

member to member

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Safer Than Ever — Your Credit Union Remains Strong

Read the front page of any newspaper or listen to the top stories on the nightly news and you know that these are tumultuous economic times for many businesses, corporations and, more importantly, American families. The financial situations for many are not as gainful as they were even a year ago, causing many of us to save more and cut many personal expenses that are normally spent on vacations and other entertainment.

But in all the news, one thing you have not heard is the need to help credit unions. And your credit union is one of thousands that are continuing to remain financially solid in assets and capital, competitive in rates and low in delinquencies. Due to the strong loyalty of our members to trust us with their financial needs, along with the guidance from our volunteers and support from our knowledgeable staff, GKCU will continue to grow during these times and prosper for years to come. If you are not already taking advantage of all the products and services available to you, we encourage you to talk to any of our staff members to see how we can help you maximize your membership benefits. In many cases, we can help you save more on your current loan payment, earn you more on your CD rate or help you consolidate your finances to one location for ease and convenience.

GKCU would also like to reiterate that your money is secure with us. Recently, the federal government enacted a temporary increase in the federal insurance that many banks and credit unions pay into for safety of deposits. The increase to \$250,000 per account insures that your money is safe and will be there when you need it. Although the increase is only effective until December 2009, GKCU will keep you updated throughout the year as to any changes that may occur and continue to provide you with a safe place for you to do your finances.

From all of us at GKCU, we would like to thank you for your support throughout 2008 – and for the past 56 years. The new year will hold many changes – and you can continue to count on us to be here... for you.

“Your credit union is one of thousands that are continuing to remain financially solid in assets and capital, competitive in rates and low in delinquencies.”

From the President



I am pleased to report that your Credit Union had a very prosperous 2008. Though there were many challenges, mainly the economic downturn, we were able to maintain the level of service that you are accustomed to. We are very confident that we are well-positioned to meet your financial needs for many years to come.

As you may know, the main thing that distinguishes credit unions from other financial institutions is that our Official Family performs their duties on a volunteer basis. This means that our Board of Directors, Supervisory Committee and Credit Review Committee members are not compensated for the many hours of service dedicated to making GKCU the best it can be. Because of this, we are able to provide you with better loan and deposit rates. Thank you, Official Family!!!!

You may have heard that we are in the process of building a new branch in Andrews. We are very excited about this addition and look forward to providing even better service to our loyal members in that area. I will keep you posted on the progress, but as of now, we are on track to open in the middle of 2009.

It is my sincerest wish that all of our members, Official Family, staff and their family members had a safe and happy holiday season. Again, thank you for your support and loyalty to GKCU. Happy New Year!!!

David Graham
President / CEO
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Board of Directors

Dennis Loadholt
Chairman

Halbert Tucker
Vice-Chairman

Chris Johnson
Secretary/Treasurer

Randolph Elliott
Patsy Ethridge
Julius Inman, Jr.
Raymond B. Pearigen
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President / CEO

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*Executive Vice-President
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*Branch Manager
Andrews*

Delores Muckenfuss
*Branch Manager
Georgetown*

Terri Wilson
*Branch Manager
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Sharon Brown
*Branch Manager
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Malcolm Fore, Jr.
John Gainey
Chris Grant
Sylvia Marlowe
Darrell Thomas

Supervisory Committee:

Wade Marsh
Jim Bessant
Felecia Wilson

Here to Give a Lending Hand



Even during uncertain economic times, life goes on. New cars still need to be bought, and old ones need to be repaired. Doors to new homes are opened, and home renovations still get planned. Medical bills need to get paid, and even families still need time to get away on vacation. Through all of these day-to-day family needs, GKCU has been, and will continue to be, here to lend a helping hand.

Our friendly loan officers are here to offer assistance no matter where you are in your life. And oftentimes,

GKCU can work with you and help you save even more with lower rates to meet your monthly budget. We offer a variety of loan products that suit about any family's need. We can help you with:

- New & Preowned Car & Boat Loans,
- Home Mortgages & Home Equity Lines of Credit,
- VISA Credit Cards, *and*
- Personal Lines of Credit.

