

the Freedom Community

Freedom Federal Credit Union Newsletter ★ Fourth Quarter 2009

Freedom's **NEW** Rewards Checking Option ...

SAVES MEMBERS HUNDREDS OF DOLLARS A YEAR!

There are many new benefits for all of Freedom's checking options (Rewards, Classic and Youth), effective January 1, 2010. Freedom is especially excited about FREE point-of-sale (POS) debit card transactions (PIN or signature) with all checking types, AND SIX (6) FREE foreign ATM transactions a month for Rewards and Youth checking options.

Take a look at some of the advantages of the new Rewards Checking:

Improvements over the old Loyalty Rewards and Premium type!

- Lowered the minimum balance requirement to \$1,000 to earn dividends
- Increased the number of FREE foreign ATM transactions per month to six from three

NEW Benefits!

- Unlimited FREE PIN-based (or signature) transactions at point-of-sale for purchases
- "Special" regular share and IRA certificates available for Rewards Checking members ONLY
- .50% or more rate discount on refinanced loans from another financial institution with Direct Deposit and automated payment

Continued Benefits!

- FREE stop payments and American Express® Gift and Travelers Cheques
- FREE credit union checks, FREE money orders
- .25% rate discount on select Freedom loans with Direct Deposit and automated payment
- Unlimited FREE printed checks (Specialty Grey only)



Don't forget, all previous qualifying Loyalty Rewards and Premium Checking accounts are now converted to Rewards Checking!

Also remember, any accounts which were househanded together to meet the aggregate total requirements for Loyalty Rewards or Premium Checking will no longer receive any associated benefits, other than existing share or IRA certificates with bonuses which will remain in effect until maturity.

(continued on next page)

Freedom's New Rewards Checking Option ... (continued from front page)

Take a look at the following chart, and pick the checking account that best fits your age, needs, and lifestyle.

	REWARDS	YOUTH	CLASSIC
Checking balance required to earn dividends	\$1,000	\$100	No dividends earned
Balance and transactions required to avoid a \$5 monthly service charge	\$1,000 average monthly balance in checking, AND 6 transactions per calendar month	No charge	No charge
Additional Requirements	None	Must be Choices or CU Succeed 13 - 25 years old	None
Check Printing (Specialty Grey)	FREE (unlimited)	FREE (unlimited)	FREE (one box per rolling 12 months)
Home Banking and Bill Payer	FREE	FREE	FREE
In-network ATM transaction ¹	FREE	FREE	FREE
Out-of-network ATM transaction ²	6 FREE per month	6 FREE per month	\$.50 balance inquiry \$1.50 per transaction
POS transactions	FREE	FREE	FREE
Travelers Cheques	FREE	\$1 per \$100	\$1 per \$100
Travelers Cheques for Two	FREE	\$1.50 per \$100	\$1.50 per \$100
American Express Gift Cheques	FREE	\$1.50 per \$100	\$1.50 per \$100
Money Orders ³	FREE	\$2	\$2
Stop Payment ³	FREE	\$15 per item \$25 for multiple or series	\$15 per item \$25 for multiple or series
Freedom Federal Credit Union Checks ³	FREE	One FREE per month, \$5 each thereafter	One FREE per month, \$5 each thereafter
Loan Rate Discount with Direct Deposit and Automated Loan Payment ⁴	.25%	.25%	.25%
Refinance Loan Rate Discount with Direct Deposit and Automatic Loan Payment ⁵	.50% or more	None	None
Share or IRA Certificate Specials ⁶	Available "Special" Share or IRA certificates – See current rate sheet	None	None

¹ In-network include ATMs at Freedom branches or other locations, all M&T Banks, and select Wawa, select Rutter's, and select Baltimore area credit unions.

² Freedom does not have control over fees that may be charged by other financial institutions, third party service providers, or ATM owners.

³ Noted charges effective 2/15/10.

⁴ Mortgages, credit cards, variable lines of credit, and home equity lines of credit are not eligible for loan discount. (The .25% APR loan rate discount is applied to Freedom's rate.) The amount of the automated payment must be sufficient to make the loan payment each month.

⁵ Refinance loan rate discount of .50% or more (APR) applies to new fixed-rate, fixed-term loans refinanced from another financial institution. Mortgages, credit cards, variable lines of credit, and home equity lines of credit are not eligible for loan discount. Member may qualify for a better rate based on their credit worthiness. Floor rates apply. The amount of the automated payment must be sufficient to make the loan payment each month.

⁶ "Special" share or IRA certificates are available to Rewards Checking members only and not automatically applied to maturing certificates. Minimum deposits and specific terms will apply. See current rate sheet listing at www.freedomfcu.org.

All rates and terms are subject to change. ↗

Freedom's Annual Meeting

Freedom's 2010 Annual Meeting will be held on Tuesday evening, April 6, 2010, at the McFaul Center located behind the DMV off Rt. 24 in Bel Air. More details will be available on the web site, through email messages, and in branches. ↗

Keeping Score

November 30, 2009

Members 29,873
 Assets \$ 229,542,778
 Shares \$ 208,545,507
 Loans \$ 177,340,750

Freedom Partners with Harford Habitat's FIXIT Program

Harford County's Habitat for Humanity's FIXIT Program helped 25 families with various heating repair needs. Freedom proudly donated funds to the **Heats On** portion of the program. ↗

Rose Ann Lambert (center), *President and CEO of Freedom Federal Credit Union*, presents a \$1,000 donation to Bud Schuler (left) and Larry Vink (right) for Harford County's Habitat for Humanity *Heats On* program.



Freedom's Credit Cards Are The Best

Do you have a "Big Bank" credit card? Does it come with lots of new fees and high interest rates? Not very pleasant, is it?

