

## MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE POLISH & SLAVIC FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

Dear PSFCU Members,



As Chairman of the PSFCU Supervisory Committee, I would like to provide you with information on the role and activities of the Committee. As part

of the Committee, I work with Ms. Ewa Chmielewska, who serves as Secretary of the Committee, Messrs. Leon Fuks and Peter Nozka, as well as Mariusz Sniarowski, Esq.

According to PSFCU bylaws, each member of the Supervisory Committee is elected by the PSFCU Board of Directors for a three-year term. Members of the Supervisory Committee, like the volunteer members of the Board of Directors, serve on a voluntary basis, without receiving a salary.

The main task of the Supervisory Committee is to conduct independent audits and oversee the financial security of PSFCU. In fulfilling its obligations, the Commission oversees the work of PSFCU's Internal Control Department on an ongoing basis, hires an independent firm of certified public accountants each year to conduct an annual audit of the Credit Union's financial statements, and hires specialized auditing firms as needed. The committee also serves as a check on the credit union's Board of Directors. At monthly meetings, we review reports on the fulfillment of both internal regulations and procedures by employees and volunteers, as well as federal and state regulations.

Based on all these activities, as Chairman of the PSFCU Supervisory Committee, I would like to assure you that our Credit Union's assets are adequately safeguarded, and that the Polish & Slavic Federal Credit Union is a financially stable and efficiently operating institution.

In closing, I would like to thank you, already more than 111 thousand members of the Polish & Slavic Federal Credit Union, for the great trust you bestow on our institution every day. Thanks to the loyalty, commitment and diligent management of finances by our Credit Union members, PSFCU has

been able to continue its dynamic growth and serve the Polish community for 46 years. Our Credit Union is a modern institution, operating efficiently in all conditions, cementing its status as a true leader of the Polish-American community. For all this I would like to thank you sincerely, while wishing you much success, both financially and personally.

Sincerely,

Artur Dolega, CFP  
*Chairman of the PSFCU Supervisory Committee*

### PSFCU Sponsors Polish Festivals and Events



*Traditional Harvest Festival organized by the Alliance of Polish Clubs was held at St. Rosalie's Church in Harwood Heights, IL.*

Polish events occupy a special place in the calendar of the Polish & Slavic Federal Credit Union. This happens for a number of reasons. First, through respect for past generations, since it was through their efforts that many of these worthwhile events first began their tradition and achieved success decades ago. The second important reason is the opportunity to get together, connect generations and showcase the wonderful cultural achievements of the Polish community. Thanks to joint efforts and commitment, the events, which have a long-standing tradition, continue to be extremely popular and are a

true showcase for the Polish-American community. Polish & Slavic Federal Credit Union supports the efforts of organizers by sponsoring these cultural events and being present at each of them.

On August 21, employees of the Linden, NJ branch of PSFCU attended a picnic at St. Theresa Parish in Linden. Beautiful weather, many interesting attractions, music and games for children made the picnic day more attractive. On the same day, the traditional Highland Indulgence was held at the Monastery of the Discalced Carmelite Fathers in

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### PSFCU In Numbers

*Information as of August 31, 2022*

Assets

**\$2,563,314,066**

Loans

**\$1,443,469,545**

Net worth

**\$234,765,568**

Number of Members

**111,369**



## Identity Theft – How to Recognize Fraud?

Identity theft occurs when someone uses somebody else's document, bank account number, social security number, credit card or other personal information for their own illicit purposes. It can take months before the victim realizes he or she was a victim of fraud.

According to the Federal Trade Commission, identity theft was the most frequently reported scam in 2021, with more than 395,000 people reporting that someone provided a false document bearing the name of the scam victim. The statistics are alarming, with a 311% increase in fraud victims nationwide in 2019-2020, and with losses estimated at \$350 million. In 2021, the number of fraud cases nearly doubled. The rate is increasing and is a growing concern for our society so it is important to know the methods scammers most often use and methods to protect one's personal information.

The Federal Trade Commission lists the most common situations and patterns that personal data thieves follow:

- they steal your mail, including bank and credit card statements, pre-approved credit offers. How to prevent it? Try to receive as many bills and correspondence from financial institutions as possible electronically; electronic statements will help prevent the theft of your correspondence.
- they steal your wallet or purse containing your ID and credit and bank cards. What should you do? Immediately contact the financial institutions where you have accounts and which issued your cards, try to close your accounts as soon as possible; notify the Social Security Administration, file a police report; after contacting your financial institution, call one of the three credit bureaus and ask them to put a fraud alert on

your credit profile. The numbers for the bureaus are listed in the box below. No matter which bureau you call, a fraud warning will be placed on your profile for 90 days by all three bureaus.

