

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

Dear PSFCU members,

Watching young people bravely and curiously take their first steps on their career path, discovering within themselves abilities they hadn't seen before, is very uplifting for us. From May to July, we had the pleasure of hosting a group of students at the Polish-Slavic Federal Credit Union, who joined our teams as part of their summer internships. For several intense weeks, they worked alongside our employees, learning responsibility, teamwork, and building relationships with the members of our Credit Union. Their fresh perspective, openness, and commitment were the best proof that investing in the young generation is worthwhile.

Simultaneously, in July, another group of Polish students participated in a nine-day student internship, implemented in collaboration with the Catholic University of Lublin. Its goal was not only to support education but also to strengthen the identity of the young generation of Polish-Americans. Such initiatives are an integral part of our mission – because our Credit Union offers more than just financial services, but above all, relationships with our members, responsibility, and sustainable development. I encourage young PSFCU members to apply for future intern-



ships now – perhaps our Credit Union will be the beginning of a long and worthwhile career path for you.

Summer is in full swing. When traveling on vacation, remember to take steps to protect yourself from theft of your personal or financial information. Remember not to log into your account or make payments via unsecure networks in hotels or public places. In such cases, it's best to access the internet using your mobile phone. We also recommend caution if you receive an unexpected call or text message. Please remember that PSFCU employees will never ask you for your card numbers, passwords, or access codes. If you have any concerns about a message, please do not respond and contact our Member Services Center directly.

For your safety, I also recommend using

PSFCU Visa credit cards, which are perfect for both travel and everyday payments. Our cards offer advanced security features, including instant card blocking in the mobile app, protection against unauthorized transactions, and an attractive rewards program. This is a practical and secure tool that provides peace of mind – both at home and abroad.

Dear members, thank you for the trust you place in us. PSFCU is more than a bank – it's a community we create and grow together. I wish you a peaceful, safe summer and many pleasant holiday memories that will last a long time.

Sincerely,

Bogdan Chmielewski  
PSFCU President/CEO

## The First Edition of Internships organized by PSFCU and the Catholic University of Lublin



At the beginning of July, a group of twelve Polish-American students – members of the Polish & Slavic Federal Credit Union – set off for Poland for a nine-day summer internship, organized jointly by PSFCU, the Catholic University of Lublin, and the Polish Diaspora Center at the Catholic University of Lublin. This internship is the result of a cooperation agreement signed last May by the Rector of the Catholic University of Lublin, Rev. Professor Mirosław Kalinowski, and the PSFCU President/CEO, Bogdan Chmielewski.

This year's program participants spent nine days learning about Polish history, improving their Polish language skills, and visiting key sites of Polish national heritage. They also attended some special meetings. At the beginning of their visit to Poland, the students attended an official reception in Warsaw, where they met with the First Lady of the Republic of Poland, Agata Kornhauser-Duda. During the meeting, topics discussed included national identity, the

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### PSFCU In Numbers

Information as of June 30, 2025

#### Assets



**\$2,663,783,793**

#### Loans



**\$1,579,559,189**

#### Net worth



**\$286,193,024**

#### YTD net income



**\$8,696,670**

#### Number of Members



**124,708**

## The First Edition of Student Internships - cont.

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role of young Poles abroad, and their contribution to promoting Polish culture and language. “Thank you so much for taking on the challenge of learning Polish, which is often very challenging,” said the First Lady, addressing her guests. She also thanked the students for their “active work to promote Polish culture abroad.” “I am very pleased that you care about Polish culture, tradition, and language, cultivating them every day, far beyond the homeland of your ancestors. I am very pleased that such young people are taking the initiative to preserve Polish heritage,” she added.

The summer internship in Poland is the result of a partnership between PSFCU and the Catholic University of Lublin. The program is educational and integrative in nature and was developed for young Americans of Polish descent who want to cultivate their Polish roots—including language, history, and culture. The event is fully funded by the PSFCU, which covers the costs of airfare, local trans-

portation, lodging, and meals. Additionally, each internship participant receives a \$1,000 educational scholarship. This year’s scholarship recipients returned to the US with new experiences and relationships, which, as they emphasize, can bear fruit in the future, both professionally and personally. This program offers a real opportunity to build international contacts, develop professional skills, and immerse themselves

in Polish culture. We encourage all young members of our Credit Union – at minimum sophomore students of undergraduate studies or higher – to take part in the next edition of the program.

The next edition of the Summer School is planned for July 2026. Applications will be accepted at the beginning of next year, and recruitment details will soon be available on the [www.NaszaUnia.com](http://www.NaszaUnia.com) website in the Student Portal section.



