



member to member

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Through the Eyes of a Member

As part of the credit union's celebration of 55 years of service, the following members shared these stories of their times with the credit union. Thank you to everyone who submitted stories!

"I served during the Korean War, drafted in July 1950, and to my knowledge, the sole remaining survivor of the first drafters sent to Ft. Jackson. Of the 25 called, only 2 of us passed the physical, myself and Grover Johnson, also an IP employee. We served overseas, me in Korea and Grover in Okinawa.

After discharge, we returned to our jobs. During this time the credit union started and I joined in 1952. It was located at the main gate in a small cubicle-like office with one part-time employee named Gaston Loyal, who worked in the paper mill. He had certain hours and as soon as the money ran out, he had to shut the door. Sometimes it was hard to get your own money out. During that time, the mill was up and down due to lack of orders which made things worse. But we all hung in there and with good management, everything is so different now.

We can all be proud to be associated with GKCU and to remember that the most meaningful things in life have the most humble beginnings. I know I am."

~ Guy Mercer
GKCU Member Since 1952

"The Merritt family and Georgetown Kraft Credit Union (GKCU) go together like peas and carrots. Recently, my parents decided to open my 1st savings account at GKCU for my 1st birthday. That makes me the fourth generation of Merritt's to be a member. My great grandfather (Carl A. Merritt, Sr.), my grandfather (Carl A. Merritt, Jr., aka Bubba) and my father (Duncan T. Merritt) are all members of this place. My father has had great success with this establishment. I only hope to receive the same respect and guidance the generations before me have received. There is something special about GKCU and I am proud to be the fourth generation here."

~ Andrews J. Merritt (with help from mom)
GKCU Member Since 2007

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President's Message



This is my first of what I hope to be many columns to the members of GKCU. I have already met many of you at the main office and in my visits to the branches. I hope to meet more of our members in the near future.

I have been involved in the credit union industry for over 18 years and have found it to be very rewarding and challenging. During the short period of time that I have been at GKCU, the support I have received from the members, the Board of Directors and the staff has been overwhelming.

The credit union is currently working to become even better at meeting our member's financial needs. Our new branch in Kingstree is coming along as scheduled. We are still hoping to move into the new location in November 2007. It will be located on the corner of Highway 577 and Highway 337 at 488 Nelson Blvd (right beside Fred's Discount Center).

I thank each of you for your loyalty to GKCU. I hope that you will find the time to tell your friends and families about us. Please feel free to call me or stop by and see me if I can be of assistance to you.

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Moving to the Head of the Class

Over the years GKCU has taken a strong role in the education of money management skills. Whether it is taking a one on one approach with our members in the branches to meet his/her financial needs or giving a classroom presentation to high school students on how to become fiscally responsible, GKCU remains committed to providing sensible financial solutions best suited for our members.

GKCU is pleased to announce that our focus will continue. In its second year, GKCU will again operate a branch located at Georgetown High School and make financial presentations to area high school students. Open two days a week, the branch will assist with opening new accounts, deposits and withdrawals and offering assistance with financial questions. Our high school check and debit cards are also available for parents and alumni to help show their school spirit of their favorite high school. *(currently Georgetown County schools only)*

New this year, GKCU would like to announce the formation of a Youth Advisory Board to give opportunities for our youth to have a more active role in the way their credit union operates. For more information, please contact Marketing Director Nikki Ewing at 436-6313 or newing@gkcu.org.

Finally, NCUA has established a financial education library on their website for members to use. The library features printable brochures addressing topics such as Identity Theft, Credit Reporting and Credit Card practices. To view the new resources, visit www.ncua.gov/FinancialEducation/index.htm.

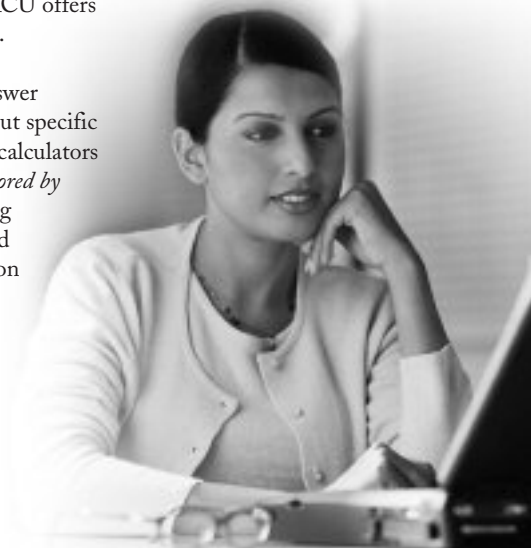
If you have a special group that you would like to have your credit union make a financial education presentation to, please contact Nikki Ewing at 436-6313 or newing@gkcu.org or if you need additional assistance with your own personal financial needs, feel free to stop by any of our four branches. At GKCU, we're here... for you.

