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September 2023

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

Dear PSFCU Members.

Members visiting our headquarters in Brooklyn, NY and our branch in Bridgeview, IL may still notice Polish flags with Warsaw Uprising



symbols flying in front of the buildings. It is already our tradition that every year, from the first of August for the next 63 days PSFCU thus commemorates the victims and heroes of the Warsaw Uprising, which is one of the most important, but also the most tragic events in modern Polish history. I encourage all of you to pass on the memory of the Uprising to your children, grandchildren, but also to your friends and neighbors. This is the fulfillment of a debt of gratitude to all those who fought and died defending Poland's independence in the fight against the German invaders. With its commitment to cultivating the memory of Warsaw insurgents, our Credit Union once again proves that it is not just a financial institution for the Polish-American community, but an integral part and a leader of this community.

Summer months traditionally mean a number of Polish outdoor events. Our Credit Union is, in large part, their sponsor and active participant. It is also always an excellent opportunity to meet with you and have

PSFCU In Numbers
Information as of July 31, 2023

interesting conversations about our institution and the Polish-American community. At this point, I would like to give special thanks to our employees who, despite the vacation season, represented PSFCU at numerous picnics, concerts and pilgrimages. The professionalism and commitment of our employees is one of the pillars of the success of our Credit Union.

Despite the passing vacation season, finishing work on our new branch in Algonquin, IL continued uninterrupted. It is my pleasure to invite you to the 22nd PS-FCU branch, and the 7th in Illinois, which has already opened its doors to our Credit Union members. Convenient location, ample parking space, the ability to perform transactions at a drive-through window, modern design, and above all, excellent and professional service are just some of the elements that encourage you to take advantage of PSFCU services at the new branch. The opening of another branch is the realization of our strategy to attract new members

and geographically expand our activities. I am confident that soon the PSFCU branch in Algonquin will be another important place on the Polish map of Illinois.

In closing, I invite you, especially those living on the East Coast of the United States, to participate in the 86th General Pulaski Parade, which will take place on Sunday, October 1, on Fifth Avenue in Manhattan. Our Credit Union is the main sponsor of the Parade, which for more than 80 years has been the largest demonstration of the strength of the Polish community in the United States. Let's show how numerous, successful and proud we are as an ethnic group, whose contribution to democracy and economic growth of the United States cannot be overestimated. See you at the celebration of the Polish spirit on October 1st in Manhattan!

Sincerely,

Bogdan Chmielewski PSFCU President/CEO

# Warsaw Uprising Flag over Greenpoint



\$2,539,904,620
Loans
\$1,504,789,274
Net worth
\$253,435,374
YTD net income

\$11,742,530

Number of Members 115,632

For the eighth time, in front of its headquarters on McGuinness Avenue in New York, the Polish & Slavic Federal Credit Union organized a ceremony to raise the flag of Polish Resistance during World War II. Representatives of many organizations and the Polish community in New York paid tribute to the heroes of the Warsaw Uprising. Our Credit Union was represented by Chairman of the Board of Directors Krzysztof Matyszczyk,

President/CEO Bogdan Chmielewski, Secretary of the Board of Directors Dr. Iwona Korga, Chairman of the Supervisory Committee Artur Dolega and employees of the PSFCU branch at 100 McGuinness Blvd.

The so-called "W" hour was an extremely important moment in Polish history. Exactly at 5:00 PM Polish time (11:AM EDT) Mr. Matyszczyk, together with Anita Polczyns-

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# PSFCU Branch Managers in New Jersey

Marlena Michałowska Branch Manager in Wallington, NJ



Marlena Michalowska started working at PSFCU as a Member Services Representative at our branch in Boro Park, NY on June 11, 2018. She quickly became known as a hardworking, disciplined and capable employee. After a year, she received the title of Loan Specialist and continued to work with great success. In July 2022, she was promoted to manager of the Wallington, NJ branch.

She emphasizes: "From the very beginning of my work at PSFCU, I have greatly valued the ethnic character of our institution. Working for and representing the Polish community is an important aspect for me. I believe that

professional assistance in financial matters and cordiality towards our Credit Union's members are the pillars of our work. I believe that a number of my positive character traits and my ability to lead a team are helpful in the function of a manager. I have a positive attitude to life, I quickly establish rapport, and I am helpful and understanding. I am an open, honest and confident person, who performs well under pressure."

Located in one of the most predominantly Polish towns on the East Coast, the Wallington branch is modern, spacious and elegant. It has a large, convenient parking lot. Speaking about plans for the future, Marlena Michalowska emphasizes: "We are continuing to build trust and good relations with our members, offering high-quality products and very good service. We participate in the life of the local community, cooperating with numerous organizations and representing our Credit Union at many celebrations. The goal of our work is to continuously increase the number of satisfied members of our Credit Union."