## PSFCU Branch Managers

**Marta Kozlicka – manager of the PSFCU Branch in Orland Park, IL**



In April 2025, Marta Kozlicka became the new manager of the PSFCU branch in Orland Park. However, her association with the Polish & Slavic Federal Credit Union dates back much longer. She began her

career at the Bridgeview branch as a teller, and her determination, openness, and constant desire for development led her to quickly advance through various roles.

At work, she has proven to be reliable and competent, diligently performing her duties. Above all, she values relationships with her colleagues. “My professional journey would not be as fruitful without the support of exceptional people with whom I have the constant pleasure of working. I am incredibly grateful for their faith in me and the inspiring atmosphere we create together. For me, working at our Credit Union is much more than just financial operations – it is, above all, building lasting relationships with members and ensuring their financial needs are met. The trust of our members is my greatest honor and constant motivation to continue,” Marta emphasizes.

In the workplace, she values three qualities: honesty, integrity, and mutual respect. “I believe these three elements are the foundation of fruitful collaboration. Honesty builds trust and allows for open communication, which is crucial for effective problem-solving and deci-

sion-making. Honesty ensures transparency and ethical conduct, creating an atmosphere of confidence and credibility. Respect, manifested in an appreciation for the diverse perspectives and values of each team member, fosters positive relationships and strengthens a sense of belonging. I believe that cultivating these qualities is essential to creating a productive and fulfilling work environment in which everyone can fully realize their potential,” she explains.

Personally, Marta values deep relationships with family and friends. She is a stay-at-home person. She sees her home as a place of peace, regeneration, and harmony. At the same time, she explores the diversity of cultures and perspectives the world offers with curiosity, drawing inspiration from literature and everyday experiences. “I would like to take this opportunity to wish my new team a fruitful and rewarding collaboration. I wish our members the best possible financial decisions in cooperation with the Polish & Slavic Federal Credit Union, and I cordially invite you to visit our branch located in Orland Park.”



## Deduct Your Auto Loan Interest and Save

We are pleased to announce that, thanks to new federal legislation, PSFCU members have gained an additional financial benefit. Under the new tax law effective this year, you can deduct up to \$10,000 annually for auto loan interest.

This new legislative initiative increases the accessibility and affordability of purchasing new vehicles—especially during times of high interest rates and inflation. Legislators aim to ease the burden on consumers and at the same time support the American auto industry.

### What exactly is changing?

Individuals who purchase a new passenger vehicle assembled in the U.S. and finance it with a loan originated after December 31, 2024, can deduct the interest on that loan on their tax return—even if they take the standard deduction without itemization.

You will benefit from the new tax cred-

it if:

- you purchase a new car, SUV, pickup truck, or motorcycle assembled in the US,
- you use the vehicle exclusively for personal (non-commercial) purposes,
- your loan was taken out after December 31, 2024,
- your income does not exceed \$100,000 (single individuals) or \$200,000 (married couples filing jointly).

### What does this mean for you as a PSFCU member?

1. Greater tax benefits – you can reduce your income tax by up to several hundred dollars annually.
2. No need to file through itemized deductions – the deduction is also available with your standard

return.

3. New forms from PSFCU – if you pay \$600 or more in interest annually, we'll send you a special confirmation with the information needed to claim the deduction.

If you're considering financing a car purchase with Polish & Slavic Federal Credit Union, visit one of our branches and find out if your chosen vehicle qualifies for the deduction. Remember, the interest deduction applies to car loans taken out after December 31, 2024, and is valid until the end of 2028.

**Our Credit Union is more than just a bank.** For more information, visit [www.psfcu.com](http://www.psfcu.com) or call our Customer Service Center at 1.855.PSFCU.4U (1.855.773.2848).

\*Consult your Tax Advisor for qualifications and available tax deductions.

## Secure, convenient, no fees – PSFCU credit cards

Modern, secure, and tailored to your needs – PSFCU credit cards are more than just a payment tool. They offer the convenience of everyday purchases, real control over your finances, and support in building a solid credit history. Designed for different stages of life, our cards help you manage your life freely and securely, just the way you want. All PSFCU Visa credit cards combine convenience, security, and no annual fee. This means you save from day one, securely supported by Visa Zero Liability policy. Furthermore, all our credit cards offer a global assistance program, such as information and emergency card issuance, as well as collision damage insurance for car rentals paid for with a PSFCU credit card. An additional benefit is mobile phone insurance when payments are made using a PSFCU credit card. PSFCU cards can be managed through PSFCU Online Banking or our mobile app. They offer the option of choosing security features and transaction notifications based on user preferences.

