

# MemberNews

SEPTEMBER 2013

UTILITIES EMPLOYEES CREDIT UNION

## CONVENIENCE CORNER

Fall may seem too early to think about taxes, but if you like to **simplify** tax season by starting your paperwork early in the New Year, then now is the perfect time to sign up for UECU's **free Tax E-Forms!** With **Tax E-Forms**, you'll be notified as soon as your forms are posted to *Advantages Online™*. Enjoy the **convenience** of instant, **easy** online access. UECU produces the following member tax forms: 1098, 1099-INT, 1099-Q, 1099-R, 1099-SA, 5498, 5498-ESA, and 5498-SA. You'll continue to get only those forms specific to your UECU financial accounts but with **Tax E-Forms** you'll receive email notification the minute your forms are prepared. You can then save them to your computer, print copies, and continue to securely view your forms online for the next 3 years. No more waiting for mail delivery, misplacing your paper tax documents, or worrying about when your forms will get to you if you travel in the winter months. Make 2014 the year you enjoy convenient 24/7, anywhere access to your UECU Tax E-Forms!

“My time is money and UECU gives me time. I can bank by phone or online and pay bills quickly – and I never have to leave my desk!”

- Tony T., New York

## Mobile Banking Is Coming to UECU in October

It's coming! During the month of October, UECU plans to unveil our newest financial service for members – a Mobile Banking version of *Advantages Online™*. UECU is excited to offer another powerful tool to access and manage your UECU accounts anytime, anywhere – our Mobile Banking service is easy-to-use, extremely portable, and **free!**

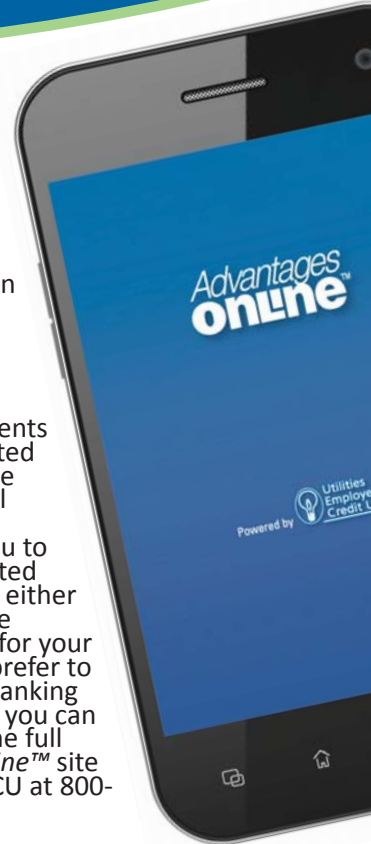
With Mobile Banking, your credit union is everywhere you go – access and manage your accounts anytime through your mobile phone or tablet computer. Your mobile device is an instant gateway to a variety of UECU's online banking tools. Now you can check your account balances, pay bills online, transfer funds, make UECU loan and credit card payments, review your transactions history and current account holds, check UECU rates, and get in touch with UECU through your device – all while you're on the go!

Mobile banking provides online banking access to members with Internet access through their mobile phones and devices. A free mobile application will be available for download from the “App Store” website for iPhone/Apple device users and from the “Google Play” website for Android phone/device users. Plus, a universal website version of *Advantages Online™* Mobile Banking will be accessible through the web browser on mobile devices, which is compatible with Apple, Android, Blackberry, and Windows devices.

Watch for details on UECU Mobile Banking to be announced soon on our website at [www.uecu.org](http://www.uecu.org). All UECU home banking

users will also be alerted once Mobile Banking is available, when signing into the full *Advantages Online™* home banking system. Since our online banking agreements have been updated to include Mobile Banking, you will see a one-time screen asking you to accept the updated agreements and either enable or decline Mobile Banking for your account. If you prefer to enable Mobile Banking at a future date, you can do so through the full *Advantages Online™* site or by calling UECU at 800-288-6423.

Now you have three free, convenient options for 24/7 around-the-clock access to UECU – *Advantages Online™* Mobile Banking, *Advantages Online™* Home Banking, and the *PAL™* audio response phone line. UECU is committed to offering you financial solutions that fit your lifestyle and keep you connected to your finances while you're on the go – we're your everywhere credit union!



