



Florida Credit Union League  
3773 Commonwealth Blvd.  
Tallahassee, FL 32303  
850.576.8171  
Fax: 850.576.7559

# Press Release

Contact: Amy Jowers  
Phone: 850.558.1020

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## **FLORIDA CREDIT UNION LEAGUE'S SHUTES RECEIVES PRESTIGIOUS AWARD FOR POLITICAL AND GRASSROOTS EFFORTS ON BEHALF OF CREDIT UNIONS**

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Florida Credit Union League (FCUL) Executive Vice President Aletta Shutes was honored with the Buck Levins Award for her political involvement in the credit union movement by the Credit Union National Association (CUNA) during the 2008 CUNA Governmental Affairs Conference (GAC) in Washington, last week.

The Buck Levins Award recognizes league leaders showing exceptional commitment for increasing the political strength of the credit union movement.

Prior to Shutes' arrival at FCUL, the League had never raised more than \$20,000 for its Credit Union Political Action Committee (CUPAC). In 2007, as a direct result of her efforts, CUPAC raised more than \$610,000. Her involvement in the political and grassroots efforts of the Florida League have been directly responsible for a dramatic increase in attendees for CUNA's GAC. When Shutes began at the League in 1993, Florida's credit unions sent less than 25 people to the conference; at this year's GAC, more than 200 Florida credit union representatives attended. This spectacular increase in attendance is a direct result of Shutes' emphasis on the importance of political action by those in the credit union movement.

"I could not have done this without my staff and especially the Florida credit unions," said Shutes. "I am truly honored to receive this award."

In addition, Shutes' impact on the awareness of legislators, at the state and federal level, regarding credit union issues catapulted FCUL to the "first call" list for democrats as well as republican state House /Senate candidates.

Although planning for "retirement" in January '09, Aletta will remain involved in the credit union movement by raising funds for CUPAC.

*(The Florida Credit Union League is a Tallahassee, Florida-based statewide trade association offering a myriad of services focused on meeting the current and future needs of Florida's credit unions. It is the mission of the Florida Credit Union League to ensure an operating environment in which credit unions will thrive.)*



*Aletta Shutes (r) receives the Buck Levins Award from Kris Mecham, CUNA's Government Affairs Committee Chair.*

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