# Our Credit Union

**Vol. 2 | No. 5 (17) | Year 2015**May 2015

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

Dear Members.

The first quarter of 2015 is already behind us. I am pleased to share the news with you that it was a successful threemonth period for our



institution. The assets of the Polish & Slavic Federal Credit Union grew by \$10,800,000, deposits increased by \$7,000,000, and the loans we granted also grew by \$9,300,000. We are especially pleased that 1947 people joined us in the first quarter of this year, bringing the total membership of our Credit Union to 82,600 at the end of March 2015.

There are many factors that make our Credit Union a very attractive financial institution. One of them is definitely the wide array of promotions we offer you every month. With the conclusion of tax season, on April 15 we ended our IRA promotion, under which we offered an extremely attractive interest rate of 3.10% on five-year IRA certificates. A whopping 1726 members took advantage of this special offer this year, which is a record number. I strongly encourage you to regularly check out our promotional offers and to take advantage of them.

On many occasions we have pointed out that the difference between our Credit Union and a commercial bank lies primarily in the ownership structure. Banks are owned by shareholders and investors, while the Credit Union is co-owned by all of its members, meaning every one of you who enjoys our products and services. As co-owners of our

Credit Union, I would like to invite you to attend the Annual Meeting, which this year will be held on May 17 at the Polish Cultural Foundation in Clark, NJ. At the meeting, we will present the annual reports and the results of the election to the Board of Directors, in which you can vote until May 12.

Out Credit Union is the showcase of the US Polish community's success and is gladly visited by distinguished guests from the United States and Poland. In recent weeks we had the pleasure of hosting Justyna Kowalczyk, whose competition in cross country skiing excited Poles as well as the world. We would like to thank Ms. Kowalczyk for her visit and I can assure you that in the future there will certainly be many other opportunities to meet no less illustrious guests at our Credit Union.

I therefore invite you to visit our branches frequently, actively keep track of us online and in the social media, and above all to take advantage of our financial products and services. After all, our Credit Union is more than just a bank!

Bogdan Chmielewski PSFCU President/CEO



 ${\it PSFCU delegation lays flowers under the Smolensk plaque at the Doylestown Sanctuary cemetery}$ 

#### **PSFCU In Numbers**

information as of March 31, 2015

**Assets** 

\$1,622,174,923

Loans

\$883,277,902

Net Worth

\$154,296,532

**Number of Members** 

82,600

## Smolensk Plaque at American Czestochowa

A plaque commemorating the victims of the airplane crash near Smolensk was unveiled in Doylestown, Pennsylvania. An obelisk has risen next to the Katyn monument at the cemetery at the St. Mary's shrine in American Czestochowa. Our Credit Union sponsored the observance of the 75th anniversary of the Katyn massacre and the fifth anniversary of the Smolensk disaster.

"In memory of the 96 Poles, including the President of Poland Lech Kaczynski, who died on April 10 in an airplane crash near Smolensk on their way to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the Soviet genocide of Polish army officers, prisoners of war, in 1940 in the Katyn forest" the plaque inscription reads. It is a replica of the plaque taken to Smolensk by family members of the victims of the 2010 crash, which was later surreptitiously removed by the Russians.

The plaque unveiling was preceded by a procession of several hundred people, preceded by standard bearers. The Mass was celebrated by Father Rafal Walczyk, Prior of the Pauline Fathers at American Czesto-

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### Smolensk Plaque...

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chowa, who gave a special sermon on topics such as the need for truth in public life.

The two-day observance was organized with the cooperation of many Polish ethnic organizations such as the Polish American Congress, the American Polish Newspaper Clubs, the Kosciuszko Foundation and the

Friends of Radio Maria. The Committee invited guests from Poland, including Polish Congressman Antoni Macierewicz, who is Chairman of the Polish House of Representatives Commission for Investigation of the Smolensk Disaster, Pilot Colonel Artur Wosztyl, and victims' family members Andrzej Melak and Pawel Kurtyka. Also present were numerous Commission experts: Dr. Kazimierz Nowaczyk, Prof. Wieslaw

Binienda, Dr. Bogdan Gajewski, Prof. Chris Cieszewski and Dr. Glen Jorgensen.

The observance took place thanks to the financial support of the Polish & Slavic Federal Credit Union, the Adam M. Bak Foundation, and many Polish-American businessmen and individuals. On behalf of the members of our Credit Union, the PSFCU representatives in attendance laid a symbolic bouquet of flowers at the plaque.

