



# Dollars & Sense

Winter 2006

## Mark Your Calendar for FECU's 2006 Annual Meeting

**Date:** Sat., March 4, 2006

**Time:** 10:00 am

**Location:** Des Moines  
VA Hospital  
Multipurpose Rm.

All members are invited to attend the 55th Annual Meeting. Members age 16 and older may vote to fill three positions on the Board of Directors.

Members who cannot attend the annual meeting may vote by absentee ballot. Absentee ballots will be available at any FECU office, or can be mailed by request, beginning Feb. 21, and must be received by Mar. 2. Please contact any FECU office if you have questions.

### Call For Board of Directors Candidates

Any member 18 years and older who is interested in being on this year's ballot should contact any FECU office by Tuesday, January 31, 2006. Nominations will not be accepted from the floor.

### Get Financially Fit In 2006!

It's likely that many New Year's resolutions were made earlier this month, but how about a resolution to become financially fit in 2006? If you're struggling with too much debt - or want to become debt-free in 2006 - according to many financial professionals, belonging to a credit union is a positive step toward making those dreams a reality.

Look inside for more tips  
to help you get financially fit in 2006!

# Tips For Working Out Your Financial "Flab" This Year

## Tip 1 - Join a credit union.

Simply said, credit unions offer lower - and often times fewer - fees than the majority of banks. Credit unions were designed for the average consumer, so your personal accounts are the focus of a credit union's business.

## Tip 2 - Pay off debt before building long-term savings.

Although every situation is different, in general experts recommend that you build an emergency fund (three or four months' income is a good start) while making minimum debt payments, consolidate bills to get rid of high-rate debt, and then focus on paying off debts before building a large savings account. However, be sure to avoid accumulating more debt as you're paying it off, and keep in mind that you'll need 10-20 years to save for retirement.

If you're concerned about no long-term savings, you could consider starting a small retirement savings account while you are still paying off debt. This will get you into the habit of saving, and build your knowledge of savings and investment options so that you're better prepared when you want to start serious saving.

## Tip 3 - Research employer's retirement matching benefits.

Check out your employer's retirement matching benefits. If your employer matches a certain amount of contributions to your retirement fund,

you may be better off contributing at least the amount they'll match, rather than repaying your debt faster.

## Tip 4 - Setup a reward system.

As with any new discipline, it's important to reward yourself along the way. Set small rewards for achieving milestones - it will help you stay focused on your overall goal, and you won't feel "cheated."

Whether or not you can achieve your financial goals in 2006, it's important to take inventory of where you are now, and where you want to be in December. Even the smallest step can lead to greater habits in the future.



## Five Ways to Pay Off Your Mortgage Loan Faster

1. Increase your payment schedule from monthly to bi-weekly payments.
2. Make lump sum payments.
3. Shorten the time frame of your loan.
4. Increase your payment amount even slightly.
5. Refinance at a lower interest rate, but pay the same amount each month.

Keep in mind some mortgage loans may have restrictions on some of the recommendations above, so always check with your lender first.

Content taken from [www.AllBusiness.com](http://www.AllBusiness.com).

## HOLIDAY CLOSINGS

Mon., Jan. 16 - MLK Day  
Mon., Feb. 20 - President's Day

# Privacy Policy Notice

Federal Employees Credit Union is committed to providing you with financial products and services to meet your needs and help you reach your financial goals. We are required by law to give you this privacy notice. If you have any questions after reading this notice, please contact us at 515-244-1458.

Following is a description of the information we collect and disclose, including the parties who receive nonpublic information from us, as permitted by law, to conduct the business of the credit union.

## Categories of Information We Collect –

We collect nonpublic personal information about you from the following sources:

- Information we receive from you on applications or other forms.
- Information about your transactions with us, our affiliates, or others.
- Information we receive from a consumer-reporting agency.

## Categories of Information We Disclose and Parties to Whom We Disclose –

We do not disclose any nonpublic personal information about our members and former members to anyone except as permitted by law. We may disclose all of the information we collect, as described above, to companies that perform marketing services on our behalf or to other financial institutions with whom we have a joint marketing agreement.

## Confidentiality and Security –

We restrict access to nonpublic personal information about you to those employees who need to know that information to provide products or services to you. We maintain physical, electronic, and procedural safeguards that comply with federal regulations to guard your nonpublic personal information.

## What Members Can Do To Protect Their Privacy –

FECU is committed to protecting the privacy of its members. Members can help by following these simple guidelines:

- *Protect your account numbers, card numbers, Personal Identification Numbers (PINs) and passwords.*

Never keep a PIN with your debit or credit card that can provide free access to your accounts if your card is lost or stolen.

- *Use caution when disclosing your account numbers, social security numbers, etc. to other persons.*

If someone calls you, explains the call is on behalf of the credit union, and asks for your account number, you should beware. Official credit union staff will have access to your information and will not need to ask for it.

- *Keep your information with FECU current.*

It is important that we have your current address and phone numbers. If we detect potentially fraudulent or unauthorized activity or use of an account, we will attempt to contact you immediately.

If you have questions on any of the information contained above, please contact one of the three FECU offices.

## FECU Locations & Hours

### Federal Building Office

210 Walnut St., Suite 132  
Des Moines, Iowa 50309  
Phone: (515) 244-1458  
Fax: (515) 282-4444  
Hours: Monday-Friday  
7:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

### Harding Hills Office

2524 Post St.  
Des Moines, Iowa 50310  
Phone: (515) 274-0939  
Fax: (515) 274-6871  
Hours: Monday-Friday  
Lobby: 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.  
Drive-up: 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

### Knoxville Office

1515 W. Pleasant, Bldg. 8, Room 113  
Knoxville, Iowa 50138  
Phone: (641) 842-5135  
Fax: (641) 842-2998  
Hours: Monday-Friday  
8:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

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Two convenient ways to access  
your accounts, 24 hours a day,  
7 days a week:

- **Online Banking** – Simply logon to [www.fecuiowa.org](http://www.fecuiowa.org) and click on "YourCU@Home"
- **Privileged Status ATMs**  
Look for this logo and rest assured you won't be assessed a surcharge fee.



AMERICA'S  
**CREDIT UNIONS™**  
*Where people are worth more than money.™*



## Loan Rates



<i>Term</i>	<i>Rate</i>	<i>Monthly Payment</i> (per \$1,000 borrowed)
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### New Vehicles

24 months	4.90%	\$43.83
36 months	5.40%	\$30.15
48 months	5.90%	\$23.44
60 months	6.40%	\$19.52

### Used Vehicles

#### 2002-2004

36 months	5.90%	\$30.38
48 months	6.40%	\$23.67
60 months	6.90%	\$19.75

#### 2000-2001

36 months	6.90%	\$30.83
48 months	7.40%	\$24.13

#### 1999 and Older

36 month	8.90%	\$31.75
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### Home Equity Line-of-Credit (HELOC)

84 months 7.50-9.00% (Fixed Rate)

180 months 7.00-10.00% (Variable Rate)

Based on Wall Street Journal prime rate and home's equity

### Visa Credit Cards

**Visa Classic:** Fixed Rate of 12.90%. No annual fee.

**Visa Gold:** Variable Rate of 10.00%. No annual fee.  
(3% above Wall Street Journal Prime rate)

**Get the most up-to-date rates and apply for a loan  
at [www.fecuiowa.org](http://www.fecuiowa.org)!**

Rates listed above are current as of 12/15/05. All rates are subject to qualified credit and to change. Please contact the credit union for full details and restrictions. All rates expressed as Annual Percentage Rate.