

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE POLISH & SLAVIC FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

Dear PSFCU Members,



Traditionally, on the first Sunday of October, the Polish community on the East Coast of the United States participated in the General Casimir Pulaski Parade on Fifth Avenue in Manhattan, NY. This year's Parade was a special one, as we were honored with the presence of the President of Poland, Andrzej Duda, who was the first incumbent President of Poland to participate in the Parade. In addition, it was a special event for our Credit Union, since a Member of the Board of Directors, Mr. Franciszek Robert Piwowarczyk, served as the Grand Marshal of this year's Parade. The Pulaski Parade is always the largest Polish-American event in the United States, but the presence of the President and the very high turnout this year made the event even more significant. Our Credit Union was, as always, very well represented, and has been a major sponsor of the Parade for many years. I wish to thank all of you who participated with us on the first Sunday in October in this celebration of the Polish community spirit in Midtown Manhattan.

On October 15 of last year, we held the ground breaking ceremony for the 22nd branch of PSFCU located in Algonquin, IL.

PSFCU On New York's Fifth Avenue



Our Credit Union yet again marched in the Pulaski Parade down New York's Fifth Avenue. This honorable moment will forever go down in the history of the Parade as well as in the memories of all Poles living on the East Coast. The Parade was attended by the President of the Republic of Poland Andrzej Duda for the first time in the history of the event.

This year's Parade was led by the Grand Marshal Franciszek R. Piwowarczyk, member

of the PSFCU Board of Directors. The festive first Sunday of October brought to Fifth Avenue some 100,000 participants affiliated with dozens of organizations, parishes, schools, businesses and Polish-American groups from four states, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Connecticut. Polish & Slavic Federal Credit Union was represented by nearly 200 people, members of the Board of Directors,

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Algonquin, IL Branch Is Officially Open!



The grand opening of the PSFCU branch in Algonquin took place on October 21. This is the twenty-second branch of our Credit Union and also the seventh in the state of Illinois. The modern and comfortable building was completed within a year of the groundbreaking ceremony, delighting all the

guests gathered at the Grand Opening with its convenient solutions. The establishment of another PSFCU branch in Chicago area is further evidence of the steady and dynamic growth of our Credit Union. It is also a step towards our current and future members

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PSFCU In Numbers

Information as of September 30, 2023

Assets



\$2,518,452,008

Loans



\$1,502,725,750

Net worth



\$256,513,833

YTD net income



\$14,820,989

Number of Members



116,076

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Just as we promised at the time, exactly a year later, the branch began its operations. On October 21st, a group of more than a hundred of our members, together with representatives of local authorities, the Board of Directors and employees of the Credit Union, participated in the grand opening ceremony of this branch. The opening of the Algonquin branch is the next step in PSFCU's strategy of expanding its geographic footprint, which has resulted in a steady increase in the number of our Credit Union members. I invite you, the residents of Algonquin and its vicinity, to visit our branch. I am convinced that the team of our employees under the leadership of Ms. Magdalena Degorski will make every effort to make this branch a permanent part of the life of the Polish community in this region of Illinois.

In conclusion, I invite you to actively participate in the 10th "Children's Holiday Smile" charity event, which we will launch on November 24. This year, we will traditionally raise funds for three children's hospices in Poland, as well as for underprivileged children in the United States. In previous years, your generosity has always exceeded our expectations, and I believe that this year will be similar.

To all our Credit Union members, your families, friends and acquaintances, I send my warmest wishes for a healthy and joyful Thanksgiving.

Happy Thanksgiving!

Sincerely,

Bogdan Chmielewski
PSFCU President/CEO

PSFCU Scholarship Program

Our Credit Union, in cooperation with the New York Credit Union Association, has launched the next edition of the PSFCU scholarship program for college-bound high school graduates. The deadline for PSFCU members to submit scholarship applications is January 5, 2024. Detailed information is available at www.psfcu.com under Student Portal or by sending an email to scholarships@psfcu.net.

PSFCU On New York's Fifth Avenue - cont.