## Olympic Champion Justyna Kowalczyk at Our Credit Union

Justyna Kowalczyk, multiple Olympic and world champion in cross-country skiing, met with the members of our Credit Union.

The queen of Polish skiing met with fans at the PSFCU branches on McGuinness Blvd in Greenpoint, New York, and in Clifton, New Jersey. The meetings were attended by dozens of fans of all ages who had the opportunity to ask questions, get Justyna Kowalczyk's autograph and take a keepsake photo with her. "I know that I have a lot of fantastic fans in the Polish-American community. April is my free time and I'm glad that I could come here," said Kowal czyk when asked why she traveled to the United States. "They say that you live fast in New York; I'm living a little faster. Time is very important, I want to spend it with my fans, with my relatives; I have to train, I have to learn, I like this way of life, and I'd like to make the best use of every single minute," she added.

Besides the meetings with fans at PSFCU branches, Justyna Kowalczyk was the guest of honor at the second edition of the Polonia 5K Run in Wallington, New Jersey. Unfortunately, the two-time Olympic gold



Federal Credit Union was the main sponsor of the Polonia 5K Run, which has probably become a permanent item on the calendar of Polish community athletic events held around the May 3 Constitution holiday.



 ${\it Justyna~Kowalczyk~with~representatives~of~the~PSFCU~Board~of~Directors~and~McGuinness~branch~employees}$ 

# Share Your Memories With Us

For its upcoming 40th anniversary, the Polish & Slavic Federal Credit Union is looking for interesting materials related to the history of our Credit Union. We are particularly interested in original documents from the beginning of our operations in late 1970s and 1980s. If you are still in possession of old savings passbooks, certificates, loan documents, receipts, photos, or promotional materials, and would like to share them with us, please contact us at marketing@psfcu.net or call 973-808-3240, ext. 6134.

Those of you who send us interesting materials will participate in the drawing of attractive gifts - you will have a chance to win one of 10 PSFCU T-shirts auto-graphed by Polish champions from Sochi Winter Olympics: Zbigniew Brodka or Justyna Kowalczyk.



Olympic Champion at the PSFCU branch in Clifton

## Order a PSFCU EMV Chip Credit Card

Beginning May 4, our Credit Union members can order a PSFCU VISA® credit card with an EMV chip. The chip card means more security and comfort of use, particularly when traveling abroad.

Credit cards with an electronic EMV circuit (an acronym for Europay, Master-Card, VISA), colloquially called chip cards, are safer than magnetic strip cards. The EMV chip enables the coding and decoding of sent information, as well as the generation and verification of electronic signatures. The cardholder's PIN code is stored in the

card's EMV chip, which allows for its verification even if the terminal loses connection with the financial network.

The EMV standard has already been widely adopted overseas, particularly in Europe, and magnetic strip cards may no longer be accepted in numerous destinations. Therefore, we recommend to those of you planning a vacation abroad to replace your old VISA® credit card with a new EMV chip card. You can do that at any PSFCU branch or by calling 1.855.PSFCU.4U.

We would also like to remind you that



after you receive your new card, you will need to update any automatic payments you have registered using the PSFCU VISA® credit card.

#### Attractive Auto Loans at Our Credit Union

Take advantage of the Spring auto loan promotion starting at 1.79% APR. Offer is valid until June 30, 2015.

Spring is a perfect time to think about buying a car. Warmer days and nights make it worth thinking about driving on family picnics together. You can also visit your parents or to go to your children's graduation. It's high time to plan your vacation trips. Just imagine a family trip in a new car this summer!

Through the end of June, the Polish & Slavic Federal Credit Union is offering attractive interest rates not only for new cars, but for used ones as well. The interest

rates offered by our Credit Union are competitive with those offered by other financial institutions and are as follows:

- New car loans up to \$100,000, loan term up to 3 years: 1.79% APR.
- New car loans up to \$100,000, loan term 4 to 5 years: 1.99% APR.
- Used car loans up to \$60,000, loan term up to 3 years: 1.89% APR.
- Used car loans up to \$60,000, loan term 4 to 5 years: 2.19% APR.

