



UNICO NATIONAL

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

MONTHLY MINUTES March 13, 2019

Date March 13, 2019
Place Amore Ristorante, Woodland Park
Dinner 7:00 pm 1st VP Eileen Wood welcomed everyone
Prayer 7:00 pm Sgt. At-Arms Dominick Bucci
Flag Salute 7:01 pm Sgt. At-Arms Dominick Bucci
Time 7:02 pm Dinner
Meeting 8:00 pm President Carmen Gaita opened the meeting

Members & Guests in Attendance

Members: 33
 Honored Guests: 3
 Returning Guests: 2

Executive Board

<u>Attendance at meetings</u>	<u>9/18</u>	<u>10/18</u>	<u>11/18</u>	<u>12/18</u>	<u>1/19</u>	<u>2/19</u>	<u>3/19</u>	<u>4/19</u>	<u>5/19</u>	<u>6/18</u>
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 thanked everyone for their support when his wife passed away
 - Carmen introduced 5 guests at the meeting, Sgt. Ed Moore, grandson of member Evelyn Tosi, Maria and Alexandra Swain, tentative new members, Pete Longo, tentative new member, and Fran Maglio who was a past member just attending our meeting as a friend of UNICO
 - Carmen said that the agenda for the evening was rather lengthy and asked if the committee chairs could possibly keep it to a minimum.
 - Carmen reported that our executive board and board of directors (with conversation by a few at this meeting) that our chapter start a \$5,000 fund for the 2020 convention seeing that our own member, Steve Pelonero, will be sworn in as UNICO National President that year. A motion was made by Jerry Gaeta and 2nd d by Joe Benvenuti, but it was tabled until the April meeting. After discussion by Joe Agresti PNP, Sal Benvenuti, and John Morano the motion was tabled because proper wording should be used because we are a 501c3 and we raise money for causes not events
- 1st VP Eileen Wood:
 - Eileen thanked everyone for attending
- 2nd VP Patrick Liguori:
 - No report



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Secretary Minutes

Secretary: Steve Pelonero

Steve reported that the minutes were emailed out and were also on the chapter website. Steve asked for a motion to accept

1st Frank Capalbo

2nd Mark BiFalco

Discussion: None

All in favor: Yes

Treasurer Report

Treasurer: Bruce Ponchak

Bruce reported that he emailed the treasurers report to everyone and talked about the budget with which the executive board and board of directors met as per constitution and revised it to current needs. Bruce asked for a motion to accept the treasurers report and also advised everyone that a vote would be taken at the April meeting for the budget

1st Sal Benvenuti

2nd Joe Benvenuti

Discussion: None

All in favor: Yes

Good and Welfare: Sal Nocella

- Carmen Gaita thanked everyone and the chapter for the support with the passing of his wife
- John Morano thanked everyone for the condolences received with the passing of his brother

Bills & Communications

- Carmen said that our chapter received a thank you for our donation to the Tunnel to Tower Association in the name of Roni Corrado
- Carmen noted that we received a flier to take an ad out in the Convention 2019 Ad Journal. Joe Agresti said that it was a line item in our budget for a full page in the amount of \$250.00
- It was reported that on April 25, Thursday, there is a convention Cigar Night Fundraiser at Picco Tavern in Hackensack, price is \$85.00



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Standing Committees

- **Scholarship: Chuck Russo & Joe Agresti, PNP:**
 - Chuck and Joe reported that the June 12 Scholarship Dinner will be at The Barnyard in Totowa. He urged, as well as other members, that all members attend this last event of our UNICO year. It is the Culmination of all of our work, and Service, as a UNICO member. There will be a sit-down dinner. The dinner was agreed to by the committee at \$40.00.
 - Joe said that \$5,600 was budgeted which would cover 4 scholarships and/or Study Abroad Grants and the cost of the Brian Piccolo and dinner costs for the recipients, parent, and teachers/coaches
 - Chuck reported that he was also looking into funds to resurrect the Presidential Cocktail Hour for members only which had started one hour before the dinner
 - It was asked if the committee consider lowering the standards to a 2.8 grade average. It was noted that it was too late this year, but that any student can apply regardless
 - It was also brought up that we do some of the scholarships be given out on a need be basis. If that was the case it was mentioned, then the families would have to submit their financials. There is also a section on the application where a student can fill out a certain situation if there was one
 - It was asked also if the executive board and board of directors would consider give from our chapter fund another \$2,000. It was started that it will be taken under advisement with an answer at the April meeting (at Amore in Woodland Park on the 2nd Wednesday of April)

Fundraising Committees

- **Community Service: Chuck Russo**
 - Chuck reported that Community Service Day is April 27th, Saturday. A sign up sheet was passed around and Chuck asked for two meetings now if members could make copies of the “Food List Handout” so that we have enough that day
 - Chuck noted that we have quite a few food pantries in our Passaic Valley area along with a Veterans Pantry in Paterson
 - It will be from 8 am – 4 pm at ShopRite of Little Falls
 - Please try to wear your UNICO shirt or jacket
 - Chuck also remarked that he will try to possibly get the P.V.H.S. clubs to help for their community service



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- **Dine with UNICO: Joe Benvenuti, Mark BiFalco, Jean Chomko**
 - It was noted by Steve Pelonero that Jeannie Chomko got the Town Tavern to give us two days at 10% back of sales on Monday and Tuesday, March 25 and 26. Steve handled out fliers to everyone and the mailings will go out to all members if they were not at the meeting