**Equifax 1-888-766-0008**  
**Experian 1-888-397-3742**  
**TransUnion 1-800-680-7289**

- they fill out a change of address form to redirect your mail to another location. How to prevent it? Verify your address as often as possible with the financial institutions where you have accounts.
- they search through your trash for personal information, a phenomenon known as „dumpster diving.” How to prevent it? Shred all unnecessary documents using shredders. If you don't have your own shredder, check with your municipality when document shredding services are offered for local or county residents.
- they find personal information inside your home. How to prevent it? Keep all important documents in a safe.
- they use the personal information you share online. How to prevent it? Control your activities on social networks, carefully select photos and content showing your daily life, habits, places you frequent. If an identity thief has stolen your information online, he or she is likely to have access to your passwords as well. Change your passwords, avoiding obvious ones such as those that contain your date of birth, house number, children's names or the digits of your social security number. Avoid clicking on fake ads or „clickbait.”

These ads appear when shopping online and present products that are deceptively similar to what the user searched for. In this way scammers redirect the user to another website to capture personal information. It also pays to be able to spot phishing email, a type of theft via email. Scammers use many ways in this type of email, for example, these can be messages asking for confirmation of bank account details or information that a shipment you ordered has been sent and you will receive a link necessary to check the status of the shipment, even though you did not place any online orders. Once the link is clicked, the hacker automatically takes over the information on your computer.

Think about your loved ones. Identity theft can affect you or your loved ones. A particularly important and sensitive topic is the protection of children and young people's data. Theft of a child's information is becoming increasingly common. Fraudsters use them to set up new bank accounts and credit cards. It is worth remembering that a child's credit history can be checked when they reach the age of 13. Students who are starting a new stage in their lives are also particularly vulnerable. Often students who have moved out to a new place of residence are offered unbelievably cheap housing or casual work, and it's worth remembering not to give out card or account numbers for deposits before signing a contract and discussing terms.

College is the best time to get your first credit card, but try to avoid programs that exist only to defraud you of your personal information. Experts recommend careful analysis of both the financial institution and the offer itself before applying for credit.

Every 22 seconds somebody falls victim to minor or major fraud and identity theft. It is worth remembering that vigilance, knowledge and quick reaction can prove to be an effective weapon.

At PSFCU branches, you will find materials published by the Federal Trade Commission. These flyers contain valuable educational information and telephone numbers necessary in case of fraud or identity theft.

## Celebrate the Polish Heritage Month with PSFCU

October is Polish Heritage Month in the calendar of the Polish-American community, a time filled with important celebrations and events. The series of these events begins with New York's Pulaski Parade.

Every community organization and social group, whether large or small, takes this opportunity to express the pride of our Polish heritage.

Polish & Slavic Federal Credit Union invites you to take advantage of our Oc-

tober promotion for new and existing members, giving you the opportunity to earn five thousand rewards points on debit cards in October. Those planning to purchase real estate can apply for a mortgage loan without paying the application fee.

At all our branches, throughout the month of October, our members will traditionally be able to treat themselves to delicious, healthy apples. We are looking forward to your visit!

## Refer a Friend to PSFCU and Get 5,000 uChoose Rewards Points!

If you use the Polish & Slavic Federal Credit VISA® Union Debit Card performing signature transactions be sure to register your card for the uChoose Rewards® program. This will ensure that the money you spend will be converted into points.

When you pay with your PSFCU VISA® Debit Card while shopping, you have the chance to regain part of the amount spent in accumulated points and allocate them according to your preferences for gift cards, products or travel tickets.

To increase your point total, take

advantage of our promotion and refer your friends to open an account at Polish & Slavic Federal Credit Union; this way both you and your friend can receive 5,000 rewards points each!

Haven't heard about the program until now? This is the perfect time to start collecting points! The referring person can recommend opening a new account multiple times, thus giving you a chance to receive the 5,000 points many times! The promotion ends on October 31, 2022.

Register for the uChoose Rewards® program at: [www.uchooserewards.com](http://www.uchooserewards.com).

## PSFCU Mortgages

Are you planning to buy a real estate property? To help achieve your homeownership goals be sure to contact one of our mortgage specialists.

Our Credit Union offers mortgages on favorable and competitive terms. We even offer loans to people who are not permanent residents of the U.S., all at competitive interest rates. Also important is the fact that there are no hidden costs at closing and we do not charge the so-called points. During the month of October, we are offering an additional incentive: when you apply for a mortgage loan, you will not pay an application fee. This means savings of \$550! PSFCU offers real estate loans in the states of Illinois, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Florida, Connecticut and Indiana.

Learn more about our mortgage offerings and visit one of PSFCU's branches or contact our mortgage specialist:

### ILLINOIS AND INDIANA

- Magdalena Nykaza 331-775-6415
- Monika Galas 312-288-6792

### FLORIDA

- Monika Sokolowski 941-740-3375

### NEW YORK

- Wojciech Wykowski 862-233-3828

### CONNECTICUT

- Dorota Ciszewska 203-913-7503.