We will work with you to make payments affordable and convenient. Be sure to ask how to save with special rate discounts when payments are made through payroll deduction, or make life easier with payments made online with our free Netbranch and Bill Pay services. Have loans somewhere else? No problem! Simply stop by and ask how to transfer your loan to GKCU and start saving today!

“GKCU can work with you and help you save even more with lower rates to meet your monthly budget.”

A Season of Giving

Throughout the year, your credit union donates numerous volunteer hours and financial contributions to help area charities, non-profits, youth organizations and families in need. No time seems to be more critical than at the holidays, and the staff at GKCU really takes that need to heart.

In addition to the many organizations we help during the year, the holidays bring a special air of generosity among the family at GKCU. One of the most visible holiday projects we participate in is the Marine Corps Toys for Tots campaign. Drop-off boxes are located in our lobbies for our members and staff to help brighten the lives of area children on Christmas morning.

Also this year, GKCU's Kingstree branch hosted a giving tree to benefit senior citizens in Williamsburg County. Gifts were given on behalf of the credit union members and by the staff.

For the second year, GKCU assisted with a donation to International Paper with the supply of Thanksgiving dinner boxes to area families, and our staff collected money for five area families and presented them with grocery store gift cards for their Christmas feasts. Finally, we helped sponsor and attended the YMCA fundraising gala that helped raise scholarship funds and program support for area Georgetown County children.

The holidays are made brighter by giving more than you have to give, and we are proud to be able to give more to those who need it during a time when they need it most. Happy Holidays from all of us at GKCU.



Save Time and Money on Tax Preparation with TurboTax or Jackson Hewitt!



Tax time is right around the corner, and we're pleased to offer our members two leading tax preparation services:

1. **TurboTax** – You'll find out just how untaxing your taxes can be when you file your simple federal return with TurboTax Federal Free Edition.
 - Prepare, print and e-file your simple federal return for FREE.
 - Maximum Refund you deserve.
 - Audit Support Center download included.
 - Help & advice available online, with answers to your questions 24/7.
 - Fast Refund in as few as 8 days when you e-file and use direct deposit.

Make tough times a little easier. TurboTax is the uncomplicated, unexpensive, untaxing way to get your taxes done. Fast, easy and free. With the security of knowing you'll get the MAXIMUM REFUND you deserve.

2. **Jackson Hewitt** – *Save \$25.00*

Relax and let a local Jackson Hewitt tax professional handle your taxes. Preparing your own taxes can be a complicated and confusing process. At Jackson Hewitt Tax Service, you'll find trained tax preparers who understand your income tax situation. The preparers will address your concerns and answer all of your tax questions with professional, friendly service. Visit the credit union website to print your \$25.00 discount coupon.

Whether you prefer to self-prepare online or work with a tax professional, we have a solution for you. To get started today, visit the credit union website or call 1-800-613-4406.

Make Life Easier... Online

Convenient. Easy to Use. FREE. These are words we all love to hear when it comes to doing our finances on our personal computers. GKCU offers a variety of FREE online services that can make doing business online simple, fast and convenient.

With Netbranch, you can check account balances, transfer money between accounts, make loan payments, stop drafts and much more. And with our online bill pay, you can electronically pay all of your bills from the comfort of your home. And no more waiting for your statement from GKCU. With e-statements, your mailbox becomes your in-box, with monthly notifications when your statement is ready (and usually about 4 days earlier than through the mail!).

Try living your life online and see how easy it can be. Simply log onto www.gkcu.org today and click on the Netbranch sign-up button. For a free demonstration, click on the demo button or call any of our offices.



Calling All Seniors!

The time is almost here for graduation, and GKCU wants to help. Scholarship applications are now being accepted and must be returned by March 6, 2009. For a copy, visit your guidance office, stop by any branch or print one from our website under the newsletter tab. Good luck and best wishes to you all!

