

Member Link

Official Publication of North Georgia Credit Union.

April 2021



From The President



Thanks to all of our members who attended the 80th Annual Meeting of NGCU, the first ever meeting to be held online. The webinar event took place on Saturday, February 6th at 9:00 a.m. Although, I would have preferred to see all of our members live and in person, I'm grateful that we still had the opportunity to come together and celebrate our 80 years of service in a safe manner.

During the meeting, we were pleased to present a favorable report of our credit union's progress over the last year and to award 20 members with cash prizes of \$100 each. Three Board members were elected by acclamation to serve new terms. Please join me in congratulating Tommy Ayers, Michael Herron and James Norris.

We believe our 80 years of service is reason to celebrate. We are grateful to all of our members who have made it possible and for sticking with us over the past year despite the lobby closures and changes to our otherwise normal operating procedures. We appreciate your loyalty, patience and understanding as we had to make decisions to support the health and benefit of all of you and our staff.

I would also like to personally thank our Board of Directors who consistently give of their time and talents to serve our credit union. They also learned to operate under new conditions over the past year. We all became very familiar with Zoom!

We have always strived to provide you with exceptional service and want to go above and beyond expectations in the coming years. As a growing organization, we encourage your continued feedback. Please let us know how we are doing or what products we can develop to meet your financial needs.

As always, thank you for being a member and allowing us to serve you.

Sincerely,
Brian Akin, CEO



Great Rates & Rebates!

At North Georgia Credit Union, we put our money where it belongs. . . **BACK IN OUR MEMBERS' POCKETS!**

For a limited time only, earn an instant **\$100 CASH** rebate on any auto loan originated at NGCU!*

PLUS, you'll get a Great Rate as low as 2.25% APR!*

***The following conditions apply:**

- Must purchase a new or used vehicle and obtain financing from NGCU; or refinance an auto loan from another financial institution
- Vehicle must be 2016 model year or newer
- Only 1 rebate per member
- Minimum loan amount of \$10,000 required for rebate eligibility
- Loan must stay at NGCU for 12 months. Otherwise, any rebate paid will be added back into the loan payoff.
- Special credit scoring criteria may apply

**APR = Annual Percentage Rate. 2.25% APR is limited to 60 month term. For terms greater than 60 months, the rate is 2.99% APR. Actual rate is determined by credit score. Offer valid April 1, 2021 – May 31, 2021.



Federally insured by The National Credit Union Administration

April is National Credit Union Youth Month™

April is National Credit Union Youth Month™ and to celebrate, NGCU is once again participating in the National Youth Savings Challenge which offers youth a chance to win a prize for visiting their credit union and/or depositing money into their savings account. The National Youth Savings Challenge is open to all youth under 18 who visit North Georgia Credit Union **April 1- April 30**.

While youth are encouraged to make a deposit at the credit union, no deposit is required to enter. Those parents/guardians giving permission for their youth to enter can register at any of our offices. Ask a member service representative for a registration slip. Limit one entry per person. Odds of winning depend on the number of entrants.

In May, Credit Union National Association (CUNA) will randomly select and give \$1,000 grand prize to a participating credit union. That credit union will then randomly select a winner from its entrants. We will notify you if you are a winner.

To learn more, visit us online at www.ngcu.org.



The Impact of Stimulus Payments on Your Taxes

One small bright spot from 2020 for many was the Economic Impact Payment that provided pandemic relief. As tax season is here, here are a few FAQs from TurboTax to consider as it relates to the payment you may have received.

Do I owe tax on the money I received? No. The stimulus payment was designed to impact the economy, not your taxes, so it won't reduce your 2020 refund or increase your tax due.

I didn't get a payment – why? If your income for 2019 or 2018 was over \$75,000 (\$150,000 if you filed jointly, \$112,500 if you were head of household), then your payment was reduced by \$5 for every excess \$100 you earned. And if you didn't file a tax return for either year, you may not have gotten a payment, but are possibly still entitled to payment.

What can I do now? If you were supposed to file a 2019 tax return and didn't, file right away. If your income was too low to file, at IRS.gov you can click on the tab marked "Non-filers" and fill in your basic information. If the IRS determines you are eligible for a payment, they will send it to you.

What if my income has gone down? If your 2019 income was too high for you to receive a payment, but your income this year is much lower, you are in luck. You can claim your stimulus payment on your 2020 income tax return, and it increase the refund you receive (or reduce any tax due).

My 2020 income is higher than in 2019 – will the government want the money back? No. If you received a stimulus payment based on lower income in 2019, that payment is yours to keep even if your income increased above the threshold in 2020.

Information provided by TurboTax. For more information, visit TurboTax's Coronavirus Tax Center at <https://turbotax.intuit.com/coronavirus>. The information in this article is for general educational purposes only and not intended to provide specific advice or recommendations. Please discuss your particular circumstances with an appropriate professional before taking action.



It's time to spring clean your passwords!

Want to keep your personal data and financial information secure? One primary safeguard against hackers is to use a password manager and randomized passwords. A password like 'ABC123' may be easy to remember, but it's also simple to guess. Using one of these free password managers to help you create and manage strong, unique passwords can prevent against the threat of hackers and identity fraud.

1. [Last Pass](#)
2. [LogMeOnce](#)
3. [BitWarden](#)
4. [Enpass](#)
5. [Avira](#)

There are many more password managers available with varying features so you might choose to research your full options before choosing one but using a password manager will help you keep your data safe. Utilize the spring-cleaning season to spring clean your passwords and increase the security of your personal information!