Freedom believes:

1. You should **not** be treated like just another customer.
2. You should **not** be penalized for the mistakes of others.
3. You should **not** be charged a variable interest rate that could go to 25% or higher.
4. You **should be** treated with great care if you make your payments on time, carry a reasonable debt-to-income ratio, and don't go over your limit.

Freedom's Classic and Platinum Visa® credit cards provide very valuable options for members, including competitive rates and terms.

For the above reasons, Freedom's Visa credit card comes with Classic or Platinum options, a non-variable rate as low as 8.99% APR* and no double cycle billing. Can you say this about your "Big Bank" card? If not, Freedom is here for you. Apply today! Stop in any branch, call 800-440-4120, or visit www.freedomfcu.org to apply online. ↗

* APR = Annual Percentage Rates. Some restrictions may apply. Rates available on approved credit. Not all applicants will qualify for the lowest rate. Rates and terms may be different as determined by collateral and individual credit worthiness. Rates subject to change without notice.

Both cards offer:

- ⇒ **No annual fees**
- ⇒ **No minimum finance charge**
- ⇒ **No fee for balance transfers**
- ⇒ **No finance charges are assessed on new credit card purchases if the balance is paid in full each month within 25 days after the billing date**



Take Advantage of CUREwards

Use your cards for everyday purchases and earn rewards points to redeem for a wide selection of premium merchandise, as well as many travel options, including airline tickets, car rentals, hotel stays, cruises, and more. Earn one point for every \$1 charged.

Changes Are Coming to Freedom's Home Banking Security

Freedom is continually working to keep your relationship with us strong and secure. With that in mind, coming in the first quarter of 2010, Freedom will be revising the security procedures for home banking access.



1. **Passwords will go from five digits to eight digits – two of which need to be special characters (=, %, +, *, etc.) or numbers.**

2. **Your home banking password will expire once a year, and you will be notified upon signing in when that needs to happen.**
3. **When you change your password, you will not be permitted to utilize the last one you used.**

If you have any questions, please call Freedom's Member Service Center at 800-440-4120. ↗

Credit Union Scholarship Program Is Back For 2010

Are you or a family member headed off to college in 2010? Freedom is pleased to announce a college scholarship opportunity that may help with tuition costs. The \$11,000 Credit Union College Scholarship Program for 2010 is underway now! College-bound members are eligible to apply for one of ten \$1,000 essay-based scholarships and one \$1,000 video-based scholarship.

Deadline for applications is March 31, 2010. Awards will be made in May 2010.

This year's essay topic

How can your credit union membership help you avoid financial pitfalls?

This year's video challenge

Create a 60-second advertisement promoting credit union membership.

Any member of Freedom who is entering their freshmen through senior year of college may apply. "Freedom is pleased to offer this opportunity for our members," noted Rose Ann Lambert, President and CEO of Freedom. "The awardees receive needed financial assistance, while the essay and video topics provoke innovative responses that help us better serve our college-aged members. And the applicants learn a little more about Freedom."

This scholarship is made possible by the Credit Union Foundation of MD & DC. Two Freedom members won top awards – \$1,000 each – in 2009!

Applications and complete details on the Credit Union College Scholarship Program can be found at <http://cufound.org/scholarship.htm>, or visit Freedom's web site and follow the link.



Harford County's Better Way to Bank

P.O. Box 1545 • Bel Air, MD 21014

President and Chief Executive Officer

Rose Ann Lambert

Board of Directors

Michael Kaiser, *Chairman*
Gregory A. Bruce, *Secretary*
Jim Church, Jr., *Director*
Walt Davies, *Director*
Jeff Eiseman, *Director*
Lisa Ermatinger, *Director*
Don Matts, Jr., *Director*
Aaron Moszer, *Director*

Telephone Numbers

410-676-5700
800-440-4120
410-679-2440 (Baltimore)
TDD: 410-676-9584

24-Hour Telephone Teller

410-676-5016
800-376-4300

24-Hour Loan Line

800-440-4120

Web/Email

www.freedomfcu.org
memberserv@freedomfcu.org

Hours of Operation

Park Avenue in Bel Air
2019 Emmorton Road

Fountain Green in Bel Air
1304 Churchville Road

Swan Creek in Havre de Grace
1830-C Pulaski Highway (*no Drive-Thru*)

Lobby

Mon - Wed 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Thurs - Fri 9 a.m. - 7 p.m.
Saturday 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Drive Thru

Mon - Wed 8 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Thurs - Fri 8 a.m. - 7 p.m.
Saturday 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Edgewood at APG

Hoadley and Blackhawk Roads

Lobby

Mon - Wed 8 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Thurs - Fri 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Saturday Closed

Drive Thru

Mon - Fri 7:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Saturday Closed

Member Service Call Center

Available 24/7/365
410-676-5700 or 800-440-4120

Freedom Continues to Support *The Empty Stocking Fund*

Freedom employees and executives present a \$1,000 contribution to the Empty Stocking Fund as part of the annual holiday campaign. Pictured left to right are: Heather Battista, *Financial Services Representative*; Amanda Opperhauser, *Teller*; Jane Brown, *Empty Stocking Fund Treasurer*; Rose Ann Lambert, *President and Chief Executive Officer*; Tom Engwall, *Chief Financial Officer*; Niki Johnson, *Greeter*; and Amy Shelpack, *Branch Manager*.



Federal Regulation D

For all savings, money market and Christmas club accounts, members may make no more than six (6) transfers and withdrawals from their account to another account of theirs, or to a third party in any month by means of a preauthorized, automatic or internet transfer, by telephonic order or instruction, or by check, draft, debit card or similar order. If members exceed these limitations, their account may be subject to a fee or be closed.



NCUA

This credit union is federally insured by the National Credit Union Administration.