RTP Federal Credit Union

THE SCOPE

Winter 2008

Celebrating 40 Years

by Doug Wilkerson, President

On January 17, 2008 RTP Federal Credit Union turns 40. As this milestone approaches, I look back through the years at our many accomplishments as I celebrate the past and look forward to the future.

Born on January 17, 1968, to EPA and NIEHS employees, RTP Federal Credit Union was operated from a desk located within EPA. As the credit union grew, it wasn't long before we hired more employees and moved into our first permanent office on Alston Avenue. It wasn't until 1987 that we expanded further and moved to a location on Slater Road that would house us for 20 years – while also opening branch locations in North Raleigh and Cary. Even though our Slater Road location was home to our main branch for many years, we relocated into a new branch at 21 Park Drive on Highway 54 in RTP on November 19, 2007.

From adding branches, to employee and member growth, to high-tech technology, RTP Federal Credit Union has seen many changes over four decades. However, no matter how much the financial industry changes with the times, one thing at RTP Federal Credit Union remains the same – our core values remain intact – providing superior, personalized service to our members. We begin work each day knowing our members are our top priority and number one asset.

RTP Federal Credit Union will be closed for the holidays:

January 1st:
NEW YEAR'S DAY

January 21st:
MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY

March 21st:
GOOD FRIDAY

1968 40 years *2008*

We are proud to be where we are in the financial industry and excited for the future. No matter where the next 40 years take us, we will remain committed to you, our member. Whether you joined the credit union 40 years ago or today, thank you for 40 great years, and we look forward to 40 more!

Thank you to all of our loyal members for your continued support throughout the past 40 years. We could not have done it without you!

BRANCHES:

Research Triangle Park
21 Park Drive
Research Triangle Park, NC 27709
Mon-Fri 8:30-5:30
(lobby and drive-thru)

Raleigh
7560 Creedmoor Road
Raleigh, NC 27613
Mon-Fri 8:30-5:30
(lobby and drive-thru)

Cary
915 North Harrison Avenue
Cary, NC 27513
Mon-Fri 8:30-5:30
(lobby and drive-thru)

Member Call Center –
919.941.5700
Website: www.rtpfcu.org

RESOLUTIONS EVERYONE SHOULD MAKE

Contributed by Christopher R. Gamber, Esq., Gamber@SeidelGamber.com, Seidel Gamber, PLLC

This New Year, while making your resolutions to lose weight or become more organized, consider a couple of other resolutions to add to your list – reviewing your estate planning and, if you are a business owner, reviewing your corporate documents to ensure both of those areas are up-to-date and drafted to achieve your desired goals.

For estate planning, this is an opportunity to review the documents you already have in place and identify those areas that still need to be addressed. This annual estate planning review should seek to ensure recent events – marriage, divorce, birth or adoption of children, death of a family member, change in employment or assets, or relocation to a new state – which can all have profound impacts on your estate planning, are properly addressed. Once updated, open a dialogue with family members to guarantee your estate planning wishes are understood.

The New Year also affords a perfect opportunity for business owners to review their current business configuration to determine whether it is the most favorable arrangement for their present and future business operations. Ask yourself: Is my business operating under the most advantageous business structure available? Have the corporate formalities (i.e., meetings, minutes, resolutions, etc.) been kept up? Is there a proper succession plan in place?

An annual review of your estate and business plans is necessary because your life and business are constantly evolving. Once your estate and business planning issues are addressed, there will still be plenty of time to achieve (or ignore) all those other resolutions.

Making Investment Decisions:
Are your choices based on evidence or emotion?

by Jack Short, Certified Financial Planner®

Information vs. instinct. When it comes to investing, many people believe they have a “knack” for choosing good investments. But what exactly is that “knack” based on? The fact is, the choices we make with our assets can be strongly influenced by factors, many of them emotional, that we may not even be aware of.

Deal du jour. You’ve heard the whispers, the “next greatest thing” is out there and YOU can get on board, but only if you hurry … sound familiar? The prospect of being on the ground floor of the next big thing can be thrilling. But while there really are great new opportunities out there once in a while, often those “hot new investments” can go south quickly. A shrewd investor will turn away from spur-of-the-moment trends and seek out solid, proven investments with consistent returns.

