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For Immediate Release

**Illinois League
kicks off 78th Annual Convention**

Naperville, IL., April 16, 2008 – Nearly 900 executives representing more than 150 credit unions are expected to be in attendance to kick-off the Illinois Credit Union League's (ICUL) 78th Annual Convention starting tomorrow. The event runs through Saturday at the Chicago Hilton & Towers.

With a wild West theme of "Blazing New Trails," the ICUL Annual Convention will begin with the Delegates' Meeting, to be held tomorrow at 2:30 p.m. The Delegates' Meeting will include the swearing in of one new ICUL director, Barry Schmidt, who will represent the Greater Decatur Chapter of Credit Unions. The Exhibit Hall Grand Opening, with a sold out number of 80 vendors, will follow at 4:00 p.m.

On the opening evening, the Credit Union Political Action Council (CUPAC) will hold its "Honky Tonk" mixer, where guests have been encouraged to dress in their favorite western wear and participate in line dancing. In addition, for a modest donation to CUPAC, attendees will be able to have their picture taken on a "Wanted" poster.

On Friday morning during the keynote and awards ceremony, ICUL's new chairman of the board, John Bratsakis, senior vice president of business development for Baxter Credit Union, will be sworn in, and a number of credit unions and individuals will win accolades for their accomplishments for the past year, including the Hall of Fame recipient, David Walker, CEO of Decatur Earthmover CU. Randy Morgan will cap off the keynote by presenting: "Aligning Passion with a Purpose."

The Annual Convention also includes 20 educational sessions, the first group of which will be held on Friday morning. The sessions will offer opportunities for personal and professional growth, as they are tracked by area of expertise (i.e., director, lending, marketing, current events, general interest, executive). A closing session on Saturday morning, entitled "Blazing the Trail for Success", will feature author Christine Corelli.

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“With all this ‘rootin’ tootin’ action to experience, we hope our attendees will gallop home ‘Blazing New Trails’,” said Janet Francoeur, Annual Convention Committee Chair, and CEO of Riverside Community Credit Union.

For more information about the ICUL 78th Annual Convention, please go to:

<http://www.iculeague.org/leagueservices/Education/Annual+Convention/2008AC.htm>

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Note: The Illinois Credit Union League is the primary trade association for credit unions in Illinois, which provides members with information, legislation and education. Membership is open to any credit union operating in accordance with the Illinois Credit Union Act or the Federal Credit Union Act. There are 454 credit unions in Illinois with more than 2.7 million members.