Aside from offering complex financial services to the Polish-American community, Polish & Slavic Federal Credit Union is also involved in numerous community initiatives, for example offering free medical screenings to PSFCU members and local communities.

On March 23, 2013, in cooperation with the American Cancer Society, PSFCU provided free cancer screenings to our members and other New York State residents at our branch in Maspeth. This was the eighth medical screening session organized by PSFCU, but the first one involving cancer screenings. The sign-up list filled up within one week after the information about the screening was released. For that reason, we have decided to hold an additional session on April 13. PSFCU closed its parking lot for the huge American Cancer Society bus, equipped with specialized medical equipment, where the screenings were being conducted. We also made our facilities available for this event and provided our members with Polish language

Cancer Screenings at PSFCU

An informative session about financing higher education, sponsored by our Credit Union, was held on Friday, February 22, 2013 at the PSFCU branch in Clifton. The seminar series, organized for years by the Polish Students Organization, is extremely popular among the Polish youth in the US. Both potential students and their parents eagerly participate in these meetings to learn how to ensure funds for studying in America.

Dr. Katarzyna Kowalska conducted the interactive lecture about the structure of college education in the United States. She talked about the cost of studying, she spoke about financial aid for students and about calculating the family's potential education expenses, and she presented the scholarship programs available from Polonia organizations.

Mini Studies 4U at the Clifton Branch

Dear Members,

At the beginning of January, our Credit Union entered a new year of its existence. We are very proud that, despite the prolonged difficult market situation, our institution growth and continued trust of our community. In spite of external factors, we take care to ensure that PSFCU achieves the best possible results and are happy to see it continue to grow.

The past two decades were characterized by the dynamic extension of our Credit Union's footprint. We have opened branches in new Polish communities in order to provide our services to an increasing number of Polish clients. As a proof of the correctness of this decision, PSFCU is able to continue its development even when new immigration from Poland, for years the primary factor of our growth, has slowed down to such an extent that it now has minimal influence over our expansion. Currently our Credit Union has already sixteen branches in the states of New York, New Jersey and Illinois. In February of this year, our branch in Linden, NJ celebrated its tenth anniversary. On this occasion, PSFCU members visiting the branch on Saturday, February 16 had an opportunity to receive refreshments and company premiums. We also held an anniversary drawing of prizes – gift baskets with Polish sweets and PSFCU Gift Cards.

We strive to repay the trust placed in us by our members offering them the best possible financial products and introducing new, attractive services. We are currently working on introducing a new service which will help

Happy Easter!

TO ALL OUR MEMBERS, THEIR FAMILIES
AND ALL OF POLONIA
FROM THE BOTTOM OF OUR HEARTS
PSFCU members avoid penalty fees related to checking account overdrafts. In March we also began final testing of remote check deposits with a smart phone using PSFCU Mobile Banking. We hope to release this service to our members during the second quarter of this year.

We are very satisfied with positive indicators concerning our expansion to the state of Illinois. Good operating results of our branches in that state prove that the decision to enter that market was absolutely correct. In order to remain competitive, our Credit Union must grow; because of the changing dynamics of the Polish population, we must follow our community. In this respect, Chicago was an obvious choice. The success of our expansion did not go unnoticed – Michael Fryzel, NCUA Board members, stated that our success in that market is a clear indication of their vision and analysis of the need for credit union services for thousands of local residents.

During the past months, I have received two petitions whose authors demanded calling a special meeting to remove several persons from the PSFCU Board of Directors and to revoke their Credit Union membership. In spite of the fact that both petitions were signed by a sufficient number of members, their content included significant flaws due to which both of them had to be rejected. For that reason, we organized an informational meeting of the Board of Directors with PSFCU members – it took place on March 15, 2013 at the PSFCU community room located at 100 McGuinness Blvd. in Greenpoint. At the meeting, detailed reasons for rejecting both petitions were presented. Ladies and Gentlemen, calling a special meeting is not only very expensive for the Credit Union and all of us, it should also serve as a last resort, when all other avenues have been exhausted. Therefore, such meeting cannot be called in an ill-conceived manner, based on improperly prepared petitions which would force us to violate the PSFCU Bylaws or NCUA recommendations and regulations. Not only would such decisions fail to improve the Credit Union situation, but they would also cause severe consequences on the part of PSFCU’s regulatory authorities.