**1.99% APR**  
6 Month Introductory Rate\*  
Followed by a  
**3.25% APR**  
Regular Rate

### Can You Believe It?

**UECU Dropped Home Equity Line of Credit Rates Even Lower!**

**Hurry to Enjoy UECU's Special Offer for New Lines of Credit:**

- **1.99% APR Intro Rate Home Equity Line of Credit\***
- **No application fee, no closing costs & no points^**
- **Quick & Easy Access to Your Funds** with the Home Equity VISA® Platinum Card† – *Spend just what you need, when & where you choose!*

**Start Achieving More while Paying Less. 800-288-6423 ext. 4001.**



Utilities  
Employees  
Credit Union

*Membership has its advantages.*

\* Home Equity Line of Credit Introductory Rate is for the first 6 months from date of loan. After 6 months, the regular rate will take effect. Regular rates may vary and adjust quarterly based on the Wall Street Journal Prime Rate (Index) plus 0.0% APR (Margin) for up to 90% LTV (currently 3.25% APR); plus 1.0% APR (Margin) for 91 to 100% LTV (currently 4.25% APR). Maximum lifetime interest rate will not exceed 18% APR. APR = Annual Percentage Rate.  
^ You may be eligible for a no-cost loan; however, some fees may apply including an appraisal fee depending upon individual underwriting circumstances or fees imposed by third parties. Some states charge additional recording tax after approval for which you are responsible. If your home is located in SC, a SC attorney will charge fees for loan closing (of which UECU provides \$150 credit). Early closing reimbursement fee of \$400 will be assessed if Home Equity Loan or Line of Credit closed within the first 12 months after opening; \$200 if closed during months 13 to 24.  
† Card access option is not available on all HELOC products.  
Home Equity products are not available in all states. Real estate must be first or second lien, 1-4 family owner-occupied residential property. Homeowners insurance is required. Flood insurance required for properties designated in flood zones.

YOUR FINANCIAL SOLUTION INSTITUTION



# President's Message

## Why pay fees to have a Checking Account?

We all hate fees! No one wants to see their hard-earned money chipped away for no practical reason. And few topics have received more press in the financial news than how heavily consumers have been battered with fees.

So why do most people keep their checking accounts at major banks, where they're hammered month after month with fees and stiff requirements? In its 2012 Checking Survey, the independent firm Bankrate once again confirmed the dramatic differences between how banks treat their customers and credit unions treat their members (don't forget that as a member, you own the Credit Union).

For example, the survey showed that 82% of credit unions offered free checking, compared to just 39% of banks. The average minimum balance required in an interest-bearing checking account to avoid a fee was \$1,010 at credit unions – more than \$5,000 lower than the \$6,118 bank average. And much of the banking sector seems intent on continually raising those fees.

But let's get specific – what about *your* Credit Union? UECU offers several checking options and the *EasyCheck* account is truly a **totally free** account. And it's not a bare-bones account either – the benefits are impressive:

- No minimum balance
- No monthly fee
- A free *Advantages* VISA® *Check Card*™ that earns reward points
- Up to \$8 per month in ATM surcharge rebates – and you can use nearly any ATM in the country
- Free online *Advantages Bill Pay*™
- Your first set of checks is free
- An active checking account qualifies you for a 0.25% APR rate reduction on most consumer loans
- Never a charge for direct deposit or for writing too many checks

If you can keep a higher balance in your account, UECU's other checking options provide even greater benefits. For example, earn meaningful interest rates with *Advantages Money Market Checking*™ (presently up to 1.00% APY). Or receive even more in ATM surcharge rebates if you're at least age 50 (*Priority Checking*) or under age 26 (*Connections*™ *Checking*).

So why pay fees to your bank for a single month longer? Take a few minutes now to learn more about the choices available through *your* Credit Union. Speak with a UECU Member Service Representative at 800-288-6423 or visit [www.uecu.org](http://www.uecu.org) and click on "Checking." You really will be glad that you took time to switch.

Best wishes,

Glen A. Yeager  
President/CEO



Fast, convenient and a safe way to access your UECU accounts. No need to write a check or go to the ATM, just use your *Advantages* VISA® *Check Card*™ wherever VISA is accepted.

# Harvest Time Savings

For those who are always looking for thrifty ways to feed the family, autumn is the perfect time to celebrate savings. Buying locally-grown produce during the harvest season offers you opportunities to enjoy fresh food, support your regional economy, and avoid paying the added cost of imported groceries. If you didn't have time to plant your own vegetable garden this year, seek out local farm stand bargains or a local farm cooperative program where you receive an ongoing supply of fresh veggies and farm goodies for the whole season. Don't know where to go? Use the website [www.LocalHarvest.org](http://www.LocalHarvest.org) to discover local food sources including farms, farmers' markets, retailers, and community-supported agriculture programs, located in your area. Then start enjoying a tasty and frugal fall season!

