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Member Information

Holiday Closings

State Employees' Credit Union will be closed for the following holidays:

Good Friday

Friday, April 7

Memorial Day

Monday, May 29

For member convenience, all automated services as well as our 24/7 Member Services via (888) 732-8562 will be available.

It's Time to Think About Taxes

Find free or discounted tax prep services from the IRS or TurboTax. Visit these online resources at www.ncsecu.org/TaxServices/FreeTaxReturnPreparation.html or www.ncsecu.org/TaxServices/PrepareYourOwnTaxes.html to learn more.



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Grassroots

is a publication of the State Employees' Credit Union Marketing department. The Credit Union is a member-owned cooperative, organized to promote thrift and provide low-cost financial services. The field of membership extends primarily to employees and retirees of North Carolina's state government, public school systems, community colleges, state universities, and their immediate families.

Grassroots

Published quarterly for over 2.7 million members of State Employees' Credit Union
February 2023 • Volume 39 • Issue 1 • www.ncsecu.org



Tap into Your Home's Equity with an SECU Home Equity Line of Credit

Would you enjoy easy access to a flexible line of credit at a competitive rate? If you have equity in your home, you may be eligible for an SECU home equity line of credit (HELOC).¹ Because home values have remained steady in the current market, you may have more available equity in your home than you realize!

A HELOC is an open-end variable rate line of credit that unlocks the equity in your home. For primary residences and second homes, you may qualify to borrow up to 90% of your home's value (65% of your home's value for investment properties), minus any outstanding mortgage balances.^{2,3,4}

This convenient line of credit can be used for a wide range of purposes. You can pay for home improvements, pay off high interest rate credit cards, and even pay for work or school-related expenses. In addition, a HELOC gives you access to funds in case of sudden unforeseen expenses.

Once your HELOC is established, you can quickly and easily obtain advances via the Mobile App, online, by phone, or in your local branch. The funds are immediately available to you, giving you peace of mind knowing that you're covered for whatever life may bring your way.

For more information about our HELOC, visit our website at www.ncsecu.org or contact us online through Member Access, by phone at (888) 732-8562, or in person at your local branch.

¹HELOCs are subject to approval and not available on manufactured homes. The subject property must be located in North Carolina, South Carolina, Virginia, or Georgia to be eligible.

²Further restrictions apply based on the collateral. Contact an SECU Mortgage Loan Specialist for further details.

³Property insurance is required.

⁴SECU HELOCs must be in a first or second lien position.



Is Your 401(k) Still Working for You?

All too often 401(k), 403(b), and governmental 457 savings are left in a previous employer's plan. Although this is an option, it is worth considering alternatives for such a valuable asset. One alternative is to roll the funds into an Individual Retirement Account (IRA) with Credit Union Investment Services (CUIS).

Benefits of rolling retirement funds into an IRA include the ability to have more investment options as well as control over tax withholding when making withdrawals. You may contribute to an IRA as long as you have earned income, or you are filing a joint tax return and your spouse has earned

income; however, you are not eligible to contribute to a previous employer's plan once you leave that employer.

Do you have multiple retirement plans from prior employers? If so, consolidating these balances into an IRA can help simplify tracking your retirement savings and prove helpful when the time comes to take required minimum distributions (RMDs).

Rolling over your retirement funds to an investment IRA with CUIS may be particularly advantageous if you have mutual funds or other securities in your account. CUIS provides investment advice by identifying the appropriate mix of assets that fit your risk preferences, life stage, and financial situation. Working with a financial professional can help ensure you don't make any costly mistakes with your retirement savings. CUIS also provides reviews of recent retirement plan statements at no cost and can help you determine whether a rollover is right for you.

Retirement savings are an important key to your future and CUIS is available to help with your retirement plan needs. Call or visit your local branch and ask to speak with a Financial Advisory Specialist about your retirement today!

Investment advisory services offered to North Carolina residents through Credit Union Investment Services. Securities offered through SECU Brokerage Services. Member FINRA, SIPC. Securities products are not Credit Union deposits. They are not obligations of or guaranteed by a credit union or its affiliates. They are not insured by the NCUA or any federal government agency. Securities products involve investment risks, including possible loss of principal. Investment representatives are also Credit Union employees, who may accept deposits.

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SECU Foundation's Power of a Dollar

Since its inception in 2004, SECU Foundation has embodied our collaborative spirit of People Helping People® by promoting local and community development throughout North Carolina. The Foundation is uniquely funded - Credit Union members across the state opt to make a \$1 monthly contribution in lieu of paying a maintenance fee on active checking accounts. Collectively through the **Power of a Dollar**, the Foundation funds initiatives across the state that focus on **education, housing, healthcare, and human services** projects. See below for a sampling of recent projects supported by SECU Foundation.

One Place, located in Jacksonville, has a 20-year history of working to end child abuse and creating a more resilient future for Onslow County. In support of their mission and vital role in the community, SECU Foundation provided One Place with two grants: a \$40,000 Mission Development Grant for facility expansion and sustainability goals, and just 14 months later, \$2 million to support the construction of a new child advocacy and resource facility, the SECU Hope Center.

Samaritan Colony originated as a men's treatment facility in Richmond County and has been providing support for underserved individuals suffering from addiction for nearly 50 years. A \$1 million Foundation grant will enable the non-profit to expand its services through the construction of the SECU Women's Recovery Center. The facility will be the first of its kind within a 100-mile radius providing treatment and recovery services for women struggling with addiction.

AMOREM is an organization that provides respite, palliative, and end-of-life care to Watauga County residents and surrounding communities. With the help of a \$1.5 million Foundation award, the AMOREM SECU Patient Care Unit of the High Country will be constructed in Boone, expanding services and access to specialized care for patients and families throughout the High Country region.

