



# UNICO NATIONAL

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

## MONTHLY MINUTES April 10, 2019

**Date** April 10, 2019  
**Place** Amore Ristorante, Woodland Park  
**Prayer** 7:00 pm Sgt-At Arms Dominick Bucci  
**Flag Salute** 7:01 pm Sgt-At Arms Dominick Bucci  
 Dominick asked for a moment of silence for all of our sick and deceased past chapter and family members  
 Dominick gave a history of the meaning of the colors on the Italian flag  
**Dinner** 7:02 pm  
**Meeting** 8:00 pm

### Members & Guests in Attendance

**Members:** 35  
**Guests:** 1 Rick Lijoi

### Executive Board

Attendance at meetings	9/18	10/18	11/18	12/18	1/19	2/19	3/19	4/19	5/19	6/18
President: Carmen Gaita	☺	☺	☺	☺	☺	☺	☺	☺		
1 <sup>st</sup> VP: Eileen Wood	☺	☺	☺	☺	☺	☺	☺	---		
2 <sup>nd</sup> 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	☺	☺	☺	☺	☺	---	☺	☺		



# UNICO NATIONAL

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

**MONTHLY MINUTES**  
**April 10, 2019**

**Past Chapter Presidents in attendance at meetings**

	<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>
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 asked if the committee chairs can possibly keep their reports short as our meetings have been too long, great reports, but long
  - Carmen wished everyone a Happy Easter
  - Carmen reminded and asked everyone to try to get involved with our fundraising and events, in particular the next one coming up: The Bunny Breakfast. Joe Agresti PNP is the chair and will talk about it in his report
  - Carmen noted that Eileen Wood was away and that she also wished a Happy Easter to everyone
  - Carmen said that our Chapter Board of Directors and Executive Board met on a request from the Scholarship Committee for more money for Scholarship. The request was for \$2,000 and vote would be needed to pass the recommendation of the board based on the request. More comments before the vote will be had when the Scholarship Chairman Chuck Russo gives his report later in the evening
  - Carmen recommended that \$10,000 be moved from our treasury account to a 12-month CD in a bank. Worst case is that if it is needed before the year is up we would just lose the interest of which we have not had anyway
  - Carmen noted that a vote would be taken after more discussion, at another meeting, to move \$5,000 of that \$10,000 to a line item in our budget to cover expenses for our chapter at the 2020 UNICO National Convention



# UNICO NATIONAL

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

*MONTHLY MINUTES  
April 10, 2019*

---

## **Opening Remarks (continued)**

- 1<sup>st</sup> VP Eileen Wood:
  - No report: Not present
- 2<sup>nd</sup> VP Patrick Ligouri:
  - Present but no report

## **Secretary Minutes**

Secretary:

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

1<sup>st</sup> Frank Capalbo

2<sup>nd</sup> Pat Ligouri

Discussion: None

All in favor: Yes

## **Treasurer Report**

Treasurer: Bruce Ponchak

Bruce reported that he emailed the treasurers report to everyone. Bruce asked if there were any questions and also for a motion to accept

1<sup>st</sup> Joyce O'Hara

2<sup>nd</sup> Bob Appaluccio

Discussion: None

All in favor: Yes

## **Good and Welfare: Sal Nocella**

- President Carmen welcomed our guest, Rick Lijoi, who also just filled out an application to join our chapter

## **Bills & Communications**

- A thank you letter was received from the Special Olympics for our \$200.00 donation



