



2018 has been a wonderful year and none of it would have been possible without you.

We look forward to helping make 2019 even better than 2018. On behalf of the entire KSW Federal Credit Union staff and Board of Directors, Happy New Year. Thank you, and "Everything we do, we do for you."

## Seven Ways a Tax Refund Can Improve Your Life



When the IRS sends out a tax refund, it's increasingly a nice chunk of change. The average refund in 2018 was about \$3,000, according to Kiplinger's. Even if you don't expect to receive quite this much, your refund is probably substantial enough to take time thinking of a good use for it.

Some financial experts advise that you earmark 10% of your refund for something fun, and use the

rest for a more serious purpose. You might, for example, put the "serious" 90% toward one or more of these goals:

1. **Shrink high-cost debt** by paying down the balance on your highest-rate credit card or loan.
2. **Own your home sooner** by making an extra payment against the principal owed on your mortgage.
3. **Worry less about the unexpected** by opening a credit union savings account to help cover financial emergencies.
4. **Be better prepared for medical needs** by adding to your health savings account (HSA).
5. **Give your kids a boost into a good college** by contributing to their education fund.
6. **Help less fortunate people or animals** by donating to a charity you admire.
7. **Save yourself a few gray hairs** by funding a Roth IRA.

Here at your credit union, we'll give you a hand in any way we can. Our regular savings accounts, share certificates, and IRAs usually yield higher interest than you'll find at most banks. If you're aiming to reduce debt, feel free to prepay your loan, credit card account, or mortgage without penalty.

Whatever you do, don't let your refund just dribble away. You worked hard for that money, and we're here to help make sure it will work hard for you.

NEWS



JANUARY 2019

## Local Phone Number Scams

Your phone rings. It appears to be a local caller, so you answer. However, the person on the other line may be lying about who they are and why they are calling. Many times, scammers are taking advantage of the fact that you are more likely to answer the phone if a number similar to yours shows on your caller ID. This is a tactic of scammers called "spoofing" and it has become increasingly common.

You can help by reporting unwanted calls. This also helps law enforcement to identify the people behind illegal calls. There are call blocking services that block or flag unwanted calls. Some are free and others cost money, but there are many options, including mobile apps, features built into your mobile phone, cloud-based services, call-blocking devices, or services provided by your phone service carrier. The Do Not Call Registry will stop sales calls from legitimate companies, but it will not stop calls from scammers. If a company seems to be ignoring the Registry, there's a good chance it's a scam. Real companies face large fines for violating the Registry, not to mention the damage to their reputation.

Remember to never distribute personal or financial information over the phone unless you are absolutely sure of who is on the other line. Even then, be cautious and careful. If you pick up the phone and do not recognize the caller's voice or if it is an automated line, it is recommended that you end the call and let them leave a voicemail.

# Safety Tips for Using Mobile Banking



We want to make accessing your account easy; that's why we offer mobile banking. But we also want you to be safe and secure when using these methods. Here are a few tips to help keep you and your account safe while using your mobile phone.

**Tip #1: Lock your device.** Every device you use for mobile banking should be locked with

a password, so a thief can't get quick access to your personal information. Simply change the settings so you must enter a password to use the device.

**Tip #2: Get safe apps.** Be sure to download the KSW FCU app, this is more secure than accessing our website through your browser.

**Tip #3: Use Wi-Fi carefully.** Many mobile devices allow you to access the internet using Wi-Fi. That's fine if you're using a closed, password-protected network, like at home. But never access your account using an open, public network, because your data may not be secure.

**Tip #4: Change passwords regularly.** Create strong, unique account passwords that include uppercase and lowercase letters, numbers, and special characters when allowed. For sensitive accounts, change passwords at least every six months (and, of course, as soon as you lose a mobile device) so you can lock out a hacker who may have already gained access.

**Tip #5: Update your contact list.** If we send you text messages, enter our short code text number into your contact list. That way, you'll know if you receive a fake phishing text from a criminal who's pretending to be from us.

## We Have Kasasa? Do You?

In 2018, KSW FCU brought you a new, rewards checking program called Kasasa®. This account is designed to give you the rewards you deserve. However, those of us here at KSW prefer to call them benefits. We pay for all sorts of benefits like health insurance, life insurance, disability and more. The difference is that this benefit is **100% free**. You could be earning **2.00% APY** on your checking account or getting up to **\$7.50 per month** back on purchases just by doing three little things.

1. Enroll in e-statements
2. Log in to online banking monthly
3. Use your debit card 12 times per month (online transactions count)

Here's the catch. **There isn't one.** This account has **no maintenance or participation fees**. If you happen to not qualify in any given month, no worries. You can try again next month.

As for your current account, nothing changes. All your information stays the same as it is right now! Simply let us know that you want to Kasasa and you will be on your way to getting your free benefits.

Visit us online for more details @ [www.kswfcu.org/checking-accounts/](http://www.kswfcu.org/checking-accounts/)



## KASASA®



### Main Office

222 College Ave. · Waterville, ME 04901  
(207) 872-5602 · Fax: (207) 872-5776  
1-800-924-5454 ME WATS

### Branch Office

135 Waldo Ave. · Belfast, ME 04915  
(207) 338-5160 · Fax: (207) 338-6129

[www.kswfcu.org](http://www.kswfcu.org)

### Business Hours

Monday– Friday 9:00–5:00

Drive-Up:

Mon., Tues., Wed., Fri. 8:00–4:30

Thursday 8:00–6:00

### Board of Directors

John Picchiotti, Chairman

Melissa Noonan Richards,  
Vice Chairman

Teresa Rael, Recording Secretary

Judith B. Irving, Treasurer

Denise Beckett, Member

Phil Bofia, Member

Michelle Fate, Member

Anne Boulette, Honorary Member

\*Auguste Fortin, Honorary Member

### Supervisory Committee

Jean Genest, Co-Chairperson

Faylene Duguay, Co-Chairperson

Poppy Bridges, Member

Elaine Jacques, Member

Renette Couture, Member

\*Herb Nielsen, Honorary Member

### Anniversaries

Denise Robinson – 25 years

Sharon Noel – 8 years

Emma Malay – 2 years

Leon Dorr – 2 years

### Holiday Closings

**Martin Luther King, Jr. Day**

Monday, January 21

**Presidents' Day**

Monday, February 18

**Patriots' Day**

Monday, April 15



The articles in this publication are for general information only and are not intended to provide specific advice or recommendations for any individual. We suggest that you consult your attorney, accountant, financial or tax advisor with regard to your individual situation.

**Please be advised that the following fees will be increasing to \$30 as of March 1, 2019: NSF Fee, Courtesy Pay Fee, and Overdraft Fee.**