

Szczytno SKOK enters into cooperation with its American credit union from Lawrenceville, Georgia

# BACK TO THE ROOTS



R. Marshall Boutwell (second from left) accompanied by the Mayor Ms. Danuta Górskia and the board of Szczytno SKOK: vice-president Ryszard Deptuła (first from left), President Szczepan Obryś (second from right) and Chairman of the Supervisory Board Mr. Piotr Kubiński (first from right)

Last Friday R. Marshall Boutwell, President of the Gwinnett Federal Credit Union, American equivalent of the Polish SKOK has visited Szczytno.

With nearly 50-years experience the Gwinnett Federal Credit Union was a model for Cooperative Savings and Credit Unions established in Poland in 1992. One of the initiators of this undertaking was then Vice-President of "Solidarność", later President Lech Kaczyński. SKOK like the Credit Union directed mainly towards people of lower income, who are socially and financially excluded, offer cheaper services than in big commercial banks. Today, the cooperative savings unions are not only the completely Polish entities but they are also a major chance for many Poles to improve their living standard.

**- Our clients have easier access to credits. Decisions are made almost at once on the spot in Szczytno and not in too distant headquarters where most of banks are located** – says Szczepan Olbryś, President of Regionalna SKOK im. św. Brata Alberta in Szczytno.

The CEO of Szczytno SKOK was considered the best manager of 2008, received "Feniks" award, a prestigious prize granted by Kasa Krajowa SKOK (National Association of Cooperative Savings and Credit Unions). In category of "the best foreign partner" Feniks prize went to the President of the Credit Union from the American city Lawrenceville – to Mr. R. Marshall Boutwell.

**- After the ceremony of handing over "Feniks" awards, Marshall Boutwell expressed his desire to establish closer contacts with our SKOK** – says Szczepan Olbryś. This proposal was accepted. Last week Marshall Boutwell arrived at Szczytno. The rich program of his visit included among others the sightseeing and meeting with the Mayor Danuta Górskia as well as talks on the scope of cooperation with SKOK in Szczytno.



### **Danuta Górskia, the Mayor of Szczytno city:**

*- I am glad that SKOK, the financial institution operating in the territory of our city has been developing. It covers with its activity Warmia and Mazuria region as well as Podlasie. It is very valuable for us/ SKOK participates actively in major event taken place in Szczytno and also support it financially. It is close to our residents. It is the very needed regional financial institution friendly to people.*

### **Marschall Boutwell:**

*- In two years time our Credit Union will celebrate the 50 Anniversary. SKOKs achieve their maturity only this year. I come to you with pleasure as I want to find here our roots, look back to remember where we come from.*