



# MONEY MATTERS

A Quarterly Publication of Greenville Heritage Federal Credit Union

January 2025

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## Holiday Closings

### All Offices

**Birthday of Martin Luther King, Jr.**

Monday, January 20

**Presidents' Day**

Monday, February 17



**DRIVE NOW  
PAY  
LATER**

**Get an Auto Loan of \$20k+ and We'll Give You:  
A Competitive Rate as low as 4.99% APR\*, Flexible Terms,  
\$100 Cash Back & 90 Days with No Payment!**

Greenville Heritage FCU is pleased to announce that we are extending our **"Drive Now! Pay Later!"** Loan Promotion!

Everyone who gets a vehicle loan of \$20,000 or more before March 31<sup>st</sup> will receive **\$100 Cash Back**, a competitive interest rate and term **up to 72 months**, and **90 Days with No Payment**.

Even in the current, high interest rate environment, we have some of the lowest interest rates in town, so you could save money each month by refinancing an existing vehicle loan from another lender. The only thing it will cost you is the time it takes to speak to one of our loan officers and provide the necessary information.

Maybe you're fine with the payment and

term of your current loan, but wouldn't you enjoy the convenience of making your loan payment with a simple funds transfer on our mobile app, **GHFCU 2 Go!**, or in your Home Banking account?

For more information or to take advantage of this special offer, call our **Loans by Phone Hotline** at **864.370.5670** or apply online at your convenience at [www.greenvilleheritage.com](http://www.greenvilleheritage.com).

*\*Promotion dates: December 1, 2024 - March 31, 2025. Normal credit guidelines apply. This promotion is only valid for automobiles. Balloon loans and work out loans are not eligible. Refinance of an existing GHFCU auto loan must include \$20k in new money. Visit our website for official rules. Rules subject to change without notice.*

**SCTAC BRANCH CLOSING:** Due to Lockheed Martin expansion plans, we will no longer have a satellite office at SCTAC, effective March 1, 2025. We remain committed to serving all members through our remaining three branches, digital banking options, and Call Center. Visit our website at [www.ghfcu.org/news](http://www.ghfcu.org/news) for updates.

# Letter from the President/CEO



Happy New Year 2025!  
 In 2024, we saw a steadily growing economy with very good deposit rates, courtesy of the Federal Reserve Bank holding the overnight rate above 4%.

We want to give back to all the long-suffering savers, so now is the time to bring us your deposits from other institutions. Our certificate rates are still near the top of the market, but are beginning to come down as the Fed lowers rates. We recommend locking in a higher rate for the next six to twelve months. Call us or visit our website at [www.ghfcu.org](http://www.ghfcu.org) for current rate offers.

It could also be the best time to look at that new car or boat or anything else you've been waiting to buy. Auto loan rates have come down significantly, and we can help you find a payment that fits your budget.

We want more of your business, and we'll give you a great deal to bring it to us. Call our Loans by Phone Hotline — **864.370.5670** — for fast, easy loan approval during normal business hours. After hours, you can apply online at [www.ghfcu.org](http://www.ghfcu.org).

We sincerely appreciate your continued support and hope you'll give us a chance to earn more of your deposit AND loan business in the coming year. Our team is ready to help you and your family members with all of your financial needs.

Enjoy the benefits of ownership!

Alan Berry, President/CEO

## FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT

<i>As of October 31, 2024</i>	
Total Assets	\$166,354,825
Member Shares	\$145,041,792
Member Loans	\$88,538,778
Number of Members	11,767
<i>As of December 31, 2023</i>	
Total Assets	\$157,814,854
Member Shares	\$137,279,808
Member Loans	\$90,272,038
Number of Members	11,999



## Members Enjoy More Savings with Love My Credit Union Rewards!

Your credit union membership is about the trust and care of community, built around where you live, work and play. That's why credit union membership saves you money through exclusive member-only offers through our trusted partners. Through Love My Credit Union Rewards, credit union members have saved over \$2 billion with offers like these.

- **TurboTax:** Get a bigger discount this tax season with savings of up to 20% on TurboTax federal products.
- **H&R Block:** Members can save up to \$25 on in-office tax prep at H&R Block.
- Get exclusive member pricing and a free, no-obligation quote from the **TruStage Home & Auto Insurance Program** by calling 800-789-6286.
- Build your credit history with rent and save up to 30% on **Rental Karma**.

Learn all about how your Greenville Heritage membership gets you all these exclusive savings and more by visiting the Love My Credit Union Rewards Program website at [LoveMyCreditUnion.org](http://LoveMyCreditUnion.org).

Members can now tap their GHFCU credit cards and debit cards wherever the contactless symbol is found. Enjoy easier and more secure transactions!



## Download GHFCU 2 Go! Card Control and Spending Alerts



GHFCU 2 Go!

Ready for an easier way to manage your GHFCU debit card? Our mobile app, *GHFCU 2 Go!*, puts more control, convenience and safety in your hands. From instant card activations to clearer merchant transaction info to robust fraud protections, now you can do even more from one convenient place.

## GHFCU News Briefs

### Check Out our New and Improved Statements!

Members will notice several changes to their December 2024 statements that will make the statement easier to read. Transactions are now separated with lines instead of alternating rows of color. The new statement design also displays all deposits/credits together in a separate area instead of being blended with debits in the date order listing of all transactions.

### GHFCU Earns a Five-Star Superior Rating!

Greenville Heritage FCU continues to earn the Five-Star Superior rating from Bauer Financial, Inc. We have consistently earned this rating since Bauer began rating credit unions. What does this mean to you? It means that your credit union is well capitalized and financially secure!