When you receive this copy of our quarterly newsletter, elections to the Board of Directors will be in full swing. It is a very important period because through the election of directors, members have the best opportunity to influence the direction in which our Credit Union will develop. I strongly encourage you to familiarize yourselves with the qualifications of persons running for the Board and to take part in the election. This is the only way of having a direct input in PSFCU’s further development.

The annual meeting of PSFCU members will be held on May 19; at the meeting, reports for fiscal year 2012 will be presented and results of elections to the PSFCU Board of Directors will be announced. I will have the honor of chairing that meeting for the last time in my capacity of the Chairperson of the Board of Directors. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all members of the Board for their productive cooperation and wish them luck and success, particularly in taking care of our common good – our Credit Union.

Because this issue of the UNIA newsletter is being prepared before the Easter holidays, I would also like to conclude by wishing all PSFCU members, employees and volunteers a very healthy, peaceful and happy Easter.

Sincerely,

Marzena Wierzbowska
Chairperson of the PSFCU Board of Directors

Mini Studia 4U...

PSFCU representatives spoke about the program for financing education available through our Credit Union and answered questions regarding the criteria for applying for Credit Union Student Choice loans as well as PSFCU credit cards offering competitive rates.

The “Mini Studies 4U” informative session was scheduled to last one and a half hours but it took about three hours due to the record attendance. Right after 7:00 pm, the branch started to overcrowd and over 80 people filled the room before the lecture started. PSFCU offered refreshments for the participants.

Following the successful meeting, at the request of numerous participants, Dr. Kowalska promised to prepare another session dealing with other aspects of college studies in the US. PSFCU pledged to organize and sponsor the event. Details will be available soon at www.psfcu.com and on our Facebook page.

Cancer Screenings...

The screenings included mammography for women aged 40-64, colorectal cancer tests for persons aged 50 and above and referrals for cervical cancer tests to physicians participating in the program. A mammography test on average took only a few minutes

“I have come here today for the first, but definitely not the last time. Such screenings are usually very expensive, so I am very happy that the Credit Union offers such programs for free; that is what separates it from a mere bank” – said Ms. Urszula Szmuc, who took the opportunity to test her health.

Numerous persons admitted that if not for the free screenings, they would not visit a doctor in the near future.

The screenings, which began at 9:00 AM, ended at approximately 5:00 PM. 62 women had a mammography test and 46 colorectal cancer test kits were provided. American Cancer Society employees praised our Credit Union for the excellent organization of the event and thanked us for our cooperation. The next screening session will be held on April 13.

Relay for Life

We are proud to announce that PSFCU employees have joined the American Cancer Society and are actively participating in efforts to raise funds for research aimed at combating this deadly disease. We encourage our members to join us in this initiative! Simply log on to www.psfcu.com, click the Help Us Fight Against Cancer link and select or join either one of our teams or an individual participant.

Fundraising will end in June with an all-night event called Relay for Life. Our Credit Union will participate in the events in Clark, NJ on June 14-15 and in Glendale, NY on June 22-23. We encourage our Members to participate in these events and to donate money to this honorable cause.
NEW REGULATIONS GOVERNING THE UNDERWRITING OF MORTGAGE LOANS

A new regulation called the Ability-to-Repay and Qualified Mortgage Rule is scheduled to go into effect on January 10, 2014. This reform influences the mortgage application process and imposes new lending criteria on us and our members. We asked William Arnold, Chief Lending Officer at the PSFCU about the new regulations and what they practically mean for PSFCU.

WA: The Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act, introduced in 2010, mandates lenders to take into consideration a lot more factors when evaluating mortgage loans. This is ensured by the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau’s (CFPB) Ability-to-Repay rule. Primarily, what the new law means is that as of the beginning of 2014, lending institutions will no longer be able to offer the so-called ‘stated income’ loans. When a person applies for a mortgage with a financial institution, he or she may not understand what kind of financial commitment they are making. They may assume that lenders and mortgage brokers will not offer them a loan they cannot afford. Unfortunately, in the past, lenders too often underwrote mortgages which could not be paid back by consumers, so many people ended up in delinquency and foreclosure. The new regulation imposes upon us a requirement to look at a consumer’s financial information before making a mortgage loan and be sure that the consumer can afford to repay the loan he or she takes.

UNIA: Does this new regulation affect mortgage loans only?