Risky business. Many people claim NOT to be risk-takers, but that is not always the case. Most proficient investors aren’t reluctant to take a risk; they are reluctant to accept a loss. Yes, there’s a difference. The first step is to establish what constitutes an acceptable risk by determining what you’re willing to lose. The second step is to bear in mind the final outcome. If taking a risk could help you retire five years sooner, would you take it? What if the loss involved working an extra ten years before retiring … is it still a good risk? By weighing both the potential gain AND the potential loss (while keeping your final goals in mind), you can more wisely assess what constitutes an acceptable risk.

The crystal-ball approach. Some investors attempt to predict the future based on the past. As we all know, just because a stock rose yesterday, that doesn’t mean it will rise again today. We know this, but often we “shrug off” this knowledge in favor of hunches. Instead of stock picking, you can exercise a little caution and seek out investments with the potential for consistent returns.

The gut-driven investor. Some investors tend to pull out of investments the moment they lose money, then invest again once they feel “driven” to do so. While they may do some research, they are ultimately acting on impulse. This method of investing can result in huge losses. For example, let’s say you have $100 and are given 10 opportunities to bet $10 on a 50/50 chance event. If you lose the bet, you lose the $10. But if you win the bet, you make $25. What would you do? While the outcome is based on chance, we do know this … if you were to bet at every single opportunity, you’d stand an 87% chance of ending up with more than $100. If you bet sometimes and not other times, the probability is that you would not do as well. So this is yet another argument for long-term investing.

Making Investment Decisions *(continued)*

Eliminating emotion. Many investors "stir up" their investments when major events happen … including births, marriages or deaths. They seem to get a renewed interest in their stocks and/or begin to second-guess the effectiveness of their long-term plans. It's a case of action-reaction: they invest in response to short-term needs, instead of their long-term financial goals. The more often this happens, the more incoherent their so-called "financial strategy" becomes. If the financial changes they make are really dramatic, it can lead to catastrophe. Many times, there is no need to fix what isn't broken, or make a U-turn away from what they've done right. By enlisting the assistance of a qualified financial professional (and relying on their skill and expertise) you can be sure that investment decisions are based on facts, and made to suit your long-term objectives rather than your personal, changing emotions or short-term needs.

Jack Short is available for consultation. He can be reached directly at (919) 224-8052 extension 150.

These views are those of the author and should not be construed as investment advice. All information is believed to be from reliable sources; however we make no representation as to its completeness or accuracy. Please consult your Financial Advisor for further information.

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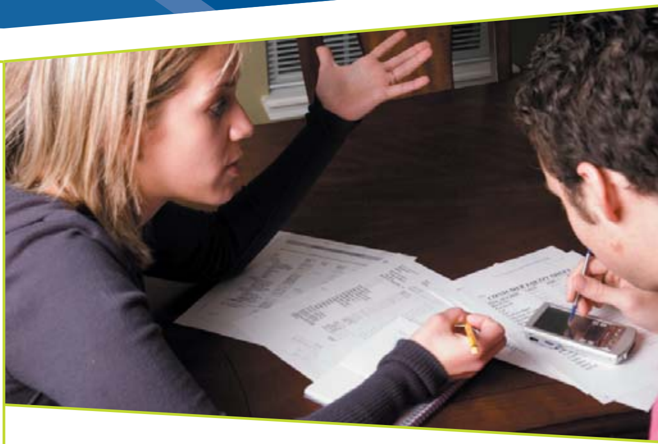
RTP Federal Credit Union 3rd Quarter Spotlight Award Winner . . . Anthony Hromada

Anthony Hromada was selected as the 3rd Quarter Spotlight Award Winner for exceeding the management teams's expectations by going above and beyond the call of duty to demonstrate RTP Federal Credit Union's core values. Anthony has been with the credit union for 9 years, starting as a Teller, then working as a Member Service Representative and ACH Processor before moving to his current position as System Technician. Anthony works out of our Administrative Office, and he is responsible for troubleshooting and maintenance at each of our branch locations as well. Anthony's manager says that he is a hard worker who is always willing go to the extra mile and is extemely helpful to all the other employees. Thank you and congratulations for your hard work and dedication!



