

Member Link



FROM THE PRESIDENT



Kicking off a new calendar year is the perfect time to review and tweak your finances and set new financial goals. If you're hoping to improve your finances this year, start by implementing these 5 resolutions.

- 1. Save more:** Start by increasing your 401(k) contributions, setting up automatic transfers to a high-yield savings account at the credit union and eliminating the recurring subscriptions you no longer use.
- 2. Improve credit score:** Make sure you pay your bills on time and in full, paying off debt, limiting the number of new accounts you open, and cutting back on your spending.
- 3. Design a budget:** Download a budgeting app to organize your fixed and discretionary expenses. Track your spending in the app to ensure you're adhering to your desired budget.
- 4. Build an Emergency Fund:** Aim to save three to six months' worth of living expenses for unexpected situations.
- 5. Reduce Debt:** Focus on paying down high-interest debt first, like credit cards, and create a plan for other loans.

Stay committed to your goals by monitoring and adjusting your progress throughout the year and you're sure to gain more solid financial footing! And don't forget, you also have FREE access to financial experts and resources through our partnership with GreenPath. Simply call 1-877-337-3399 or visit www.greenpathREF.com if you'd like assistance with your specific financial goals.

Sincerely,
Brian Akin
President/CEO

You're Invited TO NGCU'S 2025 ANNUAL MEETING

Please mark your calendar to join us for breakfast and a business meeting where you'll hear of all the accomplishments the credit union enjoyed throughout 2024 and what's to come in 2025.

Visit www.ngcu.org for full details and to register to attend. Please note that preregistration is required as well as a ticket for admittance. The deadline to register is Wednesday, February 5, at 12:00 p.m.

SATURDAY
FEBRUARY 8th **Breakfast - 8:30 a.m.**
Meeting - 9:00 a.m.



AT THE
RITZ THEATRE
IN TOCCOA

ADMIT ONE

TICKET #00024

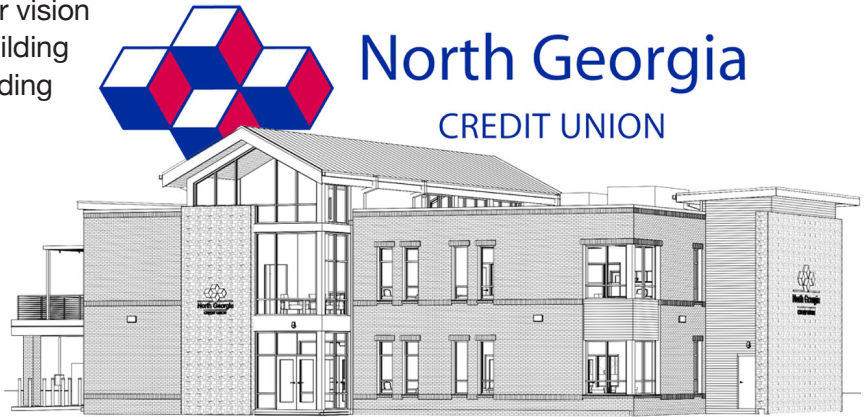
Please note ALL branches will be CLOSED for the ANNUAL MEETING on Saturday, February 8th!

NEW CORPORATE OFFICE AND BRANCH OPENING SOON!

North Georgia Credit Union is excited to announce we will be opening our new facility located at 695 Big A Road in Toccoa this year. This two-story, 11,000-square-foot building will include a full-service branch featuring an open atrium lobby, a convenient three-lane drive-thru with an ATM, night depository, and office space for both executive and corporate staff.

This new location represents a major milestone as we look toward NGCU's future, supporting our vision for continued growth and success. The building will enhance our ability to serve our expanding membership, create an improved banking experience, and enable us to grow our team with key positions essential for managing our progress.

Stay tuned for more updates as we open this exciting new chapter for NGCU and our valued members in 2025!



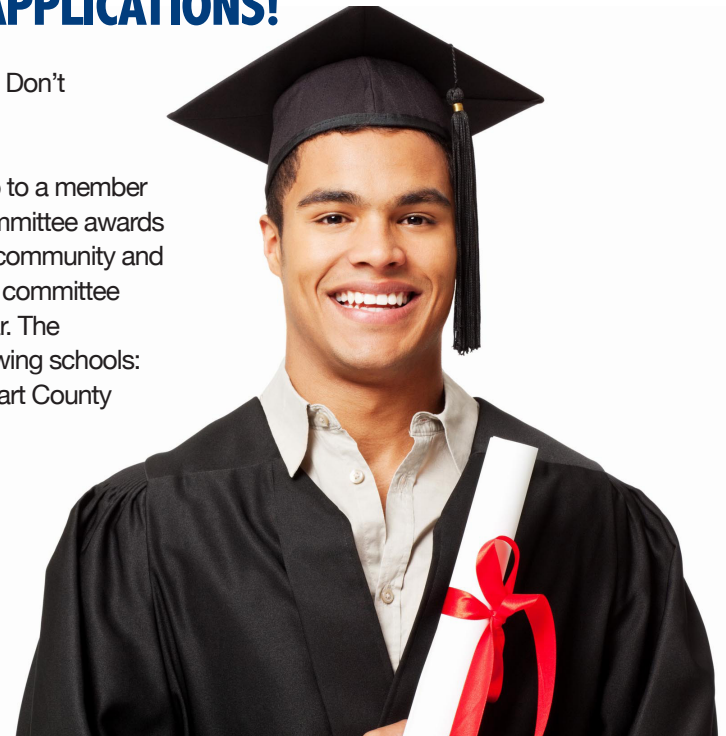
Toccoa, Georgia

WE'RE ACCEPTING SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS!

