



PSFCU CEO Bogdan Chmielewski welcomes the guests

First Head-of-State visit to PSFCU

President Kaczyński at Our Credit Union

President of the Republic of Poland, Mr. Lech Kaczyński and his wife Maria visited the PSFCU on September 24, 2009. The President was accompanied, among others, by the Polish Envoy to the UN Andrzej Towpik and by the Polish Ambassador in the US, Robert Kupiecki.

This was without a doubt the most significant

event in the 33-year history of PSFCU as well as a tremendous privilege and honor for the institution. Since this was the first head-of-state visit to our institution, the Polish President's visit stressed the importance of PSFCU in the life of the Polish-American community.

continued on page 6...

NCUA official marches alongside PSFCU

Unique Pulaski Parade



At this year's annual Pulaski Day Parade, once was not enough for National Credit Union Administration Board Member Michael Fryzel, who not only walked alongside New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg to start the parade, but later marched the route again with nearly 200 employees of the Polish & Slavic Federal Credit Union.

Serving as the Honorary Grand Marshal of the 72nd Annual Casimir Pulaski Day Parade, Fryzel had the honor of leading the famed ethnic parade in New York. He shared the honor with the Mayor and the Parade's Grand Marshal, Curtis Sliwa. They were all

continued on page 6...

Festival at Doylestown

Trip to Am. Czestochowa



Our Credit Union has been supporting numerous events and programs benefiting the Polish community for years. We support not only schools, churches, Polish organizations and our youth, but also try to pay a lot of attention to those who have been with us for the longest period of time. On September 6, specifically for the seniors, PSFCU organized a trip to the National Shrine of Our Lady of Czestochowa in Doylestown, PA. To meet the criteria of participation in this pilgrimage, sponsored entirely by our Credit Union, called "The American Czestochowa Attractions,"

continued on page 8...

Brief Update

Important Issues

PSFCU witnessed a historic event in the past few weeks. Our Credit Union was visited by President Lech Kaczyński, accompanied by his wife, underscoring the importance of our institution in the life of the Polish-American community. In his speech, the President spoke kindly about the credit union movement both in Poland and the United States, underlining the importance of the assistance which American credit unions have rendered to their Polish counterparts. Our distinguished guest expressed his appreciation of our Credit Union's financial achievements and our efforts to help the entire Polish-American community. His visit to PSFCU is a great honor not only for our employees and volunteers, but most of all for all our members. Detailed reports of his visit could be found not only in Polish-American and trade media outlets, but also in Polish and American mass media.

The visit of the former chairman and current Member of the 3-person Board of NCUA (National Credit Union Administration) was another important event at PSFCU. Out of over 8 thousand US credit unions, very few have had the opportunity to host such a high-ranking official from the institution which governs the operations of all credit unions in

... continued on page 8

PSFCU BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTION RESULTS

A total of 10,150 votes were cast during this year's election. Below, you will find total vote counts for each candidate. **Congratulations to the winners!**

Tomasz Bortnik	4529
Elżbieta Baumgartner	4526
Adam Grochecki	4199
Jan Sporek	4089
Mark Zawisny	3601
Bożena Kajewska-Pielarz	3517
John L. Szalyga	3083
Stanley Trojaniak	2965
Paweł Pachacz	1883
Andrzej Jasiński	1785



PSFCU employees welcome the President



President receives the honorary PSFCU membership

Pres. Kaczyński...

...continued from page 5

Distinguished guests were met by the volunteers and employees of the Polish and Slavic Federal Credit Union, headed by the Chairman of the Board of Directors, Mr. Krzysztof Matyszczyk, First Deputy Chairwoman Małgorzata Wądołowski and CEO Bogdan Chmielewski. Meeting with President Kaczyński was also attended by the Chairman of the National Bank of Poland, Mr. Sławomir Skrzypek, and his deputy Piotr Wiesiołek. Among the guests were also several dozen representatives of the 70-thousand-strong PSFCU membership.

