

# Gear Up

Spring 2006

## Checking that fits like your favorite jeans

There are so many kinds of clothes. Colors, styles, sizes, fabrics. Ever wonder why? Simple: one size (or color or style) just doesn't fit everybody. It's the same with checking accounts. That's why, at GHCU, we have 4 of them. Checking accounts that fit your life just like that perfectly-tailored suit, well-worn jeans, or comfy sweater you love.

All GHCU checking accounts have benefits you're not going to find just anywhere:

- **Free unlimited use of PC Branch**, the easiest, fastest, most convenient way to manage your money.
- **Free One Card**. Faster and easier than paying with a check, is safer than cash, and makes cash appear from ATMs.
- **Free TouchTone Teller**. Manage your money from any phone.
- **Online Bill Payer**. Faster and cheaper than paying with checks, stamps and envelopes.

- **Overdraft Protection** from your GHCU savings, Premium Plus or EZ Line of Credit.

- **Shared Branching**. Hundreds of branches in Washington and thousands more across the USA are yours to use.

- **CO-OP ATM access**. Over 19,000 surcharge-free ATMs across the

United States.

- **E-Statements**. Save trees, save clutter and save hassle. Statements pop into PC Branch every month.

So, now on to figuring out which GHCU checking account might be right for you. Who are you? What are you comfortable in?

### Comfy jeans and a sweater

You love to be comfortable and don't want to be hassled with too many details. You like your money, but you don't want to spend all your time thinking about it. Sound familiar? Well, **One Checking** is for you. No monthly fees if you have Direct Deposit, and no per-check fees. Free ATM access, too.

### Polo & khakis

Aaah, nothing like a nice crisp pair of khakis and a soft polo shirt. Dinner out, an unexpected business meeting, playing catch with the kids...with this outfit, you're ready for almost anything. **EZ Checking** might be a good fit, too. Unlimited free ATM access and Online Bill Payer, and a whole lot more.

### Sensible shoes

You pull out your special pen when you write checks. You know the name of your favorite teller's dog. You like to do business with a handshake and a smile. For a small monthly fee, all of this is yours with **Pacesetter Checking**.

### Tropical Shirt

You've worked your whole life...now enjoy your rewards. And wherever your travels lead, you want a checking account that treats you with the respect you deserve. **Silver Horizons** is that checking account. Earn dividends, get almost everything free. You're 55 or older...you've earned it!

There you go. Checking for any wardrobe. For a complete list of features, click to [ghcu.org](http://ghcu.org), or visit any branch. Then, jump into your favorite clothes, and your favorite checking account. Aaah, GHCU!





# Gear Up

## Nominees

### Board of Directors

**Catherine Bailey** is currently the vice-chair of the GHCU Board and serves as the chair of the Planning Committee. She has been a member of GHCU since 1980 and has been a life-long member of Group Health Cooperative. She is a 26-year employee of Group Health where she has been responsible for the Cooperative's strategic quality improvement plan and program operations. In addition, she has served in management and leadership roles in health plan operations, contract and benefits management and customer service. She received her BA in consumer studies from Washington State University and her MBA from the University of Washington. She is a 2002 graduate of Seattle's Leadership Tomorrow program.

“I welcome the opportunity to continue to support GHCU by serving on the Board. I would like to continue to share my background in strategic planning and business operations management by serving in this oversight capacity. GHCU and other credit unions play an important role in the financial health of the members of our community. I look forward to helping GHCU realize its unique potential as a not-for-profit financial institution dedicated to helping current and future members help themselves.”

**Kevin Cornwell** has previously served on the GHCU Board of Directors and Supervisory Committees in the 1990s. He has also served ten years on the Oregon Central Credit Union (now Oregonians Credit Union) Board and Supervisory Committees down in Portland.

Kevin is a former Human Resources executive for approximately 20 years, now semi-retired. He is the current

President of the Washington Mediation Association and a Big Brother in the Big Brothers Big Sisters program. He has served on the GHCU Supervisory Committee for the past three years since returning to Seattle. He is very active in the community and serves on various non-profit boards. He holds a BA in Business from Portland State University.

“As a long time advocate of credit unions, I would welcome the opportunity to serve the membership again on the GHCU board. I am very familiar with the operations and personnel of GHCU and have a wealth of experience I would be delighted to share again with the Board. Over the years serving on more than one credit union board has given me a unique blend of experience and perspective I would be happy to apply again on behalf of the membership to the Board of GHCU.”

**Allan Blackman** has been a member of GHCU since 1978 and a member of Group Health Coop since 1972. He served on the Board of GHCU from 1993 to 1996 and has served on the Planning Committee from 1993 to the present. He worked for GHC for nine years including four as Director of Planning and is now retired. He has a BA from Reed College and a Masters Degree from UC Berkeley.

“GHCU continues to face a number of challenges including competition from large banks, low interest rates, an aging membership, and the growth of alternative investment and saving opportunities. We have already discovered there are no easy solutions to these challenges. But I believe the consumer cooperative philosophy still fits the Seattle community. As the public becomes more and more responsible for its own financial security, there is an even greater need for financial services that

work for consumers and that consumers can trust. I want to serve on the Board so I can continue to help GHCU maintain its strength and grow to serve more Seattle citizens.”

### Supervisory Committee

**Dick T. Woo** is currently Director of Finance and Administrative Services for the Housing Authority of the City of Seattle. He is responsible for financial management and audits, telecommunication and business services, and contracting/purchasing for the independent municipal corporation. Prior to joining the Authority in 1994, he was Finance Director and Acting Executive Director for a local Preservation Development Authority. Dick has over twenty-five years of financial management experience in the public and private sectors, including positions with the U.S. Government Accountability Office, Washington Mutual Bank, and the City of Seattle. Dick Woo is a licensed Certified Public Accountant (CPA) and Certified Government Financial Manager. He currently serves on the Supervisory Committee and is a member of the GHCU Board. Dick has been a member of GHCU for the past 28 years.

