

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE POLISH & SLAVIC FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

Dear PSFCU Members,

We are in the middle of the vacation season which, I hope, despite some limitations related to the ongoing pandemic, is very successful for all of you. Analyzing the transactions made with our debit and credit cards, we can see that this year, an increasing number of our members travel and spend their vacation away from home.

As your financial institution, we make every effort to ensure that your access to your funds during your travels is as easy as possible. In particular, I encourage you to use our debit and credit cards which, in addition to the ease of making any transactions both in the United States and abroad, also give you the opportunity to gain additional rewards points, which you will earn when using your card often to make payments. In turn, using our Online and Mobile Banking, you can monitor all transactions on your accounts on an ongoing basis. I would also like to remind you about the surcharge-free option to withdraw cash from over 33,000 ATMs located throughout the United States, which you can easily locate using our mobile application. Employees of our Member Services Center will be happy to help you in all situations related to our services.

The very low interest rates that have prevailed for over a year are one of the



effects of the pandemic. I encourage you to familiarize yourselves with the interest rates and terms of our mortgage loans, which are very competitive for anyone who is buying a home or thinking about refinancing an existing mortgage loan.

The reputation of our Credit Union crossed the borders of the United States long ago. We are recognized and appreciated primarily in Poland, where more than 10,000 of our members currently reside. Once again, I had the honor of meeting the First Lady of the Republic of Poland, Agata Kornhauser-Duda, who follows the activities of our Credit Union with great interest and repeatedly, together with President Andrzej Duda, expressed her appre-

ciation for the achievements and the work of the Polish & Slavic Federal Credit Union. This recognition is directed not only to our Credit Union's volunteers and employees, but also to all members whose loyalty and commitment are the basis of our success.

In closing, I wish all of you successful final weeks of your summer vacation. May the positive energy acquired during the vacation be a driving force for all of us in dealing with new initiatives in both personal and professional life.

Respectfully,

Bogdan Chmielewski
PSFCU President/CEO

PSFCU President/CEO Meets With the Polish First Lady

PSFCU President/CEO Bogdan Chmielewski met at the Presidential Palace in Warsaw with the First Lady of the Republic of Poland, Mrs. Agata Kornhauser-Duda on Monday, July 12. During the meeting, which was also attended by Minister Adam Kwiatkowski, the participants discussed the assistance provided by PSFCU to the Polish-American community during the COVID-19 pandemic. They also discussed the help provided by PSFCU to seniors during lockdowns and the economic effects of the pandemic in the U.S.

For seven years, PSFCU has been co-organizing the "Children's Holiday Smile" charity campaign, under which PSFCU

Members can make donations to selected hospices for children in Poland and to help underprivileged children in the U.S. On several occasions, this fundraiser included hospices recommended by the First Lady of the Republic of Poland.

The First Lady thanked Mr. Chmielewski for the contribution of PSFCU and the donors in supporting people who are in a very difficult situation. They discussed the developing palliative care in Poland, the needs of hospice patients and the facilities working on their behalf, as well as the next, eighth edition of the "Children's Holiday Smile" campaign, which will start this fall.

PSFCU In Numbers

information as of June 30, 2021

Assets

\$2,528,760,110

Loans

\$1,221,468,123

Net worth

\$219,579,654

Number of Members

107,071



PSFCU President/CEO Bogdan Chmielewski during the meeting with Polish First Lady

Photo: Grzegorz Jakubowski - KPRP

Protect Yourself Against Fraud

With the advent of new online and mobile technologies, it has become much easier to take control of your personal finances. What not so long ago required a visit to the branch and filling out a lot of paperwork, nowadays can be handled in a matter of minutes from your home computer or even using your mobile phone. Unfortunately, this also means that it is easier for scammers to try to either induce you to give up your financial resources or to elicit information that will allow them to do so.

The most common types of scams may target you through fake emails, text messages, voice calls, mail or even by someone who shows up at your front door unexpectedly. Usual scam techniques are designed to pressure you to send money quickly, not giving you enough time to reflect on the nature of the transaction. The best example is a phone call or message threatening you with law enforcement action and/or deportation, unless you quickly wire money via a service like PayPal® or in the form of Money Order/gift cards. Another common fraud technique, often used when you are selling something, is to send you a fraudulent check in an amount higher than the selling price set by you and then asking you to quickly send the balance somewhere else before you are notified by your financial institution that the original check was a fake.

Other type of fraudulent activity is aimed at eliciting your personal information to enable fraudsters to access your account directly. Again, these may be in the form of a phishing email, phone call or text message, usually alerting you to a problem or change in a credit application, locked account or credit card, etc. Scammers will ask you to provide identification information, allegedly to help verify your identity, e.g. in order to receive federal stimulus payments. If you receive such a phone call, e.g. from someone claiming to be from PSFCU, asking you for personal information in connection with a transaction or application you did not submit, do not respond. If you are not certain of the source of the call, hang up and call us back at our official toll-free number 1.855.773.2848. Do not trust caller ID – phone numbers can easily be spoofed and you may think someone is calling you from your area code, while in

fact it may be a call from overseas. Never provide any personally identifiable information unless you're absolutely certain the person and reason are legitimate.