WA: This rule applies to most mortgage loans. However, it excludes certain types of loans, like home equity lines of credit, timeshare plans, reverse mortgages, and temporary loans. This rule also creates a category of loans that have certain, more stable features. This category of loans is called Qualified Mortgages (QM). Lenders that make QMs are presumed to have met the Ability-to-Repay requirements.

UNIA: What is the purpose of the Qualified Mortgages rule?

WA: The Ability-to-Repay/QM rule will help make sure that you get a mortgage loan you can afford. The rule will also help make sure that responsible lenders aren’t forced to compete with reckless lenders engaged in risky practices. Under the Ability-to-Repay rule, before you get a mortgage loan, the lender will have to determine if you will have the ability to repay the loan.

UNIA: What documentation can our members expect to be asked for when applying for a mortgage now?

WA: The lender will have to verify your financial information using standard documents, such as a W-2 or a pay stub. Generally, the lender must determine that you can repay the loan.

UNIA: What about promotional rates that can be offered for a certain amount of time? Does the new regulation apply to these as well?

WA: Yes, the rule does include exceptions for refinancing a consumer out of a risky loan. In specific circumstances, the Ability-to-Repay rule may not apply to a creditor refinancing a borrower from a risky mortgage to a more stable mortgage. An example of a risky loan could be an interest-only loan. An example of a more stable mortgage could be a fixed-rate mortgage.

UNIA: So, to summarize, what are the main features of Qualified Mortgages?

WA: In order to become Qualified Mortgages, offered products cannot have the following loan features:

• Your other debts
• Your monthly debt payments, including the mortgage, compared to your monthly income (“debt-to-income ratio”). The lender may also look at how much money you have left over each month after paying your debts. Basically, you must have enough assets or income to be able to pay back the mortgage. The lender must determine that you can repay the loan. The lender must also look at your debt-to-income ratio or the amount of money you’ll have left each month to pay for things like food and utilities.

UNIA: Thank you for the interview.
What’s New at PSFCU

Mobile Deposits Coming Soon!

Mobile deposit gives our members the ability to make check deposits without going to the branch. By utilizing smartphones, either iPhone or Android devices, all members have to do is take a picture of the front and back of checks and they will be able to deposit these checks directly into their PSFCU checking accounts. In order to have this functionality, members just need to install a PSFCU Mobile Banking app and enroll in PSFCU’s mobile banking system. PSFCU is currently testing this functionality internally and is hoping to have it available to our members during the 2nd quarter of this year.

Linden Branch Turns 10!

The Linden branch of our Credit Union celebrated its 10th anniversary on Saturday, February 16. Numerous attractions were prepared for our members to celebrate this occasion. Ms. Barbara Zawłocza, Manager of the Linden branch, offered refreshments to visiting guests, who also received PSFCU premiums. On March 3, an anniversary prize drawing was held; 10 gift baskets with sweets and PSFCU gift cards were given to ten lucky winners who filled out entry forms at the Linden branch between February 1 and February 28, 2013.

Online Mortgage Applications

You will soon be able to submit an application for a PSFCU mortgage loan online. For the past several months, our Lending Department has been working on providing our members with the ability to submit applications for such loans from their home computers. The platform is currently being tested at PSFCU branches and will soon be publicly available through our website.

PSFCU Scholarship Program

The deadline for submitting applications for PSFCU scholarships for college students passed on March 15, 2013. Received applications will be reviewed by the Scholarship Committee and the results will be announced in May. We would like to remind you that only complete scholarship applications will be considered. Up-to-date information about the PSFCU Scholarship programs can be found on our website at www.psfcu.com.

PSFCU Supports Greenpoint Homeless

A Christmas evening for the invited guests and the homeless residents of Greenpoint took place on Friday, January 11, 2013 at a building owned by the Church of Ascension located at 122 Java Street in Brooklyn, NY.

Treat yourself to a gift this Spring!

PSFCU Auto Loans as low as

1.99% APR*

*APR = Annual Percentage Rate. Promotional rate of 1.99% applies to 1-3 year new and used car loans. Promotion is valid from March 20 until May 31, 2013. Registration of automatic loan payment from a PSFCU checking account and an active Debit Card are required to obtain the promotional rate. Without automatic payment, and active Debit Card, the rate will be 0.25% higher. All loans are subject to credit approval and verification. Other restrictions may apply. For additional information concerning this promotion and other credit offers, call 1-855-PSFCU-4U or log on to www.psfcu.com.