The screenshot shows the LocalHarvest.org website. At the top, it says "LocalHarvest real food. real farmers. real community." with a navigation menu including Home, Shop, Farms, CSA, Forum, Events, Newsletter, Blogs, and Photos. There are links for "New Members sign up here", "user login", and "view basket". A main heading reads "The best organic food is what's grown closest to you. Use our website to find farmers' markets, family farms, and other sources of sustainably grown food in your area, where you can buy produce, grass-fed meats, and many other goodies. Want to support this great web site? Shop in our catalog for things you can't find locally!" Below this is a "Fall Garden Seeds" section, a "Food Farm Events" calendar for Sep-2013, and a "What are you looking for?" search filter with categories like All, Online Store, Farms, CSA, Farmers' Markets, Restaurants, Grocery/Co-op, Wholesale, Meat Processors, and Others. A map of the United States shows local food sources. There are also featured products like "Fresh (Khalal) Dates" and "Purple Passion Fruit".



## Current and future homeowners, the time to act is now!

In recent weeks, conventional mortgage rates have begun to climb, nearing their highest levels in the past 2 ½ years, as the 30-year rate has approached 5%. From a historical perspective, an interest rate of 5% is still attractive compared to rates that were 6% and higher as recently as 5 years ago. As the economy slowly improves, home prices are also beginning to increase – the Federal Housing Finance Agency (FHFA) has reported a national increase of 7.2% in home prices over the past year. With rising mortgage rates and home prices in mind, **now is the time to act if you are in the market for a new home or thinking about the purchase of a vacation home.**



In the current rate environment, many **members who are current homeowners have recently refinanced their conventional first mortgage loans into UECU home equity loans** because of low fixed rates and low (or no) closing costs. In some cases escrow and Private Mortgage Insurance (PMI) were eliminated, the term of the mortgage was reduced, and the rate was reduced. This all equates to members saving hundreds, perhaps thousands of dollars – and being able to own their homes free and clear sooner!

Whatever your situation, UECU has an assortment of real estate loan solutions so we can find the solution to fit your needs. We offer a range of conventional mortgage products for the purchase of a new home or for refinancing your current home. If you are in the market for a new home or vacation home we also offer pre-qualifications to assist you in the home buying process.

UECU offers attractive low rates on our home equity loan products. With a Home Equity Loan you could refinance your current mortgage into a low-rate fixed term loan for terms of up to 20 years – and with a Home Equity Loan or Home Equity Line of Credit, you could borrow funds for home improvement costs, consolidation of higher rate loans or credit cards, college expenses, or that dream vacation.

Talk to one of our friendly and knowledgeable Financial Services Consultants at **800-288-6423, ext. 4001**, (day or night, 7 days a week) or visit our website at [www.uecu.org](http://www.uecu.org) to apply for a real estate loan online. Act now to take advantage of the great rates and competitive loan products that your credit union has to offer!!

## Leaving For Sunnier Places This Winter?

Avoid having your UECU financial statements and tax forms returned to sender.



Did you know? Every January, hundreds of member tax forms are returned to UECU by the Post Office for members with a “Temporarily Away” postal status. If you spend winter (or any other seasons) away from your home address, please help yourself and the Credit Union by sharing your seasonal address and/or choosing to receive UECU’s free, paperless *E-Statements* and *Tax E-Forms*. You’ll avoid any delay in receiving tax forms and filing your taxes – and the successful delivery of your forms will save the Credit Union substantial postage costs. *E-Statements* and *E-Forms* provide you with instant, secure access to your documents – plus, you’ll receive *VantagePoints™* for every Member and *VISA E-Statement* you receive!

If you still prefer to receive paper statements by mail, and your address does vary with the seasons, please provide UECU with updated address information. You may change your current address on *Advantages Online™* when you relocate or authorize your change of address in writing. Use the Seasonal Address Form included with your September paper or electronic member statement to provide your seasonal addresses in advance – then you can simply call us when you’re leaving or returning to town and we’ll switch between the addresses you have on record.

**UECU thanks you for ensuring your address records are up-to-date!**

## UECU Knows Utility Families

Since 1934, Utilities Employees Credit Union (UECU) has been providing exclusive financial benefits to America's utility and energy employees and their families. A full-service, virtual credit union, UECU's goal is to help workers improve their financial well-being, accumulate wealth, and conveniently manage their finances with 24/7 account access and free financial tools – from wherever they reside today or travel in the future.



Mailing Address	P.O. Box 14864 Reading, PA 19612-4864
Street Address	11 Meridian Boulevard Wyomissing, PA 19610
Email Address	Advantages@uecu.org
Office Hours (Eastern Time)	Weekdays 8AM – 5PM* *Wednesdays until 3:30PM Open for Loans 24/7 Apply online at www.uecu.org Call 800.288.6423
24-Hour PAL™	Audio Response System 800.CRUNPAL (800.278.6725)
Member Service	800.CUVOICE (Nationwide) 800.288.6423 Fax: 610.927.4009
Financial Service Consultants	800.288.6423 Ext 4001 Fax: 610.927.4059
Loan Department	800.288.6423 Ext 4001 Fax: 610.927.4059
Mortgage Dept Representatives	866.841.2489 Representatives Weekdays 8:30AM – 10:00PM Weekends 10:30AM – 7:00PM
Advantages Online™	Available 24/7

## HOLIDAY REMINDERS

Your Credit Union will be closed:  
 October 14th Columbus Day  
 November 11th Veterans Day  
 November 28th Thanksgiving Day

Please ensure you always receive your email from us by including UECU on your safe sender list according to the settings or options of your email provider.

