

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE POLISH & SLAVIC FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

Dear PSFCU members,



Since 1977, the state of Illinois, home to the largest Polish community in the world, has celebrated the holiday of the hero of two nations, General Casimir Pulaski. It always falls on the first Monday in March, and the main celebration is held in the grand hall of the Polish Museum of America in Chicago. The Polish & Slavic Federal Credit Union has sponsored this important event for the Polish community for several years. This year marked a special celebration, as Polish President Andrzej Duda and First Lady Agata Kornhauser-Duda graced the event with their presence. The day before, the Presidential Couple met with the Polish community at the Copernicus Center in Chicago. During the meeting, President Duda honored a group of prominent Polish activists, including the current member of PSFCU Board of Directors, Mr. Bogdan Ogorek. Our heartfelt congratulations to Director Ogorek!

An award ceremony for the winner of the seventh edition of the „PSFCU Rising Star” program was held on March 14 at the Credit Union’s Operations Center in Fairfield, NJ. This time the winner of the

program was Kacper Stokowski, member of the Polish national swimming team, two-time Olympian and medalist at the World and European Championships. Kacper is not only a talented athlete, but also strives to pass on his experience as an athlete and American university student to young talented athletes from Poland. We will follow Kacper’s career and already wish him every success.

We are in the period of preparing annual tax returns. I encourage you to indicate our institution as the one to which you would like your tax refund sent. Direct deposit to your account is not only the fastest, but also the safest way to receive money. Our new online and mobile banking application gives you the opportunity to quickly and easily sign up for this service or change your existing automatic deposits to your account at our Credit Union.

In the month of April, we are offering you two new attractive promotions. Traditionally, in the spring we encourage parents to open PSFCU accounts for their children. For each new minor account

opened at our Credit Union, its owner will receive additional \$75. In addition, minor PSFCU account owners, like seniors over 65 years of age, are exempt from fees for the use of coin machines at our branches.

Spring is also the time when prospective buyers start looking more actively at the real estate market. I encourage everyone to take advantage of PSFCU’s attractive mortgages, and as an incentive, we are offering \$600 savings in April on waived loan application fees. Details of both promotions can be found on the following pages of this month’s newsletter, on our social media and, of course, at our Credit Union branches.

In closing, on behalf of myself and the volunteers and employees of our Credit Union, I would like to wish you and your loved ones a healthy, hopeful and joyful Easter.

Sincerely,

Bogdan Chmielewski
PSFCU President/CEO

PSFCU In Numbers

Information as of February 28, 2025

Assets



\$2,620,480,405

Loans



\$1,556,090,367

Net worth



\$280,296,782

YTD net income



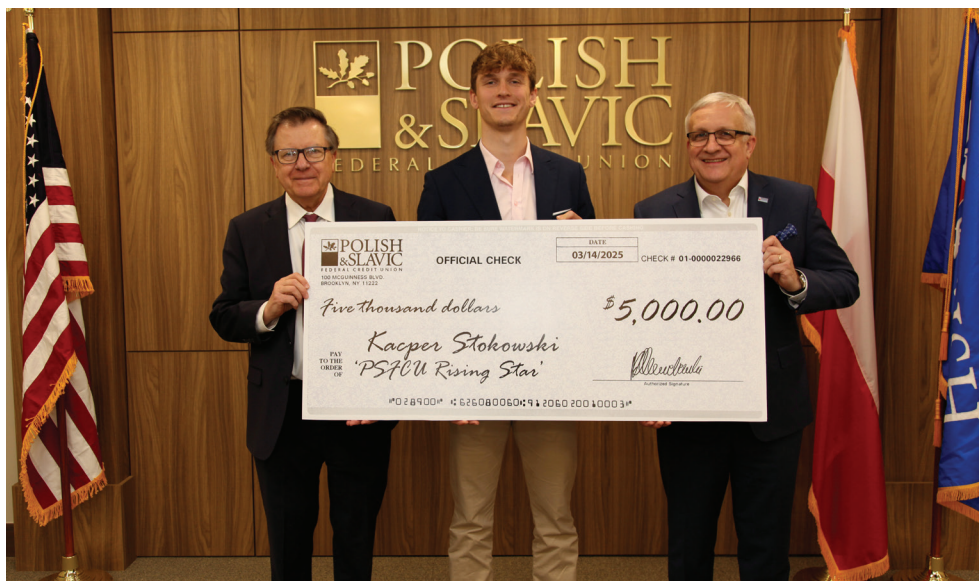
\$2,800,428

Number of Members



122,993

PSFCU Rising Star



A scholarship award ceremony for „PSFCU Rising Star” was held on March 14 at the PSFCU Operations Center in Fairfield, NJ. Kacper Stokowski winner of the schol-

arship received a check in the amount of \$5,000.00 from PSFCU First Vice Chairman of the PSFCU Board of Directors,

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PSFCU Rising Star - cont.