# UNICO NATIONAL

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

*MONTHLY MINUTES  
April 10, 2019*

---

## Standing Committees

- **Scholarship: Chuck Russo & Joe Agresti, PNP:**
  - Chuck reported on the details of the Scholarship dinner to be held at the barnyard in Totowa on Wednesday, June 12
  - The chapter budget for the Scholarship Committee is at \$5,600, which would cover two (2) high school grants at \$1,000 each, two (2) college grants @ \$1,000 each, and the balance of the \$1,600 would cover costs for the Brian Piccolo Awards (two (2)) and also to cover the students, one parent, and the coaches
  - Chuck made a motion for an additional \$3,500 which would cover two (2) addition scholarships and a monetary award (gift card) to each of the Brian Piccolo Students
  - President Carmen asked for comments from the floor. Spoken were John Barbieri, Joe Agresti, John Morano, and Bruce Ponchak
  - The motion was 2<sup>nd</sup>d by Jerry Gaeta. With a raise of the hands of the membership it was 10 yes, 15 no. Motion did not carry
  - Jerry Gaeta then made a motion for the original \$2,000 as recommended by the Executive Board and Board of Directors, with a 2<sup>nd</sup> by Joe Benvenuti. As per the hand raise member vote it was: 25 yes, 10 no. All in favor: Yes
  - Joe Agresti PNP commented that one of our choices for Scholarship was put forward for the UNICO National Grant
  - Chuck Russo asked that everyone please consider attending the Scholarship and Brian Piccolo Awards Dinner on June 12<sup>th</sup>. It is the culmination of all of our work and for what we as UNICO members stand for
  - Tentative Scholarship Dinner cost is \$40.00 per person

## Fundraising Committees

- **Community Service: Chuck Russo**
  - Chuck reported that we are all set for Community Service Day, which is a UNICO National event. We will be at ShopRite, Little Falls on Saturday, April 27<sup>th</sup>. Schedules are to be handed out with members work times. Please try to wear a UNICO shirt. Chuck remarked that he asked P.V.H.S. to ask their students to help out for their community service hours. Last year in excess of one (1) ton of food was collected and donated to our local food Pantries.



# UNICO NATIONAL

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

## *MONTHLY MINUTES April 10, 2019*

- 
- **Dine with UNICO: Joe Benvenuti, Mark BiFalco, Jean Chomko**
    - Jean Chomko said that she would check with Maggie's Town Tavern, from our recent 2020 Dine with UNICO, to see how much we made at the two day fundraiser for the 2020 Convention
  
  - **Dinner for a Year: Carmen Criscione**
    - Carmen reported that raffle tickets were handed out and he has it so that if you buy 4 tickets with the same name on the ticket, the 5<sup>th</sup> one is free. The winner will get 12 gift certificates to restaurants, hence dinner for year. Carmen asked that we all please ask for your favorite restaurant to help support this chapter general fund fundraising event
  
  - **Food Pantry: Roni Corrado**
    - Roni noted that more than ever before was food brought in for the Holy Angels Phil Arena UNICO Pantry
  
  - **Golf Outing: Joe Barone**
    - Joe reported that the outing is set for Monday, June 10 at Preakness Valley Golf Course (formerly known as Passaic County Golf Course). He noted that golf was \$150.00 per golfer. \$50.00 just for dinner. Sponsors and golfers are always needed. Proceeds from this event subsidize our scholarship program. The more we make, the more we can give. Joe asked to please sign up
  
  - **Models Sporting Goods: Roni Corrado**
    - Roni noted that the Model coupons brought in \$43.00 for our General Fund
  
  - **Overseas Soldiers: Pat Corrado**
    - Roni noted that Evelyn Tosi's grandson left for his tour in the Jordan. There he will be training their soldiers. He was asked what we could send him and Roni asked for members to bring to the May meeting Beef Jerky, Protein Powder, and Protein Bars (not granola bars)
  
  - **Pig Roast: Joe Agresti PNP / Jim Minella**
    - No report (1)



# UNICO NATIONAL

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

## *MONTHLY MINUTES April 10, 2019*

- 
- **2020 Vision Wine Raffle: Steve Pelonero**
    - Steve report that as well as the Dinner for a Year Raffle, that the drawing will also be held on July 11 at P.J. Rufo's in Woodland Park. Tickets are only \$5.00 a chance. Winner to get 40 bottles of wine with a wine refrigerator. Current update is 13 bottles of the 40 needed. Steve asked that if each member would donate a bottle of wine, the 40-bottle prize would be met without a cost to the chapter
  - **2020 Convention Fundraiser: John Morano**
    - John reported that there would be Appetizers and Anti-Pasta Platters and Wine and Beer all night along with the live music from two bands. No further report until after the 2019 Convention in Nashville, TN