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GKCU Website Offers Online Tools

More and more, we, as consumers, are turning to our PCs to give us the advice and flexibility we need to manage our money. Whether it is online account access or learning more about products and services, GKCU offers you the online options to help you stay connected.

New to the GKCU website are online tools to answer questions and provide resources for education about specific products including: Insurance products, financial calculators and financial education center *(some links co-sponsored by CUNA Mutual Group)*. Simply visit www.gkcu.org today and click on the 'online tools' section located at the top of the webpage. For more information on how GKCU can help you with online services such as Netbranch, E-Statements or Bill Pay, please stop by any GKCU branch.

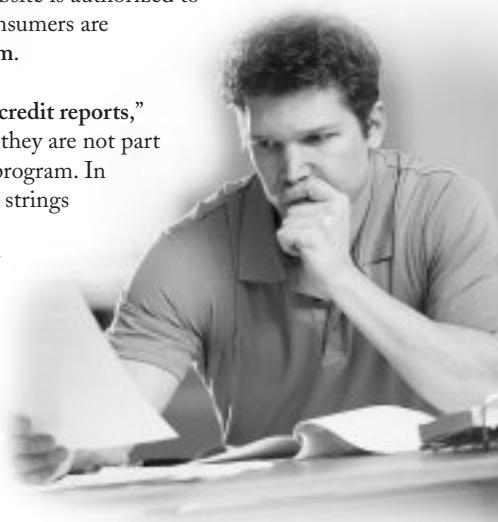


Avoid Paying Fees for "Free" Credit Reports

We've all seen the commercials and read the newspaper articles ... but still many of us are paying for our credit reports. Unfortunately, *(according to the Federal Trade Commission (FTC))*, many consumers are duped into obtaining "free" credit reports from "imposter" websites and end up paying high fees, sometimes on an ongoing basis.

GKCU would like to remind you that the Fair Credit Reporting Act (FCRA) and the Fair and Accurate Credit Transactions (FACT) Act entitles you to a free copy of your credit report, at your request, once every 12 months from each of the national credit bureaus: Equifax, Experian, and TransUnion. Only one website is authorized to fill orders for the free annual credit report that consumers are entitled to under law www.annualcreditreport.com.

Beware of other websites that claim to offer "free credit reports," "free credit scores," or "free credit monitoring" as they are not part of the legally mandated free annual credit report program. In many cases, the "free" product offered comes with strings attached. Some sites may offer "trial periods" and then begin to charge you if you do not proactively cancel after the trial is over. Some "imposter" sites use terms like "free report" in their names while others have web addresses that purposely misspell "annualcreditreport.com" in hopes that the consumer will mistype the name of the official site. Finally, some try to sell the consumer something or attempt to collect personal information.



The FTC takes this issue very seriously, and shuts down bogus websites frequently. If you feel you paid for what you thought was a free annual credit report, use the website below to file a complaint. **If you have any questions, contact the credit union for more details.**

annualcreditreport.com *(the official web site)*
www.ftc.gov/bcp/conline/edcams/freereports/index.html *(includes a link to file a complaint)*

Now that I've Got My Credit Report...

So you've ordered your FREE credit report but now what? Your credit report is a summary of your credit file maintained by a consumer reporting company. It is a detailed list of your financial obligations and ability to pay those whom you owe money to – like a "financial report card." On your credit report you will find, your personal information (*address, birthday and employment*), consumer statement (*summary of credit performance*), account histories, public records, inquiries (*list of lenders who have pulled your credit report*), and creditor contact information.

Your credit report is updated every time you open a new credit account, make or miss a credit payment or change your personal information (*such as employment or address*). Negative records (*missing payments, collections or bankruptcies*) can stay on your credit report anywhere from 7-10 years. Your credit score, a complex mathematical formula, can range from 300 to 900 and is used by lenders to help determine whether you qualify for a particular credit card, loan or service. Most credit scores estimate the risk a company incurs by lending a person money — specifically, the likelihood that the person will make payments on time in the next two to three years. Generally, the higher the score, the less risk the person represents.

GKCU recommends you check your credit reports every 6-12 months to ensure that the information is accurate and up-to-date and to prevent identity theft. If you have any questions, call the credit union or request your credit score using the web address in the article above.

