



STAY CONNECTED

1ST QUARTER ~ WINTER 2008

'Tis the Season to Think IRA

With the holidays behind us, it's time to focus on reducing your tax bite with an Individual Retirement Account (IRA) from your credit union. GCFCU offers a multitude of IRA options with no fees, no load, no cumbersome paperwork – just great rates, a wealth of choices and superior service.

Whether you are just starting to save, or well on your way, an IRA from your credit union allows your funds to grow quickly and safely. Choose from Traditional and Roth IRA term share certificates (CDs) or share accounts. You'll earn a generous return on your savings, so you can rest assured your golden years will be financially secure.

Traditional IRAs

Traditional IRAs enable your earnings to grow tax-deferred. Contributions may be deductible, depending on your income and participation in an

employer sponsored retirement plan. Taxes are not paid until distributions (withdrawals) are made. Distributions are taxed as ordinary income. In addition, you may be allowed to take penalty-free withdrawals to buy your first home and pay higher-education expenses.

Roth IRAs

Roth IRAs provide a nondeductible alternative to traditional retirement savings. Unlike Traditional IRAs, contributions are made with after-tax dollars. Earnings may be withdrawn tax-free and penalty-free under a variety of conditions after the account has been open five tax years. These include when you reach age 59 1/2, become disabled, make a first-time home purchase, or upon your death. If you have an IRA somewhere else, or retirement funds sitting in a former employer's 401k or pension plan, now is the perfect time to move it to your credit



union. Opening your IRA is fast and easy. Our knowledgeable staff can get you set up and on your way to growing your retirement nest egg without delay. You'll also enjoy peace of mind knowing your IRA is insured up to \$250,000 by the NCUA. For current rates, visit www.ccgfcu.com.

When it comes to saving for your retirement, there is no better place than your credit union. Call today for more information.

Be sure to consult your tax advisor for more information about the tax benefits of IRA

Tax Season Special

A Quicker Way to Your Tax Refund—Direct Deposit



Tax season is approaching. For some, that means a refund from the IRS. Speed up the process by up to three weeks when you use **Direct Deposit!** Direct Deposit is a safe and easy way to get your refund faster. To have your refund check deposited directly into your Gulf Coast Federal Credit Union account, simply include your Gulf Coast account number on your 1040 form.

For savings enter your account number. For your checking enter the account information from the bottom of your check. **Gulf Coast's routing number is 314978446.**

Learn the Basics of Online Banking

Free Personal Link and Bill Pay Training

LEARN THE FOLLOWING IN A SMALL GROUP SETTING

- o Internet Basics for Accessing Personal Link
- o How to Manage Your Accounts with Personal Link
- o How to Simplify Your Monthly Bill Paying with Bill Pay
- o Where to Find Help
- o Tips and Tricks



Personal Link and Bill Pay are simple to use and designed to be easy to learn on your own. But if you are new to using computers and the Internet, you may have questions and concerns that confuse you when trying online banking or may even keep you from signing up at all. This class is designed for you – whether or not you have already registered for Personal Link and/or Bill Pay!

You must pre-register for the class. We will need your full name, daytime phone number and current e-mail address so that we may confirm your registration with directions to our training location and notify you of any changes in the schedule. If you have any additional questions about our on-line products or services we will be more than glad to assist you after class.

In order to register please contact either of the following representatives:

Brandy Maldonado 361-986-4033 or 1-800-881-5991 ext. 4033 bmalonado@ccgfcu.com
Dora Pilcher 361-986-4013 or 1-800-881-5991 ext. 4013 dpilcher@ccgfcu.com

Scheduled Training Sessions: (Main Location off Rodd Field)

Thursday, January 17, 2008 12:30 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Saturday, January 19, 2008 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Contact us for more scheduled dates of training.

Have you heard about our Power Package?



Gulf Coast now offers an alternative to your regular share draft (checking) account. The Power Package gives you the power to use your money like you want when you want. When you add it all up, the Power Package is the most power-packed share draft (checking) account offering the most money-saving benefits for a low monthly fee of \$5.00. With the Power Package you have access to the following benefits...

FINANCIAL BENEFITS

- Free Online Banking/ ·Unlimited Bill Pay
- Free Standard Personalized Checks
- Free Call-24 Access
- Free Single Signature Traveler's Checks
- Free Direct Deposit
- Free Notary Service
- Free History Copy

SECURITY BENEFITS

- \$10,000 Accidental Death & Dismemberment Insurance and \$20,000 Common Carrier Insurance
- Identity Watch®
- Protect-Your-Cards~Included in Identity Watch®
- Identity Theft 911™
- Living Family Journal

SHOPPING, TRAVEL, & ENTERTAINMENT BENEFITS

- Up to 50% on brand name products by phone or online
- Shopping and dining gift cards
- Savings on computers & equipment
- Savings on groceries, home/health products and pet products and supplies
- Savings on entertainment~ magazines, movie tickets and more
- Savings on travel~ discounts on hotels, car rentals, airfare, vacation packages, and more...