In addition to the attractive interest rates, our Credit Union features a simple and very accessible way to submit loan applications at PSFCU branches or online at www.NaszaUnia.com

APR = Annual Percentage Rate. All loans are subject to credit approval and verification. Promotional rate of 1.79% applies to 1 - 3 year new car loans. Promotion is valid from March 30 until June 30, 2015. Registration of automatic loan payment from a PSFCU checking account and an active Debit Card are required to obtain the promotional rate. Monthly payment of a 3-year loan at 1.79% is \$28.55 for every \$1,000 borrowed. Without automatic payment, and active Debit Card, the rate will be 0.25% higher. Other rates and terms apply. 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.





\*APR = Annual Percentage Rate. All loans are subject to credit approval and verification. Promotional rate of 1.79% applies to 1 - 3 year new car loans. Promotion is valid from March 30 until June 30, 2015. Registration of automatic loan payment from a PSFCU checking account and an active Debit Card are required to obtain the promotional rate. Monthly payment of a 3-year loan at 1.79% is \$28.55 for every \$1,000 borrowed. Without automatic payment, and active Debit Card, the rate will be 0.25% higher. Other rates and terms apply. 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.

#### **Double Your Fun!**

Now through July 20, you can earn double ScoreCard® Rewards points on the following travel-related purchases made with PSFCU VISA® credit cards:

- Airline tickets
- Hotel reservations
- Car Rentals

If you don't'have a PSFCU VISA® Credit Card yet, apply today. Promotion is valid until July 20, 2015 and applies to the Platinum and Bussiness VISA® Credit Cards. Rewards points are offered within the framework of the ScoreCard® program. For additional information related to the ScoreCard® rewards program, please log on to www.scorecardrewards.com

#### Q: What is ScoreCard® Rewards?

A: ScoreCard Rewards is a rewards program offering Points for qualifying purchases. Points can be redeemed for a variety of items, such as merchandise, airfare, hotels, travel packages, and more (each, an "award").

## Q: How do I log in to the ScoreCard® Rewards website?

A: On your first visit to the site www.scorecardrewards.com, you will need to set up your profile with a username and password. Once you create your profile you will log in with your username and password. You may browse the rewards site by clicking on the "Browse Catalog" link from the log in page. Point balance and

redemption capabilities are not available in the browse feature of the site.

## Q: How do I know how many Points I have?

A: Point balances are always available on www.scorecardrewards.com or you may call Award Headquarters at (800) 854-0790 to verify your balance.

#### Q: How do I earn Points?

A: Simply use your ScoreCard® Rewards participating card, each a "rewards card", for your purchases. You will earn Points based on your qualifying net purchases (purchases minus returns and/or other related credits). You will earn Points as long as your account is in good standing.

#### Q: How do I order awards?

A: For merchandise awards you can order merchandise awards using the online shopping feature at www.scorecardrewards.com. You can also call customer service at (800) 854-0790. You may also print an order form from www.scorecardrewards.com. Simply complete the form, including all information requested, and mail to the address printed on the form.

## Q: If I don't have enough Points for the award I want, can I buy the extra points I need?

A: No. A sufficient number of Points must be available in your account to redeem the

# Annual Meeting of the PSFCU

The Annual Meeting of the Polish & Slavic Federal Credit Union will be held on Sunday, May 17, 2015 at 2:00 PM at the Polish Cultural Foundation, 177 Broadway, Clark, NJ 07066. At this meeting, the results of our annual election will be reported to the membership. Due to the expiration of the terms of four directors, four seats on the Board of Directors will become available. The four candidates who receive the highest number of votes cast will serve three -year terms. During the meeting the annual reports for Fiscal Year 2014 will also be presented.

award you want. Points are not available for purchase. The easiest way to get more Points is to make purchases with PSFCUVISA® credit cards for airline tickets, hotel reservations or car rentals and earn double ScoreCard® Rewards points.

#### Q: When can I order awards?

A: You may order awards anytime during the Program as long as your account is in good standing (that is, not delinquent, in default, closed, canceled, blocked, suspended or otherwise inactive and not available for use as a source of funding) and you have enough Points to redeem the requested award.

\*All loans are subject to credit approval and income verification. PSFCU membership restrictions apply. Other restrictions may also apply.



Promotion is valid from April 20, 2015 until July 20 2015 and applies to the Platinum and Business VISA® Credit Cards. Rewards points are offered within the framework of the ScoreCard® program. For additional information related to the ScoreCard® rewards program, please log on to www.scorecardrewards.com

