



For Immediate Release

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The Illinois Credit Union System Promotes Team Spirit While Giving Back During COVID-19

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In response to the global COVID-19 pandemic, the Illinois Credit Union System (ICUS) successfully deployed their 115 league and service corporation employees to work from home. Keeping staff safe and healthy was a top concern for ICUS leadership, but they were also concerned for the emotional wellness of their teams. In looking to the CU Kind motto of “doing good feels good,” ICUS put a plan in place to spread kindness and impact the community while working remotely. With a little creative thinking, and rebranding of their quarterly office employee recognition program, ICUS came up with a fun and engaging contest aimed to lift staff spirits while benefiting a local animal shelter.

ICUS staff was encouraged to introduce “new team members,” otherwise known as their pets, with pictures and funny professional biographies to share throughout the organization. Each day, a new “team member” was introduced and welcomed to the ICUS family. After 44 daily announcements of more than 75 “new team members,” employees were given the chance to vote for their favorite to be named the ICUS Employee of the Quarantine (a play on the existing Employee of the Quarter award). Many perks were granted to the winner, including a donation made on their behalf to a local animal shelter.

“We are operating under a very stressful time, but these announcements were able to help everyone stay engaged and connected, while providing a few smiles along the way,” said ICUL President Tom Kane. “This contest also created a give-back opportunity that our staff could participate in without dismissing the social responsibility of sheltering in place. That’s what is so great about the credit union movement. We don’t allow challenges to prevent us from giving back to the communities we serve, instead they inspire us to do more.”

WINNER OF Employee of the Quarantine

Simon Topalov
Direct Report to Martin Topalov

Meet Simon.
He is pretty lazy...
He is very unreliable....
He is extremely outspoken...

But, he has the sweetest puppy dog eyes we've ever seen!
Lucky for him, being sweet and cute is exactly what he was hired for!

& Let us also congratulate our runners-up!

2nd Place Copper Heinz	tied for 3rd Place LaBoose Hering	tied for 3rd Place Molly Shannon
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But really, there are no losers here! Just awesome new coworkers!
Thanks for playing!

illinois credit union system
Employee of the Quarantine

Our four-legged, feathered and scaled friends have been working very hard. Let's reward them for it with the FIRST (and hopefully last!) EMPLOYEE OF THE QUARANTINE TITLE!

How do you vote for the EOQ?
First, refresh your memory of all the cuteness that has been shared over the last 103,456,962 days of quarantine!
Vote by replying to this email with the NAME OF ONE PET you wish crowned "Employee of the Quarantine!"

What do they win, you ask?
Besides the professional accomplishment of being named Employee of the Quarantine, the winning pet will also receive:
• A \$200 donation made on their behalf to the Naperville Area Humane Society
• Their picture posted on SAL!
• A \$50 e-card to Chewy.com

DEADLINE TO VOTE- TUESDAY, MAY 26 11:59 PM
NO NERFISH PLEASE! MEANING - DO NOT VOTE FOR YOUR OWN PET!

About ICUL®

The Illinois Credit Union League (ICUL) is the primary trade association for more than 260 credit unions doing business in Illinois. It focuses on providing legislative and regulatory advocacy, compliance assistance and information, and a wide range of educational and training services to those credit unions, who in turn serve approximately 3.4 million members. As a not-for-profit corporation chartered under the laws of the State of Illinois, membership in the League is open to any Illinois credit union doing business and operating in accordance with the Illinois Credit Union Act or the Federal Credit Union Act.