Greeting the distinguished guest, Mr. Bogdan Chmielewski presented the achievements of our Credit Union and the role it plays in the Polish community. President Kaczyński stressed that the name of our institution has been known to him for years and that he had heard a lot about PSFCU, often from his colleagues.

At the end of the meeting, representatives of the Board of Directors gave President Kaczyński a commemorative statuette – a silver and gold replica of PSFCU membership book, granting him an honorary membership. “Thank you very much for the honorary membership.” President Kaczyński said with a smile. “(...) You represent a movement

that’s very dear to me. You are also important for organizing our Polish-American community, (...) this is something of a great value to Poland, something that I would like to be fostered here on the East Coast and in Chicago, in Detroit as well as on the West Coast and in every place where there are even small pockets of Polish population. We have to fight for it because it is in your interest, ladies and gentlemen, as well as in the interest of our country.”

After the meeting, which was significantly extended with the President’s approval, Mr. Kaczyński and his wife had an opportunity to greet a large group of his supporters in front of the PSFCU building.

Unique Parade

...continued from page 5

accompanied by Mr. Bogdan Chmielewski, PSFCU CEO, and Mr. Krzysztof Matyszczyk, PSFCU Chairman of the Board, who were also selected to spearhead the Parade in recognition of the PSFCU Diamond Sponsorship. The PSFCU sent the largest contingent to the Parade, which this year carried the theme: “For your freedom and ours.”

“The parade’s theme this year echoes the main mission of the credit union movement – people helping people,” said Bogdan Chmielewski, CEO of the PSFCU. “I think our sponsorship of the event provided proof once again that the PSFCU is the backbone of the Polish-American community. And I’m honored that Mr. Fryzel was able to spend time with us and witness the bond we have with our community.”

Fryzel, who is of Polish heritage, was clearly moved by the first-time experience and the sight of so much Polish pride on display. “It was a major highlight of my career, and a true honor to walk the parade route with Mayor Bloomberg,” said Fryzel. “I also commend the PSFCU, which exemplifies



what credit unions do best: give back to the community and provide the support for events such as these.”

Attendance at this year’s parade was the highest in years, according to parade officials. The PSFCU float was decorated with artwork

depicting two legendary Polish figures who are also heroes in this country: Gen. Casimir Pulaski and Thaddeus Kościuszko. The float, which also treated parade-watchers to the sounds of popular Polish songs and music through its impressive sound system,

 *How to get a favorable rate*

Improving Your Credit Score

Having a high credit score can mean the difference of thousands of dollars in saved interest expense compared to others with a lower score. If your credit score isn't as high as you want it to be, take control by following the tips listed below:

- **Always pay your bills on time.** Your payment history represents 35% of your credit score.
- **Do not close older accounts you have paid off.** The positive factor for your credit score is how much available credit you have at your disposal when compared to your credit balance. Also, 15% of your credit score is based on the length of your credit history – that includes the age of your oldest account, as well as the average of all your accounts.
- **Don't apply for credit too frequently.** Applying for too much credit too often will decrease your credit score because this is a characteristic of high credit risk groups.
- **Keep your credit card balances low.** If you max out your cards, it will affect your credit score negatively. The more debt you

pay off, the better your score. A good rule of thumb is to keep your credit card balances below 25% of your credit limits.

- **Minimize loan applications.** Every time you apply for a loan, the potential lender requests your credit report for review. This can hurt your credit score. Make all loan requests within a two-week period. All credit report lookups are then bundled together as a single request – not multiple requests.
- **Ask for a credit limit increase.** Increasing your credit limit makes the debt/credit limit ratio look better. However, do not use the extra credit or you defeat the whole purpose of improving your credit score. The goal is to have as much available credit and use as little as possible.
- **Remember to check for errors on your credit report.** Contact the credit reporting agencies to fix any errors.

It pays to increase your credit score. It also takes discipline and dedication. However, a good credit standing will allow you to qualify for loans, lower interest rates and more.