The **Visa Elite Signature** Card is for those who expect something more. This card is designed for active users who travel frequently, shop online, and enjoy life without unnecessary restrictions. The card's key advantages include

a rewards program with points redeemable for cash, travel goods, or services, no fees for transactions made abroad, and Signature Concierge services – a personal assistant who can assist with things like travel or concert tickets purchase, restaurant reservations, gift or flower delivery, and more. The Visa Elite Signature card combines luxury, functionality, and security.

**Visa Premier** is the perfect choice if you enjoy being rewarded for everyday purchases. Whether you're filling up your car with gas, shopping for groceries, or paying for online subscriptions – with this card, every transaction can be converted into rewards points, which you can then use to purchase travel, goods or services. This is a card that truly rewards you for your daily life expenses.

**Visa Advantage** is a great option for those seeking low cost. If you value low interest rates, this card is a practical tool for everyday financial management. This card is perfect for those paying off their balance in installments or planning larger expenses which they won't be able to pay off in one payment.

If you're just starting your financial journey or are a student and want to build a positive credit history, consider the **Visa Liberty** Student Card. This card was created with young users in mind – it

offers a low entry threshold, promotional interest rates, and the opportunity to earn bonus points to get you started. Most importantly, it allows you to learn responsible credit management without the pressure of high limits or fees. It's your first step towards financial independence.

Every PSFCU credit card gives you the convenience of managing your finances through the mobile app and your online banking account. You can freeze your card with a single click, set up transaction notifications, track your spending, and take advantage of promotions – all from the comfort of your home. And if you need help, 24/7 customer service is available.

For more details about PSFCU credit card offers, visit [www.psfcu.com/credit-cards](http://www.psfcu.com/credit-cards).



## From the Life of Our Credit Union Branches

### Great Podhale Picnic

On July 6th, the Great Podhale Picnic took place in Lemont, near Chicago. The event, organized by the Podhale Association of North America, attracted hundreds of guests as always. Highlanders, their descendants, and lovers of Polish culture gathered here. The celebration, as usual, began with a prayer. Subsequently, individual highlander groups displayed banners, and a procession of gifts took place. Regional groups and highlander bands per-



formed on stage, as did children and youth celebrating Podhale traditions through dance and song. The program also included competitions, games for children, a raffle, and demonstrations of folk crafts and handicrafts. The event was a great success, and we are pleased to be a part of it and its main sponsor, as we are every year. Our Credit Union was represented by ladies from the Bolingbrook branch, who promoted the Credit Union's activities, emphasizing the PSFCU's involvement in the cultural and social life of the Polish community.

### Finances in High Heels

On Saturday, June 21, 2025, the PSFCU branch in Wallington, NJ, hosted a meeting in the "Finance in High Heels" series, aimed at women of all ages and stages of life. The event, organized by branch manager Marlena Michałowska and her team, aimed to build financial



awareness and inspire women to make wise economic decisions, save, invest, and build financial independence. The meeting was an excellent opportunity to share experiences and explore answers about budget management, avoiding credit traps, and planning a sound financial future.

### 95th anniversary of the unveiling of the Kazimierz Pułaski monument in Willow Springs, IL

On Saturday, July 12, 2025, ceremonies were held in Willow Springs, Illinois,

commemorating the 95th anniversary of the unveiling of the monument to General Casimir Pulaski, a hero fighting for the freedom of Poland and the United States. This monument, erected in 1930 at the initiative of Chicago's Polish community, remains one of the most important symbols of Pulaski's memory in the United States. Representatives of Polish organizations, scouts, students of Polish schools, and local residents participated in the anniversary celebrations. The event included banner guards, patriotic speeches, joint prayers, and the laying of wreaths. Representatives of the Polish & Slavic Federal Credit Union from the Bridgeview branch also attended, laying flowers at the monument as an expression of remembrance and respect for the hero of both nations. The PSFCU's presence at this important ceremony underscores not only the Union's commitment to the Polish community but also its commitment to preserving shared values and historical heritage.



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a trip?**

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Must be PSFCU member to apply. All credit cards are subject to credit verification and approval. Rate may vary based upon terms and applicant's personal credit history. PSFCU loans are not available in all states. Other restrictions may apply. If you have any questions regarding credit cards offered by the PSFCU please contact the nearest branch or our Member Services Center at 1.855.PSFCU.4U.

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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