This way email from @uecu.org lands in your inbox and you are always "in the know"!



Remember  
Advantages Online™  
is OPEN Anytime!



This credit union is federally insured by the National Credit Union Administration. Your savings federally insured to at least \$250,000 and backed by the full faith and credit of the United States Government.

4

lovemycreditunion.org

## talk about savings.

say hello to the Sprint  
Credit Union Member Discount.

<p>save <b>10%</b></p> <p>on select regularly priced personal service plans* Use Corporate ID: NACUC_ZZM</p>	or	<p>save <b>15%</b></p> <p>on select regularly priced business accounts* Use Corporate ID: NACUC_ZDS_ZZM</p>
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- Plus**
- Waived activation fee on new lines (Up to \$36 in savings)
  - Waived upgrade fee (Up to \$36 in savings)



Call 877.SAVE.4.CU and tell them you're a credit union member and ask to be attached to either Corporate ID to start saving today!



Use your QR code reader to scan here and get the free Invest in America app to validate your credit union membership.

For business accounts, visit a Sprint store. To find a location near you, go to [www.sprintstorelocator.com](http://www.sprintstorelocator.com).

\*Application of discount requires 2-year contract extension on existing plans. Verification of membership is required at time of activation/upgrade. All rights reserved. Sprint, the logo, and other trademarks are the trademarks of Sprint Nextel. Discount does not apply to secondary lines. For a complete update on the rules of the Sprint Credit Union Member Discount program, please visit [www.lovemycreditunion.org/Sprint](http://www.lovemycreditunion.org/Sprint).

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## Featured Rate Review (For full listing of rates visit uecu.org)

### Share & Special Savings Accounts

0.40% APY  
 No minimum balance, no monthly fees.  
 \$5 min to obtain APY in the Primary Share Account.

**Advantages Money Market Savings™ Accounts**

\$0.01 – \$9,999.99	0.30% APY
\$10,000 - \$49,999.99	0.55% APY
\$50,000.00 and over	1.00% APY

No minimum balance required to earn APY. Minimum daily balance of \$2,500 required to avoid \$10 monthly fee.

**Advantages Money Market Checking™**

\$0.01 – \$9,999.99	0.30% APY
\$10,000 - \$49,999.99	0.55% APY
\$50,000.00 and over	1.00% APY

Monthly service fee will not be charged if a recurring electronic deposit is established, regardless of minimum daily balance. Otherwise a minimum daily balance of \$2,500 required to avoid \$10 monthly fee.

**Connections™ Checking**

(For ages 13-25.) 0.40% APY  
 No minimum balance, no monthly fees. Requires E-Statements and Advantages Online™.

**Advantages Certificates of Deposit™**

Rates up to 1.75% APY  
 w/terms from 6 mo. to 5 yrs.

\$500 minimum deposit required to open account. Minimum deposit of \$75,000 and term of 5 years is required to earn stated APY. APY assumes principal and dividends remain on deposit until maturity. A penalty is imposed for early withdrawal.

Annual Percentage Yield (APY) is quoted as of September 18, 2013. APY is subject to change and may be withdrawn without notice. Savings and checking rates may vary after account is opened.

### New/Used Auto Loans

2006-2013 Models (new/used):  
 (Up to 100% of MSRP or if used, lower of NADA retail or selling price)  
 Up to 36 Mo 2.24% APR  
 37 to 60 Mo 2.24% APR

**Personal Loans**

Up to 36 Mo 5.99% APR  
 37 to 60 Mo 6.99% APR

**Home Equity Loans**  
 Add .25% for voluntary escrow on first lien home equity term loans.  
 80% or Less LTV, 1st lien only

Up to 60 Mo	2.74% APR
61 to 120 Mo	3.24% APR
121 to 180 Mo	3.74% APR
181 to 240 Mo	4.24% APR

90% or Less LTV, 1st or 2nd lien

Up to 60 Mo	3.74% APY
61 to 120 Mo	4.24% APR
121 to 180 Mo	4.74% APR
181 to 240 Mo	5.24% APR

91% to 100% LTV available. See uecu.org.

Rates shown are our lowest rates, which are based on an evaluation of applicant's credit and maintaining an active UECU checking account (at least one transaction per month). Your actual rate may differ from these stated rates based on certain credit-worthiness criteria. Rates are quoted as of September 18, 2013. All rates are subject to change without notice. For more rates and for current rates visit uecu.org or contact us by phone.