



UNICO NATIONAL

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

MONTHLY MINUTES June 19, 2019

Date June 19, 2019
Place St. Agnes Church, Little Falls
Prayer 6:45 pm Sgt-At-Arms Dominick Bucci
Flag Salute 6:46 pm Sgt-At-Arms Dominick Bucci
Dinner 6:50 pm
Meeting 7:40 pm

Members & Guests in Attendance

Members: 32
Guests: 1 Walter Chomko (not compted)

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	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	X	•	•
2 nd VP: Pat Ligouri	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Secretary: Steve Pelonero	•	•	X	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Treasurer: Bruce Ponchak	•	•	•	X	•	•	•	•	•	X
SgtAtArms: Dominick Bucci	•	X	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•

Delegates at meetings

Jean Chomko	•	•	•	•	•	X	•	•	•	•
Joyce O'Hara	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Eileen Wood	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	X	•	•

Board of Directors at meetings (6 past Chapter Presidents)

John Barbieri	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Bob Appaluccio	X	•	•	X	•	•	•	•	•	•
Steve Pelonero	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Carmen Criscione	•	•	•	•	•	X	•	•	•	•
Sal Benvenuti	•	•	•	•	•	X	•	•	•	•
Angelo Verrone	•	•	•	•	•	X	•	•	•	•



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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	•	•	•	•	•	X	•	•	•	•
Bob Appaluccio	X	•	•	X	•	•	•	•	•	•
John Barbieri	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Sal Benvenuti	•	•	•	•	•	X	•	•	•	•
Carmen Criscione	•	•	•	•	•	X	•	•	•	•
John Morano	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Steve Pelonero	•	•	X	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Bruce Ponchak	•	•	•	X	•	•	•	•	•	•
Chuck Russo	•	•	•	X	•	•	•	•	•	•
Angelo Verrone	•	X	•	•	•	X	•	•	•	•

Opening Remarks

- **President Carmen Gaita** thanked Joe Barone for chairing the golf outing which was a huge success even though it rained all day
- Carmen also thanked Chuck Russo and Joe Agresti PNP for chairing the Scholarship, Brian Piccolo, and Installation Dinner
- Carmen noted that our chapter Executive Board will be meeting before July 1 to pay UNICO National our first half of our dues, and also to fill out the Chapter Achievement, District Achievement and Chapter Election Form. Steve volunteered his house for Wednesday, June 26, at 6:30 pm
- Carmen reminded everyone that dues are now due and if anyone has their dues check, with them, to please give them to our Chapter Secretary Steve Pelonero
- Carmen thanked Evelyn Tosi for baking the cookies that were brought to this meeting.
- Carmen noted that St. Agnes Church has offered the use of their Church Hall for our meetings at no charge. Discussion followed with no motion needed to determine where the meetings are to be held there
- Carmen wished everyone a safe and healthy summer with September being our next meeting
- **1st VP Eileen Wood:**
Eileen thanked everyone for attending and said that it was great to see everyone here
- **2nd VP Patrick Ligouri:**
No report. But he did remark that he would see everyone on July 11 if they wanted to be at the drawing of the raffles at PJ Rufo Restaurant. Reservations **highly** suggested for dinner or for a high-top table



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Secretary Minutes

Secretary: Steve Pelonero

Steve reported that the minutes were emailed out, some were printed and put on the tables at this meeting, and were also on the chapter website. Steve asked for a motion to accept

1st Bob Appaluccio

2nd Jim Minnella

Discussion: None

All in favor: Yes

Treasurer Report

In Bruce's absence, President Carmen noted that the treasurers report was emailed out and that a motion was needed to accept them

1st Joe Agresti PNP

2nd Joe Barone

Discussion: None

All in favor: Yes

Good and Welfare: Sal Nocella

- With the passing of Bruce Ponchaks' mother-in-law in, North Carolina, President Carmen noted that the family will have a Memorial Mass on Saturday, June 22, at 10am at Our Lady of Pompei Church in Paterson
- President Carmen noted that Sal Nocella will be going in soon for hip surgery

