

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE POLISH & SLAVIC FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

Der PSFCU Members,

January 30 marked exactly fifteen years since the first two branches of our Credit Union were officially opened in Illinois. These were the Norridge and Mount Prospect locations in the northwestern suburbs of the Chicago metropolitan area. In retrospect, we know that this was by all means the right decision. Fifteen years later, we already have seven thriving branches in the Chicago area serving 38,796 PSFCU members, whose deposits at the end of last year amounted to over 412 million dollars. On February 1, 2025 a celebration of the 15th anniversary of our presence in the Midwest was held at the branch in Mount Prospect, IL. The celebration was attended by many invited guests, including representatives of state and local authorities, the Polish Consulate in Chicago and representatives of local Polish organizations. The opening of another, eighth branch of PSFCU in the state of Illinois has been scheduled for the second quarter of this year.

Once again, our Credit Union has provided support to our sponsoring organizations. On February 19, membership dues were collected from the accounts of our Credit Union members, which were then transferred to the organizations of your choice. A total of



\$1,417,770 was collected. Thanks to these funds and your commitment, for which I wish to sincerely thank all of you, our sponsoring organizations have an opportunity to continue their activities for the benefit of the Polish-American community.

Our Credit Union also continues to support the Polish community. In February, we completed the process of accepting applications for PSFCU scholarships from college students. For twenty-five years, this has been our flagship financial assistance program addressed to Polish youth. To date, we have allocated more than \$7.6 million to assist students and entering high school graduates, and more than 6,500 students have already benefited from our scholarships, while we have allocated additional \$600,000 to the program this year. This is just one of many examples of the assistance our Credit Union provides to the Polish community each year. We are pleased and satisfied that thanks to us, our partners, Polish schools, parishes and organizations are able to offer many valuable initia-

tives for the entire Polish community. I assure you that this part of our mission will continue and will become even more significant as our Credit Union continues to grow.

In addition to our commitment to helping the Polish community, our goal remains first and foremost to build the financial success of the Polonia. Until April 15 of this year, we traditionally encourage you to make contributions to retirement accounts (IRAs). This year, we are offering an attractive interest rate of up to 4% APY on three-year certificates in retirement accounts. Starting March 1, we are also launching a car loan promotion offering five-year auto loans as low as 3.95% APR. To learn more about the details of our special promotions, I invite you to visit our website, PSFCU branches and follow our Credit Union's social media activity.

Sincerely,

Krzysztof Matyszczyk
Chairman of the PSFCU Board of Directors

15 Years of PSFCU in Chicago



We have been present in the Polish community in Chicago for over fifteen years! We are growing stronger thanks to your trust and loyalty. The celebration of the 15th anniversary of our Credit Union in Chicago was a wonderful opportunity to

express our thanks. The ceremony, which took place on February 1, 2025 at the Mt. Prospect branch, was attended by invited guests, representatives of the Board of Directors, Supervisory Committee and PSF-

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PSFCU In Numbers

Information as of January 31, 2025

Assets



\$2,606,611,741

Loans



\$1,561,543,120

Net worth



\$278,725,975

YTD net income



\$1,229,621

Number of Members



122,780

15 Years of PSFCU in Chicago - cont.

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CU Management, local authorities, the Polish Consulate in Chicago, organizations, schools, parishes and the Polish media. The fifteenth anniversary of the opening was also celebrated at the Norridge branch of our Credit Union. Throughout the anniversary, both branches welcomed dozens of guests who expressed their sincere wishes and thanks to the managers of Mt. Prospect and Norridge branches: Anna Mścisz and Anna Czarnecka-Hebal respectively. The celebration was also a great opportunity to reminisce about the first experiences and meetings of our Credit Union and the Polish-American community in Chicago over the past fifteen years.

PSFCU's 15th anniversary celebration in Mt. Prospect was attended by members of the Board of Directors, including Chairman of the Board of Directors Krzysztof Matyszczyk, who in his official speech stressed the importance of mutual cooperation, support and assistance in building a strong Polish community. PSFCU President/CEO

Bogdan Chmielewski, meanwhile, recalled the first days and the first steps of our Credit Union in Chicago, the sharp frost that greeted the East Coast representation, and the equally strong will and motivation, thanks to which we are now celebrating fifteen truly successful years in the Midwest region.

Special guests also included former National Credit Union Administration Chairman Michael Fryzel, Polish Consul General Regina Jurkowska, as well as State Controller Susana Mendoza and Cook County Treasurer Maria Pappas.

