# SH Our Credit Union

Vol. 12 | No. 6 (138) | Year 2025 June 2025

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

### From Our CEO

Dear PSFCU members.

The month of May holds a special place in the hearts of Poles scattered around the world. This past month we celebrated the Polish Flag Day, Polish Communities and Poles Abroad Day, and commemorated the 234th anniversary of the May 3 Constitution - the first written constitution in Europe and the second in the world. Building and nurturing our national identity, employees and volunteers of the Polish & Slavic Federal Credit Union proudly joined the May celebrations in New York's Greenpoint area and took part in a parade along Chicago's Columbus Drive. Maintaining Polish traditions and passing them on to the next generation is the foundation of our mission, which is why we wholeheartedly support projects that promote Polish history, culture and values. We are happy to be involved in projects aimed at strengthening Polish-American ties.

On May 17, our Annual Meeting was held at our Credit Union's Operations Center in Fairfield, NJ. I am very grateful for your presence and interest in the affairs of the Polish & Slavic Federal Credit Union. On the other hand, for those of you who could not be with us on that day, I encourage you to read the Annual ...continued on page 2

#### PSFCU In Numbers Information as of April 30, 2025

**Assets** 

\$2,644,359,133

Loans

\$1,566,975,497

Net worth

\$284,025,768

YTD net income



\$6,529,414

Number of Members 123,518

### Annual Meeting of PSFCU



On May 17, the Polish & Slavic Federal Credit Union held its Annual Meeting at the PSFCU Operations Center in Fairfield, NJ. During the meeting, PSFCU members reviewed the Annual Report, which included the results of our Credit Union's operations in fiscal 2024. Polish & Slavic ...continued on page 2

# **PSFCU Recipients of State Honors**



On May 2, a ceremony was held at the Belvedere Presidential Palace in Warsaw to celebrate the Polish Communities and Poles Abroad Day. During the event, Polish President Andrzej Duda presented Polonia activists with state decorations, Acts granting Polish Citizenship and state flags to deserving organizations working for Poland both domestically and abroad.

PSFCU's Chief Operating Officer Zbigniew Rogalski was awarded the Knight's Cross of the Order of Merit of the Republic of Poland for his outstanding contribution

...continued on page 2

# Meeting of PSFCU President/CEO With the First Lady of Poland

On May 8, the First Lady of the Republic of Poland, Mrs. Agata Kornhauser-Duda met at the Presidential Palace with the President/CEO of the Polish & Slavic Federal Credit Union Bogdan Chmielewski. The main topic of the meeting was support for educational initiatives for Polish-American children and youth, with a special focus on the development needs of young, talented Poles, the development of their skills necessary for the labor market, as well as future plans and projects of the Polish & Slavic Federal Credit Union in this field.



...continued from page 1

Report available at PSFCU branches or on our website under the "About Us" tab. At this year's meeting, we presented the solid financial results achieved in fiscal 2024 and outlined our Credit Union's development directions for the coming years. Steady asset growth, dynamic loan portfolio growth and a growing membership base confirm the Credit Union's strength as a financial institution and allow us to look to the future with optimism.

The Polish & Slavic Federal Credit Union's strategy for 2022-2026 includes expansion into other states. A significant concentration of the Polish community resides in the so-called "Sunshine State," so we are making every effort to ensure that in the coming years, Florida residents will be able to take full advantage of our Credit Union's services. At the same time, in response to the growing demand for financial products in the Chicago metropolitan area, the grand opening of the new Polish & Slavic Federal Credit Union branch in Bolingbrook will be held in June. We are already cordially inviting all Illinois residents to visit our new facility.

As we are on the threshold of the vacation break, I encourage you to take advantage of PSFCU's modernized mobile and online banking platform, launched last November. The platform provides constant access and full control over your finances, while fast transfers, mobile check deposit or enhanced security alerts will allow you to fully enjoy your vacation, whether you are planning a short family trip out of town or an exotic all-inclusive vacation. In closing, I wish you a safe holiday full of joyful moments and thank you for the trust you place in us. We are at your service - today, tomorrow and in the future - no matter where or how urgent the matter is.

Sincerely,

Bogdan Chmielewski PSFCU President/CEO

### Celebrating the Polish Spirit in Chicago

On the morning of Saturday, May 3, a parade was held to celebrate the adoption of the Polish May 3 Constitution. The event was attended by 113 Polish community groups, representatives of local authorities, clergy, Polish community organizations, schools, and businesses. The Polish & Slavic Federal Credit Union, which has been serving Poles living in the Chicago metropolitan area for 15 years, was also present on this day as a proud sponsor of the event. This year's parade was held under the slogan "1000th Anniversary of the Kingdom of Poland." As always, the May 3 Constitution Day Parade was not only a great opportunity to celebrate the Polish spirit, but also to promote Polish history, culture, and traditions.



