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For Immediate Release

Annual small CU conference a continued success

Naperville, IL., August 14, 2008 – More than 80 credit union staff and board members were in attendance for the Illinois Credit Union League's (ICUL) seventh annual Small Asset Size (SAS) Conference geared specifically toward credit unions under \$20 million.

The two-day, highly popular conference provided a unique educational event that addressed challenges and concerns of credit unions in this particular asset group. Many topics centered on helping small credit unions compete in today's marketplace, including disaster recovery, bankruptcy and collections, a compliance update, and plenty of opportunities for networking.

A main highlight of the conference was Rodney Hood, vice chairman of the National Credit Union Administration (NCUA), who conducted an interactive discussion on the "State of the Small Credit Union." In his remarks, Hood commented positively on the strength of Illinois small credit unions, which have a collective net worth of 15.5 percent as compared to an 11.1 percent national average, and 98.5 percent of these in Illinois have a CAMEL rating of 1, 2, or 3. Hood also reinforced his support for the attendees and encouraged them to reach out to the NCUA's Office of Small Credit Union Initiatives, both via phone and its Web site, which has myriad online resources available.

"We are committed to small credit unions," said Hood. "As vice chairman, I want to keep you healthy and vibrant."

Some of those resources include community development grants and loans, of which \$24,000 went to low-income designated credit unions in Illinois and \$8,000 went toward intern support. He also mentioned that economic development specialists are available to help small credit unions to work through key issues such as strategic planning, and to explore partnerships to offer new products and services like home banking, which is very popular in the state.

Lastly, Hood stated that his top priorities include affordable housing, member business lending and enterprise risk management.

After being well received by participants initially in 2002, ICUL has offered this conference every year since then.

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“We are very pleased with how this conference has developed over the years,” said Dan Plauda, ICUL president/chief executive officer. “We strive to be a focal point to help our small credit unions succeed and it seems this conference addresses their needs year after year. That’s what we’re all about.”

Some of the resources geared toward small credit unions (\$20 million or less), which represents more than 300, or 75 percent of ICUL’s members, include Small CU Development (SCUD) grants and scholarships via the ICU Foundation, as well as a comprehensive, members-only Small Credit Union Resource Center on the League’s Web site, and a quarterly newsletter called, *Insight*.

“The conference truly exceeded my expectations. I am looking forward to next year,” said Mike Daugherty, CEO of the \$12.3 million Community Plus FCU in downstate Rantoul.

Held at the ICU System Center in Naperville, the event was sponsored by ICUL, the ICU Foundation, Members United Corporate FCU, and CUNA Mutual Group.

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Note: The Illinois Credit Union League is the primary trade association for credit unions in Illinois and provides members with informational, legislative and educational services. Membership is open to any credit union operating in accordance with the Illinois Credit Union Act or the Federal Credit Union Act. There are 430 credit unions in Illinois serving more than 2.7 million members.