## OCTOBER IS POLISH HERITAGE MONTH

Celebrate and take advantage of our promotions

**Refer a Friend and each of you will  
earn 5,000 uChoose Rewards® Points <sup>1</sup>**

**Apply for a mortgage,  
and you will save \$ 550 on waived  
mortgage application fee<sup>2</sup>**

1. uChoose Rewards® is a loyalty program available to PSFCU VISA® debit cardholders. Promotion applies to new referral accounts opened during the promotional period from 10/01/2022 to 10/31/2022. Referred member must present the referral ticket when opening new account, become a member of the sponsoring organization and make initial deposit of \$10.00 to savings account. New member must also qualify to open checking account, debit card and register with uChoose Rewards® at [www.uchooserewards.com](http://www.uchooserewards.com) to redeem points. Rewards are subject to IRS reporting. Exclusions: employee accounts are excluded. Minor members cannot make new referral. Checking account and debit card are subject to verification and approval. For program details refer to the uChoose Rewards® terms and conditions. Other restrictions may apply. uChoose Rewards® is a registered trademark of Fiserv, Inc., an unaffiliated third party vendor of PSFCU.

2. This promotion is valid from 10/01/2022 to 10/31/2022 and applies to owner occupied 1-4 family residential properties. Purchase of a private mortgage insurance policy (PMI) is mandatory for all loans with a down payment lesser than 20%. All loans are subject to credit approval and verification. Products are not available in all states. PSFCU membership required. Other restrictions may apply.



## PSFCU Sponsors Polish Festivals and Celebrations - cd.

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Munster, Indiana, which was attended by employees of the PSFCU branch in Bridgewater.



In an atmosphere full of sports excitement, the 32nd Kazimierz Deyna Memorial Soccer Tournament was held in Garfield, NJ on August 28. Employees of PSFCU's Garfield branch cheered on the soccer players, while guests were offered advice on finance and banking.



On August 28, the traditional Harvest Festival organized by the Alliance of Polish Clubs was held at St. Rosalie's Church in Harwood Heights, IL. Employees of the Norridge branch of the PSFCU took part in the festivities.

### Festival September

The Polish-American community kicked off the festival fun at the American Czestochowa in Doylestown, PA. This year guests enjoyed themselves on September 3, 4 and 5, as well as and September 10 and 11. Organizing a Polish-American festival at the American Czestochowa was one of the original ideas of the found-

er of the Shrine, Fr. Michael Zembrzusi, who through the festival wanted to promote and cultivate Polish culture in the United States. For 56 years, thousands of visitors have come to the Shrine for the festival. Numerous attractions, performances by folk groups, handicraft exhibitions, and delicious food attract guests from the remotest places. For seniors, it is an extremely important, nostalgic trip and an annual, indispensable tradition. For children and young people, it's naturally great fun in the fresh air. Children were eager to watch the performances of folk bands and historical and re-enactment groups. Representatives of the PSFCU branch in Stroudsburg, PA spent a nice day with members of our Credit Union in Doylestown, PA.



In Chicago, one of the most famous Polish community events is the „Taste of Polonia” Festival. This year was the 40th edition of the event. The originator and organizer of the first edition of the Festival was the founder of the Copernicus Foundation, Roman Pucinski. Every year, the distinctive replica of the Clock Tower from the Royal Castle in Warsaw attracts a large number of Polish Americans and all supporters of the Polish culture. The Copernicus Foundation has been an important center of culture, education, recreation and entertainment since 1971. For

all compatriots of Nicolaus Copernicus, successive editions of the „Taste of Polonia” Festival are an opportunity to celebrate the Polish spirit at its best. A rich artistic program, interesting exhibitions and tasty meals filled the days from September 2 to 5.



This year's event was highlighted by performances by Polish artists, rock groups and choirs. Numerous folk groups, bands and youth groups also performed during the Festival. In addition to an attractive artistic program, children had a chance to learn about the basics of safety presented in the Police Academy program. Festival attendees visited numerous commercial booths, where they could purchase handicrafts, books and various souvenirs.

Our members were greeted by the staff of the PSFCU branch in Norridge, IL, who were present on every day of the festival. Our Credit Union's stand located right next to the Mobile Branch was bustling with activity. We were visited by Susana A. Mendoza, Illinois State Controller, actor Krzysztof Czczot and many wonderful guests!



Saturday, September 10 was the day of athletic competition in the form of the „Run for a Children's Smile - 5K Run” charity event, in which employees of the PSFCU branch in Maspeth also ran.

On Sunday, September 11, employees of the PSFCU branch in Clifton took part in the church picnic of St. John Cantius Parish in Clifton.

Thank you for all the nice meetings, your fondness and your trust! The above celebrations will surely be remembered by our Credit Union members for a long and pleasant time to come, and we hope that meetings with PSFCU representatives will also be part of those memories.

REDEEM YOUR  
**Pre-Approved Offer**  
TODAY  
CREDIT CARDS | AUTO LOANS | INSURANCE  
DEBT CONSOLIDATION & MORE

Available offers can be viewed and redeemed after logging in to your PSFCU Online Banking, Mobile Banking or in Branch. The available offers are based on an initial criteria for creditworthiness and other factors such as share, loan, and service usage as of June 2022 and were individually prepared for qualifying members. PSFCU reserves the right to rescind an offer for a product that was already obtained after the offers were generated. Taking advantage of one or more of the available offers may affect the preapproved status of any remaining offers. Rates are subject to change and certain restrictions may apply. Please refer to your online banking home screen for full product details and disclosures. Products and Services available to PSFCU members.