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management, and employees with their families. As the main sponsor of the Pulaski Parade, our Credit Union, through its presence in the Parade, emphasizes its huge contribution to promoting Polish culture in the United States.

The Pulaski Parade has been an important event for Polish-Americans for decades. It is not only a celebration of national identity and a tribute to the hero of two nations, it is also a continuation of pride and the fight for freedom. This theme was taken up by the President of the Republic of Poland in his speech, emphasizing the great merits of the Polish American community in the fight for Poland's freedom. President Duda also thanked the Polish-American community

for their large participation in the Parade and for promoting Polish culture abroad: „Thank you for teaching your children the Polish language, thank you for sending them to Polish schools, thank you for participating in the Pulaski Parade here in New York. It's very important for the United States and the world to see that Poles living in the United States are one community, a tight-knit community that is together, that constitutes a vital force.” - the President emphasized.

As the main sponsor of the Pulaski Parade, Polish & Slavic Federal Credit Union each year embraces this important event for the Polish-American community. As the largest ethnic credit union in the United States, we feel obligated to protect national identity and promote the Polish culture.

Algonquin, IL Branch Is Officially Open - cont.

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out of concern for the convenience of members taking advantage of our Credit Union's products and services.

President/CEO of our Credit Union, Mr. Bogdan Chmielewski, welcomed all the gathered guests, among whom were numerous members of our Credit Union, representatives of local authorities, the Board of Directors of our Credit Union and employees of PSFCU branches in Illinois. The event was graced with the presence of, among others: Debby Sosine- President of the Village of Algonquin, Greg Urban - Executive Director of the Algonquin Chamber of Commerce, Rafał Matusiak - President of SKOK National Credit Union and Board Member of the World Council of Credit Unions, and Paweł Zyzak - Consul General of the Republic of Poland in Chicago. A joint prayer beginning the blessing was led by Father Zbigniew Zajchowski of St. Margaret Mary Parish in Algonquin. Official congratulations were offered by representatives of Polish organizations: Stanislaw Sarna of the Polish Highlanders Association of North America and Lucja Mirowska-Kopec, president of the Alliance of Polish Clubs.

The importance of PSFCU was emphasized in his speech by Chairman of the PSFCU Board of Directors, Krzysztof Matyszczyk, saying: “Our Credit Union means not only the members of our institution, but also the Polish community. We support Polish schools, we march with you

on May 3, we participate in festivals, cultural events, we cooperate with the Consulate and it is important that we maintain close relations and try to help each other in many ways.” He also mentioned the crucial importance of the location of the new branch of our Credit Union: “Many representatives of the Polish community decided to move to Algonquin because of the better quality of life, living conditions and other opportunities, and now they will also have this beautiful branch.” Village President Debby Sosine also alluded to this theme in her speech, thanking PSFCU for choosing this location and stating that our branch will be a very important asset to the local community.

Consul Paweł Zyzak also expressed his congratulations, saying: „PSFCU means not only accounts, it also means scholarships for young people, tremendous support in the search for young leaders. Please accept my congratulations for what you are doing, for how actively you are growing, how you represent with dignity the Polish-American community, the Polish nation and, in fact, the Polish state.”

The Algonquin branch is open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. and on Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Its manager is Magdalena Degorski, a former employee of the PSFCU branch in Norridge. We cordially invite residents of Algonquin and the surrounding area to visit the new location and take advantage of our Credit Union's competitive offers.

Save With PSFCU Credit Cards

Shopping with Polish & Slavic Federal Credit Union's credit cards is all about the benefits. Take advantage during the most intense shopping season. Prepare holiday gifts, parties and travel paying with PSFCU Credit Cards!

PSFCU Credit Cards offer no annual fees, competitive interest rates, and are tailored to meet the needs of our members. Between November 15, 2023 and January 31, 2024, PSFCU Credit Card holders will be able to take advantage of a zero interest rate offer for 18 months on balance transfer. Eligible members will receive checks in the mail, which they can use as needed by depositing into their accounts, paying off credit card debts or loans from other financial institutions. If you receive such a check in the mail, it means you have qualified

for the promotion. If you decide to take advantage of it, you will be able to transfer balances over \$500 with a transaction fee of 4.5%*. This is an excellent offer for those who plan to reduce their debts at other institutions and take advantage of our Credit Union's competitive loan product rates!