Chicago boasts one of the largest Polish communities in the United States, with more than a million people of Polish descent living here, according to statistics. Immigration to Chicago, which began in the first half of the nineteenth century, continues to this day, and the Poles who came to the Windy City have established their families here, built homes and started new lives. Our Credit Union accompanied the Polish community in Chicago for more than fifteen years in this important process. On January 30, 2010, Polish & Slavic

Federal Credit Union opened its first two branches in Illinois - in Mt. Prospect and Norridge. As it turned out years later, it was an excellent decision, which has resulted in the steadily growing number of PSFCU members in Chicago, and consequently the establishment of our subsequent branches. Currently, there are seven PSFCU branches in Chicago, and the next, eighth branch in Bolingbrook is scheduled to open in May. The decisions to establish branches are made with the aim of increasing the quality and convenience of service for the growing number of our Credit Union's members in Chicago. We sincerely thank you for your trust and loyalty.



PSFCU Branch Managers

Agnieszka Chwatko – manager of the PSFCU branch in Ridgewood, NY



Agnieszka Chwatko has always been associated with banking, but as she emphasizes, despite her rapid career in commercial banks and high positions she held, she was looking for something in her professional work which she finally found at the Polish & Slavic

Federal Credit Union. „In addition to professional development and satisfaction, what I find at our Credit Union is, above all, a cordial atmosphere and a bond with the Polish community. Over the years, our Credit Union has become my second home,” Agnieszka Chwatko emphasizes.

Agnieszka Chwatko has been the manager of the New York branch in Ridgewood since September 2024, but she took her first steps at PSFCU in 2009 in New Jersey, as assistant manager of the Garfield branch. After six months, she was promoted to manager at the Maspeth branch and then to Boro Park, New York. For the past nine years, she has managed the Staten Island branch in New York. „I definitely have a period of challenges and excitement ahead of me, the Ridgewood branch has more than six thousand members and is definitely an indispensable part of the area's Polish community.” Ten people are currently working at the Ridgewood branch under the leader-

ship of Agnieszka Chwatko. „This is a professional, smiling and welcoming team very much appreciated by our members. Our branch is located in the vicinity of many Polish businesses,” she stresses. „I will certainly continue to cooperate with Polonia, as it is extremely important to me. Active participation in Polish events and cooperation with various organizations are important parts of my life. I myself am involved in many associations, such as the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Professional Women's Association, the Pulaszki Day Parade Committee and The SSG Michael Ollis Freedom Foundation. I am a person full of positive energy, smile and passion for travel. I would also like to sincerely thank you for your warm welcome - it is a great pleasure! I encourage members of the Ridgewood branch, as well as our supporters and friends, to participate in the upcoming events. See you there!” - invites the manager of the Ridgewood branch of the PSFCU.

PSFCU Credit Offerings - a Way to Financial Relief

Stress related to personal finances is normal. Recently, Forbes published a study showing that for almost half of Americans, money is the biggest source of stress. Another surprising fact from the study is that the more stressed a consumer is, the more likely he is to spend money recklessly. The phenomenon of „doom spending,” which involves impulsive, often irresponsible spending to divert one’s thoughts, at least for a while, from an intractable financial

situation, is becoming increasingly popular. If you’re looking for relief from stress about your finances, stop by one of our Credit Union branches and ask what we can do for you. Remember that PSFCU offers loan products with competitive interest rates; credit cards with no annual fees, attractive credit rates and balance transfer; a debt consolidation option, share secured loans, personal loans and a checking line of credit. Our specialists will advise you

on the best credit and savings options. If you’re looking for financial help, you don’t have to face the world - there are several steps you can confidently take right now. If you pay high interest rates on credit cards from other financial institutions, transfer your balances to Our Credit Union by using a consolidation loan or a low-interest PSFCU VISA Advantage credit card. Start saving and building your credit history with our Credit Union’s loan products!

Hit the Road with PSFCU’s Promotional Auto Loan

The wide road seems even wider and safer when you set off in a new car. Travel in the car of your dreams to places you’ve long planned to visit, that you’ve always been curious about, or that you’ve never been to. Allow yourself the luxury of experiencing the adventures of your dreams, or just a quiet weekend away from the hustle and bustle of the city. Get far away from your routine, in the car of your dreams. Give yourself the chance to travel without borders and apply for an auto loan at PSFCU today!

At our Credit Union, you can get great loan rates with terms tailored to your needs. There’s no better time to plan a car trip than now, as we’re of-

fering a five-year auto loan starting at 3.95% APR in March and April. This percentage includes a 0.25% discount for automatic loan payments from your checking account at PSFCU. Make sure you have a checking account with our Credit Union, and if not, visit one of our branches to open one.

Remember that our Credit Union also offers loans for used cars and options for refinancing existing loans. If you have already decided on the model of your dream car, choose the best loan option now. Whether you’re waiting for your first car or it’s your next car be sure to visit one of the branches of the Polish & Slavic Federal Credit Union and learn more about our pro-

motion for 60-month loans or other loan options we offer our members. At PSFCU, we are focused on providing our members with the best deals. A competitive rate is just the beginning of the benefits of borrowing from our Credit Union. When you have a car loan at our Credit Union, you can take advantage of the GAP insurance option. This policy provides solid protection against potential financial losses if your car is completely destroyed or if it is stolen. Our Credit Union caters to the needs of its members. Find out today how we can help you make your dream of a new car come true. Take a trip with the car of your dreams and with a loan that fits your needs!