HEALTH BENEFITS

- Prescription Drug Discounts
- Vision Care Savings

These benefits can be yours through the Power Package Share Draft (Checking) Account for a low monthly fee of \$5.00. Visit any of our convenient locations or call us to learn more about the Power Package. Open your account today and feel the power!



Sign Up To Speak with the Money Concepts Representative

Have you taken the time to calculate how much money you'll need to set aside for your retirement? Chances are you haven't. According to the 2006 Retirement Confidence Survey from the Employee Benefit Research Institute (EBRI), only 42% of workers have calculated their retirement savings needs. Yet this study shows that those who have done this calculation have more realistic goals & are saving more.

Get a Professional Analysis Done Today

As one of your most valuable member benefits, Gulf Coast FCU offers our member's access to a Financial Advisor with Money Concepts Financial Services. The advisor is able to provide a retirement analysis using their sophisticated retirement planning software. Whether you're just starting to save, getting close to retirement, or already living in retirement, this analysis will provide you with solid recommendations to help you achieve your unique vision of retirement. What are the alternatives to a professional analysis? According to EBRI, 73% of those who have not done a calculation simply guess at the estimate. About 10% read or heard about how much is needed. The rest haven't even tried to guess at an estimate. Allow the financial advisor a moment of your time, and you can get a feeling of confidence knowing you have a plan in place. Even if you've already done an analysis, you'll be sure to find value in a second opinion.

Retirement, Insurance & Investment Services for Life

When it comes to planning your retirement, we understand the importance of a trusted partner. Call Kelli Rocha at 361-851-8675 or 800-211-9723 to schedule an appointment. Be sure to bring any paperwork that will help the financial advisor understand your situation better such as account statements, tax forms, retirement plan information. *Not NCUA Insured: May Lose Value; No Credit Union Guarantee.*

Your Credit Report Says A lot About You

Don't be the last to know what your credit report says about how you handle money, especially if you're considering borrowing money for a house or a new car.

Your credit card includes how much credit you have and how you repay your bills; public record information, including arrests, bankruptcy, tax liens, or monetary judgements filed against you; and identity information such as name, nicknames, Social Security number, birth date, current and previous addresses, and names of past and current employers. It also lists the names of anyone who's obtained a copy of your credit report for any reason.

However, lenders aren't the only ones seeking information about your credit. Under the Fair Credit Reporting Act, a credit bureau may sell your report to lenders, insurers, landlords, employers, and businesses that meet the need as defined by law. You must give written consent before credit bureaus can give information about you to your employer or to prospective employers.

Finally, when you receive your report, look it over for inaccurate information. If you find mistakes, follow the credit reporting agency's instructions on the back of your report outlining how to request corrections. The agency must investigate your claim, usually within 30 days. Under federal law, if any agency can't verify a disputed item, it must delete or correct them.

To get a copy of your report, contact all three major national bureaus: Experian at 888-397-3742; Equifax at 800-685-1111; TransUnion at 800-888-4213.

You may also obtain one free credit report each year at www.annualcreditreport.com





Save the date...
2008 ANNUAL MEETING

Where: Sokol Hall—5502 Kostoryz Rd. Corpus Christi, TX

When: Thursday, March 13, 2008

Registration and Dinner @ 6:30 P.M.

Short Meeting and Door Prizes @ 7:00 P.M.

THIS IS YOUR OPPORTUNITY TO MEET AND MINGLE WITH YOUR CREDIT UNION BOARD MEMBERS, VOLUNTEERS, MANAGEMENT, AND STAFF. YOU WILL BE IN THE KNOW FOR WHAT HAS HAPPENED IN 2007 AND WHAT IS TO COME IN 2008.

WE CAN'T WAIT TO SEE YOU AGAIN!

NEW! Online Switch Kit

Switching your checking to Gulf Coast Federal Credit Union has never been easier! We're pleased to introduce our NEW online Switch Kit. Simply fill out the required information and all the letters and information you need to send to your current financial institution and other sources will be filled out and ready to mail.

Make the switch today!

Visit us online at www.ccgcfcu.com

**Gulf Coast Federal
Credit Union Locations**

2633 Rodd Field Rd.
Corpus Christi, TX 78414
361-980-8203

539 Carancahua Twr III Ste. 4300
Corpus Christi, TX 78401
361-881-5742

1909 E. Main
Alice, TX 78332
361-664-8331

WWW.CCGCFCU.COM

**CALL-24 AUDIO RESPONSE
361-980-8297 or 1-800-239-3985**

1st Quarter Events

Happy New Year!

Martin Luther King,

Monday, January 21, 2008

Valentine's Day

Presidents' Day,

Monday, February 18, 2008

St. Patricks Day

Annual Meeting,

Thursday, March 13, 2008

St. Patrick's Day,

Monday, March 17, 2008

Good Friday-Offices Closed,

March 21, 2008

Easter,

Sunday, March 23, 2008