If you receive an email from an unknown source, asking you to verify your identity in order to receive any kind of benefit or assistance, do not click on any included links. Clicking on such links may download malware or allow access to information on your device. Verify that the message is authentic and the sender's domain name is accurate and not misspelled. Also, please remember that PSFCU, IRS, or Social Security Administration employees will never ask you to provide any confidential personal information, account number or Social Security number through email or text message. For detailed information on scams related to the COVID-19 pandemic, please log on to Coronavirus Advice page on Federal Trade Commission's website (<https://www.ftc.gov/coronavirus/scams-consumer-advice>).

Keep Your Contact Info Up to Date

The simplest way to protect yourself against fraud is to update your contact information on your account. This way, if any suspicious activity is detected on your account, we will be able to contact you and verify the transaction.

This summer, this simple protective step comes with an added bonus. If you update the contact information on your PSFCU account by September 15, you will automatically be included in a prize drawing of one of four iPads. Detailed prize drawing information and official regulations are provided on the www.psfcu.com website, in the News section.

Consider enrolling in **e-statements**. E-statements are a convenient, safe and ecological alternative to paper statements, and they help you to prevent someone from gaining your financial information by stealing mail from your mailbox.

Debit Card SMS Fraud Alerts

If you have a PSFCU VISA® Debit Card, you don't have to worry about someone making an illegal transaction and you not knowing about it until you get your account statement or visit a Credit Union branch. You have the option to sign up for SMS Fraud Alerts. If a transaction seems suspicious, the monitoring system will immediately send a

verification text message to your mobile phone. Therefore, you can react immediately if any transaction is carried out by an unauthorized person.

You must register in advance to receive SMS fraud alerts on your mobile phone. Contact our Member Services Center to enroll; you will receive a mobile phone text message from 207-33 stating: "PSFCU Debit Card Fraud Alerts. Reply YES to enroll. Reply HELP for help. STOP to cancel".

Another good option is to use the **CardValet®** service. You need to download the **CardValet®** mobile phone app which lets PSFCU debit cardholders safeguard their cards from fraud with customized alerts and the ability to set transaction limits on cards. You also have the option to turn the card off and on, as needed.

Credit Card Controls and Member Alerts

Through our Online Banking credit card access, we provide our cardholders with a solution that allows them to manage various controls over their credit card accounts. They allow the cardholder to decline real-time transactions and receive notifications. When a transaction presents on the cardholder's account and meets the configured criteria of the Card Control, the transaction could be approved, declined and possibly the card locked. If triggered, it will block a cardholder's transaction from processing at the point of sale.

Member Alerts are notifications or alerts sent to the cardholder. Based on the Purchase Alerts the cardholders selected, they receive an alert via email or SMS text message. For example, if the cardholder requested to be notified of a transaction greater than \$100.00, they receive an alert via email or phone regarding a \$400.00 transaction processed.

Alerts are meant to notify cardholders of their activity, whereas Card Controls are meant to prevent activity or purchases from occurring if specified criteria are met.

Using the above simple advice and tools, you may significantly reduce the risk of falling prey to fraudulent activity. If, however, you feel you may have been a victim of a scam, please contact our Member Services Center immediately at 1.855.PSFCU.4U (1.855.773.2848).

PSFCU VISA® Card Rewards Programs

Is there anything better than your favorite book, concert or dream vacation? Yes - it's a book, concert or vacation you don't have to pay for! This is possible thanks to the rewards programs offered by PSFCU VISA® cards.

Rewards programs are a great way to maximize your profits when making everyday purchases. With each purchase transaction, you also receive rewards points, which you can then exchange for cash, attractive products or travel services. Some cards offer a fixed rate of rewards for all purchases, while others offer an increased rate for certain categories of expenses, such as travel or restaurants. Below we present rewards programs offered with PSFCU VISA® cards.

CU Rewards

CU Rewards is a rewards program offered to holders of certain PSFCU VISA® credit cards. VISA® Premier and Liberty cardholders participate in a program where the cardholder receives one rewards point for every dollar spent.

However, it is worth remembering to check the special offers on the program's website - www.curewards.com. You can find some special offers there, which will allow you to get even 10 or more points for one dollar spent. Collected points can be used to purchase attractive products or travel services.

Cash rewards

If you want a particularly attractive loyalty points program and cash rewards, the Elite VISA® Signature credit card is the natural choice. By using this card, CU Rewards will earn you 1.25 rewards points for every dollar spent on a purchase. If you do not have the Elite VISA® Signature card yet, you will receive additional 5,000 points if you spend \$1,500 in the first three months of card ownership. Unlike Premier and Liberty cards, you can also redeem your points for cash, which you can either transfer into your account or use to pay off your credit card bill.

