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Contact: Rick Hagopian, WCUSSC
414.325.9880 x3, rhagopian@wcussc.com
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# Braam Resigns from Wisconsin Credit Union Shared Branching Board
## *Youngblood and Sauer Fill Positions*

**GREENFIELD, WI -** Quirin E. Braam, former Journal Credit Union President, resigned as both a director and chair of Wisconsin Credit Union Shared Service Centers, Inc. (WCUSSC) on June 20, 2012. Braam was instrumental in the development of the service organization and held these positions since its inception in 1995.

Kimberly Youngblood, SVP/COO of Focus Credit Union in Wauwatosa, is the new chair. Sam Sauer, president of Gundersen Lutheran Credit Union in La Crosse, fills the director vacancy created by Braam's retirement.

Jennifer Schilling, president of Empower Credit Union (West Allis), replaces Kim Youngblood as secretary. Other officers include Vice Chair David Stark, president of Bull's Eye Credit Union (Wisconsin Rapids) and Treasurer Alan Zierler, president of Capital Credit Union (Kimberly).

Earlier this year, the board appointed Wisconsin Credit Union League President Brett Thompson to fill another retirement vacancy. Jon Lowrey, president of Dane County Credit Union in Madison, rounds out the seven-member board.

"We are deeply indebted to Quirin Braam for his vision, leadership and dedication," said WCUSSC President Rick Hagopian. "Quirin was the engine that made shared branching run in Wisconsin. We are fortunate to carry on with a devoted and experienced group of credit union professionals who embrace the collaborative credit union values Quirin established."

"I am proud of our accomplishments," said Braam. "We've come a long way in establishing a cooperative branch network and introducing other products to make credit unions as convenient as possible for their members. Through cooperation, our credit unions can compete with much larger financial institutions and deliver the brick-and-mortar convenience as well as other electronic access alternatives that consumers demand."

According to Braam, WCUSSC has strong leadership. "Brett Thompson has been an unofficial member of the board for years," he said. "His perspective as the head of the state trade association for credit unions is invaluable. Sam Sauer has been a steadfast supporter and was critical in establishing shared branches in the La Crosse area. Both are excellent additions to the board."

Both Youngblood and Schilling accept their officer positions with extensive backgrounds as WCUSSC directors and shared branching participants. Stark and Zierler have been directors since the company's inception, further ensuring continuity. "I understand the value and benefits that shared branching and our other products provide for credit unions," said Youngblood. "I look forward to expanding shared branching in Wisconsin and introducing our other products to more credit unions to help them stay connected with their members."

WCUSSC has grown to offer mobile banking, remote deposit, disaster recovery and call center services in addition to shared branching to help credit unions enhance relationships with their members. Recently, the League and WCUSSC partnered with CO-OP Financial Services to offer CO-OP's surcharge-free ATM network and EFT processing for Wisconsin credit unions.

WCUSSC operates 46 Credit Union Service Centers and is part of the national CO-OP Shared Branching consortium, serving members of more than 1,700 credit unions at nearly 4,700 shared branches - the fourth largest branch network among all US financial institutions. Nationwide locations can be found at www.cuservicecenter.com or 1-800-919-CUSC (2872).

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