## Arkadiusz Stoklosa Branch Manager in Union, NJ

Arkadiusz Stoklosa assumed the role of PSFCU branch manager in Union, NJ on April 1, 2023, the day he celebrated his tenth anniversary with our Credit Union. In 2013, he was hired as a Customer Service Specialist at the PSFCU branch in Linden, NJ. He says about the beginning and development of his



career: "For many years, Ms. Barbara Zawlocka, who recently retired, was my manager. I owe a great deal to her, as it was she who noticed my enthusiasm for working at our Credit Union. I quickly mastered my duties, and after three years, I was promoted to the rank of Branch Quality Assurance Coordinator. Of the many important events, I particularly remember the opening of a new branch in Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania. In 2018, I was transferred to that branch for a period of time. At the time, I helped open and prepare the new staff. If the need arose, I was also transferred to the branch in Union, NJ, of which I am currently the manager. It is important to me to ensure that the branch entrusted to me is thriving. We have more and more members from the second and even third generation of Polish-Americans. It is gratifying that the youngest generation wants to maintain ties with the Polish community and appreciates the competitive products and professional service of our Credit Union."

Arkadiusz Stoklosa is a native of Krosno. He came to the United States in 2008, completed his education receiving the title of paralegal. He is distinguished by his diligence and meticulousness. He is patient and creative, and always willing to offer advice and assistance when dealing with colleagues and other employees.

# **PSFCU Wealth Management**



**East Coast** 

Michael Duch - Financial Advisor / CUSO Financial Services, L.P. 75 River Drive, Garfield, NJ tel. 973-830-6280 email: Michael.Duch@cusonet.com



Mid-West

Magda Skowron - Financial Rep. / CUSO Financial Services, L.P. 4147 N. Harlem Ave., Norridge, IL 60706 tel. 773-682-9417 email: Magda.Skowron@cusonet.com

# Your shopping experience can be much easier with a PSFCU Credit Card!

What makes our credit cards unique? They guarantee you everything you need - fast service, low interest rates, no annual fee, the ability to earn points redeemable for gifts, travel services and cash\*, a travel security program and free car rental insurance. These are just some of the key benefits of the PSFCU Credit Card. All these advantages make PS-

## **PSFCU Credit Cards**

FCU Credit Cards the best payment method chosen by thousands of our members. Another important advantage is the security of the transactions performed and, in the case of the Elite Credit Card, no fees for international transactions. With PS-FCU Credit Cards you are not liable for fraud. You can use the card with peace of mind, knowing that you are only paying for purchases you make. Plus, you don't have to sacrifice convenience for security, PSFCU Credit

Cards can be synced with your digital wallet, whether you use Apple Pay, Samsung Pay or Google Wallet.

Are you considering the balance transfer option? If you think this is a solution that might interest you and help your finances, visit one of our Credit Union's branches or call the PSFCU Member Services Center - 1.855.PSFCU.4U (1.855.773.2848).

\* Cash rewards are offered solely on Signature Elite credit cards

## Post-vacation Savings with PSFCU Term Shares

With the summer months behind us, vacations and vacation travel are just a memory. According to the latest statistics, the average cost of a week's vacation within the United States is \$1,578 per person. Naturally, this amount increases significantly if you multiply the number of people traveling and increase the distance of travel by going outside the country or to Europe. A well-deserved rest, while nice, sometimes has a negative impact on financial concerns. Thus, the late summer / early fall months can sometimes be the best time to renew resolutions related to savings, according to the saying that

for many people September is a second January. Therefore, it is worthwhile to take advantage of these conditions and meet the intended goals. How can our Credit Union help you with this? For a minimum deposit of \$500, you can open a term share at very favorable terms! Until the end of September 2023, Polish & Slavic Federal Credit Union is offering its members attractive term share deposits for 24 and 30 months. Interest rates on promotional deposits vary depending on the amounts deposited and are as follows: 24-month term shares: \$500 to \$49,999.99 -3,00% APY\*, \$50,000 to \$89,999.99 - 3.50% APY\* and \$90,000 and over - 4,00% APY;\* 30-month deposits: \$500 to \$49,999.99 - 3.25% APY\*, \$50,000 to \$89,999.99 - 3.75% APY\* and \$90,000 and over - 4.25% APY.\* Should you need access to your funds during the term of the deposit in order to apply for a mortgage loan at our Credit Union, you will be able to terminate the term share prematurely without being charged an early termination fee.

The more you save, the more you earn. Eliminate unnecessary stress concerning your finances, sit back and watch your savings grow!



