

January 5, 2021

# TO: Credit Union Chief Executive Officer

**RE: CUPAC Honor Roll Program - action requested by 5-1-2021**

CUPAC conducts various fundraising programs throughout the year, designed to generate funds from different audiences. Now is the time that CUPAC seeks *individual* donations, such as donations from your board via the Advocate/Associate Honor Roll program. Your credit union can do its part to support continued political action programs by participating.

CUPAC is Illinois credit unions’ political action committee. Despite a significant decrease in legislator fundraising events, CUPAC contributed over $233,000 in the 2020 primary and general elections to help state and federal candidates who support issues of concern to credit unions. This could not have been accomplished without the support of individuals, credit unions and chapters. Demands on CUPAC funds continue to increase, as the credit union movement strives to maintain and build relationships with legislators. Voluntary contributions to CUPAC make these donations possible, allowing credit unions to compete with similar special interest groups.

An ongoing, comprehensive legislative/political action program that includes grassroots involvement and financial resources is essential in effecting a favorable legislative climate for credit unions.

### HONOR ROLL

Honor Roll credit unions are those in which the entire Board of Directors, as well as the chief executive officer, enroll as individual members of CUPAC. This may include any combination of Associate or Advocate memberships as long as at least one member is an Advocate. An Associate membership is $50. Advocate memberships have three giving level options: 1) Individual Advocate membership-$150 ($200-Spousal); 2) Advocate-Ambassador membership-$250 ($300-spousal); and 3) Golden Ambassador Advocate membership-$500.

As an Honor Roll credit union, your support and commitment to political action will be recognized during the Celebration Luncheon held in conjunction with the League’s annual convention. However, in order to be recognized at this time, your application should be received by CUPAC no later than May 1. Remittances received after that date will still obtain Honor Roll status and recognition in publications; however it may be too late for convention recognition.

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Since federally-chartered credit unions are prohibited by law from making a corporate contribution to a political action committee, yet many credit union legislative issues affect both state and federal credit unions, the Honor Roll program is an excellent opportunity for those credit unions to participate in CUPAC by having members of the Board make personal contributions.

The Honor Roll program is designed to solicit individual contributions, not credit union funds. It is preferred that personal checks or share drafts be used. State chartered credit unions that contribute corporate funds in excess of $100 to CUPAC will face a federal income tax liability on those funds. Federally chartered credit unions are prohibited from contributing to any political action committee.

Please help ensure the future of the credit union movement by enrolling as an Honor Roll member today. The contributions will be greatly appreciated.

Questions regarding these programs should be directed to me at the Illinois Credit Union System (1-800-942-7124 x 3416 or Pat.Huffman@icul.com).

Sincerely,



Patricia Huffman

Political Action Director

Contributions to CUPAC are not deductible as charitable contributions for federal income tax purposes. A copy of our report filed with the State Board of Elections is (or will be) available on the Board’s official website ([www.elections.il.gov](http://www.elections.il.gov)) or for purchase from the State Board of Elections in Springfield, Illinois. Contributions are strictly voluntary and you have the right to refuse to contribute without reprisal. The above amounts are suggested giving levels. More or less may be contributed. A portion or this entire donation may be forwarded to CULAC, the federal political action committee of the Credit Union National Association.

**2021 CREDIT UNION CUPAC HONOR ROLL APPLICATION**

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Names and Addresses of Board Members. For each name, please circle if Individual Advocate-$150; Spousal Advocate-$200; Ambassador Advocate -$250; Spousal Ambassador Advocate-$300; Golden Ambassador Advocate-$500; or Associate-$50. Personal checks requested\*.

***Name(s) Occupation/title******Mailing Address***

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 President/CEO Signature

Total amount remitted via check(s): $\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ **(Personal checks requested\*)**

**\*(Payable to CUPAC)\*Personal funds suggested**

*State-chartered CUs are subject to applicable federal income tax at the current rate on any amount over $100. Individuals face no tax restrictions. Federally-chartered credit unions are prohibited by law from making contributions to a political action committee.*

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Thank you for your support of CUPAC. Return to: Pat Huffman, Illinois Credit Union League, 1807 W. Diehl Rd., Naperville, IL 60563.