



UNICO NATIONAL

PASSAIC VALLEY CHAPTER
P.O. BOX 341
LITTLE FALLS, NJ 07424
PassaicValleyUNICO@gmail.com
www.PassaicValleyUNICO.org

MONTHLY MINUTES **October 10, 2018**

Date October 10, 2018
Place Amore Ristorante, Woodland Park
Time 7:00 pm Dinner ~ 8:00 pm Meeting
Opened 7:00 pm President Carmen Gaita
Prayer 7:01 pm Past National Sgt. At-Arms John Morano
Flag Salute 7:02 pm Past National Sgt. At-Arms John Morano

Guests & Members

Guests: Steve Calantone, UNICO NJ District IV Governor (Wayne Chapter)
Members: 30 members in attendance
Total at meeting: 31 total at meeting

Executive Board

<u>Attendance at meetings</u>	9/18	10/18	11/18	12/18	1/19	2/19	3/19	4/19	5/19	6/18
President: Carmen Gaita	☺	☺								
1 st VP: Eileen Wood	☺	☺								
2 nd VP: Pat Ligouri	☺	☺								
Secretary: Steve Pelonero	☺	☺								
Treasurer: Bruce Ponchak	☺	☺								
SgtAtArms: Dominick Bucci	☺	---								

Delegates at meetings

Jean Chomko	☺	☺
Joyce O'Hara	☺	☺
Eileen Wood	☺	☺

Board of Directors at meetings (6 past Chapter Presidents)

John Barbieri	☺	☺
Bob Appaluccio	---	☺
Steve Pelonero	☺	☺
Carmen Criscione	☺	☺
Sal Benvenuti	☺	☺
Angelo Verrone	☺	☺



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Past Chapter Presidents in attendance at meetings

	9/18	10/18	11/18	12/18	1/19	2/19	3/19	4/19	5/19	6/18
Joe Agresti PNP	☺	☺								
Bob Appaluccio	----	☺								
John Barbieri	☺	☺								
Sal Benvenuti	☺	☺								
Carmen Criscione	☺	☺								
John Morano	☺	☺								
Steve Pelonero	☺	☺								
Bruce Ponchak	☺	☺								
Chuck Russo	☺	☺								
Angelo Verrone	☺	---								

Opening Remarks

- President Carmen Gaita:
Carmen welcomed everyone. He noted that this year his goal was to help raise a lot money with our chapter to give away more to needy causes. He noted that our next meeting was to be again at Amore on November 14th and that our December meeting will be at Hollywood Pizza in Fairfield for a cost of approximately \$16.00. Carmen then asked District Governor Steve Calantone to swear in our newest member James Minnella from Little Falls
- 1st VP Eileen Wood:
Eileen welcomed everyone but said that she had no report to give
- 2nd VP Patrick Liguori:
Pat also said that he nothing to report on

Secretary Minutes

Secretary: Steve Pelonero

Steve noted that the minutes were emailed to all of the members and also printed and placed on the dinner tables at the meeting. He asked for motion to accept:

1st Sal Benvenuti
 2nd Joyce O'Hara
 Discussion: None
 All in favor: Yes



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Treasurer Report

Treasurer: Bruce Ponchak

Bruce noted that the treasurers report was emailed out and also printed. He asked for discussion and/or a motion to accept

1st Joe Agrestu PNP

2nd Frank Capalbo

Discussion: None

All in favor: Yes

Budget for 2018-2019

Chapter President Carmen said that the executive board and board of directors worked on and presented the budget at the September meeting. He noted that at this October meeting was the time to vote on it

Motions to accept made by:

1st Pat Liguori

2nd Sal Nocella

Discussion: None

All in favor: Yes

Good and Welfare: Sal Nocella

No report

Bills & Communications

- President Carmen Gaita reported that there were no bills
- Carmen also reported that tickets were received from the UNICO National Committee for the “Meet the President” night. Carmen asked who will be attending the dinner to meet President Lee Norelli on Tuesday, October 16th. The chapter will subsidize \$10 toward the ticket price of \$55. Checks to be made out for \$45.00 8 tickets were sold through our chapter: Carmen Gaita, John Morano, Carmen Criscione, Debbie Benvenuti, Joe Benvenuti, Chuck russo, Frank Capalbo, Bob Appaluccio ... 4 tickets were bought through National as officers: Joe Agresti PNP, Sal Benvenuti, Steve Pelonero, Pat Pelonero



