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**From:** Tom Kane  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 27, 2017 1:30 PM  
**To:**  
**Subject:** In Context: From Tom Kane, President & CEO [09/2017]



## Credit Unions Show Their Strength



When we send out those action alerts requesting that you contact a legislator about a particular issue, did you ever wonder – “did that actually work?” or “was that really necessary?” Based on the results we saw two weeks ago, I can tell you firsthand that these appeals do make a difference and can influence a vote. While we were in Washington, D.C. on Sept 13-14 for Hike-the-Hill briefings and visits, CUNA and the League activated our grass roots team across the country to contact Congress about something we saw that could potentially turn into an indirect tax on credit unions. A must-pass appropriations bill included a provision to remove a previously adopted clause to include the NCUA in the congressional appropriations process. We are strongly opposed to Congressional oversight of the NCUA budget, because we know it would only be a matter of time before there would be sweeps of “extra funds” paid by credit unions for NCUA operations. We experienced a small version of this in Illinois this year, when \$176,200 was swept out of DFI’s credit union fund and into the general fund as part of the state budget deal (something we’ve been able to fend off since our successful lawsuit against Governor Blagojevich and IDFPR in 2008).

In D.C., the rapid and huge response from credit unions all across the country caught Representatives off-guard, as the amendment was not really on their radar (it's a pretty obscure issue) and the GOP Committee leadership responsible for the bill was strongly in favor of putting NCUA under Congressional appropriations. This typically meant it would sail through with the other appropriations bills with no opposition. In fact, the banking groups facing a similar situation with their regulatory agencies opted not to fight at this time and hoped to address this topic in the Senate. Led by CUNA and the leagues (including us in-person in D.C.), credit unions jumped in big time and inundated Congressmen with calls, emails, and social media posts. The result was a quick approval of the amendment and an unexpected win for credit unions on an issue most Representatives knew nothing about...that is until they heard from you that it was important and you wanted their support.

This was a great demonstration of the power of credit unions to rally behind an issue quickly and make our voice heard. Hal Coxen, a participant in our Illinois Hike-the-Hill delegation, described this as flexing our "Nussle muscle". I couldn't agree more about how CUNA, the leagues, and credit unions clearly showed why we will be a formidable group in future discussions of legislation impacting our members. Thank you for answering the call to action!

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## Congratulations to Illiana Financial Credit Union...

...for their recent designation as a Juntos Avanzamos credit union. Those of you attending our annual convention in Schaumburg heard me talk about our new partnership with the National Federation of Community Development

Credit Unions to expand implementation of this Hispanic outreach program in Illinois. Illiana and President/CEO Jim Henmueller had already been going down this path for a while and I was proud to represent the League at the flag raising and proclamation ceremony on September 27. Juntos Avanzamos is a terrific program if you want to offer more services to your Hispanic membership or want to attract new members. More information about how you can better serve and empower Hispanic consumers can be found [here](#).



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## Mr. Olson Goes To Springfield



*This is an actor and not an ICUL employee*

I am thrilled and proud with the accomplishments we had with the legislative session in Springfield again this year. Steve, Keith, Ashley and the team were very successful in working with supporters in both chambers to expand powers for credit unions in the state. This includes updates to the Credit Union Act, tightening up the storage and lien law passed last year to ensure better compliance, allowing credit unions to share

exam information with the FHLB of Chicago, and other bills to assist credit unions. At the same time, we

identified a number of bills out of the thousands proposed that would have added more regulation or costs for credit unions and we worked to keep them from becoming law. Thank you to the ICUL Legislative Committee, led by Chairwoman Kerry Fearn (President/CEO, Area Educational Credit Union), for the many hours they spent reviewing legislation and providing guidance to our team. Let me know if you have any thoughts on new state legislation for next year that would help you compete in your community or field of membership.

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## What's it gonna take to get you into this program today?



A change that went into effect upon the Governor signing the updates to the Credit Union Act is the ability for all state chartered credit unions to participate in the Credit Union Loan Source (CULS) indirect auto program. After a successful 7 month pilot with several large credit unions, we have gotten a

great response to recent webinars explaining how the program can help bring a new and diversified source of auto loans onto your balance sheet. We've put together a package of instructions, forms, and sample policies to simplify the process of presenting the program to your Board and applying with CULS. Contact LSC's [John DiTerlizzi](#) for more information.

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## GAC Registration Now Open

You should have received information from CUNA and the League about the Government Affairs Conference (GAC) next February in D.C. Please consider GAC as you are putting together your 2018 budget. If you've gone to this conference before, you know how valuable it is for education, visiting vendors, getting inspired, and seeing the political process (aka the "sausage making") up close. If you haven't attended, I can tell you there's nothing like it in the credit union industry and it would be well worth your time and money to go or send someone. We had record attendance last year and expect another big contingent from Illinois this year. We hope you can join us!



*Photo of 2017 GAC in Washington provided by Sean Spicer*

## Upcoming Events

HR Compliance Update	Oct 3	Naperville
Women's Leadership Conference	Oct 4-5	Naperville
CU Management Orientation	Oct 19	Naperville
Governor's Advisory Board	Nov 9	Chicago/Springfield
Attorney's Conference	Nov 17	Oakbrook
ICUL Annual Convention	Apr 19-21	Schaumburg (last year there)
CUPAC Golf Outing	May 14 (tentative)	Auburn
State Legislative Summit	May 15 (tentative)	Springfield
Government Affairs Conference	Feb 25–Mar 1	Washington, D.C.
CUPAC Golf Outing	Jun 12	Bloomington



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