

# ACHIEVEments

For Members of the Louisiana Association for Personal Financial Achievement

JANUARY 2016

## WELCOME TO 2016

Achieve's 2015 Annual Meeting was held on December 18, 2015 at the office of La Capitol Federal Credit Union. The members present elected Samuel Sanders, Executive Director for the Mid-City Redevelopment Alliance to serve a third term as a member of the Board. We would like to thank Mr. Sanders for his willingness to serve.

### FREE INCOME TAX PREPARATION

The Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program offers FREE income tax preparation service by IRS-trained volunteers for low to moderate income individuals, the elderly, and individuals with disabilities in Capital Area United Way's 10-parish region. VITA volunteers work with tax filers to ensure they get the full refund and credits, including the Earned Income Tax Credit, they are entitled to. Visit the Capital Area United Way website to find information about the 2016 VITA sites and their hours.

[www.cauw.org/focus-of-our-work/taxprep](http://www.cauw.org/focus-of-our-work/taxprep)

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## SMART WAYS TO USE YOUR TAX REFUND

- **Pay Down Debt** - If you have high-interest credit card debt, putting your tax refund check towards paying it off will likely give you greater returns than any other option.
- **Fund Your Emergency Savings** - If you're fortunate enough to have any credit card or other high-interest debt, put yourself in a stronger position to stay that way by putting your refund check into your emergency savings account.
- **Start a College Savings Fund** - It's never too early to start saving for your children's tuition bills. The earlier you start, the less you'll need to save, because compound interest and time will do much of the work for you.
- **Invest in your Career** - Getting a big promotion or shifting to a higher-paying career often requires developing new skills. Spend money on continuing education courses, a weekend conference or an online class to learn a new skill.
- **Give it Away** - Americans have been donating less, and charities are feeling the pain. Helping out your favorite cause not only makes you feel good, you get a tax deduction to boot.

Source: *Investopedia.com and Bankrate.com*

## SAVINGS TIP

Consider needs versus wants. Think about the items you purchase on a regular basis. These add up. Where can you save?

- Do you eat out at restaurant's a lot?
- Can you cut back on daily expenses (e.g., coffee, candy, soda, or cigarettes)?
- Do you have services you do not really need (e.g., magazine subscriptions)?

### Contact Information

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8 a.m.-5 p.m., CST, M-F

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### 2015 - 2016 Officials

Samuel Sanders, *President*  
Jeanne Johnston, *Vice President*  
Michael Hooper, *Secretary/Treasurer*  
J. Reginald Coco, Jr., *Director*  
Dr. Jim Gardner, *Director*

# ACHIEVE

*Improving the lives of  
individuals through  
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