

Financial *focus*

HAPPY NEW YEAR TO OUR MEMBERS...

As always, this New Year offers us unlimited possibilities. We've just waved farewell to a year that included extensive bank failures and bankruptcies, the deaths of an iconic pop star and a well-known Senator, and the rapid spread of a new strain of flu. And yet, 2009 began with a simple act of heroism — a pilot who said he was "simply doing his job" when he landed his plane and its passengers safely on the Hudson River.

On behalf of the Board of Directors and staff of GCU, I want to take this time to extend a personal thank you for your continued confidence in our institution. It may be a slightly old-fashioned notion in an ever-changing world, but as a financial cooperative, we consider our members to be part of a family that looks out for one another.

We know you recognize the advantages of credit unions over banks. CNN Money recently reported that in the most recent American Customer Satisfaction Index, credit unions scored more points than banks on the index's 100-point scale. "Credit unions also boast higher average yields than banks on checking and savings along with lower rates on loans."¹ Industry observers also report growth across the board — in credit union membership, assets, deposits and loans.²

So to those still searching for a job, we extend our heartfelt wishes for speedy success. And to those who made it through the rough patches in 2009, we congratulate you and offer our very best wishes for a more stable future.

Our members make our jobs a pleasure all year long. Helping people achieve financial success is a source of pride to us, and whether we can help you save money on a car loan or send your child off to college, you make coming to work each day a rewarding experience for each one of us. Please let us know how we can get better at "simply doing our job." And here's to a great 2010!

Sincerely,

Dan Stojanovic

President



¹ 5 reasons banks don't get it; Ismat Sarah Mangla; Money Magazine, November 24, 2009. ² 3Q Data, creditunions.com



GET YOUR TAX REFUND FASTER!

Have your refund direct deposited into your GCU account. Simply provide the IRS with your account number and the GCU routing number 271984780.

OPEN A SAVINGS CERTIFICATE (CD) OR IRA WITH YOUR TAX REFUND!

Minimum of only \$500 is required. Make 2010 the year of savings growth!



NEW GCU BENEFITS

DISCOUNT AAA MEMBERSHIP

GCU will be offering a discounted AAA membership beginning in March. In addition to receiving informative offers by mail, they will have representatives on-site to answer questions about membership and insurance.

Keep an eye out for event dates! Or email us at memberservice@GlenviewCU.org to be added to our GCU Events Invitation list!

FAMILY CREDIT MANAGEMENT

Confidential debt assistance. Special pricing for GCU members. Call or stop in for a referral.

YOU'RE INVITED!

GCU will host its 69th Annual Meeting of the Membership on Thursday, March 18th. Look for details in the lobby March 1st. All members in good standing are welcome to vote for the 2010 Board of Directors.

If you are interested in being considered for one of the volunteer Board or committee positions, please send a letter of intent, along with your resume addressed to:

*Nominating Committee
 c/o Glenview Credit Union
 1631 Waukegan Road
 Glenview, IL 60025*

This is a great way to serve the membership and get involved with our community. Members must be 18 years and up. 2011 is GCU's 70th Anniversary so 2010 will be a very busy year!

Enhance your retirement savings IRA ADVANTAGES

Even if you have a 401(k), an IRA can give your savings a big boost. IRAs (Individual Retirement Accounts) are an excellent way to build long-term savings. GCU offers two types of IRAs: Traditional and Roth. To take advantage of the significant tax benefits, it makes sense to contribute your maximum limit each year.

The chart below shows the maximum dollar amount individuals are allowed to deposit into an IRA. After this year, the contribution limits may be raised in increments of \$500 depending upon the level of inflation.

IRA Contribution Limit Summary*

YEAR	AGE 49 & BELOW	AGE 50 & ABOVE
2009/2010	\$5,000	\$6,000

It's important to know that if you deposited less than the limit in 2009, it may still be possible to make contributions to your 2009 IRA balance until April 15, 2010. Talk to us if you're trying to maximize your contribution for last year.