“I am a firm believer in the concept of credit unions and the GHCU mission of providing, on a not-for-profit basis, vital financial services for its members and their families. I look forward to continuing my service on the GHCU Supervisory Committee and will work to ensure the success of this member-owned financial institution.”

## Not too late to open a 2005 IRA...and get a great rate, too!

Think it's too late to make changes to affect your 2005 taxes? Think again!

Most people have until April 17, 2006 to open and contribute to their IRA, and have it count on their 2005 taxes!

An IRA is a savings plan which sets aside money for retirement, and may offer tax savings. We have two types: Traditional IRA and Roth IRA.

In a Traditional IRA, you get a deduction on your taxes when you make a contribution, but pay taxes on the money you withdraw at retirement time.

With a Roth IRA, you don't get a tax deduction now, but you pay no taxes on the dividends you earn during all those years until retirement. Which is best for you? Ask your tax professional.

### 15-mo. IRA certificate: 4.75% APY\*

About that great certificate rate we promised in the headline? What about 4.75% APY\* for just 15 months? All you have to do is deposit \$1,000 or more by April 17, 2006. Easy, right?

\* APY=Annual Percentage Yield. Upon maturity certificate will automatically renew as a 12 month certificate. Rates are subject to change; 4.75% APY effective 2/1/06-4/17/06; 4.75% APY applies to balances of \$1000 or more. Early withdrawals subject to penalty. Visit ghcu.org or call for full details.

### Account change in terms notice

Effective March 23, 2006, Pacesetter Account members using My Bills will incur a \$4 per month fee, which includes payment of up to 6 bills, then a \$.60 charge for each bill over 6 paid per month. The first 3 months are free when you sign up for My Bills.

## Annual Meeting Notice



Want to find out what's going on at your very favorite credit union? Come to our Annual Meeting.

Date: March 17, 7pm

Location:  
Rock Salt Restaurant,  
1232 Westlake Ave.

## Need to contact us?



### Virtual Branch

206-298-9394 ■ 800-562-5515  
Hours: Mon-Fri, 8am-5:30pm; Sat, 10am-2pm

### Hearing Impaired (TDD)

206-298-9397

### Fax

206-298-3495

### Website

ghcu.org

### Email

ghcu.org/answers

### Branches

Hours:  
Mon-Fri, 9:30am-5:30pm; Sat, 10am-2pm

### Capitol Hill

115 15th Ave E

### Redmond

15120 NE 24th St

### Northgate

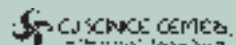
11023 8th Ave NE

### Tukwila

690 Strander Blvd

### Shared Branching

www.cuswirl.com



### CO-OP Network ATMs

www.co-opnetwork.org

## Holiday Closures



**President's Day**  
Monday, February 20

**Memorial Day**  
Monday, May 29

As always, you'll still be able to access your accounts via ATMs, PC Branch, or TouchTone Teller.

## ...CONSUMER ALERT.....CONSUMER ALERT...

## It looks real, it sounds real...but don't click on it!

There's been a lot of news about "phishing" out there for the last year or so, but amazingly people still get reeled in by the bad guys, give away personal information, and get slammed by identity theft or other nasty crimes.

### Phishing, a review

They send you an email that looks like an "official" request for information from someone you do business with...a credit card company, PayPal, a well-known company...maybe even GHCU is being mimicked.

The phony email has the company logo on it, and it says that something will happen if you don't respond immediately. The emails may say

you need to "update your account information," or that you "have to take action to avoid your account being suspended." There are any number of variants of this.

### Don't click

The most important thing to remember with a phishing email is DON'T CLICK on it. Don't go to their phony website, and DO NOT EVER enter any personal information. Report the email to the fraud department of the company that is being mimicked.

**GHCU will NEVER ask for account, password or personal information from you in an email. Don't be fooled!**



NCLB



## A GHCU home equity loan is all about maximizing options

Tapping your home equity is a great way to come up with some extra cash when you need it. And the best part is, you can use this newfound cash for almost any option your life needs... from home improvements to debt consolidation to college funding and more!

**Home Equity Loan.** This is a fixed-rate, fixed-term, fixed-principal loan. You apply for a certain amount and borrow it...sort of like a car loan or mortgage. You get one check, and pay interest on the entire amount every month. Perfect if you need a big chunk of money all at once.

We have a couple of options to help you get the best Home Equity Loan:

- **Best Payment.** Get the lowest possible monthly payment, but pay some closing costs at startup.
- **No Closing Cost.** The monthly payment is a touch higher than the Best Payment option, but there's no cash required out of pocket to get the loan.

**Visa Equity Platinum.** The credit card account that works like a home equity line of credit. You're approved for a maximum amount, and you borrow from it each time you use your Visa Equity Platinum card. You only pay interest on your outstanding balance.

If you have questions or are ready to maximize your options with your home's equity, just give us a call or stop by any branch.

### Big news@ghcu



#### New Redmond Branch open!

Redmond members, rejoice! Our new branch, complete with an ATM, is now open and located at:

15120 NE 24th Street  
Redmond

#### Nab This Car winner

Andy Chan of Seattle is the lucky winner of our Nab This Car Promotion, and is enjoying his new 2005 Chevy Equinox.

#### Coming soon: My Bills

Want a better way to get and pay your bills? My Bills is it...a simplified, more intuitive and better Online Bill Payer.

Doooh, comfy...snuggle into a checking account that fits as well as your favorite pair of jeans.

**perfect fit**



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