

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE POLISH & SLAVIC FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

Szanowni Państwo,



During the first quarter of each year, the state of Illinois honors the memory of a great Pole Casimir Pulaski, commander of the army of the Bar Confederation and hero of the struggle for American Independence. The main ceremonies were held on March 4 at the Polish Museum of America in Chicago. Participation in the celebration was a good opportunity to emphasize the Polish-American bond and the values we hold together. It was also a good time to honor the contribution of Poles to the success of the United States. I am glad that our Credit Union was one of the sponsors of this celebration.

We are nearing the completion of work related to the opening of the PSFCU Representative Office in Warsaw. The grand opening is scheduled for early May. The establishment of the PSFCU Representative Office in Warsaw is a result of the dynamic growth, expansion and ever-increasing number of Polish & Slavic Federal Credit Union members living in Poland as well as those planning to relocate to the home country. I am deeply convinced that the PSFCU Representative Office in Warsaw, like our branches in the U.S., will

perfectly serve PSFCU members.

With the arrival of spring, I would like to share with you not only the joy of the return of sunny days, but also encourage you to save money. We have prepared a special promotion for children. We believe that financial education from an early age is crucial in building healthy financial habits. By opening a savings account at PSFCU, we teach our youngest the value of money, saving and planning for the future. We encourage you to take

advantage of this unique promotion and provide your children with a solid financial foundation for the future. At the same time, I encourage you to take advantage of the other products and services we have on offer. Whatever your needs, we are here to help you with your plans.

Sincerely,

Bogdan Chmielewski
PSFCU President/CEO

Pulaski Day Celebrations in Chicago



The first weekend of March in Chicago passed in accordance with the tradition associated with the 279th anniversary of the birth of Casimir Pulaski, father of the U.S. Cavalry. Pulaski Day was established as a state holiday in Illinois in 1977. For decades, successive generations have honored the hero of the struggle for the freedom of two nations and paid tribute to the entire Polish community.

Representatives of state, city and county authorities, as well as politicians, clergy and Polish organizations took part in Pulaski Day celebrations organized by the Polish American Foundation in Illinois and the Polish American Congress for Illinois. The ceremony was held on Sunday, March 3, at

the Mayfield banquet halls. In the gardens of the headquarters of the Polish Highlanders Association of North America, a solemn ceremony was held at the bust of Casimir Pulaski on Saturday, March 2. The Polish Museum in America celebrated Pulaski Day on Monday, March 4.

Casimir Pulaski is one of only eight people in the history of the United States to have received honorary U.S. citizenship. Pulaski Day is extremely important for the Polish community living in the United States. Our Credit Union emphasizes its presence and involvement in the celebration of great Pole. The legacy he left behind fills us with honor and pride in the white and red colors.

PSFCU In Numbers

Information as of February 29, 2024

Assets



\$2,539,750,007

Loans



\$1,517,904,119

Net worth



\$261,970,835

YTD net income



\$2,961,094

Number of Members



118,216

PSFCU Wealth Management Services

Michael Duch – Financial representative of CUSO Financial Services, L.P. and PSFCU



Michael Duch has been involved in the financial sector for more than a dozen years, during which he has acquired

the necessary knowledge, gained experience and, above all, acquired the right competence to provide key assistance in the field of financial investment.

Even as a young child he was particularly interested in money: „As a fourteen-year-old boy, I begged my father to set up an account for me to trade currencies, I was very interested in the world’s global financial market and its processes. This passion became my profession. I followed the market and its needs, indulged in reading books about Warren Buffett and the history of Warren’s company, Berkshire Hathaway. I was increasingly involved in investments. My first company was an upscale cigar store, I then worked for six years in the jewelry industry. I graduated from Berkeley College with a BA in business management, earned FINRA Series 7 and 66 registrations and many insurance licenses,” Michael says about the beginnings of his career.

Michael Duch joined PSFCU and

CUSO Financial Services as a financial advisor in 2023. His offerings are aimed at individuals as well as businesses, corporations and non-profit organizations. „As a financial advisor, I am to the point, responsible, available and focused on my clients’ needs. I always pay attention to details and above-average service. The basic task with which I start cooperation is to accurately identify the needs of my clients. This allows me to match the right product to the right client. The client only needs a moment of free time to find out what he can change in his finances, it costs nothing for a consultation that can change a lot in his finances,” Michael emphasizes.

Michael invites East Coast residents interested in investments, 401K account planning, retirement strategies and group benefits to individual meetings at PSFCU branches. To set up a meeting, call 973-830-6280 or the Member Services Center at 1.855.773.2848.

National Day of Remembrance of the Cursed Soldiers

National Day of Remembrance of the Cursed Soldiers was established in 2011 to preserve the memory of partisans who did not lay down their arms after World War II and continued the fight against the Soviet occupier. Between 120,000 and 180,000 Poles fought in the anti-communist underground between 1944 and 1963, and March 1 is a national holiday devoted to their memory.

