



Get Help With Your Returns and E-File Your Taxes For Free!

Puzzled by the tax law or which credits and deductions to take? Need assistance with your tax return?

HOPE and its partners are sponsoring Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) Sites to help people prepare and file their 2006 returns. Volunteers will be available to help you complete your paperwork and e-file your returns with the IRS. Volunteers will also be able to determine if you are eligible for the Earned Income Tax Credit, which is a tax break for people who work but do not earn high incomes.

Individuals and families who use the site will be able to e-file their federal and state tax returns electronically, and will receive any tax refund via Direct Deposit in 10-14 days.

Interested Individuals should bring the following:

- Social Security Cards for taxpayer and all dependents (no copies unless certified by the SSA)
- All income statements including, but not limited to: all W-2's and 1099's.

Have questions about a site in your area? In Jackson, contact Vincent Mangum, Tax Site Coordinator, at 601-944-4186 or email him at

vmangum@hopecu.org. In New Orleans, call the branch at 504-581-4673. If you live in another area, you may call the IRS at 1-800-829-1040 to locate the nearest VITA Site.

VITA Site Locations and Schedules:

JACKSON, MS

January 22 – April 11:

Terry Road Branch
1748 Terry Road

January, February, and April:

Mondays, Tuesdays,
and Wednesdays
9:00 am – 3:00 pm

March:

Mondays and Tuesdays
11:00-2:00

NEW ORLEANS, LA

February 1 through April 15:

Tax preparation is available by appointment only.

Call the HOPE branch in New Orleans to schedule a time to meet with a VITA representative.

Members Meeting Announced

All members of Hope Community Credit Union are cordially invited to attend the annual HOPE Members Meeting. We will review accomplishments from 2006 and summarize plans for 2007.

The meeting will be held Saturday, March 31, 2007 in the large conference room at HOPE's main office located at 4 Old River Place in Jackson, Mississippi. The meeting will begin at 10:00 a.m. and last approximately one hour. It will be held in conjunction with the ECD members meeting.

This is an opportunity to hear about what your credit union is doing, how it is growing to serve even more people, and about new products and services that will give members more banking options than ever before.

Members will also elect members of the Board of Directors and Supervisory Committee. These individuals will represent your interests in the credit union during their term, so their election is important to you. In accordance with the Hope Community Credit Union by laws, the persons listed below are submitted to the membership for consideration for election to the board of directors and supervisory committee at the 2007 annual meeting*.



Board of Directors Candidates

(three-year terms):

Regina Austin, James A. Brooks, Mike Espy, Derrick Johnson, George Penick

Supervisory Committee Candidate

(three-year term):

Corky Wicks

We look forward to your attendance at the meeting.

**Nominations for vacancies may also be made by petition signed by one per cent of the members with a minimum of 20 and a maximum of 500. Nominations made by petition must be received at HOPE's main office by the close of business on February 19, 2006. There will be no nominations from the floor if there is at least one nominee for each position to be filled. The election will not be conducted by ballot.*

BRANCH CLOSING NOTICE

HOPE branches will be closed in observance of the following holidays:

2006 HOPE HOLIDAY:	DATE OBSERVED:
New Year's Day	Monday, January 1
Martin Luther King Day	Monday, January 15
Presidents Day	Monday, February 19

Don't forget: HOPE is always open, even when the branches are closed. Just use the HOPE24 telephone banking system or HOPENet, our internet banking solution.



Don't Get Hooked by a Phisher!

Cases of fraud and identity theft are on the rise. More and more criminals are looking for new ways to steal your money, so you need to be on the lookout for suspicious activity.

Phishing attacks are large-scale scams organized by people who keep trying the scam over and over and over until someone takes the bait, just like a fisherman who keeps casting a hook until he catches a fish.

One new way used to gain access to a victim's financial information is by tricking people into revealing account information over the phone. Criminals are able to do this by electronically altering the caller ID information displayed on people's telephones. The call may have the name and number of a legitimate company shown, but the caller may be faking or "spoofing" the data.

The caller will tell people that someone is trying to steal their identity and that the victim needs to provide certain information contained on a bank

account or credit card. This can be easier if the criminal already has certain information about a person or an account: the information offered by the caller may make them seem more legitimate and that providing additional personal data is not a risky decision. Once the caller has the right account and verification numbers, they can run up thousands of dollars in phony charges that can be very difficult to trace or have reimbursed.