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Henryk Walentowicz, Esq. and PSFCU President/CEO Bogdan Chmielewski.

Kacper Stokowski expressed his gratitude for the way our Credit Union has recognized his past achievements. "It is amazing that there is such a Polish financial institution in the US at all, which supports the Polish community in such a wonderful way. In particular, the youth, allocating such a large amount of funds for scholarship programs for our youth. For me, this award is also an additional motivation for further work and further success."

PSFCU President/CEO Bogdan Chmielewski appreciated the perseverance and commitment of the scholarship winner. "Our Credit Union is always eager to support young and talented representatives of the Polish community. We are very pleased to have such talented and capable members of the Polish & Slavic Federal Credit Union, especially

athletes who are winning top honors in world arenas." Mr. Chmielewski was also impressed by the young athlete's openness and diligence. "We are proud to support his talent and hope that at the next Olympic Games, Kacper will make his medal dreams come true," he said.

Warsaw native Kacper Stokowski is a two-time Olympian specializing in backstroke and freestyle swimming. In the US, he trains at North Carolina State University in Raleigh, NC. In his junior career, he won medals at the European and World Championships and was the junior world record holder in the 50 and 100 meter backstroke on the short course. As a senior, he represented Poland at the Olympic Games in Tokyo and Paris, most recently competing individually and in the 100-meter medley relay. At the World Short Course Championships held in December 2024, Kacper won a bronze medal individually in the 100-meter

backstroke race and a bronze medal in the 4x100-meter freestyle relay.

The PSFCU Rising Star Scholarship has been presented for the seventh time. The award was established in 2014 as part of the PSFCU Scholarship Program to reward young members of the Polish & Slavic Federal Credit Union on the basis of the candidate's special achievements in "academics, sports, music, the arts, leadership or special talent, documented at the national or international level." We congratulate Kacper on receiving the award and wish him continued success!



Grażyna Pikul – manager of the Orland Park, IL branch



Grażyna Pikul has been employed with the Polish & Slavic Federal Credit Union for more than fourteen years. In her career, she skillfully combines professional experience, knowledge and empathetic attitude to the world. Originally hailing from the Subcarpathian region, she earned a degree in

finance in the United States and began her career in banking. She worked at several commercial banks.

She is an altruist and enjoys helping people, which is why she chose PSFCU as her career destination. "I started working at our Credit Union on February 28, 2011 at the newly opened branch in Bridgeview, IL. I was hired as a Member Services Representative and after three years I was promoted to the position of Loan Specialist. This was due to the fact that I had been helping members with mortgages since the beginning of my employment at PSFCU. In November 2019, I became the manager of the PSFCU branch in Orland Park. This is the branch furthest into the southern suburbs of Chicago, and we also serve customers from the state of Indiana," - she says.

While managing her team, Grażyna Pikul maintains a high standard of work. She is consistent in executing plans, is characterized by adaptability to change, a strong work ethic and empathy. She is grateful to her employees for their work and commitment. She approaches the needs of our Credit Union's members with the utmost thoroughness

and integrity. This ensures strong and long-lasting relationships. "From day one, we have worked with our entire team to get to know the local environment, make connections and serve by offering our members the best service and recommending the services that best meet their financial needs. We appreciate the valuable relationships we have established with local Polish organizations, companies and businesses, and we thank everyone for their cooperation." - she emphasizes. "Using our expertise, experience and knowledge of our clients' financial needs, we offer our members everything they need throughout their life cycle. We thank you for your trust and invite you to join our Credit Union" - she enthusiastically invites to the Orland Park branch.

Grażyna Pikul values honesty, truthfulness and dedication. Her greatest satisfaction comes from helping others. Privately, she enjoys the comfort of her home, and the most precious thing for her is time spent with her family. She passes on her culinary skills to her daughters while cooking together. She is passionate about traveling and puzzle games.

Your New Home at Your Fingertips

Apply for a PSFCU mortgage and you will save \$600 on the waived application fee.

Spring is a great time to buy a home and one of the most popular times of the year to move. According to statistics, April, May and June are strategic months for buyers, as many Americans go on vacation during the summer months. However, this is also related to the fact that there is more competition from other home buyers in the spring.

Our mortgage specialists can help you get a fast mortgage pre-approval. A PSFCU pre-approval letter specifies the type and amount of loan you qualify for. With such a document in hand, sellers will be confident that you are serious about your purchase, and this can definitely give you an edge over the competition.

Or maybe you are interested in refinancing an existing loan? Our Credit Union also offers refinancing, so don't

wait and apply today!

Call our Member Services Department at 1.855.PSFCU.4U (1.855.773.2848) or stop by any PSFCU branch to make an appointment with a PSFCU mortgage specialist.

In April when applying for a mortgage at the Polish & Federal Credit Union, you will save \$600 on waived mortgage application fee. This may be the first path to your new home!