During the promotional period, i.e. from November 15, 2023 to January 31, 2024, qualifying holders of PSFCU Platinum Rewards, Platinum (ex-Classic), Liberty, Advantage, Premier and Elite Credit Cards will be able to enjoy zero percent interest rates on purchases for 18 months. This is the perfect time to plan your dream or long-planned expenses. If big, successful purchases then only with PSFCU Credit Cards!

If you have any questions about

balance transfer, zero percent interest rates and PSFCU Credit Cards, please contact your Polish & Slavic Federal Credit Union branches or call PSFCU Member Services Center at 1.855.PSFCU.4U (1.855.773.2848).

**4.50% balance transfer fee applies through promotional period, then the standard fee, as per your account opening disclosure, will apply. Valid for balance transfers from other credit card companies, financial institutions, or department store credit card.*



Christmas Tree – Deposit Card

The youngest members of our Credit Union, i.e. minor account holders under the age of 18, probably remember our summer Piggy Bank promotion. A big surprise for you! In the winter season we invite you to the Christmas edition of the promotion! Every child with a minor account who saves 8 quarters in his/her „Christmas Tree Deposit

Card” and deposits them in his/her account during the promotional period from November 1 to 30, 2023 will take part in a drawing of Christmas prizes!

Small steps to success! The earlier we teach a child how to handle money, the more confident he will be in handling it better in the future. Developing the habit of saving in childhood can

prove to be a good foundation of financial skills for the future.

Visit your local PSFCU branch today and ask for a Christmas Tree deposit card, deposit \$2 and enter the prize drawing. The prize will be handed out during the holiday season in the second half of December to make this special time of year even more enjoyable for the little ones!



CHRISTMAS TREE PRIZE DRAWING

COLLECT QUARTERS AND WIN A PRIZE!

- collect EIGHT quarters
- deposit your Christmas Tree at one of the PSFCU branches
- be automatically entered to win an awesome prize!

*The Christmas Tree Deposit promotion for PSFCU Minor Members begins on November 1, 2023 and will last until November 30, 2023 or until supplies last. Fifty (50) prizes will be randomly selected from all eligible Christmas Tree Deposits submitted by minor members. The Christmas Tree means this poster board with collected eight (8) 25 cent coins for the total value of \$2. After collecting all eight (8) coins, minor member should bring the Christmas Tree Deposit to the PSFCU branch for \$2.00 deposit to his/her account. Parental consent is required for minors under age of 13 to enter the drawing. The deposit must be made during the promotional period. Christmas Trees are available at PSFCU branches for all minors interested in this promotion. There is a limit of one (1) Christmas Tree per minor. The prizes will be randomly selected during a drawing conducted after December 5, 2023. The official rules of the Christmas Tree Deposit promotion are available at www.psfcu.com. NO PURCHASE NECESSARY. A PURCHASE OR PAYMENT OF ANY KIND WILL NOT IMPROVE YOUR CHANCES OF WINNING.



PSFCU at Polish-American Community Events

Our Credit Union is present wherever the Polish spirit is celebrated, to meet with you, to express respect and thanks for Polish organizations, parishes and schools. These meetings are part and parcel of our activity and bring us much satisfaction. On September 30, the Alliance of Polish Clubs celebrated its 95th anniversary. The festive banquet was held at the Jolly Inn Banquets in Chicago. Our Credit Union was awarded the Medal of Merit for the Alliance of Polish Clubs, which was presented during the Banquet. The beginning of cooperation between the PSFCU and the Alliance of Polish Clubs dates back to 2010, when our Credit Union opened its first branches in the Chicago area. The Alliance of Polish Clubs became our Credit Union's sponsoring organization, the first one in the Chicago metropolitan area.