NEED A NEW CAR?

PSFCU Auto Loans
as low as **3.95%** APR
for 5 years

*Lowest Available Rate on 60-month term auto loan financing for new vehicles offered to applicants with credit score 740 or above. Other terms and rates are also available. Promotion begins on 3/1/2025 and ends on 4/30/2025. All loans are subject to credit approval and verification. The rate received will be based on applicant’s creditworthiness and other factors. Applicant must be at least 18 years old. The offer, interest rate and terms of the loan are subject to change without notice. PSFCU loans are not available in all states. Offer for PSFCU members only. Rates are 0.25% higher without automatic payment from the PSFCU checking account. Other restrictions may apply.



PSFCU is an Equal Opportunity Lender.

From the Life of Our Credit Union Branches

The Polish & Slavic Federal Credit Union is almost always present wherever something interesting happens in the Polish community. Many such events also take place at our Credit Union branches.

Traditionally, one hundred days before high school graduation, 328 of this year's high school graduates of Polish schools on the East Coast danced to the rhythm of the Polonaise. This was the fifteenth prom for Polish schools affiliated with the Polish Supplementary School Council in America. The event was held on Saturday, February 1 at the Royal Manor banquet hall in New Jersey.

Polish & Slavic Federal Credit Union, which was the main sponsor of the event, sponsored certificates for all high school graduates. PSFCU branch managers from New Jersey and Pennsylvania: Rita Kotynski, Jolanta Kwiatkowski, Malgorzata Lapinski, and Marlena Michalowski- manager of the Wallington branch, along with their staff were guests of honor at the ceremony.

During the official part, Rita Kotynski, manager of the PSFCU's Gar-

field branch, congratulated the assembled students, wished them a great prom and, of course, invited them to our Credit Union's branches.

Young people are an important group of our Credit Union's members, and with the adolescent generation of Polonia in mind, each year we open enrollments in scholarship programs. To date, a total of \$7.6 million has been allocated by our Credit Union for scholarships for students and college-bound high school graduates. Scholarship programs have benefited more than 6,500 students, our members, who are starting a new path with the Credit Union. With us, you will always find solutions and get answers to your most relevant financial questions.



In February, many Polish schools celebrated their anniversaries, including the 45th Jubilee Ball of the St. John Paul II Polish School in Lemont, IL and the 10th anniversary of the Karol Wojtyla Polish Supplementary School in Linden. Both ceremonies were attended by a representation of our Credit Union with congratulations and warm wishes extended to the principals and teachers.

Employees of the PSFCU branch in Orland Park, IL took part in the 20th

Polish Heritage Day of the Polish Club of Lemont, IL. The celebration was held on February 23, 2025. This year's theme was „The Katyn Massacre.” The main



events of the Polish Day began with a Polish Mass at 2:00 p.m. During the celebration of the 20th Polish Heritage Day, another award was presented to the 2025 Pole of the Year, which was given to Mr. Andrzej Stopa. The Chicago Polish Orchestra performed on stage.

On Saturday, February 15, PSFCU President/CEO Bogdan Chmielewski and a group of managers attended the 31st Slovak Ball. The celebration, organized by the Slovak-American Cultural Center, was held in the Royal Manor banquet hall in Garfield New Jersey. The Ball featured special guests, the Srdcovka band from the Tatra region of Slovakia, known for its passion and exceptional talent.



Membership Dues Collected!

Membership dues for sponsoring organizations were collected from member accounts on February 19, 2025. At the time of opening an account, each member of our Credit Union is required to select one sponsoring organization for which annual dues are collected. PSFCU is one of the few credit unions committed to collecting membership dues. This year, the following amounts were passed on to these organizations:

- Polish & Slavic Center, NY - \$563,980.00

- Polish Supplementary School Council, NY - \$363,660.00
- Polish Cultural Foundation, NJ - \$74,190.00
- Copernicus Foundation, IL - \$103,380.00
- Alliance of Polish Clubs in the USA, IL - \$72,940.00
- Kosciuszko Foundation, NY - \$59,500.00
- Polonia of Long Island, Inc., NY - \$45,920.00

- Polish Army Veterans Association of America, NY - \$49,020.00
- Gen. Casimir Pulaski Memorial Parade Committee, NY - \$38,440.00
- Polish Highlanders Association of North America, IL - \$28,880
- Polish Museum of America - \$17,860

The total amount transferred by PSFCU in 2025 was \$1,417,770.00. On behalf of the sponsoring organizations, we extend our thanks to all Credit Union members.