Writing paper checks have been on a steep decline for many years. However, paper checks are not going away anytime soon even though they may seem like an old-school method of payment in today's electronic world. They do still serve a purpose, but they take longer to clear your account, and it can be time consuming to write out checks every month for your bills, and slow you down every time you go to the grocery store. Debit cards and online bill pay are more convenient compared to writing paper checks.

Using your debit card can be a time saving tool when it comes to paying at the register. It is like a check without the added time to write the check, and it gets debited from your checking account faster. You can also request cash back, so you can avoid an extra trip to the credit union or an ATM. Using a debit card is also better than using your information from your checks when signing up for automatic debits for places or services like the gym, Venmo, or PayPal, etc. As it is easier to block and replace your debit card instead of completely closing out your checking account should you have any unauthorized transactions. Especially if you have payroll checks, pensions, and/or social security directly deposited to your account.

An alternative solution to writing out a pile of paper checks and hoping you have enough stamps to mail them all out, is UYFCU's online bill pay. With bill pay you can schedule payments to be paid now or on a future date, have recurring payments made automatically, pay a person (babysitter, gardener, friend, etc.), and transfer funds to another financial institution. All you have to do is set-up your payees on the system once, and from then on you can pay your bill with a simple click. This makes it easy to track your payments in one convenient location for better financial management.

It looks like paper checks will still be around for some time. However, if you write more than a few checks a month, it may be time to reevaluate and switch to a more convenient method of payment. If you don't already have a debit card, and/or online bill pay with your checking account, what are you waiting for? It's free with a UYFCU checking account. Call or ask one of our knowledgeable and friendly member service representatives for additional information or assistance.

UYFCU's Annual Meeting

The UYFCU Annual Meeting originally scheduled for April was postponed until October. All members are welcome to attend the annual meeting Thursday, October 22, 2020, at 6:00 p.m. at Plumbers & Steamfitters Local 582, 1916 W. Chapman Ave, Orange, CA (across the parking lot). This year’s agenda will include an election for board positions, review of the 2019 annual meeting minutes, review of the annual report, and a drawing for prizes. The nominating committee has recommended the following individuals: Greg Dick (Incumbent), and Xochitl Cobarruvias (Incumbent).
Safety Net For Your Family

The number of Americans with individual life insurance policies is at the lowest in 50 years. At the same time, life insurance continues to be rated high, important, and valuable by many American households. So, why is there so many uninsured? Perhaps it is due to budget constraints, not knowing where to get insurance, or simply not caring what will happen after one passes on.

Lately, I have seen people resorting to crowdfunding to raise money to pay for funeral expenses. Crowdfunding is an internet platform that allows a person to create and share an event through integrated social network links (Facebook, Twitter, email, etc.) in which they ask for donations for the event. Sometimes the fundraising goals are met, and often times they come up short. I do not believe crowdfunding is a good alternative to having life insurance, because it may not help your family maintain its standard of living in the event of a sudden death of a wage earner, and it will not give you security or peace of mind. Life insurance is the foundation to a good financial plan.

Choosing a life insurance policy is not always easy, as there are several types of life insurance plans. Which type is best for you depends on many factors such as age, family dynamics, finances, medical history, etc.

Seeking the help of a trained professional will ensure a life insurance plan that best fits your needs, goals, and budget. If you are interested in a free life insurance review, or need help with any other financial planning issue, please do not hesitate to call me at (888) 513-4778, or inquire at the credit union. I am available most Fridays at the credit union office, and other days by appointment.

Sales of Investment Products offered through Michael Busico, of 1ST Financial Planning Group, Inc. and brokerage services provided through Gradient Advisors, LLC Investments are not NCUA/NCUSIF insured, and are not Credit Union guaranteed, and may lose value.

From Our Real Estate Agency Partner – Seven Gables Real Estate

Real Estate Update!

May 2020 numbers show a quicker than expected recovery in the real estate market. According to Freddie Mac, mortgage rates have been below 3.3 percent for more than four weeks bringing buyers into the market and lifting up showing activity 4% nationally versus a year ago in the final week of May. According to the Association of Realtors, buyers have been quicker to return to the housing market than sellers. Sellers have been more reluctant to list their homes than is typical for this time of year. But this is expected to change especially as things begin to open up in the economy. In Orange County, new listings were down 34.7 percent for detached homes and 27.9 percent for attached properties. Pending sales decreased 62.7 percent for detached homes and 65.0 percent for attached properties. The median sales price was down 1.9 percent to $833,550 in Orange County but increased 2.0 percent to $505,000 for attached properties.

If you are thinking of buying a home now is the time! The historically low interest rates make homeownership much more affordable. If you are thinking of selling, the low inventory is giving the sellers the advantage of getting multiple offers. Call Mary Lou Adame-Martinez at (949) 690-7149 (DRE#01915255), Seven Gables Real Estate, if you are thinking about buying or selling. Mary Lou will explain the Credit Union members-only benefits of buying or selling through your credit union real estate program and using Mary Lou as your agent.

Lucky Numbers

Win $20! Random account numbers have been placed in this quarterly newsletter, so if you find your account number hidden in this Blueprint you are a winner. It’s that easy; just call the credit union to claim your winnings.

Annual Privacy Notice: Since there are no changes to the credit union’s Privacy Policy, a copy will not be sent out. You can obtain a copy of the Privacy Policy online at www.uyfcu.org by following the link at the bottom of the home page. To request a paper copy, please call us (888) 488-6466.

Holiday Schedule

Our offices will be closed in observance of the following national holidays:

**Independence Day**, Friday, July 3, 2020 (observed), and Saturday, July 4, 2020
**Labor Day** Monday, September 7, 2020
**Columbus Day** Monday, October 12, 2020