Participation in patriotic ceremonies is a great honor for us. Their scope underscores our identity and the role of patriotism outside the borders of our home country. In the past weeks, our representatives took part, among others:

- in the ceremonies commemorating the anniversary of the Katyn massacre and the anniversary of the outbreak of World War II, which were held on September 10 at the Katyn Memorial in Jersey City, NJ,
- in the Teacher's Ball in Linden, NJ,
- at the 150th Anniversary Banquet of the PRCUA,
- in the 35th Election of the Queen of the Highlanders Association in IL
- in a formal academy at the invitation of the Holy Cross Polish School in Joliet, IL.

In September and October, PSFCU representatives appeared at numerous church picnics, including:

- at St. Stanislaus Kostka parish in Brooklyn, NY;
- at St. John Cantius parish in Clifton, NJ;

- at Corpus Christi parish in Carol Stream, IL;
- at Divine Mercy parish in Lombard, IL;
- at St. Francis de Chantal parish in Brooklyn, NY
- at St. Stephen Deacon and Martyr parish in Tinley Park, IL.

We recently met with you during:

- 15th Schoolfest in Brooklyn, NY;
- Highlander Festival at Crescent Park Circle in Orland Park, IL,

- Moravian Day Festival in Lemont, IL,
- Family Picnic organized by the Polish-American Humanistic Academy in Schaumburg, IL, and the
- Street Festival in Clifton, NJ.

During the autumn period, local PSFCU branches held events as part of Polish Heritage Month. Among others, we also commemorated the 45th anniversary of the election of Pope John Paul II.

Menadżer oddziału PSFCU w Algonquin, IL

Magdalena Degorski - manager of the PSFCU branch in Algonquin, IL

Magdalena Degorski began her career at PSFCU in July 2017. After six years, she was entrusted with the position of manager of the newly opened, seventh branch of PSFCU in Illinois located in Algonquin.

She says about the new stage of her career: "I dreamed up the branch in Algonquin. Since I live in the area, I thought many times that it would be a good idea to work in my neighborhood. And so it happened." Construction of the new PSFCU building began in 2022. In October 2023, the new branch opened its doors to the new members.

Magdalena is an alumna of the Norridge, IL branch. It was here that she was hired in 2017 for a teller position, after seven months was promoted to a Member Services Representative, then was named Branch Quality Assurance Coordinator and Loan Specialist. In the last year, her experience included a two-and-a-half month stint as manager at the PSFCU branch in Glendale Heights, IL.

Magdalena is a task-oriented person, unerringly creative and fond of new challenges: "My duties are quickly becoming my passion. Wherever I go, I find a place for myself. I perform the tasks assigned to me to the best of my ability so that, afterwards, I can have a sense of fulfillment and satisfaction," she says. "Working at PSFCU motivates me to constantly grow, be dynamic. It also allows me to nurture



patriotic feelings. I value cooperation with Polish organizations, parishes and schools. Currently, I look at everything as a new beginning, but in my new position, I see many opportunities to use my talents, as well as acquire more skills. The growth of the new location goes hand in hand with my ambitions. I don't like stagnation, instead I value dynamism. I'm also excited to work with the new team, which is very creative. I see great potential in the Polish community living in and around Algonquin. I am happy that so many people have already shown interest in our location. I look forward to welcoming you all to our new branch, guaranteeing the highest quality of service and a warm atmosphere," she emphasizes.

Magdalena hails from Szczecin, loves nature and the outdoors. She recharges her batteries by actively relaxing. She passes the same values to her 14-year-old son. Spending active time with her family is most valuable to her.

Children's Holiday Smile

For the tenth time, our Credit Union is launching the Children's Holiday Smile charity drive. This campaign traditionally begins on the Friday after Thanksgiving and will last until the end of December. As usual, we will raise funds for three hospices for children in Poland and for the treatment of seriously ill Polish children in the United States.

Since 2014, we have collectively raised \$1,132,518. Financial assistance was provided to 22 hospices in Poland, a hospice in Vilnius, Lithuania and to the Children's Smile Foundation in New York. We encourage you to take part in this year's campaign!

