look for the same opportunities FDR spoke of so many years ago.

#### DISCLOSURE

Mutual funds, annuities and other investments: 1) are not insured by the FDIC, NCUA, or any other regulatory agency; 2) are not deposits; 3) are not obligations of, or guaranteed by, this financial institution or any other affiliated entity; 4) are subject to investment risks, including possible loss of the principal amount invested.

Securities are offered through Financial Network Investment Corporation – member SIPC, located at Pioneer Credit Union, 825 Morris Ave., Green Bay, WI 54304, 920-494-2828. Pioneer Credit Union and Financial Network are not affiliated companies.

## LET'S GO FOR TWO IN A ROW!

Pioneer – Best of the Bay

Last Year, Pioneer Credit Union was voted the best "Credit Union in the Bay for 2008" according to a poll conducted by the Green Bay Press-Gazette. Readers voted for their favorite organizations under a variety of categories. Lets hold that title again this year!



On March 29, the Green Bay Press-Gazette will have ballots available for the "Best of the Bay" in that day's newspaper. This year, you also have the opportunity to vote online. There will be a link on [www.pioneercu.org](http://www.pioneercu.org) to the voting area on the Green Bay Press-Gazette web site.

FROM THE TOP..

## MY APOLOGIES TO THE ECONOMIC GURU'S IN WASHINGTON

The "economic experts" and I are not singing off the same page. Now, I'm not talking about how they are spending the \$785 gazillion stimulus package. (Although I have an opinion on that, but you probably want to hear mine as much as I want to hear yours.)

No, I'm talking about their overall premise that we need to borrow our way out of the current recession. Seems if we can just free up the credit market and get everyone borrowing again the sun would shine every day, car exhaust would be perfumed oxygen, and the Packers would win the Super Bowl.

My issue is that over-borrowing (and precious little saving) got us into this mess. Loaning people money who can't afford it and encouraging everyone to spend, spend, spend is now coming home to roost. And encouraging more borrowing to fix things is a lot like giving a heroin junkie more dope to stop his withdrawal symptoms. Not a good long-term strategy.

I'm not saying you shouldn't borrow money, just do it with some sort of common sense. Let me give you some good examples: Buying a house that you can afford for shelter and protection for your family = Good Idea. Buying a 36,000 square foot house on Crystal Gold Golf Course when your income is chief bun steamer at Wiener World = Bad Idea. Reliable transportation to get to and from work = Good Idea. Charging an 87 inch nuclear powered HD plasma screen television when there have been layoffs at your job = Bad Idea. Immunization shots for the kids = Good Idea. Shots of Crown Royal for you = Bad Idea. You get the picture.

At your credit union we have always encouraged thrift. Borrow only what you need, and save what you can. We lived by that philosophy, and really wish the banks would have as well. Whether you're talking about an individual, family, company, or the government, spending more than you make is a bad idea. Period.

My advice, let others borrow their way out of the recession. I'm thinking a little less borrowing and a lot more savings and we can all retire well before our 83rd birthdays!

(Note: The opinions expressed are those of the author and do not necessarily represent Pioneer or its management. As such, they are worth exactly the same amount as you paid for this newsletter.)

– Joe Slattery



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Green Bay, WI 54306-2526

## INSIDE!

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## SCHOLARSHIP MONEY AVAILABLE.

Pioneer Credit Union is proud to offer a scholarship opportunity for students who are continuing their education.

The Leroy Jaeger Scholarship Fund was established to help offset some of the expenses of post-high school education. Each year Pioneer Credit Union awards a \$500 one-time scholarship to two deserving members, one male and one female.



The Leroy Jaeger Scholarship is only available to Pioneer Credit Union members between the ages of 17 and 21. The chances of you being our winner are much better than most scholarship opportunities!

There will be more details to come in April so watch for notifications on [pioneercreditunion.org](http://pioneercreditunion.org).

**Green Bay & De Pere**  
920.494.2828  
825 Morris Avenue  
201 W. St. Joseph Street  
1651 Main Street  
921 S. Taylor Street  
1065 Velp Avenue  
406 Cardinal Lane  
911 Huron Road  
108 S. 5th Street

**Sturgeon Bay**  
920.743.8271  
665 N. 12th Avenue  
1449 Green Bay Road

**Shawano**  
715.524.2344  
1305 E. Green Bay Street

**24 Hour**  
Touch-Tone Teller  
920.494.6387  
800.939.3899

Home Banking  
[pioneercreditunion.org](http://pioneercreditunion.org)