Additionally, SECU Foundation's commitment to **education** is evident through more than \$99 million in dedicated funding for university and community college scholarships, as well as university internship programs over the past 18 years.

More recently, the Foundation expanded its grantmaking reach through its **Mission Development Grant (MDG) program**, providing smaller non-profits in low-resourced areas with up to \$40,000 to help them build capacity and better reach their goals. A total of 26 organizations were awarded an MDG in 2022, with much more to come.

You can learn more about SECU Foundation by visiting www.ncsecufoundation.org



Life Insurance 101

What is it?

Life insurance pays a sum of money to designated beneficiaries upon an insured individual's death.

Why you may need it?

For many, starting a family, purchasing a vehicle, or moving into a new home represents a significant step toward achieving one's goals and dreams. It can also present a substantial commitment of time and money to a future that can change without notice. If you or someone you love were to pass away, it could leave surviving family members with a difficult financial situation. However, with appropriate life insurance coverage in place, your loved ones can have the means to pay for final expenses and help financially support themselves.

Differences between Term and Whole Life Insurance:

Two common forms of life insurance coverage are Term Life and Whole Life.

Term Life insurance can provide a death benefit for a specific period of time (the "term"), usually up to a maximum of 30 years. It's one of the most affordable types of life insurance, especially when purchased at a younger age. The benefit can cover temporary needs like a paying off a mortgage or car loan, or to fund childcare expenses.

Whole Life insurance provides lifelong protection, making it a good solution to protect a family against permanent needs such as final expenses, leaving inheritances, or funding a trust for beneficiaries with special needs.

How to get started:

To learn more about life insurance and the type and amount of coverage that's right for you, contact our 24/7 Member Services at (888) 732-8562 or visit your local branch. Insurance representatives can help you apply for coverage so you can be one step closer to securing the financial futures of your loved ones.

Life insurance is offered through SECU Life Insurance Company. SECU Life Insurance Company is a wholly-owned subsidiary of State Employees' Credit Union. Life insurance is not guaranteed by a deposit of, or an obligation of any credit union and is not insured by NCUA or any other federal government agency. Insurance representatives are licensed to sell in North Carolina only.



If looking for a paid tax preparer, take your time and choose wisely! Anyone can be paid to do tax returns if they have obtained a preparer tax identification number (PTIN) from the IRS. However, each preparer may have a different level of education, skill, or expertise. Ideally, choose a preparer who has a professional tax-related designation and/or is committed to staying current with income tax law through continuing education.

Please note that even if you use a tax preparer, you are responsible for the information reported on the return. So, here are a few more tips the IRS provides for choosing a preparer:

Upcoming Tax Season

Tax season is quickly approaching! Here are a few things to consider if you are in search of a tax return preparation solution.

First, you may be eligible to have your return prepared for free through programs that may be available in your area:

- The Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) and Tax Counseling for the Elderly (TCE) programs, sponsored by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), offer free basic tax return preparation to qualified individuals. VITA offers help to people who generally make \$60,000 or less, persons with disabilities, and taxpayers with limited English proficiency. The TCE program offers free tax help to all taxpayers, but particularly to those who are age 60 years or older. Both programs staff sites in local communities with IRS-certified volunteers.
- AARP (American Association of Retired Persons) Foundation Tax-Aide also utilizes IRS-certified volunteers to offer free tax preparation services with a focus on taxpayers over the age of 50 or who have low- to moderate- income levels.
- MilTax is a tax preparation program sponsored by the Department of Defense offering free tax preparation or software to members of the military, regardless of income level.

Each of the above programs have easy online tools you can use to enter your ZIP code and determine if a free site is available near you. (For most accurate results, utilize the tool during tax season when more sites are open). Visit www.ncsecu.org to access these tools. Click on “Services” and then “Finding Free Tax Return Preparation Services” for more information.

1. Again, all preparers who complete returns for a fee are required to have a PTIN. A reputable tax preparer will sign the completed return, include their PTIN, and provide you with a copy of it.
2. Be wary of preparers who claim they can obtain a larger refund than others.
3. Avoid preparers who base their fee on a percentage of your refund.

If you would prefer to prepare your own tax return, there are many do-it-yourself options as well. For example, the IRS Free File program provides free software to eligible taxpayers with adjusted gross incomes of \$73,000 or less. Also, SECU members have access to discounted TurboTax software. Visit www.ncsecu.org, click on the Services tab, then “Finding Free Tax Return Preparation Services” and “Prepare Your Own Taxes” for more information about these options.

Financial Condition

December 31, 2022 (Unaudited)

ASSETS	YEAR 2022	YEAR 2021
Cash, Investments	\$ 19,658,544,353	\$ 24,746,620,346
Loans to Members	29,387,513,474	25,053,294,157
Accrued Interest Receivable	124,143,972	80,423,934
Property and Equipment	1,224,430,035	1,234,307,142
Deposit for Insurance		
of Accounts	447,108,313	418,925,223
Other Assets	128,661,818	119,453,843
Total Assets	\$ 50,970,401,965	\$ 51,653,024,645
LIABILITIES & RESERVES		
Checking Accounts	\$ 7,205,393,030	\$ 6,739,108,301
Share Accounts	39,847,578,749	40,665,393,004
Total Accrued Expenses	16,457,810	6,328,202
Other Liabilities	185,917,922	166,123,955
Reserves/Undivided Earnings	3,715,054,454	4,076,071,183
Total Liabilities and Reserves	\$ 50,970,401,965	\$ 51,653,024,645