### 2025 Privacy Policy Now Available

The 2025 Greenville Heritage FCU Privacy Policy has been posted to the Credit Union's website, [www.ghfcu.org](http://www.ghfcu.org), and the hyperlink can be found at the bottom of the home page. If you would like a printed copy, please call 864.467.4160 or visit your local branch.

## Earn up to \$55 Cash!

Up to \$100 Cash for Your Friends!



Did you know you can earn cash for your loan referrals? Start getting paid for giving good advice to your friends and family members!

Following are the rewards by loan amount:

\$5,000 to \$9,999	.....	\$50 to borrower / \$25 to you
\$10,000 to \$19,999	.....	\$75 to borrower / \$40 to you
\$20,000+	.....	\$100 to borrower / \$55 to you

Call 370.5670 for more information on the loan referral program!

## How to Prevent Wire Fraud

You must be vigilant when it comes to wire transfers and verify the information comes from trusted sources. If you receive an email, you need to make sure it's from a trusted source. If you receive a text, you must make sure it's from a trusted source. If you receive a call, you need to make sure it's from a trusted source. Follow the tips below to avoid becoming a victim of email wire transfer scams:

**In real estate transactions:** The seller should sign the wiring instructions, and the signature should be notarized, if possible. Even then, the seller should verify the closing instructions over a phone call initiated by the law office, using contact information received prior to any discussion of proceeds and wires. Confirming a phone call verification via email is a good practice and a great way to document the file, but email verification alone is inadequate.

**Verify every wire request:** The more personal the verification, the better. Have the seller sign wiring instructions at the closing ceremony in the presence of an attorney. If the seller cannot attend the ceremony, the wiring instructions should be included in the deed package.

**Review emails and verify instructions:** If wire instructions are received via email, mail or phone, you should always verify you are speaking with the right party by meeting in person or following a call-back procedure using a phone number from a third-party source. This practice will ensure you are confirming with the correct individual. If wiring instructions are ever changed, you should presume the change to be fraudulent. Review the modified instructions in detail for any inconsistencies and always follow a call-back procedure.

**Advise buyers to not accept wiring instruction changes:** Hackers target emails with wiring instructions. Then, they use this information to send a modified email with updated directions for wiring money into their personal account. This type of scam is not covered by E&O insurance, so it is extremely

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## Tips continued from page 3

important for real estate professionals to protect themselves and their clients in this situation.

**Verify the authenticity of wiring instructions sent from a free email service:** If wiring instructions are attached to an email from a free service like Gmail, Yahoo, or AOL.com, you should assume they are fraudulent. Sometimes, hackers set up an alias account with a very similar name to send modified instructions. Examining the account name in detail is a good idea. Because the hacker already has access to the original account, he or she may use the same account in all other correspondence.

**Don't use free email accounts:** These accounts have major security issues, and they are likely being mined for data by their providers. Plus, they may be in violation of the Rules of Professional Conduct. If you are currently using a free service, find a more secure and professional alternative.

**Beware of unusual activity:** Be wary of wires going to any account that is not in the name of the seller. Also, be suspicious of any account with a geographic location different than the seller. There are possible explanations for different names and odd locations, but these red flags should be explored in detail, not via email.

**Don't send wires overseas:** Once money leaves the United States, it is likely gone forever.

**Regularly change your passwords:** Updating your password on a regular basis ensures someone can't acquire your password and use it to access your private accounts.

Visit the Fraud Prevention Center under the Resources tab on our website for more info on fraud and scams.

# Call for Nominations to the GHFCU Board!

## Deadline for Petitions is February 4, 2025

Greenville Heritage FCU will hold its 84<sup>th</sup> Annual Membership Meeting on Tuesday, March 18, 2025, at the Greenville Convention Center. All members are invited to attend.

A reception with heavy hors d'oeuvres, including a carving station and coffee bar, will be held beginning at 5:00 p.m. The business meeting will begin at 6:00 p.m., followed by the drawing for door prizes.

The following members of the Greenville Heritage FCU Board of Directors are up for re-election in 2025 and have agreed to serve a three-year term from 2025-2028 if elected: Tom McDowell and Lynn Watkins.

Our bylaws also allow for Board of Director nominations by petition. Anyone wishing to be considered for election should mail a petition signed by a minimum of 118 GHFCU members (one percent), a signed statement that he/she is agreeable to the nomination and will serve if elected, and a statement of qualifications and biographical data to:

Nominating Committee  
Greenville Heritage FCU  
P.O. Box 982  
Greenville, SC 29602

The deadline for nominations by petition is Tuesday, February 4, 2025. **No nominations will be taken from the floor.**

Nominees by petition must also meet the following eligibility requirements established by the NCUA Federal Credit Union Bylaws: a) the individual must be a member of the FCU before distribution of ballots; b) the individual cannot have been convicted of a crime involving dishonesty or breach of trust unless the NCUA Board has waived the prohibition for the conviction; and c) the individual must be at least 18 years of age as established under Article V, Section 7 of the FCU Bylaws.

Additionally, Greenville Heritage FCU has established the following eligibility criteria for nominees, including: a) must be bondable; b) must pass a background check; c) must have good credit history; d) may not be a relative of a Credit Union employee or existing official; e) may not be employed by another financial institution or actively serving on any other financial institution's board; and f) must have a minimum of two years of business experience.

In the event there are more nominees than positions available, we will hold an election by ballot at the 2025 Annual Meeting.