Don't Let Tax Season Stress You Out

Two Ways to Ease the Burden of Tax Preparation

TurboTax® Online at www.rtpfcu.org

We've teamed up with Intuit—makers of trusted tax preparation software—to make TurboTax® Online available to members from our homepage www.rtpfcu.org, at a savings of 15% on federal tax products. TurboTax® Online lets you organize and complete your taxes easily and correctly with step-by-step help and updated tax law information to simplify your tax return and help you get the maximum refund you deserve.

On-Site Preparation by Accutax
Serving Members since 1996

Back by popular demand, Accutax will be available to our members through April 15th to offer tax preparation services including current year, multi-state and prior year returns. Fees can be automatically paid from your refund, so no up front cost is required. And, Accutax offers RTP Federal Credit Union members a 20% discount on tax preparation services. *To make an appointment, call Jack or Denice at (919) 224-8052, extension 150.*

RTP Federal Credit Union 2008 Annual Meeting and Election of 2008 Officers

March 26, 2008 at 5:30 p.m.

Located at Cato Research, in the Westpark Corporate Center at 4364 South Alston Ave. Durham, North Carolina

Our Website Has a New Look!

Our newly redesigned website debuted on December 17th. If you haven't yet, please visit us at www.rtpfcu.org and have a look at the new site!

Our RTP Branch is Now Open in its New Location

On November 19th, our RTP branch relocated from 1005 Slater Road to its new home at 21 Park Drive in The Shops at Park Center on Highway 54. The new branch location offers a drive-up ATM and safe deposit boxes, which had not been available at our previous RTP branch. "RTP Federal Credit Union is very excited about the opportunities presented by our new location. The new branch places us in the center of the Research Triangle Park – near where we began almost 40 years ago at EPA. We look forward to continuing to serve our existing members and meeting some new faces in RTP," says Doug Wilkerson, President.

James Thomas was the first member to enter our new RTP branch.

A Letter From Our President

Dear Members,

On October 5, 2007, RTP Federal Credit Union changed over to a new computer system. It's no secret that this change over caused some interruption of service for several days and created some inconvenience for many of you. We apologize to you for the inconvenience.

Many of you have asked why we changed in the first place, saying that the previous system seemed to be working just fine. This is why we changed. Our previous system was purchased in 1990. It was very reliable and stable; however, the programming that the system used was more than 30 years old and it was no longer being updated each year to keep up with trends in the banking industry. That means that we would no longer be able to offer new services and products as they become popular in the banking world. Our new system will help us continue to expand products and services as the credit union continues to grow.

We understand how frustrating it is when the internet banking service isn't available or if a debit or credit card doesn't work. We also realize the concern it creates for a consumer when their monthly statement is late. We are continuing to work closely with the new programming group to work out all of the details so that you can have the same confidence in us with our new computer system that you had in us with our previous system. We believe that the new company is making progress and that we are working toward resolving all of the unfinished issues.

On behalf of the Board of Directors and staff, I would like to say thank you for your patience during the past two months. We realize that, as banking consumers, you have many different institutions to choose from when you choose a financial institution. We appreciate your loyalty to our credit union and giving us the chance to make this right.

Sincerely,
Doug Wilkerson, President

Don't Get Left Out in the Cold This Winter

Discounted AAA Membership for RTP FCU Members

As a member of RTP Federal Credit Union, you are eligible for reduced first-year dues when you sign up for the protection and benefits of AAA membership. AAA members receive free towing, battery boost, lockout services, travel materials and more! Best of all, AAA protects you in any car, even if it's not your own. So please, don't get left out in the cold this winter – make sure you're protected with coverage from AAA. To learn more or sign up for AAA membership, please visit our website at www.rtpfcu.org and click on "Member Benefits and Discounts" under Membership.