\*Annual Percentage Yield. The promotion starts on 09/01/2023 and ends on 09/30/2023. Advertised APY applies to 30-month and 24-month certificates in the amount of \$90,000 or more. Other promotional APYs available on lower balances, respectively 3.75% APY on balances from \$50,000 to \$89,999.99 and 3.25% APY on balances from \$500 to \$49,999.99 for 30-month certificates, and 3.50 % APY on balances from \$50,000 to \$89,999.99 and 3.00% APY on balances from \$500 to \$49,999.99 for 24-month certificates. Early withdrawal penalty equal to dividend for 181 days applies. Transfer of dividends will reduce your earnings. PSFCU reserves a right to discontinue promotion anytime without prior notice. Offer for PSFCU members only. Other restrictions may apply.

## From the Life of Our Credit Union Branches

#### Church picnic in Copiague

A family picnic was held on Saturday, August 5 at the Church of the Assumption in Copiague, NY. This family event was attended by the employees of our Copiague branch, representing our Credit Union as a sponsor and offering advice to all interested visitors. The serene Saturday afternoon was spent by the gathered guests on merriment and numerous pleasant meetings.



### Algonquin branch is now open

We cordially invite you to the 22nd branch of PSFCU in Algonquin, IL. Branch address: 2371 County Line Rd., Algonquin, IL 60102, phone 847.582.3961.



#### On a highlander note

The Polish Highlanders Association of NJ hosted its annual Highlander Picnic On Sunday, August 6. Numerous visitors to our Credit Union's tent were able to learn about our products, services and promotions, and received PSFCU premiums. Merry dancing and fun to the rhythm of highland music lasted until late in the evening.

#### **Taste of Orland Park**

Employees of PSFCU branches in Orland Park, Bridgeview and Glendale Heights, IL took part in the annual Taste of Orland Park Festival. At the PSFCU stand, guests were able to talk to representatives, get answers to questions about accounts and fires, and receive commemorative goodies.

## Church picnic in Streamwood IL

Employees of the PSFCU branch in Schaumburg, IL participated in the parish picnic of the Church of St. John the Evangelist in Streamwood on Saturday, August 12. The attractive program of the event attracted many guests who enjoyed visiting our Credit Union's tent.



August - the pilgrimage month

True to a tradition that has lasted for more than three decades, pilgrims from the East Coast and the Chicago metropolitan area took part in pilgrimages to the shrines of Our Lady. The pilgrims reached their destination on the Sunday preceding the Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary. These pilgrimages help to solidify the Polish community and for many people constitute a compass of everyday life.

Our Credit Union sponsored the 37th Walking Pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady of Czestochowa in Doylestown, PA and the 36th Walking Polish Marian Pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady of Czestochowa in Merrillville, IN.

# Warsaw Uprising Flag over Greenpoint - cont.

ka-Zadrozna, daughter of Miroslaw Polczynski, code name Painter, a soldier of the "Parasol" Battalion and member of the Kedyw unit of the Home Army Headquarters, raised the white and red flag with the symbol of Polish Resistance.

This year's festivities were attended by distinguished guests, including wartime deportee to Siberia Helena Knapczyk, Consul General Adrian Kubicki, Commander-in-Chief of the Polish Army Veterans Association in America Tadeusz Antoniak, son of the commander of the "Wildcat" unit Janusz Romanski and representatives of Polish organizations, clubs and businesses. Mr. Chmielewski thanked the attendees for their presence and commitment to the Polish community: "I am glad that you came here to jointly remind the people of New York and the people of America in general about what an important date today is in Polish history. About what the Warsaw Uprising was, when it happened and how important it

was for our nation." He also stressed the special significance of the Uprising in the context of current events beyond Poland's eastern border.

Consul Adrian Kubicki referred in his speech to the sacrifice and devotion to the homeland: "We meet here to honor the memory of the 'victors' of the Warsaw Uprising... if it weren't for their sacrifice, we probably wouldn't be here today. They showed the world that the Polish nation cannot be erased."

Celebrations commemorating the 79th anniversary of the Uprising were also held in Chicago. The raising of the flag took place in front of our branch in Bridgeview, IL, which was mentioned in the speech by Mr. Krzysztof Matyszczyk: "Today we honor the memory, heroism and sacrifice of the entire nation. History plays a very big role. Especially the memory of the Warsaw Uprising, whose stature and importance is difficult to underestimate. I am glad that we honor this

memory both here and in Chicago, as well as in Poland and abroad, wherever Poles reside."

The commemoration of the Warsaw Uprising Heroes, celebrated for nearly eighty years from generation to generation, is a fixture on the calendar of Poles at home and abroad. The Polish-American community has always shown respect and remembered the heroes, and we are proud that our Credit Union is the organizer of such important ceremonies. The symbol of our remembrance, the flag of Polish Resistance will be flown until October 2, that is for 63 days, exactly as long as the heroic struggles of the insurgents lasted.

By organizing events such as the anniversary of the outbreak of the Warsaw Uprising, the Polish & Slavic Federal Credit Union yet again shows that it cares about Polish traditions and the memory of Polish heroes, thus proving that "our Credit Union is more than a bank."