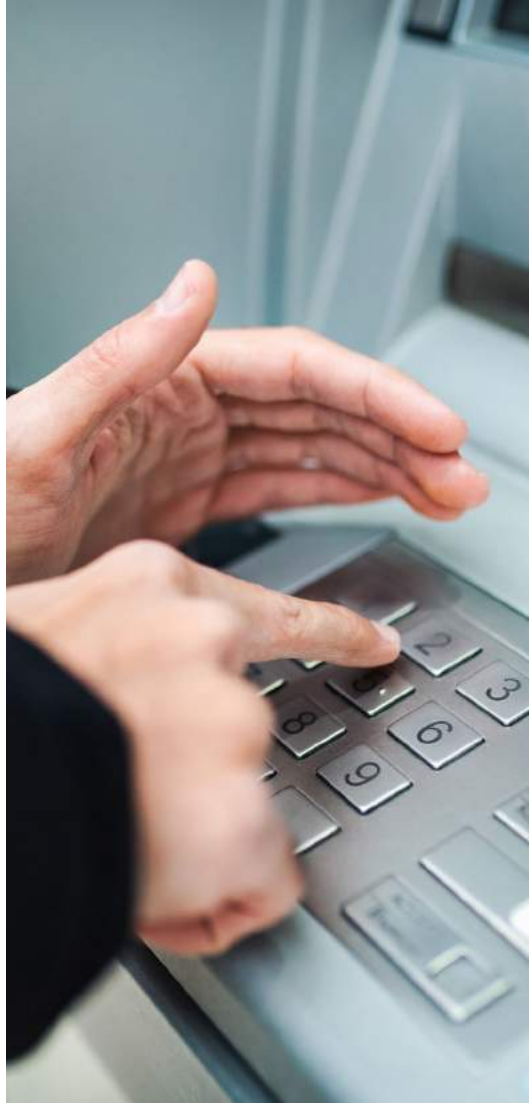
Expecting a tax refund this year? 6 smart ways to put it to good use!

1. **Start an emergency fund** - Car repairs, medical expenses, broken appliances – An emergency fund can help when those unexpected expenses arise.
2. **Save** - The IRS allows you to directly deposit your refund in up to 3 accounts providing an easy way for you to automatically save.
3. **Pay off debt** - If you're carrying high credit card debt or have other items to payoff, your refund can take care of those debt obligations.
4. **Invest** - Whether it's your IRA, a college fund or the stock market, investing some or all of your refund can put you on a great savings path.
5. **Make home improvements** - Planning home upgrades this year? Use your refund to improve the worth of your house or take care of those pesky repairs you've been putting off.
6. **Prepay your mortgage** - If possible, use some of your refund to make extra payments on your mortgage. Reducing the principal balance can have a huge effect on the total life of the loan.



STAY SAFE WHEN USING AN ATM WITH THESE 7 TIPS

1. Avoid ATMs in dark or remote places and examine the machine before using it. If anything appears strange, go somewhere else.
2. Stay alert and aware of your surroundings at all times. If you see people lurking around an ATM or if you sense someone crowding you as you use the ATM, find another location.
3. Keep car doors locked and all passenger windows closed when using a drive-up ATM.
4. Always keep your card and PIN in a safe place and do not give to anyone.
5. Minimize time spent at ATMs. Have your card ready and all transactions prepared before you approach an ATM. As soon as your transaction is complete, place your money and receipt in your purse or wallet and count the cash later in the safety of your car or home.
6. Always check your statements to be sure there are no unusual withdrawals.
7. Report all crimes to the credit union and law enforcement immediately.



Toccoa

1067 Mize Road
P.O. Box 280
Toccoa, GA 30577
(706) 886-1441
Fax: (706) 886-3757

Lavonia

11850 Augusta Road
Lavonia, GA 30553
(706) 356-7001
Fax: (706) 356-7008

Hartwell

249 East Franklin Street
Hartwell, GA 30643
(706) 376-6961
Fax: (706) 376-3184

www.ngcu.org

Lobby Hours

Mon., Tues., Thurs. & Fri.
9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Wednesday
10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Drive-Thru Hours

Monday – Friday
8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Saturday
9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Management Team

Brian Akin,
President/CEO

Laura Williams,
Vice President

Sonya Speed,

Lending and Collections Manager

Robin Bridges,

Data Processing & Operations Manager

Brooke Stowe,
Toccoa Branch Manager

Christina Mosley,
Lavonia Branch Manager

Brandy Floyd,
Hartwell Branch Manager

Directors

Deborah Gibby,
Chairman

Tony Thomas,
Vice Chairman

Juanita Worley,
Secretary

Michael Herron,
Treasurer

Harold Harbin,

Audit & Supervisory Committee Chairman

Tommy Ayers
James Norris



Federally insured by NCUA



PRIVACY NOTICE

Federal Law requires us to tell you how we collect, share and protect your personal information. To review the North Georgia Credit Union Privacy Notice, please visit our website at www.ngcu.org.

Volunteers Wanted!

If you would like to be considered for a future volunteer position at NGCU, please complete and return the following information and we will add you to the prospect list.

Name _____

Address _____

Phone Number _____

Email Address _____



Holiday Closings

Good Friday – Friday, April 2, 2021

Memorial Day – Monday, May 31, 2021

Independence Day – Monday, July 5, 2021 (*Observed*)

Service Awards:

Lori Taylor – 15 Years

Talia Holley – 10 Years

Kacie Hill – 5 Years

Abbie Ramsey – 5 Years