And remember, deposits to your IRA do not have to be made at the same time. You can add CDs to your IRA throughout the year.

As you probably know, there are advantages to each type of retirement IRA:



- A Traditional IRA offers tax-deferred growth, meaning you pay taxes on your investment gains only when you make withdrawals in retirement, and, if you qualify, your contributions may be deductible.

- A Roth IRA, by contrast, doesn't allow for deductible contributions but offers tax-free growth, meaning you owe no tax when you make withdrawals in retirement.

If you leave an employer you can transfer your 401k or other accounts to GCU. For more information on which type of account best suits your savings goals, or to roll other funds into an IRA, contact us today to maximize your contributions for the year.

*There are restrictions for contributions based on income, and the rules for each type of retirement IRA differ. Please consult your tax advisor if you have questions regarding your specific situation.



FALL / WINTER EVENT ROUND-UP

- We had quite a display of \$1 pumpkins! Thanks for helping to send a donation of \$100 to Cystic Fibrosis. Let's double that next year!
- The \$25 Turkey drawing gift card prizes went to Ruby Clayton, Meredith Knee and Lillian Molina.



- Thanks for all your help in making another excellent Toys for Tots collection! Santa stopped in with his Elf and "ReinDog." (see photo at left). We had coverage in the local paper featuring "ReinDog". Donations of toys and cash really helped make a great holiday for some truly needy families.

GCU KICKS OFF 2010 WITH A NEW AUTO LOAN OFFER!

3.99% APR* on new or used cars and other exciting ways to save



GCU is starting the New Year with a great offer. If you're working toward driving a more eco-friendly vehicle now is the time to finance at GCU. Get a 3.99% APR* for any new or used vehicle loans, including refinances! Plus if you are purchasing a new car, you can take advantage of any manufacturer rebates, because we don't take away the rebate when you choose to finance at the credit union. Check out our website for the most current updates via our partner CarQuotes.

Don't Miss Out on Tax Credits

You may also qualify for current government incentive programs.*** For example, hybrids may still be eligible for a federal income tax credit of up to \$3,400. And qualifying alternative fuel vehicles (AFVs) purchased before December 31, 2010 may be eligible for a federal income tax credit of up to \$4,000.

Increase Your MPG's

No matter what model you drive, trading in an older car for a more recent model usually increases your fuel efficiency. For one thing, manufacturers continue to work on improving this feature with every model year. Plus, with fewer miles on a vehicle, all of its systems run better, which translates to more miles per gallon.

But that doesn't mean you have to buy a brand new car. Another sweet way to save is by purchasing from GCU partner Enterprise Car Sales. They offer no haggle pricing and lots of extra benefits whenever to buy from them.

Join us for the Perfect Picks Event February 15 - 29th

Enterprise Car Sales is offering GCU members Blue Book® Trade-In Value of your vehicle PLUS \$500, PLUS a 32" Flat Screen TV! Perfect, right?

You can search and find a variety of models from the comfort of your own computer. Just log on to www.GlenviewCU.org or cuauto deals.com. Once you locate your vehicle, give us a call, get pre-approved and you are on your way.

See Your Credit Union First

When you are ready to shop for a vehicle, please call us FIRST, and talk to our loan officer, Bob Hallwas. He'll help you locate a great vehicle through our partners and get you pre-approved. Don't make the mistake of financing with the dealer; their offer may sound good, but most financial experts agree that there are usually hidden fees, and few customers qualify for the best financing advertised. Dealerships may be the vehicle experts, but your credit union is your financing expert, and we can help you save money, and save our planet at the same time!

*APR=Annual Percentage Rate, subject to change. Subject to credit approval. Not a promise to lend. Some restrictions including 36 months, apply. **Visit <http://www.bankrate.com/finance/auto/> for more information. ***Visit www.fueleconomy.gov for more details, and talk to your tax advisor.