GKCU Rates

	Approx. Term	APR*
VISA® Classic Card		10.50%
New Auto & Trucks, Boats, Motors, Trailers		
Over \$25,000	72 months	6.95%
Under \$25,000	60 months	6.95%
Used Autos & Trucks, Boats, Motors, Trailers		
	60 months	6.95%
Mortgages		
Call or visit our web site for current mortgage rates.		
Home Equity Lines of Credit		
		8.25%
New Mobile Homes (80% of sticker price)		
	180 months	9.25%
	240 months	9.50%
Used Mobile Homes		
1-2 Years Old	120 months	11.50%
3-5 Years Old	120 months	11.75%
6 Years & Older	120 months	11.99%
Unsecured	60 months	8.00% to 18.00%

APY**

Dividend Rates		
Share/Savings		.75%
Share Draft/Checking		.50%
IRAs		4.86%
Money Markets		
(\$1,000-9,999)		3.55%
(\$10,000-24,999)		3.55%
(over \$25,000)		3.55%
Share Certificates		
90 Days		4.08%
6 months		4.86%
12 months		5.01%
18 months		5.01%
24 months		5.01%
36 months		5.01%
48 months		5.01%
60 months		5.01%

*Annual Percentage Rate (APR) is the lowest rate as of 9/11/2007, and is applicable to credit approval and subject to change. For other rates and terms, please contact a GKCU loan officer.

**Annual Percentage Yield (APY) is accurate as of 9/11/2007 and is subject to change. Minimum balances are required for dividend earnings. Penalties may be imposed for early withdrawal. Fees or other conditions could reduce earnings.

Contact Us

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Andrew, SC 29510
264-3677
264-8250 (Fax)

607 N. Longstreet
Kingstree, SC 29566
354-2219
354-2049 (fax)

49 Jetty Drive
Pawleys Island, SC 29585
979-1300
979-1303 (Fax)

Check out your
account(s) at gkc.org



Skip the Holidays!

Are you ready to deck the halls? Do you hear the bells jingling? Soon the holidays will be upon us and we will be busy shopping for presents and decorations, planning family vacations and indulging in edible holiday treats. With the hustle and bustle of the holidays, GKCU wants to give you a present where you can definitely see more GREEN.

GKCU invites you to Skip the Holidays with our annual Skip a Pay loan program. For a small fee of \$30 per loan, you can skip your GKCU loan payments for the month of December* and use the money for other holiday purchases.

To Skip the Holidays, simply return the enclosed form to any GKCU branch by November 16, 2007 by mail, fax or in person or visit our website to download a copy of the form. We wish you and your family a bright and joyous holiday season and thank you for your continued business throughout the year.

*To postpone your payment(s), this form must be received by GKCU no later than Nov. 16, 2007. Member/Borrowers must be in good standing on all accounts/services and have made at least 2 payments on the loan to qualify. Mortgages, Home Equity Lines of Credit, Overdraft Lines of Credit and VISA loans cannot be postponed. GKCU reserves the right to disapprove any request for postponement with proper notification and disclosure. Postponing a payment will not adversely affect the payment record of your account. Interest will continue to be calculated on the total outstanding balance and the loan may be extended beyond its original maturity date. Any extension is likely to limit the total amount of GAP coverage protection on a loan if applicable.

Through the Eyes of a Member *continued ...*

"I graduated Carolina June 1, 1956 and came to work at International Paper Co Georgetown as a management trainee. It was suggested that I join the credit union, which was in a very little office at the main gate. Mr. Jesse French and his wife Doris were the only employees. I guess I was a member for a year and was getting married and needed some money. I went to draw from my savings and Mr. French did his best to talk me into borrowing. This just did not make good sense to me as I had my own money, so I withdrew all of it. Then Mr. French said "Robert now that you have done that, it will cost you \$5 to rejoin. I waited a while, but happy to say I did join back and glad that I did. Mr. French always teased me that he got two membership from me."

~ Robert Elwell, GKCU Member Since 1956

Credit or Debit? Pen vs. PIN

You're standing in line ready to check out, you swipe your GKCU debit card and it asks "Debit or Credit" – what should you choose? GKCU encourages you to enter "credit" whenever you are offered the choice for several reasons.

First, selecting "credit" will require you to sign for your purchases as you would with a regular credit card. The money is still being withdrawn from your checking account; however, by signing for your purchase, you are adding another level of security to your purchase. Because of the way the transaction is processed from the cash register's terminal, you have additional time before the money is withdrawn from your account (*up to 72 hours*). This can help you if there is a case of fraud or stolen debit card.

Also, by signing for your purchase there is less chance for someone standing close by to see you enter your PIN (*personal identification number*) and use it for illegal purposes. Finally, your daily limit for signature-based transactions is higher than if you entered your PIN (*\$1500 per 72 hours for signature-based*).

For more information about your GKCU debit card, or VISA credit card, or to sign up for either, please contact any GKCU employee or visit us online.

GKCU will observe the following holidays for the remainder of 2007. Stay connected to your accounts through GKCU's FREE convenience services including our telephone attendant and online services like NetBranch and E-Statements. To sign up simply visit our website!

October 8 Columbus Day
November 12 Veteran's Day
November 22 Thanksgiving
December 25 Christmas Day
January 1 New Years Day