Debit Card uChoose Rewards

Rewards points can also be collected

using a PSFCU debit card. By enrolling in the uChoose Rewards program, PSFCU VISA® debit cardholders will be awarded 1 point for every \$2 spent. Additionally, program members will be eligible for exclusive offers/promotions while earning as many as 10 points for each \$1 spent! All you need to do is take advantage of the current list of offers and participating vendors listed on the program website - www.uchooserewards.com.

The program also allows you to combine several cards (for example, cards of both spouses) on the same rewards account. The only condition is that the cards are of the same type, i.e. you cannot combine personal debit cards with business debit cards. Points will be awarded for signature transactions made using a registered debit card and additionally when making purchases in participating stores, either in person or online.

We encourage you to take advantage of PSFCU VISA® payment cards and associated rewards programs.

Low Rates on Mortgage Loans

After the economic downturn due to the COVID-19 pandemic, now is the best time to make the most of the low interest rates and take out a mortgage loan or take advantage of the PSFCU Home Equity Line of Credit (HELOC). We currently offer mortgage rates as low as 2.75% APR* and down payment

as low as 3%. To take advantage of our offer, just visit www.psfcu.com, where under „Mortgage Center” you will find all the necessary information to apply for a loan online. Our Credit Union offers mortgage loans in the states of: New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Connecticut, Illinois and Florida. If you are

planning to buy a house, do not hesitate, apply today!

APR – Annual Percentage Rate. Products and services available solely for PSFCU members. All loans are subject to credit approval and verification. The rate will be based on applicant's credit history and other factors. Purchase of a private mortgage insurance policy (PMI) is mandatory for all mortgages with a down payment lesser than 20%. Other restrictions may apply.

Double Your Deposit!

Make a check deposit using the PSFCU Mobile Banking application and get the chance to double your deposited amount up to **\$500** in our weekly drawing!

Weekly drawing of **3 double deposits***



Install the app

Promotional period begins July 5, 2021 and ends September 4, 2021. Promotion is available to PSFCU Mobile Banking users who make a qualifying check deposit using PSFCU Mobile Banking application. Users need to download and install the newest version of the PSFCU Mobile Banking app to be able to participate. Winner who deposits a check in the amount of up to \$500 will be eligible for a prize equal the amount of the check. Winner who deposits a check in the amount from \$500.01 - \$4,000 will be eligible for a prize in the amount of \$500. Maximum limit for check deposit(s) made via mobile banking is \$4,000 per day. Multiple check deposits made during promotional period will count for multiple entries. Prizes may be subject to IRS reporting. Additional restrictions may apply. Refer to Official Rules of Double Your Mobile Deposit Promotion available on PSFCU website for details.



What's New at Our Credit Union

The COVID-19 coronavirus pandemic has had a severe impact on our daily lives. As our everyday lives slowly return back to normal, our Credit Union tries to be present wherever something important is happening for the Polish-American community.

On Saturday, June 26, members of the PSFCU Board of Directors and the Supervisory Committee officially opened our Credit Union's newest 21st branch in Fairfield, New Jersey. According to tradition, the branch was blessed by Fr. Marek Chachlowski from the local parish. Visit us at 9 Law Dr., 2nd floor, Fairfield, NJ 07004, Monday - Friday 9:00 am - 7:00 pm, Saturday 9:00 am - 3:00 pm.



Olympic fencer visits PSFCU

Dagmara Wozniak, PSFCU member and a member of the US Olympic Fencing Team, visited the PSFCU Operations Center in Fairfield, NJ. Dagmara, student of the legendary fencing coach, Janusz Mlynek, visited our Credit Union together

with Francesca Russo, fellow member of the US women's saber team. Best of luck in Tokyo!

PSFCU in Connecticut

PSFCU representative in Connecticut, Dorota Ciszewska, participated in



the year-end ceremony at the St. John Paul II School of Polish Culture and Language at the church of St. Michael the Archangel in Bridgeport, CT. Our Credit Union funded monetary awards for high school graduates and other students, and sponsored the „Revive Old Photographs” project.

Ridgewood, NY Festival



Sunday, July 18 marked another edition of the traditional street festival on Myrtle Ave. in Ridgewood, NY. As always, PSFCU tent was present at the festival. Employees of the PSFCU branch in Ridgewood provided information about the latest promotions at our Credit Union, while attractive gifts awaited the youngest visitors.



DON'T GO ON VACATION WITHOUT IT!

Update your contact phone number and email address to protect your PSFCU account



You can win one of 4 iPads!

Promotional period begins July 1, 2021 and ends September 15, 2021. Promotion available to members in good standing who update their contact phone and email address on their existing PSFCU account during promotional period. Prizes may be subject to IRS reporting. Additional restrictions may apply. Refer to promotion terms and conditions available on PSFCU website for details.

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
EQUAL HOUSING LENDER
 PSFCU is an Equal Opportunity Lender.