To protect yourself, observe the following tips:

- Never give financial information over the phone to anyone who calls you.
- If the caller indicates there is a problem with an account you have, call the number that is printed on the back of the card or an account statement to discuss the issue.
- Do not return a call to a number that has been provided to a person who has called you. That number is probably dialing an accomplice who will also attempt to steal personal information.

HOPE does not contact members by phone to request account information for any reason.

Get a Refund Anticipation Loan Without Getting Taken

During income tax season, many people want to immediately take advantage of their IRS refund. The problem is, the refund anticipation loans offered by many companies take advantage of the borrower.

HOPE is offering refund anticipation loans (RAL) to people who use HOPE VITA Sites and open accounts to receive the refund via direct deposit. HOPE RALs are different and let you keep more of the refund amount for yourself.

	HOPE	Other Loans
Tax Preparation	\$0 *	\$120
RAL Processing Fee	\$25 **	\$30
Lender Loan Fee	\$0	\$30-\$100
Interest Rate	7%	70% - 700% ***

Based on these figures, HOPE members can save between \$150 and \$225 to get a RAL and can save hundreds of dollars over the life of the loan.

If you want to keep more of your money for yourself, visit HOPE's VITA Site and elect to receive your refund via direct deposit. We will help you do all the paperwork required to complete the RAL application.

To qualify for a HOPE RAL, you must:

- Have an existing HOPE account or open a new account
- Have your tax refund deposited directly into a HOPE account

Please contact your nearest branch or call us at 1-866-321-HOPE if you have questions about getting a refund anticipation loan.

* If filer qualifies for VITA Site Program ** The \$25 fee is for a lifetime membership at HOPE and opens a savings account with a minimum balance. *** Effective interest rate.

HOPE Makes Bylaw Change

The HOPE Board has recommended certain revisions to the credit union's bylaws.

Section 8.5 of the bylaws details the duties of the financial officer.

The following changes have been made to that section:

- The last sentence in the introduction to section 8.5 has been changed from "His duties shall be:" to "The duties of the Financial Officer shall be to:".
- The word "to" at the beginning of each of the subsections has been deleted.
- Subsection (c) has been changed to reflect that the balance sheet must be prepared within twenty days of the end of the previous month instead of seven days.

These revisions will be presented for approval by the members at the annual members meeting on March 31, 2007.

Make Your Money Work With a Money Market Account

Wouldn't it be great if an account allowed you to earned interest on your deposits and still let you get to those funds if you need them? Well that account is available at HOPE.

Our Money Market account gives you outstanding benefits:

- Earn very competitive interest rates on your money. You will have a very hard time finding anyone with better rates.
- Use your money when you need it. Unlike a CD, you can tap into account funds much more flexibly. Make up to four withdrawals each month without any fee. Additional withdrawals are only \$5.00.
- Manage your money conveniently. Access your money market account via the Internet, including making transfers or payments, or by phone.

Come by a branch or visit us online at

<http://www.hopecu.org/Individual/WealthBuilding/MoneyMarket.htm> for more information. You can also call the HOPE Member Center at 1-866-321-HOPE

CONTACT HOPE

NOTE: HOPE's Terry Road Branch in Jackson and the New Orleans Central City Branch both have new telephone numbers!! Please take a moment to make a note of them for future reference

GENERAL ACCOUNT INFORMATION –

HOPE24 Telephone Banking: (877) 214-HOPE

HOPENet Online Banking: Go to www.hopecu.org, then click on the HOPENet button.

DEPOSITS: Phone: (866) 321-HOPE

E-mail: deposit@hopecu.org

U.S. Mail (Do not send Cash Deposits through the mail):

Hope Community Credit Union

P.O. Box 22886

Jackson, MS 39225-2886

Consumer Loans – E-mail: consumerloan@hopecu.org

Mortgage Loans – E-mail: mortgageloan@hopecu.org

HOPE Affinity Network – E-mail: affinity@hopecu.org

Supervisory Committee – Phone: (601) 944-1100

Email: supervisory.committee@hopecu.org

BRANCH PHONE NUMBERS:

Jackson: (601) 961-6775

New Orleans: (504) 581-HOPE (4673)