Temporary Waiver of Required Minimum Distributions (RMDs) from IRA Accounts for 2009

Normally, once you reach 70.5 years old you are required to take annual taxable RMDs from your traditional IRA account. However, in December 2008, Congress enacted The Worker, Retiree, and Employer Recovery Act of 2008, which provides a temporary waiver of the penalty for not taking the RMD from your IRA during tax year 2009. This waiver means that you are not required to take a distribution (i.e., redeem a minimum amount) from your IRA for the current tax year.

Please note:
This temporary suspension applies only to tax year 2009.

featured signage and imagery that expressed gratitude to all veterans for their sacrifice in fighting for freedom. At the head of the contingent proceeded the PSFCU famed Mobile Branch – a large vehicle equipped to handle all functions of its brick-and-mortar counterparts.

Fryzel, the first Polish-American to be appointed to the NCUA board, said: "The PSFCU is a major player in the financial sector of New York and New Jersey, and its sponsorship of countless community activities is a clear showing of the credit union philosophy of member commitment."

In addition to the Pulaski Parade, the PSFCU also sponsors more than 70 major community events throughout the year, and has awarded more than \$1.8 million in scholarships to local students over the past 9 years.

"The PSFCU is doing a fantastic job of meeting the needs of its members, and I would ask that they continue to support their credit union because its efforts not only help the members, but the entire Polish community," commented Fryzel, who paid an official whole-day visit to Polish & Slavic Federal Credit Union the following Monday.

 *How to avoid account closure*

Understanding Dormant Accounts

Sometimes people open bank accounts, deposit funds, and then forget about them or move without informing their financial institution about the change in their address. Credit unions, just like other financial institutions, are obligated to follow state rules and regulations to properly handle dormant accounts. Accounts that sit unused usually due to their owner's death, inadvertence or forgetfulness become dormant, and the funds are subject to escheatment to the state. Savings and checking accounts are deemed dormant after five years (for New York) and three years (for New Jersey) of inactivity on the account between the owner, i.e., the person or legal representative having an interest in the account, and the holder, i.e., the credit union who has possession of the money in the account. Any activity on the account, however, such as an owner's increase or decrease of the funds, correspondence with the holder concerning the funds, or some acknowledgement by the owner of an interest or knowledge of the

funds, will protect the account from becoming dormant.

If an account becomes dormant, the holder is required to report the unused, abandoned or unclaimed funds to the state. A credit union's failure to accurately and timely report dormant accounts may result in penalties.

How to avoid having a dormant account?

- Ensure that your address information maintained by the Credit Union is accurate. Immediately inform the Credit Union of any changes or discrepancies in your address.
- Perform regular transactions on your account; at a minimum once a year.
- Maintain a record of your account, such as a passbook or statement, in a safe environment to protect them from being lost or destroyed.
- Consider consolidating several of your accounts into one. This will simplify the process of record keeping and maintaining multiple accounts.

Important Issues

...continued from page 5

this country. Mr. Fryzel expressed a very favorable opinion about our institution and about our activities on behalf of the Polonia. His positive remarks were also important due to the fact that he always proudly stresses his Polish ethnicity. As a Chicago resident who knows the local Polish community well, Mr. Fryzel voiced his support for our plans of opening PSFCU branches in Chicago and confirmed that we have an excellent opportunity to achieve financial success there. A day earlier, Mr. Fryzel, having been nominated the Honorary Grand Marshal of the Pulaski Parade, joined the PSFCU contingent during the annual event. Our Credit Union showed its excellent form during the Parade, while our float and the Mobile Branch met with usual high interest. I am pleased to note that a record number of employees took part in this year's Parade, showing their loyalty to our institution and support of the Polish community.