Are you or a family member graduating high school this spring? Don't forget the NGCU Scholarship program!

North Georgia Credit Union (NGCU) offers a \$1,000 scholarship to a member of NGCU, or the child of a NGCU member. The scholarship committee awards a high school senior based on need, grades, SAT/ACT scores, community and school projects and written recommendations. The scholarship committee reviews the applications after the deadline in March of each year. The scholarships are awarded to one student from each of the following schools: Stephens County High School, Franklin County High School, Hart County High School, and Rabun County High School.

Applications will be available at www.ngcu.org during the latter part of January, so stay tuned!



VERIFICATION OF ACCOUNTS

The Audit/Supervisory Committee of North Georgia Credit Union is conducting a verification of members' accounts. Please follow instructions as indicated on your statement/verification as of December 31, 2024. If you do not receive a statement/verification or have questions concerning the amounts or transactions on your statement/verification, please direct your written inquiries to: Wayne Davis Attention: Audit Department-WD-NGCU 224 Pickett's Lake Drive Acworth, GA 30101 Unless you report any differences within 30 days, the balances shown will be considered correct.



7 TAX TIPS TO SAVE YOU MONEY

There are steps you can take after January 1 to help you lower your taxes, save money when preparing your tax return, and avoid tax penalties. As you prepare to file this year, consider these helpful tips.

1. **Contribute to retirement accounts** - If you haven't already funded your retirement account for 2024, you have until April 15 to do so. Making a deductible contribution will help you lower your tax bill this year. Plus, your contributions will compound tax-deferred.
2. **Make a last-minute estimated tax payment** - If you didn't pay enough to the IRS during the year, you may have a big tax bill staring you in the face. Plus, you might owe significant interest and penalties, too. If you make an estimated payment by January 15, you can erase any penalty for the fourth quarter, but you still will owe a penalty for earlier quarters if you did not send in any estimated payments back then.
3. **Organize your records for tax time** - Print a tax checklist to help you identify the documents you need to prepare your return and gather them accordingly. You can view and download all the forms you need at www.irs.gov.
4. **Don't shy away from a home office tax deduction** - People who have no fixed location for their businesses can claim a home office deduction if they use the space for administrative or management activities, even if they don't meet clients there.
5. **Provide dependent taxpayer IDs on your tax return** - Be sure to plug in Taxpayer Identification Numbers for your children and other dependents on your return so you can claim any due credits.
6. **File and pay on time** - Make sure to complete and submit your return, as well as any payment owed, by April 15 to avoid penalties. Electronic filing is the safest way to file and the fastest way to access your refund if you're owed. If you can't finish your return on time, make sure you file Form 4868 by April 15 to extend your deadline to October 15.
7. **Ask for help** - If you find you're running out of time or you need assistance with your taxes, ask for help from a tax professional.

SAVOR THE FRUITS OF YOUR LABOR. INVEST IN AN IRA!

Investing in an Individual Retirement Account (IRA) can be a smart move for your long-term financial health. Here are some key benefits and considerations:

1. **Tax Advantages:**
 - o Traditional IRA: Contributions may be tax-deductible, reducing your taxable income for the year. Taxes are paid on withdrawals in retirement.
 - o Roth IRA: Contributions are made with after-tax dollars, but withdrawals in retirement are tax-free, including earnings.
2. **Compound Growth:** The money in your IRA can grow tax-deferred (Traditional) or tax-free (Roth), allowing your investments to potentially increase more over time.
3. **Investment Options:** IRAs offer a wide range of investment choices, including stocks, bonds, mutual funds, and ETFs, allowing you to diversify your portfolio.

Whether you've just started your career or you're looking to retire soon, you want to make sure you are taking full advantage of the opportunity to save for the sunny retirement days ahead. If you didn't max out your IRA last year, you can still make 2024 IRA contributions until Tax Day on Tuesday, April 15, 2025.

Don't have an IRA yet? Visit www.ngcu.org to view our IRA options and open one today!



START SAVING NOW FOR THE NEXT HOLIDAY SEASON

Did you overspend during the holidays? There's a better way. By opening a holiday club account with the credit union, you can save a little at a time, all year long through payroll deduction. Then, by the time the 2025 holiday shopping season approaches, you'll have the allocated funds you need to get through the season without incurring debt.

For more information or to open your account today, visit www.ngcu.org.



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

Clayton

579 Highway 441 South
Clayton, GA 30525
706-212-0336
Fax: 706-212-0335
Closed on Saturday

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
Savanna Wilbanks,
Interim Clayton Branch Manager

Directors

James Norris,
Chairman
Deborah Gibby,
Vice Chairman
Juanita Worley,
Secretary
Michael Herron,
Treasurer
Harold Harbin,
Audit & Supervisory Committee Chairman
Tommy Ayers
Tony Thomas

Audit & Supervisory Committee

Harold Harbin,
Chairman
Tommy Ayers
Tony Thomas
Mack Wayne
Keith Worley

KICKSTART YOUR FINANCIAL WELLNESS WITH GREENPATH

Through our partnership*, you have access to GreenPath's financial experts and resources including financial counseling, debt repayment, credit report reviews, financial education and more.

Take advantage of this FREE service for members! Call **1-877-337-3399** or visit www.greenpathREF.com to get started today.



Empowering people to lead financially healthy lives.



Holiday Closings

New Year's Day

Wednesday, January 1, 2025

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

Monday, January 20, 2025

Annual Meeting

Saturday, February 8, 2025 All offices closed

President's Day

Monday, February 17, 2025

Service Awards:

April Chapman - 15 Years