 - **Dinner for a Year: Carmen Criscione**
 - Carmen had raffle tickets to be passed out, along with a request letter, and ask all members to please sell them and also to please ask their favorite dining establishment for a dinner gift certificate. Carmen also noted that we are now a 501(c)3 which means the restaurants can claim it as a deduction. The winner will get gift certificates from 12 restaurants

 - **Food Pantry: Roni Corrado**
 - Roni noted that as always, food is always in need. Please bring your non-perishables to any meeting. Roni also noted that she will be looking into getting grant applications out there again this year

 - **Golf Outing: Joe Barone**
 - Joe reported that the date is June 10 at Preakness Valley GC (otherwise known as Passaic County). A committee meeting was held. The 2019 Golf Flier is on on chapter website. Please start asking your golf friends and family, and also for sponsors still at a cost of \$100

 - **Models Sporting Goods: Roni Corrado**
 - Roni report that we should be getting a check from Models in the amount of \$42.00

 - **Overseas Soldiers: Pat Corrado**
 - Evelyn Tosi's grandson, Sgt. Ed Moore was present and said that he is now in the reserves and ready to go to Jordan. A presentation from him to our chapter, and also from our chapter to him was made

 - **Pig Roast: Joe Agresti PNP / Jim Minella**
 - No report



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- **2020 Vision Wine Raffle: Steve Pelonero**

- Steve Pelonero reported that he had the tickets for the wine raffle, along with a request that each member donate a bottle of wine to the cause. He noted that there was 35 members present and if each could bring just one bottle that the criteria would be met. The refrigerator will be donated. Steve passed out the raffle tickets, books of 5. Steve noted that if all tickets were sold that this could be a \$5,000+ fund raiser for the 2020 convention. Steve also thanked John Barbieri for the handled of getting the tickets printed for both this and the Dinner for a Year raffle

- **2020 Convention Fundraiser: John Morano**

- John Morano reminded everyone that there will be a 2020 Convention fundraiser on October 4th at the Russian Hall ... a flier will be ready to pass out when the 2019 convention is over. John asked that everyone please keep the date open to support UNICO and our chapter in this endeavor @ just \$40.00 a person. Joe Agresti also said that our chapter should try to do more fundraising than just this one, for the convention, during the July 2019 year of UNICO

Non-Fundraising Committees

- **Easter Egg Hunt: Joe Agresti PNP**

- Joe reported that Woodland Park does a Bunny Breakfast and that we got the OK to help serve the pancakes also with the hiding of eggs. A sign up sheet was given out, also with the request that John Barbieri send out a sign up email request form. The date is Saturday, April 13th. A flier will be put on our website and in our newsletter soon

- **Heritage Talk: Angelo Verrone**

- No report

- **Membership: John Barbieri**

- John reported that we were at 48 members. In attendance at this meeting were two new members who paid their application fee: Maria Swain and Alexandra Swain, along with another who filled out an application: Peter Longo

- **Newsletter: Steve Pelonero**

- Steve reported that the February / March newsletter was sent out and is also on our chapter website



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Website: Steve Pelonero / John Barbieri

- Steve reported that there were 84,376 visits to our website. In February there were 84,306. Which is only up 70 visits over the month as compared to an average of 300 per month in the past

National News

- Steve Pelonero reported that the Convention will be held in Nashville TN at a room rate of \$169 a night. Wednesday through Saturday, July 24th, 25, 26 and 27. Even though rooms might be sold out, if someone still wants to go it is advised that you book a room at the new price and if UNICO National does not get more rooms added on at the advertised rate, and if you decide not to go, you have a week before the event to cancel. Steve noted that by booking soon, you will be placed on a wait list
- Steve reported that there is UNICO Hockey Night at the Newark Prudential Center, Thursday, March 21st. 7:00 pm game. Devils vs Bruins. The flier is on the UNICO National website and also in the UNICO National Photo Gallery Section. \$60.00 gets you the game and also a food voucher worth \$20.00
- Steve Pelonero noted that at present time we have 3 eligible delegates, president +2. Carmen Gaita noted that a vote will be taken at a future meeting for the delegate positions to be filled

District News

- Steve Pelonero reported that the next District IV meeting will be on Wednesday, March 20 in Sparta, on the Mohawk Lake Boardwalk, at Il Porto, Price for the dinner/meeting is \$35.00 ... Carmen Gaita asked for a hand raise to see how many would attend as it is an RSVP dinner. 5 members said yes

Old Business

- John Morano reminded everyone that there will be a 2020 Convention fundraiser on October 4th at the Russian Hall ... a flier will be ready to pass out when the 2019 convention is over. John asked that everyone please keep the date open to support UNICO and our chapter in this endeavor @ just \$40.00. Joe Agresti also said that our chapter should try to do more fundraising than just this one, for the convention, during the July 2019 year of UNICO

New Business

- Carmen Gaita asked Henry Youngster to pass on the gift to be presented to our guest, Sgt. Ed Moore. Sgt. Moore also presented Carmen a gift from his platoon



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Adjournment

Motion was made to adjourn @ 10:20 pm

1st Joyce O'Hara 2nd John Barbieri All were in favor

Respectfully Taken by

Steve Pelonero, Passaic Valley Chapter Secretary