

# \$HARE TIMES\$

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Spring 2017

## Spring Membership Drive April 3rd thru 28th

Spring is a time for growth—and we want our credit union to grow! Do you have an immediate family member that hasn't yet joined the credit union? What about a co-worker? Now's the time to introduce them to the benefits of credit union membership! During the month of April, for every new member you refer, we'll deposit **\$5 into your savings account!**<sup>†</sup> There's no limit to the number of people you can refer! Plus, every new member referred will automatically be entered into a drawing for a great prize! And if the new member secures a loan, they'll be entered again! Want to know the best part? **If they win, YOU win!**



1 New Member  
*and the member that referred them*  
will win an

**iRobot® Roomba 650 Vacuuming Robot**

**AND**

1 New Member  
*and the member that referred them*  
will win a

**Makita® 18-volt LXT Cordless 5-Tool Set**

<sup>†</sup>Certain exclusion apply. See a Georgia Power Northwest Federal Credit Union employee for full details.

## Brenda Buford Memorial Scholarship



Georgia Power Northwest Federal Credit Union will award scholarships to four high school seniors: \$1,000 scholarships will be awarded to one boy and one girl, and \$500.00 scholarships will be awarded to one boy and one girl. Scholarship packets are now available for pickup or you can print them online at [www.gpnwfcu.org](http://www.gpnwfcu.org). Applications and essays must be returned by the close of business April 17, 2017; winners will be announced April 28, 2017. The student must be a primary member of the Credit Union. Call or stop by the Credit Union today for full details.



## Are You Withholding Too Much?

The average tax refund exceeds \$2,000. While it may seem pretty awesome to get a big tax refund each year, it's actually an indication that you may be having too much withheld from your paycheck.

If you're getting a tax refund, ask yourself two questions: (1) Do you have credit card bills? (2) Do you have an emergency fund (enough to tide you over for a few months if you suddenly become unemployed)? If you answered "yes" to the first question, or "no" to the second one, getting a tax refund is not such a good deal. Essentially, you're giving the federal government an interest-free loan for the year. That's money you could have used all last year to pay off bills or beef up your emergency fund.

If you didn't have any major lifestyle changes last year (such as getting married or having a child), and don't anticipate any this year, you might want to visit your HR or payroll department to fill out a new W-4 form. Remember, the more allowances you claim, the less income tax will be withheld. Use the IRS Withholding Calculator at <https://www.irs.gov/individuals/irs-withholding-calculator> to decide how best to complete your W-4. Keep in mind, everyone's tax circumstances are different. Work with an independent tax professional before making tax-related decisions.

Finally, have the additional money direct-deposited into your credit union savings account each pay period. Trust us, a full rainy day fund feels much better than a once-a-year tax refund!



## 2016 IRA Contribution Reminder

In all the hustle and bustle of getting all your tax documents ready for your 2016 tax filing, don't forget about making your IRA contributions for the 2016 tax year. You have until Monday, April 18 to make your 2016 IRA contributions. **Even if you haven't opened an IRA account yet, you can still do so and still be eligible to contribute for 2016.**

For additional information from IRS, visit <https://www.irs.gov/Retirement-Plans/Traditional-and-Roth-IRAs>.



## The 4 Best Things You Can Do With Your Tax Refund

Many people will get a tax refund from the IRS, and most will squander that money before it has a chance to make it through even one statement. Here are some ways to spend it reasonably and feel good about it.

1. **Let it grow.** Consider putting all or part of your tax refund into a Certificate of Deposit.
2. **Invest it.** If you've been putting off starting a retirement fund, now may be the time. It's much easier to do when you already have the cash in-hand.
3. **Pay off debt.** If you have a loan or credit card, pay it down or pay it off using your tax refund.
4. **Give yourself a small treat.** Use the majority of your refund on one of the suggestions above, then use a small portion of it to reward yourself for being so responsible!

# SAVE

Even just a little every payday

### Holiday Closings

Friday, April 14th

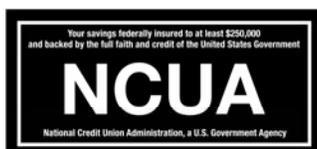
Monday, May 29th

Tuesday, July 4th

### Happy Birthday!

Is your birthday **May 21st**? If so, Happy Birthday to you! Please call 706.232.6871 and ask for Holly. Once your birthday is verified you will receive a special surprise from the Credit Union.

\*You must have an account with the Credit Union and we must be able to verify your birthday. \*\*Prize must be claimed before the next quarterly publication of our newsletter.



\*All loans are subject to credit approval. Your actual rate depends upon credit score, loan amount, loan term, credit usage, and credit history.