



**December 2016**

**Seasons Greetings to the best Members anywhere!**

Silver **BELLs**. Jingle **BELLs**. I Heard the **BELLs** on Christmas Day. Carol of the **BELLs**. **UDBELL**. As a faithful reader, we're sure you detected this month's theme by now.

All of us at **UDBELL** wish you and your family every blessing and happiness as we enter Christmas and Hanukkah. Our hope is that every day of the year we can bring more cheer to you as we work hard to provide the best financial services for your family.

It is a privilege working for you each and every day. All of us at the credit union appreciate your business and confidence. As we "ring" in 2017 and beyond, we will continue to focus on bringing you the best service anywhere. If you have any suggestions, please call and "chime" in with your advice or questions.



Who has not seen the classic "**A Christmas Carol**" in one form or another? One can only imagine how different the story would be if Ebenezer Scrooge had opened an account at **UDBELL**...

The **Ghost of Christmas Past** would certainly commend him for starting his savings at an early age, taking advantage of payroll savings and starting to invest in CDs for as little as \$500.

The **Ghost of Christmas Present** would appreciate the way Scrooge refinanced his dealer financed automobile loan to a credit union car loan, thus saving money on a lower rate and faster repayment schedule. Even better was the way he took advantage of the consolidation loan to payoff higher interest credit cards.

The **Ghost of Christmas Future** would be downright giddy at the way Mr. Scrooge used home equity loans to help finance college education and absolutely

delighted with how much his IRA grew over the years with the great rates offered by the credit union.

Our version may lack the overnight transformation of a miserly soul to a happy spirited citizen, but it certainly gets to the happy ending a lot faster.

We at ~~Scrooge and Marley~~ the credit union are here to help you with your happy endings, too. Let us know how we can help you (and the Christmas ghosts) get you where you want to be.



*Thank you for another wonderful year of serving you, our members. As Tiny Tim would say, "God Bless Us, Everyone!" May you and your families have the very best this holiday season!*

“Look Daddy. Teacher says, every time a **bell** rings, an Angel gets his wings!” So said Zuzu Bailey to her father, George, in “**It’s A Wonderful Life**”.

**UDBELL** will be ringing all year long for our members!

**Q. What costs as little as \$41 a week but can buy a lifetime worth of memories?**

See answer below

**Cut the Red Tape**  
with our Credit Builder Loan!



Use our Credit Builder Loan as a key part of your shopping budget. It can help avoid high rate credit card purchases and eliminate impulse buying.

**A. Our Credit Builder Loan! Borrow up to \$1,000 for six months and make their dreams come true!**

Still looking to use plastic to make your purchases? Compare your current interest rate to your **UDBell VISA** card.



You will significantly lower your interest expenses with our card and eliminate a lot of the associated fees found with big bank cards.

**Income Tax Tip:** Consider pre-paying your January mortgage or home equity loan payment during the last week of December. The interest paid on your UDBell loan will be reported in tax year 2016 for your deduction.

### **Making A Big Life Decision?**

Successful financial planning is about protecting and making the wealth you’ve accumulated work toward your most important financial goals. Careful retirement, estate, gifting, insurance, and tax planning all play a crucial role. There’s no better time for a thorough review than year-end.

- Retiring in 2017? Now is the time to take a step back, take inventory, and make sure your finances are in order.
- Year-end gifting? Married couples are able to gift to any third person amounts up to \$28,000 (or \$14,000 each) exempt from gift tax in 2016. Any unused annual exemption doesn't carry over to later years. To make use of the exemption for 2016, you must make your gift by December 31.
- Required to take money out of your IRAs or an inherited IRA? Make sure that you are properly invested to give your accounts the best chance to grow while still taking money out each year.

With the holidays upon us, it may seem tough to find time to organize your financial life. We put a lot of emphasis on the return on our investments, but often neglect the return from proper planning. Take the time now to review your finances and make sure you are prepared for 2017.

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**What do you call an elf who sings?**



**A ‘Wrapper’!**

***I wish every day would be like Christmas and every night like New Year’s Eve.***