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Standing Committees

- **Scholarship: Joe Agresti, PNP:**

- Joe noted that it was asked about memorializing and naming our extra scholarships. Joe said that we currently have two standing “Memorial Scholarships already in effect. On that note, we will keep the “**Joseph Curreri Memorial Scholarship**” as is. Joe noted that we will rename the “**Gerald Montanino Scholarship**” to the “**Gerald Montanino - Anthony Nappi Memorial Scholarship**”. Joe added that if additional scholarships are to be awarded, they will be named after a deceased member of our chapter (if any) from this year forward (too many to go back into the past years). We will also name and combine scholarship names if need be if a member donates \$250.00 based on how many scholarships are to be awarded in any given year. These will be a one-time in memory of scholarship. This years’ third scholarship will be named “**The Jean Giancola Scholarship**”

- **Brian Piccolo: Chuck Russo:**

- No report

Fundraising Committees

- **Community Service: Chuck Russo**

- Chuck reported that April 27 is the date that he asked for of ShopRite in Little Falls to be our date for our Food Pantry Drive. As always he will be looking for volunteers to help

- **Dine with UNICO: Joe Benvenuti**

- Joe reported that Thatcher McGee in Fairfield will again give back to our chapter 20% of the food bill totals in a four day period. The fliers have been printed, handed out, and are on our website. The dates are Monday through Thursday, October 22nd through the 25th. Proceeds from this fundraiser will go to Needy Families

- **Dinner for Two: Carmen Criscione**

- Carmen reported that the tickets are being printed. \$5.00 each or a book of 5 for \$20.00. The winner will get 12 gift certificates for restaurants

- **Food Pantry: Roni Corrado**

- Roni reported that Holy Angels is in need and that donations can be brought directly to the pantry or to any meeting

- **Golf Outing: Joe Barone**

- No report – Still too early



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- **Holiday Donations: Bob Appaluccio**
 - Bob reported in past years we have given to 5 families and that he would like to see that happen again. Currently he added we have budgeted \$1500.00. Donations from anyone who would like to make one must be brought to the November meeting so that we can get the gift cards distributed to the churches in time for the December holiday season

- **Overseas Soldiers: Pat Corrado**
 - Roni reported that Evelyn Tosi's grandson is now overseas and that we will start accepting items that we can ship to him. More information will follow. Roni also noted that it usually takes four weeks for a package to get there

- **Pasta Dinner: Dominick Bucci**
 - With Dominick not present at the meeting, Bob Appaluccio reported that our portion of the 140 tickets (70 to our chapter, 70 to Holy Cross Church) were already committed. The date of the dinner is Saturday, November 17th @ \$17.00 a ticket. If more tickets become available to us, Bob would let us know. There will be a 50/50 and basket of cheer raffle. A few members and business have made and committed to making donations such as meatballs, garlic bread, pasta, Cannoli, sauce, plates, and more. The only thing still needed is someone to make the salads. A sold out event

- **2020 Vision Wine Raffle: Steve Pelonero**
 - Steve reported that it is still too early to work on this fundraiser for the 2020 Convention. He said that he will get together after the first of the year with John Barbieri who got the permit and had the tickets printed for last years event.

- **Pig Roast: Joe Agresti PNP / Jim Minella**
 - Joe reported that January is the tentative month for the Pig Roast and that several places are being looked at. Jim Minnella offered his help to be a co-chair. A committee meeting will follow at the conclusion of this monthly meeting. More information will follow

- **Modells: Roni Corrado**
 - Roni reported that she is working on getting November and December coupons that can then be handed out to friends, schools, and family for getting a discount at Modells