The Grand Marshal of the May 3rd Constitution Parade was Jim Mazurkiewicz, a professor at Texas A&M University. Our Credit Union was represented by Bogdan Ogórek and Henry Walentowicz, members of the PSFCU Board of Directors, Robert Radkowski, SVP/Head of PSFCU Midwest Distict, as well as managers and employees of PSFCU branches in the Chicago metropolitan area, along with their families.

### Annual Meeting of PSFCU - cont.

...continued from page 1

Federal Credit Union's assets increased by \$75.33 million, and total loans increased by \$38.41 million. At the end of September 2024, PSFCU generated a net profit of \$18.4 million.

This year's proceedings began with the solemn singing of Polish and American national anthems and a blessing given by Father Pawel Dolinski from St. Joseph Parish in Hackensack, NJ. In the reporting part, the Chairman of the Board of Directors, the Treasurer of the Board of Directors and the Chairman of the Supervisory Committee took turns presenting their reports. PSFCU President/CEO Bogdan Chmielewski presented his report last, talking not only about the financial results achieved in the past

fiscal year, but also about our Credit Union's development plans for the coming years. At the meeting it was also announced that Mr. Krzysztof Matyszczyk, Mr. Mariusz Sniarowski and Mr. Henry Walentowicz will serve another term on the Board of Directors. The meeting was held in a calm and businesslike atmosphere, and the attendees did not offer any questions or comments.

After the meeting, the Board of Directors elected their Executive Council. Krzysztof Matyszczyk remains the Board Chairman, Mrs. Malgorzata Gradzki became the 1st Vice-Chairwoman, Mr. Karol Kwiatkowski the 2nd Vice-Chairman. Dr. Iwona Korga will serve as the Treasurer, and Mrs. Malgorzata Czajkowska as the Board Secretary.

### PSFCU Recipients of State Honors - cont.

 $... continued\ from\ page\ 1$ 

to Polish-American communities, popularization of Polish culture, science and history, while PSFCU's Executive Office Manager Irena Zagaja received the Gold Cross of Merit from the Polish President. We sincerely congratulate the awarded representatives of our Credit Union and wish them continued success in the future!



# E-Statements - Comfort Not Only for Vacation Time

Your vacation trip is just around the corner, and you're probably wondering what to pack in your suitcase. Remember your swimsuit, sunscreen and phone charger. These are holiday must haves that will make your vacation a success. What else to pack in your luggage? Certainly not paper bank statements! If you want to keep your expenses under control, opt for their electronic counterpart. Electronic statements are easier to use, more convenient and more environmentally friendly. Opt for a modern and practical solution without sacrificing your vacation relaxation. Why is it worth taking this step in the summer?

#### Lighter luggage, total control

A vacation in the mountains, a quick city break in Barcelona, or two weeks on the beach in Cancun - in any of these places you may find it useful to see your transaction history. There is no need to add unnecessary pounds and take a traditional bank statement in your suitcase. Switch to electronic statements

now and check your account balance on your smartphone or laptop. This solution will make your suitcase lighter... and your head calmer, too!

#### **100% safe**

The envelope in the mailbox can sometimes be easy prey for the curious - especially when the house is empty and you're away sunbathing on a Mexican beach. Change your bank statement preferences and gain peace of mind. PS-FCU e-statements are stored in a secure online and mobile banking system, and you can access them 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. This is especially important at a time when privacy concerns and cyber security is of great importance.

#### Order and organization.

How many times have you searched for a particular statement from several months ago among a pile of unnecessary papers? Electronic form allows easy storage, cataloging and quick retrieval of documents. All you have to do is generate your statement after logging in to online banking, save it on your computer in PDF format and enjoy peace of mind, knowing that your statement "rests" peacefully in a folder called "2025 Statements" on your computer.

#### Ecology above all else

Electronic statement means paper saving, order and convenience. It also means less paper used and less waste. Switch to e-statements and our planet will thank you for it.

Summer is an ideal time to make simple changes and make everyday life easier. Instead of filling your bookshelf with binders filled with paper documents, it's better to leave that space for vacation souvenirs or family travel photos. Simplify your banking and enjoy peace of mind in any conditions, no matter what corner of the world you are in now. Don't delay and do it today. Log into your online or mobile banking and select E-statements.

### Beware of Scams!

Last year alone, as many as 62 million Americans fell victim to credit card fraud, and more than 90% of these crimes used remote technology to do so. Cybercriminals are becoming increasingly sophisticated, so it's important to be vigilant and implement good credit card management practices.