The Parade usually signals the beginning of the Polish Heritage Month celebrations, which traditionally take part in the month of October. On this occasion, we have prepared a very attractive promotion, whereby every member can choose any term share and increase his interest rate by 1% (up to \$10,000). Those applying for a mortgage loan can, in turn, save \$350 since, for the duration of the promotion, we have waived mortgage application fee. I would also like to mention the latest new initiative for our senior members, for whom we have organized a trip to American Częstochowa. Judging by the number of participants – we managed to fill 10 buses – our seniors enjoyed this idea and a lot of them have expressed their desire to participate in such trip next year. I am certain that we will keep organizing such events in the future. As always, elections to our Board of Elections proved to be an important event of the past few months. This year's "You Vote – You Decide" campaign proved to be very effective since 10,150 members cast their votes this time, nearly three times as many as in previous year. I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere thanks to all those who took part in the elections. I also would like to congratulate newly elected members of the Board of Directors, Ms. Elżbieta Baumgartner, Mr. Tomasz Bortnik, Mr. Adam Grochecki and Mr. Jan Sporek. I wish them a lot of success working for the mutual benefit of the members of our Credit Union.

Bogdan Chmielewski
Chief Executive Officer

 Our Credit Union Hosts Former NCUA Chairman

M. Fryzel at the PSFCU

Mr. Michael Fryzel, current NCUA (National Credit Union Administration) Board Member and former Chairman of this institution, paid a courtesy visit to our Credit Union on Monday, October 5. NCUA is a federal institution supervising American credit unions and a visit of its high-ranking official is always a great distinction and honor for any credit union. This year, our Credit Union met with this distinction for the second time – in June, PSFCU was visited by Rodney Hood, Deputy Chairman of NCUA.

A day earlier, Mr. Fryzel took part in the Pulaski Parade as a special guest of our Credit Union and the Honorary Grand Marshal of the Parade. During the visit at our headquarters located at 100 McGuinness Blvd. in Brooklyn, Mr. Fryzel met with PSFCU Management, Board of Directors, Supervisory Committee and employees. Mr. Fryzel, who eagerly stresses his Polish ethnicity, did not refrain from praising our Credit Union. "You're doing a fantastic job, and your management is making the right decisions. Expansion to Chicago is an excellent move," Fryzel commented during the meeting and added that PSFCU has an enormous opportunity to be successful in Chicago, where Poles and Americans of Polish origin have established a community almost as large as major Polish cities.

Taking advantage of the presence of such high-ranking representative of our regulatory agency, PSFCU volunteers and employees asked Mr. Fryzel numerous questions concerning the problems currently faced by corporate credit unions and the issue of

support for these institutions which has to be paid by remaining credit unions, including PSFCU. Mr. Fryzel expressed his conviction that corporate credit unions, which are currently governed directly by NCUA, already have the worst behind them and assured that, owing to the received assistance, they will still be able to perform the important role of providing financial services to American credit unions.

Mr. Fryzel was also optimistic about the future of the credit union movement, stressing the fact that their financial struggles are significantly lesser than those currently faced by the banks. He admired the fact that at such a difficult time, PSFCU is not only profitable but also seeks avenues of future growth.

After the official meeting was over, our Credit Union treated our distinguished guest to lunch at one of Greenpoint's Polish restaurants where he was able to taste authentic Polish cuisine.



M. Fryzel with PSFCU management and the members of the PSFCU Board of Directors

Trip to American Czestochowa

...continued from page 5

attendees had to be PSFCU members aged 60 and above.

On the same day, the Sanctuary hosted the 44th Polish-American Festival, the largest such Polish event in the US. Every year, a dozen or so thousand pilgrims flock to the Sanctuary to attend the event.

10 buses with nearly 450 PSFCU members departed from branches in New York and New Jersey to Pennsylvania to take part in a mass celebrated for our Members by the Pauline Fathers. All trip participants received gifts, soft drinks, snacks and PSFCU promotional materials.

Representatives of our Credit Union were also present on each bus. After the mass,

PSFCU pilgrims attended a meeting, organized specially for them, with Rev. Tadeusz Lizyńczyk who familiarized them with the history and activities of the Sanctuary and with the mission of the Pauline fathers.

After the meeting, members of our Credit Union had an opportunity to visit a medieval Polish village, view traditional Old Polish costumes and have a hot meal provided by PSFCU to all trip participants.

Judging by numerous comments from trip participants, everyone had a good time and was hoping to be able to join an even bigger group for a similar trip next year. We are happy to have been able to prove yet again that our Credit Union is more than a bank.