*Promotion details on page 4

Start Saving Early - Start Saving Wisely

How many times have you regretted not starting to save earlier? Right now, you have a say in your children's financial future, so take a full advantage of it! In April, which is the month dedicated to the youngest credit union members, our Credit Union is launching a Minor Accounts promotion!

In April and throughout May, we are offering our new youngest members a great way to make their first personal savings - by depositing \$75 into new accounts! Gaining big goals doesn't have to start with extraordinary actions at all. The first small step is usually the most important, but once you take it, you can gain momentum that will drive your child ever forward. This year during National Credit Union Youth Month, we want

to tell our children that their dreams are achievable, no matter how big they are. Our Credit Union offers the tools to help make those dreams come true. The youngest PSFCU members can regularly deposit even small amounts and watch their savings grow. The earlier they set up an account, the faster their savings will grow, and the easier it will be for children to get on the path of sensible money management.

Check out PSFCU's simple recipe for making dreams come true for our youngest members:

- a minor savings account can be opened as soon as the child receives his or her social security number;
- minor accounts allow parents to be joint owners until the child

turns 18;

- when opening a minor account between April 1 and June 2, the account owner will receive \$75;
- the youngest members of our Credit Union can deposit their savings in a branch coin machine at no charge;
- children over the age of 10 can have a checking account along with a PSFCU Debit Card.

In a month dedicated to the youngest members of credit unions, we want to engage children and teens in reinforcing the importance of saving and grounding them in financial knowledge, a modern necessity. If you've been wondering how your children can secure their future, give them a good start and take advantage of PSFCU's Minor Accounts promotion.



TIME TO BREAK THE BANK!

Open a new Minor Account at PSFCU and get **\$75**

+ no fee for coin machine on Minor accounts

Promotion is valid from April 1 until June 2, 2025. Membership restrictions apply to open a Minor Account. Minimum balance of \$10 is 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.

Special Celebrations and Events at Our Credit Union

On March 2, 2025, Polish President Andrzej Duda visited Chicago's Polish community during his visit to the US. During the ceremony at the Copernicus Center, the President awarded PSFCU Director Bogdan Ogórek the Golden Cross of Merit. During his speech, the President congratulated the recipients of the award for their initiatives, commitment and activities on behalf of the Polish-American community.



On March 2, 2025, New York's Forest Park was the site of the Wolf's Trail Run, a run in memory of the Cursed Soldiers, organized by the Józef Piłsudski Institute of America. Our Credit Union was the main sponsor of this event, coordinated by the Freedom and Democracy Foundation in Poland. The run is traditionally organized over a distance of 1963 meters. The date marks the year in which the last Cursed Soldier, Józef Franczak „Lalek”, was killed.

Last month, our Credit Union celebrated two round anniversaries of 30 years of service. Marzena Fernandes,



long-time manager of the PSFCU branch in Clifton, NJ and current head of PSFCU's Cards Department, and Joanna Adamska, head of PSFCU's Compliance Department, joined PSFCU exactly thirty years ago. The careers of both ladies are an example of the fact that employees of our Credit Union form one family. Starting their careers at PSFCU, over time they become extremely close to the institution, gaining experience which they share with younger employees, raising the standards of services offered and of customer service. We sincerely congratulate Joanna and Marzena on their wonderful anniversary and thank them for their commitment so far, wishing them continued success in the future!

A record number of guests turned out for the charity event on March 7, 2025 organized by the „United Colors of Pink” foundation on the occasion of Women's Day. Our Credit Union was one of the sponsors of this event. We are very proud to collaborate with an organization that in a very visible and special way supports, educates and helps in the fight against breast cancer. Female



employees represented the Norridge and Algonquin branches of PSFCU.

On March 8, the New York branch in Ridgewood hosted a seminar on the topic of retirement accounts and retirement savings strategies. About 50 guests attended the event. There was also a large turnout for the first in a series of „Finance on High Heels” seminars held at the PSFCU branch in Boro Park, NY. The meeting was attended by 70 ladies. Finance on High Heels is a space where women can share their experiences, ask questions and support each other in achieving financial goals. The goal of the project is to build financial awareness among women of all ages and stages of life. We would like to thank all participants and invite you to take advantage of meetings and seminars organized by our Credit Union in the near future.





ENSURE A ROOF OVER YOUR HEAD

Apply for a PSFCU mortgage
and you'll save **\$600** on waived
mortgage application fee

SAVE

\$600

on waived mortgage
application fee.

Promotional period begins on April 1 and ends on April 30, 2025. Promotion applies to the purchase of 1-4 family residential property. The borrower must meet the standard eligibility requirements and the ability to repay the loan. Loans with down payment of less than 20% of the value of the property require private mortgage insurance (PMI). Products and services are available solely to PSFCU members. Offer may not be available in all states and is subject to change without notice. Other restrictions may apply.

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



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