# Lost and stolen credit cards

The simplest type of credit card fraud occurs when your physical card ends up in the wrong hands because it has been lost or stolen. This often happens when you carry multiple cards at the same time. If you have several credit cards, avoid carrying them all in your wallet at once. Leave the others at home in a safe place to avoid losing or having them stolen. If you notice that one of your cards is missing, you should report it immediately.

#### Skimming

Skimming is a method of obtaining personal data from payment cards when they are used at an ATM or in public places. Fraudsters will modify equipment at legitimate ATMs or point-of-service systems to steal both the magnetic stripe data of the cards used and the PINs assigned to those cards. They will then use your card information to make purchases. To better protect our members, we offer contactless cards that allow you to make payments or pay for purchases without inserting your card into a payment terminal.

#### Fraudulent account overcharges

In this case, you may receive an email, text message or phone call stating that your credit card has been overcharged for a product or service. In order to get a proper refund, you will be informed that you must follow steps that include disclosing confidential information. This information may include your card number or even your online banking login information. The safest thing to do in such a situation is to hang up the phone or delete suspicious emails or SMS messages containing links or attachments. You should also contact the PSFCU Member Services Center directly to inform them of the attempted crime.

#### How to avoid credit card fraud?

Monitor your credit card activity.
Set up email alerts for your credit card to help you detect suspicious

- charges earlier if your card data is compromised.
- Use contactless payments or a mobile wallet using these methods can help you avoid credit card skimmers and reduce the risk of losing your credit card.
- Do not respond to phone calls, emails or text messages asking you to call the number or follow a provided link - even if something seems urgent. Instead, contact the PSFCU Member Services Center or your VISA credit card provider directlyby calling the number on the back of your card.



### From the Life of Our Credit Union Branches

# We have completed a series of meetings with financial advisors

A series of meetings held at our branches on investing and wealth management has ended. Three seminars were held as part of a series on April 30 at the Greenpoint branch of our Credit Union, on May 5 at the Algonquin branch, and on May 10 at the Fairfield Operations Center, all of which were met with great interest by our members. During the meetings, participants had the opportunity to speak with experienced financial advisors working with PSFCU - Gillian Stoddard, Magda Skowron and Michael Duch, and learn more about investment opportunities, financial planning and how to build and protect assets. We thank all attendees for their active participation and inspiring questions. We are glad that together we were able to create an opportunity for discussions about the financial future and responsible investment decisions.



#### Greenpoint red and white

On Sunday, May 4, New York's Greenpoint area took on red and white colors. On this day, the Polish community from the East Coast of the United States gathered to celebrate the Polish Flag Day, the Polish Community and Poles Abroad Day, as well as the 234th Anniversary of the Polish May 3 Constitution. The celebration coincided with the 1000th anniversary of the Kingdom of Poland. Sunday's celebrations were preceded by a solemn Mass at St. Stanislaus Kostka Church, followed by an event at the "Warsaw" National Home in Greenpoint. Afterwards, all those in attendance went to the Polish & Slavic Federal Credit Union branch at 100 McGuinness Blvd. where the white and red flag of Poland was hoisted on the mast. The event was an excellent opportunity to celebrate our Polish heritage together.

The meeting at the PSFCU headquarters began with the solemn singing of the Polish national anthem, after which the guests of honor spoke, including the Permanent Representative of the Republic of Poland to the United Nations - Ambassador Krzysztof Szczerski, Consul General of the Republic of Poland in New York Mateusz Sakowicz and his wife, President of the Women's Auxiliary Corps at the Polish Army Veterans Association in America - Helena Knapczyk, former

senator, daughter of General Wladyslaw Anders - Anna Maria Anders. The ceremony was also attended by the Vice Chairman of the PSFCU Board of Directors - Mariusz Sniarowski, and the manager of the PSFCU branch - Anna Branas. along with her employees. The official part was followed by an exhibition of antique cars and motorcycles, which were consecrated by REv. Grzegorz Markulak of the St. Stanislaus Kostka parish. Traditionally, the day did not lack Polish food and Polish music. Polish dishes and sweets could be enjoyed during the Polish picnic. At the end, a cavalcade of Polish collector cars dressed in red and



white colors drove through the streets of Brooklyn to celebrate together their loyalty to the national tradition, as well as manifest their pride in the red and white colors.



1. 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 6/1/2025 and ends on 6/30/2025. 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. 2. AssureGuard is an optional protection plan that can be purchased for a fee that varies based on selected plan, vehicle age, make, model, and mileage. The Plan is administered by Interstate National Dealer Services, Inc., P.O. Box 830637, Birmingham, AL 35283-0637 and is separate and distinct from any product or service warranty which may be provided by that the manufacturer, importer, or seller.