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Non-Fundraising Committees

- **Heritage Day: Steve Pelonero**
 - Steve reported that there was not enough time to get the event for October (Italian Heritage Month). But a new month of May was being looked at. Steve went into a little detail of what was needed: postcards printed, stamps, Sal Nocella said that he would provide a Mozzarella making demonstration. And deserts, finger foods, etc are always needed. Postcards would be sent out to as many Italian names from a voter list with the hopes that they RSVP and like what UNICO is about along with our Italian Heritage, and that they would be interested in joining and helping UNICO. More information will follow. About two dedicated months are needed to prepare
- **Heritage Talk: Angelo Verrone**
 - No report
- **Membership: John Barbieri**
 - John reported that we were at 47 members
 - Six members have birthdays in October
 - Average age of our chapter is at 70
- **December Holiday Trip: Joe Agresti**
 - Joe reported that he needs a commitment on who will be attending Manganini Winery in Walkill NY. There will be a wine tasting followed by a dinner. The day typically starts at noon and is over by 5:30. Providing our own transportation there and back the cost of the tastsing and dinner is \$60.00
 - 25 people signed up for the day
- **Newsletter: Steve Pelonero**
 - In our 16th year
 - 156 Newsletters
 - September's Issue is at 10 Pages
- **Website: Steve Pelonero**
 - Steve reported that our chapter website is at 83,934 visits
 - At our last month October meeting we were at 83,820 visits
 - 114 visits since last meeting
 - New links, photos, YouTube movies, and sections are on the website
- **Christmas Meeting Dinner: Joe Agresti PNP**
 - Joe reported that our chapter Christmas dinner meeting will be at Hollywood Pizza in Fairfield. Approximate cost will be \$16.00. More information will follow
 - 26 people signed up to attend



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- **Christmas Tree Lighting: Joe Agresti PNP**
 - Joe reported that Candy Canes and possibly Hershey Kisses will be handed out at the Little Falls Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony. Joe asked if we could have a nice UNICO posted made up for display. A motion was made for \$100 to cover the cost
 - First by Pat Liguori
 - Second by Frank Capalbo
 - All were in favor
 - No discussion
 - **Easter Egg Hunt: Joe Agresti PNP & Pat Ligouri**
 - No report

National News

- October 16: Meet the President at the Venetion in Garfield
- November 9 and 10: Eastern Region in Philadelphia
- November 28: Cigar night fundraiser at the Brick House in Wyckoff for the 2019 Convention. The flier is in our newsletter
- February 28, March 1 & 2: Mid-Year Board meeting in Orlando FL
- March 21, 2019: UNICO National Hockey Night: Devils vs Bruins. If enough people Nationally commit, we could get recognized, possibly even on the ice
- The 2019 July National Convention will be at the Gaylord in Nashville, TN. The room rate is \$169.00 a night
- The 2020 July National Convention will be at the Sanibel Marriott in Fort Myers, FL. The room rate is \$169.00 a night

District News

- December 2, 2018. Tentative date for our NJ IV Christmas Dinner for Special Needs. Steve Calantone, our NJ IV District Governor, who was present at this meeting reported on the dinner and how great of an event it is to attend. More information will follow
- January 10, 2019. Steve Calantone also reported that the 2nd NJ IV District Meeting will be in January and hosted by the Bloomfield Chapter. More information on where will follow. Please let chapter president Carmen if you plan on attending as we always need to give a head count to the District Governor and/or the hosting chapter for the establishment
- Steve Calantone thanked our chapter for the hospitality for the evening



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Old Business

- Tee shirts ... Sal Benvenuto reported that several members at the meeting had on different styles and colors of the UNICO shirts. All are available at the UNICO National Office in Fairfield
- Banner Patches ... Joe Barone asked at the September meeting that an explanation of what each patch meant ... No discussion currently followed

New Business

- Steve Pelonero reported that in the budget is a line item for \$200 to be a booster sponsor in the UNICO National Calendar. Steve said that he would pledge the sponsorship, for the 2020 calendar, at the Eastern Region meeting in Philadelphia. When our pledge is recorded at the office and when we get the bill, we can then fulfill our budget line item
- Steve Pelonero reported that 8 members still have not yet paid their dues and that another letter will go out shortly after and a few days after this meeting
- Steve noted that with the mailing of actual dues letters to the households that two of our high school scholarship recipients “parents” have paid their dues for them for another year . Keeping their heritage alive

Adjournment

Motion was made to adjourn @ 9:39 pm

1st Pat Liguori

2nd Joe Benvenuti

All in favor

Respectfully Taken by

Steve Pelonero, Passaic Valley Chapter Secretary