

CreditCheck

NEWSLETTER FROM THE CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN CREDIT UNION

FIRST QUARTER 2006

Let us help you with automobile financing CoBCU can help you save money with purchases and refinancing

Most car-shopping experiences are filled with myriad questions pertaining to which make, model, color, and options to buy. But what about questions pertaining to what you can afford, what interest rate you will pay, and whether zero percent or cash back is the better option?

The Church of the Brethren Credit Union can help you answer this second group of questions.

By pre-approving you for a loan, CoBCU will determine your maximum loan amount and monthly payment, based on your credit score, income, and debt; this will happen before you begin shopping. Pre-approval, which is not a commitment that you will take out a loan with CoBCU, speeds up the search process by giving you a better idea of the type of vehicle you can afford. Pre-approval also allows you to shop for the best interest rate while knowing that you have an alternative lending source to car-dealer financing.



Whether purchasing or refinancing your automobile to get a lower monthly payment, the Church of the Brethren Credit Union can help you with your automobile financing.

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A variety of insurances to be offered

Auto, home, health, life, and death and dismemberment insurance are available to all CoBCU members through an arrangement with CUNA Mutual. Established in 1935, CUNA Mutual is a worldwide provider of financial services to credit unions and their members.

Through an arrangement with CoBCU, CUNA Mutual periodically will send CoBCU members mailings offering these insurance products. Any member can call **877-MEMBERS** to inquire about the CUNA Mutual products offered to CoBCU members. CoBCU benefits from its members' use of the CUNA Mutual products.



Letters like the one above will be sent periodically to CoBCU members with offers for a variety of insurances, through an arrangement the Credit Union has with CUNA Mutual.

IRA deadlines for 2005

If you have a traditional individual retirement account (IRA), or if you are going to set one up, you have until April 17, 2006, to make contributions that can qualify for deductions on your 2005 income tax return. Contributions to traditional IRAs, but not Roth IRAs, may be deductions from income to arrive at your adjusted gross income. Current tax laws allow deductions for contributions made during the calendar year and those made after the end of the year but before the due date for your tax return, which is April 17 for most individuals.

Deductibility of contributions to traditional IRAs is based on a worksheet that is included with the instructions for Form 1040. In general, contributions are deductible for taxpayers with modified adjusted gross income under specified limits. The CoBCU website has more information about



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“Automobile financing” Continued from front...

To be pre-approved for an auto loan, call the CoBCU office or go to www.cobcu.org to complete a loan application; the website also includes educational resources, including one that outlines the pros and cons of zero percent versus cash back. Staff will contact you with the amount you have been pre-approved for; will help determine the market value of the vehicle you are interested in, and will help you crunch numbers to determine your best deal.

Lower your payment through refinancing



Some CoBCU members can also save money by refinancing their existing car loan at a lower interest rate. The reduced rate from CoBCU will result in a reduced payment, which then can be used to pay off or consolidate other debt or can be put into savings. Automatic loan payments can be set up as electronic fund transfers (EFTs) for your convenience.

To refinance with CoBCU, call or go online and submit a loan application. You will need to provide the vehicle's VIN number; your phone number; and the name, address, phone number, and account number of the existing finance company.

By utilizing CoBCU, a not-for-profit ministry owned by Brethren members and employees for Brethren members and employees, you join the 1,500 CoBCU members who support each other as co-owners instead of merely being customers of another financial institution. — Nevin Dulabaum

“IRA deadline” Continued from front...

deductibility at www.brethrenbenefittrust.org/cobcu/index.html. Click on “IRAs and ESAs” for more information.

If you contribute to an IRA between Jan. 1 and April 17, you can choose whether to deduct the amount in 2005 or 2006. This allows you to select the year in which the tax benefit will be greatest. Of course another possibility is to make a contribution before April 17, count it for 2005, and make another contribution later in the year as your 2006 investment. The key is to use the flexibility in the law to your best advantage. Your tax adviser can help with this decision. — Will Thomas

NYC Ultimate Frisbee Challenge

The non-stop movement and endurance of soccer will be combined with the aerial passing skills of football in July when CoBCU sponsors the first Church of the Brethren National Youth Conference Ultimate Frisbee Challenge. The two-day tournament will include up to 16 teams, with 10 to 12 players expected to be on each team.



Information about the tournament will be available in January at www.nyc2006.org and at www.cobcu.org. Additional information for signing up as a team or as an individual will be available in the sign-up packet, which will be sent out to all NYC registrants.

REMINDER

- Members who have earned \$10 or more in interest during 2005 will receive a 1099-INT tax form. Forms will be mailed by Jan. 31, 2006.
- Have you moved? Please let us know if your mailing address or phone number has changed.
- Open a Christmas Club account now and start saving for next Christmas today!
- Avoid dormant fees by maintaining a balance of \$50 or more in your savings account.
- As part of the Credit Union's annual Supervisory Audit, please review your year-end statement and contact the Supervisory Committee at **888-832-1383** to report discrepancies on your account.

Find up-to-date savings, loan, CD, and IRA rates online at www.cobcu.org.



To learn more about our services, call toll-free at **888-832-1383**.
cobcu@brethren.org ♦ www.cobcu.org

Savings Accounts ♦ CDs ♦ IRAs ♦ Christmas Accounts ♦ Children's Accounts ♦ New Vehicle Loans
Used Vehicle Loans ♦ Boat & Motorcycle Loans ♦ Personal Loans ♦ Share Secured Loans