## **Non-Fundraising Committees**

- **Bunny Breakfast: Joe Agresti PNP**
  - Joe reported that Saturday April 20, we are co-sponsoring a "Bunny Breakfast" with Woodland Park. At our donation of \$150.00 we will be asked to help serve 150 children breakfast and also supervise them on the field for the Egg Hunt. It is an 8:15 start. Carmen Criscione made a motion to donate our 1/2 of the cost of the event to Woodland Park in the amount of \$150.00. The motion was 2<sup>nd</sup>ed by Jim Minnella
- **Heritage Talk: Angelo Verrone**
  - No report. Not enough time
- **Membership: John Barbieri**
  - John reported that our chapter is at 48 members with 4 applications to be submitted in May (pending checks and the official swearing in at the May meeting. New members please attend that meeting on May 8<sup>th</sup> at Amore, 7:00 pm dinner, 8:00 pm meeting.
  - John also gave birthday blessings to our April members: Michael D'Antuono, Steve Pelonero, Bruce Ponchak



# UNICO NATIONAL

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

*MONTHLY MINUTES  
April 10, 2019*

- 
- **Newsletter: Steve Pelonero**
    - Steve reported that the April Newsletter was emailed to all members and also to the National Office to be filed. The newsletter is also on our chapter website
  - **Website: Steve Pelonero / John Barbieri**
    - Steve reported that our website is at 84,473 visits, up 97 hits from last month
    - John gave a report on the member section and that one golf sponsor signed up on it for our June Golf Outing

## **National News**

- Steve Pelonero, UNICO National 1<sup>st</sup> VP, reported that other than the 2019 Convention in Nashville, TN, that the Gaylord Hotel was booked solid and sold out. Sal Benvenuti, UNICO National Executive Director noted however that there was another hotel across the street if anyone still wanted to go
- It was also noted at the meeting that as of now we are at 48 members, which gives us President plus 2 delegates. When our 4 new members are sworn in at the May meeting, we will then be at 52 members which would enable us to have President plus 3 delegates.
- Steve Pelonero reported that there will be a new chapter from Kenilworth, NJ chartered on June 11. President Carmen asked Steve, as chapter secretary, to send them a welcome to the UNICO family letter from our chapter

## **District News**

- Steve Pelonero reported that 5 of our members attended the 3<sup>rd</sup> NJ IV District meeting hosted by Sparta, in Sparta, and that he typed up and sent out a report on what transpired at that meeting
- Steve noted that the District will be awarding a \$1,000 scholarship this year and it was noted at the district meeting that each chapter is allowed to submit only one (1) student for consideration

## **Old Business**

- No old business



# UNICO NATIONAL

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

## *MONTHLY MINUTES April 10, 2019*

---

### **New Business**

- President Carmen asked John Morano to announce as the Nominating Chair, the slate of officers for our chapter's 2019-2020 year. John said the slate will be the same for this 2<sup>nd</sup> term:
  - Carmen Gaita            President
  - Eileen Wood            1<sup>st</sup> VP
  - Pat Ligouri              2<sup>nd</sup> VP
  - Bruce Ponchak        Treasurer
  - Steve Pelonero        Secretary
  - Dominick Bucci        Sgt.-At Arms
- John noted that our three delegates are: Dominick Bucci, Jean Chomko, and Eileen Wood
- John also noted that nominations from the floor for any office can be announced at the May meeting. If there are any nominations from the floor then a vote will be taken
- Steve Pelonero commented that this would be his last year as Secretary seeing that when he comes back from the Nashville Convention, he would then be UNICO National Executive VP, and would be gearing up with even more meetings, other chapter dinners and getting ready to be National President. Steve asked everyone to please consider stepping up to run as Secretary of our chapter for next year
- President Carmen noted that the May meeting would be again at Amore, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month. Our traditional June Pizza meeting would be on June 19<sup>th</sup> at St. Agnes Church in Little Falls
- President Carmen appointed a Dinner Committee to research where our meetings could be. The committee is open to anyone willing to research establishments and get price quotes. Currently on the committee are Carmen Criscione and Pat Ligouri.
- Pat Ligouri is looking into getting the Totowa PAL building for a pasta dinner fundraiser in November
- Joe Benvenuti asked the chapter to support the April 14<sup>th</sup> Autism Walk at P.V.H.S. from 9a m to 12 noon. A motion was made by Joe B for a \$100.00 donation with a 2<sup>nd</sup> by John Barbieri. All were in favor

### **Adjournment**

Motion was made to adjourn @ 9:35 pm

1<sup>st</sup>     Jerry Gaeta

2<sup>nd</sup>     Bob Appaluccio

All were in favor

### **Respectfully Taken by**

Steve Pelonero, Passaic Valley Chapter Secretary