

FULLFILLING OUR MISSION

We are privileged to be your financial services choice. It is a responsibility we do not take lightly. Since we are a not-for-profit cooperative, all funds belong to you. This fundamental principle guides all credit union decisions. We do not take undue risk; we can't. It's your money – not ours.

As a result of our fiscal conservancy, we have ended 2008 in a great position to continue fulfilling our mission of service to you. While the financial sector has struggled this year, we have thrived. We have lent funds to members during a time when they've seen their options restricted elsewhere. We have provided a safe place for deposits to grow for members wary of market conditions. We have thrived because you have placed your trust in us and we are committed to preserving that trust.

Together, we will meet 2009 head on. Whatever challenges may come, our partnership provides the strength to achieve our common goals. May you have a happy and healthy 2009!

Fund Your 2008 IRA

You can contribute up to \$5,000 if you are under 50 at the end of 2008 or up to \$6,000 if you are 50 or over before 2009. These contributions can be split between Roth and Traditional IRA's

Every Bit Counts

Commonly Overlooked Tax Deductions

- Stock losses. Unfortunately, this year too many of us have seen our stock values plummet. Consolation? You may be able to take a deduction for the loss.
- Student loan interest.
- Job-seeking expenses within your present field of employment.
- Education expenses you paid to maintain or improve job skills. Becoming indispensable at work is more important than ever; paying for the skills to become so may be deductible.
- Charitable contributions and mileage incurred while performing acts of charity. Who knew giving could be so profitable?
- Professional journals, magazines, and newspapers that are job-related. Too many people don't take the deduction – make sure you take yours.
- Gambling losses to the extent of your gambling winnings.
- Military reservist travel.

Source: www.mywealth.com/landing-tax-tips.html?dCMP=Gtaxtips2

Tax Tidbits

First known system of taxation was 3000-2800 BC in Ancient Egypt

It takes 300,000 trees to produce all of the IRS forms and instructions

Single people in Belgium pay over 50% in taxes

Joseph W. Gentry Memorial Scholarships

It is our privilege to once again award two scholarships in memory of Joseph W. Gentry, one of the founders of this credit union and a long-standing director of the board. Each year, candidates who have applied with the proper qualifications are required to answer one credit union-related question. Our current board of directors then selects two \$1,000 scholarship winners.

All qualifying entries are submitted to the Central Ohio Chapter of the Ohio Credit Union League to be considered for additional scholarships. Winners at the Chapter level are submitted to the Ohio Credit Union League for even more scholarship opportunities.

The deadline for scholarship entries is February 24, 2009. To obtain an application, you may call our office at 614-466-4988 or 800-434-7300, or visit our web site at www.stecu.net



Avoid Foreclosure Scams

During the most recent economic challenges a new scammer has emerged. One that preys on the fear of desperate homeowners: "foreclosure professionals." These "rescuers" use half-truths and lies to sell a service that is never delivered.

Don't conduct business with anyone who:

- Guarantees to stop the foreclosure process – no matter what your circumstances
- Instructs you to not contact your lender, lawyer, or credit or housing counselor
- Collects a fee before providing you with any services
- Accepts payment only by cashier's check or wire transfer
- Encourages you to lease your home so you can buy it back over time
- Tells you to make your mortgage payments directly to it, rather than your lender
- Tells you to transfer your property deed or title to it
- Offers to buy your house for cash at a fixed price that is not set by the housing market at the time of sale
- Offers to fill out paperwork for you
- Pressures you to sign paperwork you haven't had a chance to read thoroughly or that you don't understand

If you are facing foreclosure, contact your lender immediately. Lenders generally do not want to foreclose; it costs them money. Other foreclosure prevention options, including reinstatement and forbearance, are explained in the publication: *Mortgage Payments Sending You Reeling? Here's What to Do*, a publication from the FTC at www.ftc.gov. You may also contact a credit counselor from Homeownership Preservation Foundation (HPF), a nonprofit organization that operates the national 24/7 toll-free hotline (1.888.995.HOPE).

Source: www.ftc.gov/bcp/edu/pubs/consumer/credit/cre42.shtm

2009 Annual Meeting

There will be an Annual Membership meeting on March 24, 2009 at 1980 W. Broad Street, Columbus, OH 43223 at 10 a.m. in conference room 1D. The main purpose of the membership meeting is to review the past year's financial reports and to announce the candidates for the board of directors.

Three candidates filled three vacant positions pursuant to the following governing legislation, ORC section 1733.15(g): If the number of candidates for the board of directors does not exceed the number of director positions being elected, those candidates shall be deemed elected and shall serve as set forth in the articles or regulations.

Our Best Rates

Certificates (Jumbo).....	3.50% apy*
Certificates (non-Jumbo).....	2.95% apy*
New Auto	5.75% apr**
	Or, rate match discount up to 1% apr**
Used Auto.....	6.25% apr**
	Or, rate match discount up to 1% apr**
Home Equity Line of Credit	prime
First Mortgage.....	Changes daily

*apy = annual percentage yield. **apr = annual percentage rate. Rates effective as of January 7, 2009 and are subject to change without notice.

Important Notice:

It is important to maintain current addresses and phone numbers on file. If you have recently moved or any of your phone numbers has changed, please contact our office and provide the updated information. For your protection, we require this information in writing or through E-Account profile update.

Contact Us:

STE Credit Union, Inc.
1980 W. Broad Street • Columbus, Ohio 43223
ph: (614) 466-4988 • tf: (800) 434-7300
fax: (614) 466-5118
www.stecu.net
information@stecu.net

Hours of Operation:

Monday-Friday: 8:00am - 4:00pm
Remote Access 24/7/365!

Member of Shared Branch Network.

Visit our web site for locations and hours.

Important Information:

Lost/Stolen Debit or VISA Cards

Debit: (800) 528-2273 or (800) 782-0279
VISA: (800) 808-7230 - 8am to 10pm EST
(800) 991-4964 - after hours and weekends

Need your card limit raised?

Call our office at (614) 466-4988 or
(800) 434-7300

We will be closed on:

Martin Luther King Day (obs.) • Monday, January 19, 2009
Presidents' Day • Monday, February 16, 2009