On March 3, the Shrine of Our Lady of Czestochowa in Doylestown, PA hosted a solemn celebration of the National Day of Remembrance of the Veteran Soldiers organized by the Smolensk-Katyn Committee and the Polish Army Veterans Association of America, District 10. The Polish & Slavic Federal Credit Union was represented by the manager of the PSFCU branch in Trenton, NJ, Barbara Milewski. The ceremony began with a prayer and an Remembrance roll call. After the laying of wreaths at the Monument to the Cursed Soldiers, a solemn Mass was celebrated.

Also on Sunday, March 3,

Polonia walked the trail in New York’s Forest Park to commemorate the memory of the Cursed Soldiers. The „Wolf’s Trail” run is an event organized by the Pilsudski Institute since 2016. More than 150 people took part in the seventh edition of the run, including students of Polish schools, scouts, representatives of various organizations and businesses. In accordance with tradition, adult participants ran 1963 meters, while the youngest children ran a trail of 500 meters. As the Institute’s president Iwona Korga stressed, „The Wolf’s Trail’ Run commemorates extraordinary people, who for many years could not even be mentioned in conversations.



Avoid Spoofed Phone Calls

We would like to remind you to never provide your personal financial information, such as your credit or debit card number, card CVV number and expiration date to individuals contacting you unexpectedly. Our representatives will not ask for this type of information to verify your identity. Even though a message or call does not originate from PSFCU, Caller ID may often show spoofed telephone number of our branch or Member Services Center. Regrettably, PSFCU has no control over this since our phone number is public information. Thus, a fraudulent call may appear on the phone screen or Caller ID device as originating from our Credit Union. Even if you’re being called from a spoofed number, this by itself does not mean that your information was compromised. On the contrary, the caller asks additional questions in order to obtain sensitive personal information directly from you.

If you receive such a call or have any doubts about the authenticity of the caller, please hang up and call our Member Services Center back at 1.855.PSFCU.4U (1.855.773.2848).

Spring Cleaning in Your Finances

According to psychologists, spring is the perfect time for change. According to research, it is in spring that we have the most desire to act and motivation to make changes in our lives and finances. At PSFCU, we make every effort to help you make these changes. We provide tools to enhance your financial development and success. So if you prefer to pay by credit card rather than cash when making your daily transactions, or you have only made cash transactions thus far and want to try something new while

starting to collect points and being able to redeem them for rewards, don't wait and join our uChooseRewards® loyalty program.

The more you pay with your debit card, the more you get! Under the uChooseRewards® program, you accumulate points, which can then be redeemed for exclusive products, gift cards or trips, among other things. You earn 1 point for every \$2 spent. In special offers you can additionally earn up to 10 points for every \$1 spent.

How to sign up? It's simple! Register your PSFCU VISA debit card at www.uchooserewards.com. Choose the places where you are most likely to shop and start earning points. You can register more debit cards in one account and earn even more. Remember, every debit transaction is rewarded. Sign up and start collecting points today!

uChooseRewards® is a loyalty program available to PSFCU VISA® Debit cardholders. Must register with uChoose Rewards® Program to earn points. For details refer to the uChoose Rewards® Program terms and conditions. uChoose Rewards® Program is a registered trademark of Fiserv, Inc., an unaffiliated third party vendor of PSFCU.

Minor Accounts at Our Credit Union - The Best Start in the Financial World!

Are you receiving many offers to open a bank account for your child? Let us give you a few reasons why a minor account at PSFCU is the best choice!

Our Credit Union's minor accounts are accounts that grow with your child. At PSFCU, we offer savings accounts, checking accounts and term deposits with children in mind. Young members can also apply for student credit cards, which are by far the best way to build a credit history.

Are you interested in teaching your child about smart, stable saving? You can show how his/her savings grow by using the option of setting up a term share. Your children's needs and schedule change as they get older, with their first independent shopping or outings with friends ahead of them. Do you want to be in control of their spending while giving them a little freedom?

Choose a Minor Checking Account with Visa Debit Card which, thanks to special limits, will allow your child to take the first steps toward financial independence while giving you peace of mind. Is your child already earning first salary? Then using the direct deposit option, he or she can watch it grow in his or her PSFCU account! With our Online and Mobile Banking as well as CardValet service, you can quickly and easily transfer funds to your child's account, set limits on the debit card, turn it off when needed, and monitor activity on your child's account to teach him/her good financial practices.

Ensure your children's comfort by introducing them to a local financial institution where they can always count on a friendly atmosphere, understanding and respect. When opening an account for a minor, remember the

benefits our Credit Union guarantees. Take the opportunity to meet with a financial specialist, ask about accounts, cards, deposits and scholarships. Polish & Slavic Federal Credit Union provides personalized, friendly service. At all branches of our Credit Union, specialists are waiting for your child and are always ready to explain all issues related to savings and having a debit or credit card. Even if you don't have time to stop by the branch, take advantage of the upcoming season! Ask at your Polish school during PSFCU representatives' visit or meet us at festivals and field events. Remember, our Credit Union is more than a bank! To find out, open a new account for your child during the promotional period from April 1 through June 3, 2024, and he or she will receive \$75 for a great start! See you at our Credit Union!

