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For Immediate Release

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

Northwestern, IL., September 18, 2008 – The Northwest Illinois Chapter of Credit Unions has received two Chapter Eagle awards 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 Northwest Illinois Chapter was honored for its involvement in local county fairs and a “green” fundraiser and raffle.

In the first project, all the credit unions in the chapter participated in three county fairs, which ranged in length from five to seven days each. Area credit unions arranged for volunteers to work the booths during fair exhibit hours, which were set up with free handouts about disaster preparedness kits and FEMA Emergency Financial First Aid Kits (EFFAK). The disaster kits handout listed what food and water items were necessary to survive for up to 72 hours should a disaster or emergency strike. The financial kits help individuals proactively compile vital information and records in the event they become victims of a sudden disaster or personal emergency. Each day a drawing was held and one lucky winner received a backpack with all the emergency preparedness supply items and a financial first aid booklet.

For their green fundraiser, the chapter purchased a C3 Yamaha Scooter as a raffle prize. A local dealership moved the scooter around between the lobbies of different credit unions for over three months so it could be on display. In the end, the chapter collected more than \$3,000 from the raffle, which was evenly split and donated to the Illinois Credit Union Foundation and the Credit Union Political Action Council.

The Northwest Illinois Chapter of Credit Unions is comprised of credit unions and credit union officials in Carroll, Jo Daviess, western Lee, western Ogle, Stephenson, and Whiteside counties. In the chapter, there are nine credit unions with \$162.3 million in assets and 29,927 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.