GKCU Rates

	Approx. Term	APR*
VISA® Classic Card		10.50%
New Autos & Trucks, Boats, Motors, Trailers		
Over \$25,000	72 months	6.45%
Under \$25,000	60 months	6.45%
Used Autos & Trucks, Boats, Motors, Trailers		
	60 months	6.45%
Mortgages		
<i>Call or visit our web site for current mortgage rates.</i>		
Home Equity Lines of Credit		5.00%
New Mobile Homes (80% of sticker price)		
	180 months	Call for rate
	240 months	Call for rate
Used Mobile Homes		
1-2 Years Old	120 months	Call for rate
3-5 Years Old	120 months	Call for rate
6 Years & Older	120 months	Call for rate
Unsecured	60 months	8.00% to 18.00%

APY**

Dividend Rates		
Share/Savings		.75%
Share Draft/Checking		.50%
IRAs		3.30%
Money Markets		
(\$1,000-9,999)		1.51%
(\$10,000-24,999)		2.02%
(over \$25,000)		2.52%
Share Certificates		
90 Days		2.53%
6 months		2.79%
12 months		3.14%
18 months		3.30%
24 months		3.56%
36 months		3.56%
48 months		3.56%
60 months		3.82%

*Annual Percentage Rate (APR) is the lowest rate as of 12/5/08, 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 12/5/08 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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Pawleys Island, SC 29585
979-1300
979-1303 (Fax)

Check out your
account(s) at gkc.org



GKCU Annual Meeting Set for February

In today's financial market, there are not too many differences among the choices you have with your financial institution. But with your membership at the credit union, there is one distinct difference that you get to experience... being an owner. With your basic share/savings account, you own one share of the credit union and as an owner can participate in the GKCU annual membership meeting. Proudly serving almost 11,000 members in Georgetown and Williamsburg counties during the past 57 years has made GKCU a strong, democratically operated financial cooperative you can be proud to be a member of.



We hope you will attend this year's annual meeting to hear the progress and future plans for your credit union. The meeting includes a review of the financial condition of the credit union, election of volunteers, reports from our Board of Directors, Supervisory and Credit Committees, and drawings for cash prizes. The meeting usually concludes within one hour, and everyone who attends receives a small gift of appreciation.

If you cannot attend but would like a copy of the GKCU Annual Report, please stop by any branch, visit our website, or contact Nikki Ewing, Marketing Director, at 436-6313 or newing@gkc.org. See you in February!

When: Monday, February 23, 2009
Time: 6:30 pm
Where: Georgetown Middle School Auditorium



A Gift that Gives Back... To You

Stuffed from the turkey. Overloaded from the sweets. The paper and bows are in the trash and the decorations are put back in their places. Now is when you start to look around and take in all that the holidays brought to your family... and you need a little help figuring out how to pay for it all.



GKCU can help. With our low, fixed rate of 10.5% annual percentage rate*, a GKCU VISA credit card can help you consolidate other high-interest credit cards and lower your monthly payments from all that holiday shopping. It can also help for future purchases such as vacations, computers, furniture and home accessories, and more!

And for a limited time, every time you use your GKCU VISA credit card, you will be entered into a drawing to win one of two \$250 cash prizes!**

With every purchase between Dec. 24 and March 15, GKCU credit card

holders will have their chance to win some cash that can be used to help pay your VISA bill! For more information about applying for a GKCU VISA credit card, stop by any branch today!

*The Annual Percentage Rate (APR) of 10.5% is GKCU's lowest rate as of 12/2/08. Applicable rates are based on individual creditworthiness and GKCU's loan policies and are subject to change without notice.

**No purchase necessary. Must be 18 years or older to enter. Promotion period: all eligible automatic and manual entries, as provided in the Official Rules, must be received between 12/23/08 and 3/15/09. By submitting any entry, you agree to be bound by the Official Rules. Contact GKCU at 436-6313 to obtain a copy of the official contest rules for this promotion.

GKCU Holiday Closings

January 19
Martin Luther King Jr. Day

February 16
Presidents' Day

May 25
Memorial Day

July 3
Independence Day

September 7
Labor Day

October 12
Columbus Day

November 11
Veterans' Day

November 26
Thanksgiving Day

December 25
Christmas Day

January 1
New Year's Day