IT'S NEVER TOO EARLY TO START

SAVING

SAVE WITH PSFCU AND GET \$75 UPON OPENING A NEW MINOR ACCOUNT

\$75



Promotion is valid from April 1 until June 3, 2024. Membership restrictions apply to open a Minor Account. Minimum balance of \$10 required to open the account. Offer open to any person who currently does not have a PSFCU Minor Account nor had a PSFCU Minor Account within the past 12 months. One bonus of \$75 per person applies. The bonus deposit will be available for withdrawal after the period of 1 year unless exceptional circumstances occur. Bonus deposit is subject to IRS reporting. Other restrictions apply. Offer can be discontinued anytime without notice.

Your savings federally insured to at least \$250,000 and backed by the full faith and credit of the United States Government
NCUA
National Credit Union Administration, a U.S. Government Agency
PSFCU is an Equal Opportunity Lender.

From the Life of Our Credit Union Branches

Algonquin branch in the life of the local community

Opened six months ago on October 22, 2023, the PSFCU branch in Algonquin, IL is already definitely an important, integral part of the local community. Our Credit Union's seventh branch in Illinois is serving a growing number of members, and branch manager Magdalena Degorski has forged valuable relationships with local organizations, schools and parishes over the past few months. This has resulted in the participation of Algonquin branch employees in numerous cultural and business events.



On February 13, branch manager Magdalena Degorski and employee Ewa Grzadziel-Mis visited the Wici dance troupe based in Algonquin. The little artists presented a dance routine, and eagerly listened to information about finances for the youngest members of our Credit Union. The children were present-

ed with PSFCU corporate gifts and announced their visit to the PSFCU branch in Algonquin. On Saturday, February 24, Magdalena Degorski, Renata Wasikowski and Ewa Grzadziel-Mis participated in the Cabin Fever Festival, an exhibition for local businesses and companies.

On March 3, Algonquin branch manager Magdalena Degorski, and Schaumburg branch manager Bozena Bielecka, along with their employees, had the honor of attending the 20th anniversary of St. Margaret Mary Polish School in Algonquin. The event was held in a dignified atmosphere, representatives of our Credit Union offered their congratulations and wishes of success in educating and raising the next generations of the Polish-American community.

On Sunday, March 10, the 11th piano competition for the Chicago metropolitan area children and youth was held at the Art Performance Theatre of Judson University under the patronage of the Polish Consulate in Chicago. Our Credit Union sponsored the event, and Magdalena Degorski presented the winners with prizes donated by PSFCU.

Queen of the May 3 Constitution Day Parade selected

Gabriela Ner was selected as the 2024 Parade Queen at the 25th May 3 Constitution Day Parade Queen Selection Gala, held on March 16 in Schiller Park, IL. PSFCU has been involved in the contest for many years, being one of its main sponsors. Thanks for the long-standing cooperation were expressed by the President of the Alliance of Polish Clubs Lucja Mirowska-Kopec, by PSFCU Board of Directors Treasurer Bogdan Ogorek

and Chicago Regional Manager Robert Radkowski. PSFCU was also represented by the staff of the PSFCU branch in Norridge, IL along with branch manager Anna Czarnecka-Hebal. We would like to congratulate Gabriela and all the other contestants, already encouraging everyone to participate in the May 3 Parade, which will be held in Chicago on May 4.

Events at Polish schools

„I bet on the Polish language” is a contest, which for the 9th time was organized by the Marshal Jozef Pilsudski Academy of Polish Language and Culture in Bartlett, IL. The contest testing the knowledge of Polish language was held on March 9, 2024. Prizes donated by PSFCU were presented by Bozena Bielecka, Branch Manager from Schaumburg, IL. We congratulate the winners and all participants, and wish them continued success.

On Sunday, March 17, the 18th Edition of the Recitation Contest under the title „In the Enchanted World of Poetry” was held at the Polish School at St. Hedwig Parish in Trenton, NJ. The 4-member jury included Barbara Milewski - manager of the PSFCU Branch in Trenton, who presented the contestants with prizes donated by our Credit Union.



Ewa Grzymkowski's 43 Years at Our Credit Union

On March 8, Ms. Ewa Grzymkowski, acting AVP Consumer Credit Manager, retired after 43 wonderful years of service for PSFCU.

Ms. Grzymkowski started working at our Credit Union on July 21, 1981, as one of only of five employees at the time. Initially, she worked as a VISA card coordinator. In 2006, she became a consumer credit manager and later became the manager of teh Consumer Credit Department. During her career, she contributed to the dynamic growth of Polish & Slavic Federal Credit Union. She has been

a mentor and supervisor to many employees, both to her charges at the Operations Center and to those working at our Credit Union's branches. She always generously shared her experience, knowledge, calmness and wonderful disposition. The retirement ceremony was held in a wonderful atmosphere, full of emotion and thanks. Once again, we thank Ms. Ewa Grzymkowski for her years of work, dedication and sacrifice.

