



Contact: William Wille, (630) 983-3216

For Immediate Release

**Local credit union chapter
receives award for best special event**

Peoria, IL., September 18, 2008 – The Central Illinois Chapter of Credit Unions has received a Chapter Eagle award for best special event. The award was recently presented at the Illinois Credit Union League's (ICUL) Chapter Leaders Conference held this year at Starved Rock State Park in Utica, Illinois.

The annual Eagle awards recognize credit union chapters for quality programs they provide their communities. The Central Illinois Chapter was honored for strengthening political ties with local legislators and statewide candidates.

After attending several functions for local legislators during the year, officials from the Central Illinois Chapter hosted a dinner to honor them on International Credit Union Day. Invitees included candidates as well as incumbent state and federal lawmakers and leadership. This event was the Chapter's largest event of the year, with approximately 100 credit union executives from Central Illinois in attendance. The chapter also used the event as an opportunity to recognize employees and volunteers of the local credit unions, including honoring one outstanding volunteer and one employee.

The Central Illinois Chapter of Credit Unions is comprised of credit unions and credit union officials in Fulton, Marshall, Mason, Peoria, Putnam, Stark, Tazewell, and Woodford counties. In the chapter, there are 13 credit unions with \$3.8 billion in assets and 261,001 members. As an integral and functioning part of the ICUL, credit unions are united into chapters defined by geographic boundaries. There are 26 credit union chapters throughout Illinois.

A credit union is a not-for-profit financial cooperative that is owned by the members it serves. There are about 8,500 credit unions nationwide, counting more than 90 million consumers as members, and collectively hold about \$800 billion in assets. In Illinois, there are more than 430 credit unions with \$20.8 billion in assets, serving more than 2.7 million members.

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Note: The Illinois Credit Union League (ICUL) 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.