Bills & Communications

- A request was received for a donation, from our NJ District IV, for a \$300 donation to help the 2019 Convention. Joe Agresti PNP noted that anything donation over \$200 needs Board Approval and seeing that we do not meet now until September, Joe then made a motion to donate \$200. A 2nd was made by Joe Barone. With no discussion, all were in favor
- A request for donation to Special Olympics was received. Seeing as how we just made a donation two months ago it was recommended that we pass on it until we receive another request and then we can discuss it more in detail



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Standing Committees

- **Scholarship: Chuck Russo & Joe Agresti, PNP:**
 - Chuck again thanked his committee for reviewing the applicants and narrowing it down to the 5 recipients. He noted also that the dinner was a success and with 63 people in attendance it was the most attended in a long time. The Presidential Cocktail Hour went over big. Chuck reported and noted that the finances from the scholarship dinner would be reported at the next meeting

Fundraising Committees

- **Community Service: Chuck Russo**
 - Chuck reported that he received additional thank you letters from St. James Church in Totowa and also from St. George Church in Little Falls. Just as a reminder, there were 8 pantries that we supplied this year
 - Chuck reported that the Veterans Food Pantry donated to us, as a thank you for our donation to them, 35 boxes of Girl Scout Cookies which are not needed at their pantry because of diabetic issues by some of the recipients. It was suggested that members take what they want and that the balance should be left for the St. Agnes Food Pantry
- **Dine with UNICO: Joe Benvenuti, Mark BiFalco, Jean Chomko**
 - No report
- **Dinner for a Year: Carmen Criscione**
 - Carmen Criscione noted that as of now he had 11 restaurants certificates. He is still in need of one more. The raffle would be drawn on July 11th at P.J Rufo's
- **Food Pantry: Roni Corrado**
 - Roni thanked everyone for their donations to the pantries. She asked that if anyone brought food to the meeting that they be put on the stage in the church hall
- **Golf Outing: Joe Barone**
 - Joe Barone reported that the outing was a success even though it rained all day. There were 71 golfers of which 67 played and 11 came just for dinner. A financial report would be available at our next meeting but as of now it looks like we made \$9,000.00



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- **Models Sporting Goods: Roni Corrado**
 - No report

 - **Overseas Soldiers: Pat Corrado**
 - Roni reported that a thank you was received from our Overseas Soldier (Evelyn Tosi's Grandson) stating that the soldiers truly appreciated everything. Roni noted that they especially like protein bars and peanuts

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

 - **2020 Vision Wine Raffle: Steve Pelonero**
 - Steve reported that as of this meeting and with the donations of wine bottles received, that we were at 31 bottles of the 40 that are needed. From the wine raffle ticket money, the balance of the wine bottles would be purchased. Steve thanked everyone for their support in this fundraiser, especially for the wine refrigerator which was also donated. All proceeds are for the 2020 convention. Steve also recommended that anyone who wanted to attend the drawing, at PJ Rufos on July 11th, that they consider calling in for a reservation for a high-top table in the bar area (which has very limited seating). If anyone wanted to go there for dinner, a reservation is also highly recommended

 - **2020 Convention Fundraiser: John Morano**
 - John reported that it is still too early to advertise this event as a 2020 convention fundraiser. Fliers will be printed when we come back from the 2019 convention. It will be a \$40 per person, with live music all night, beer and wine on the table along with an antipasto platter and appetizers. The date will be October 4th, 2019

Non-Fundraising Committees

- **Bunny Breakfast: Joe Agresti PNP**
 - No report

- **Heritage Talk: Angelo Verrone**
 - No report



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- **Membership: John Barbieri**
 - John reported that we are now at 52 members
 - With 52 members, we are eligible for 4 delegates from our chapter. President + three
 - John gave birthday blessings to our seven June birthday members
 - John noted that our average member age is still at 71
- **Newsletter: Steve Pelonero**
 - Steve reported that the newsletter was emailed out to all chapter members plus to the National Office for their records. The newsletter is also on our website
- **Website: Steve Pelonero / John Barbieri**
 - Steve reported that the www.PassaicValleyUNICO.org website is now at 87,793 visits, which is up by 189 hits from the May meeting
 - John reported that his part of the website is okay

National News

- President Carmen asked Sal Benvenuti (chapter member and also the UNICO National Executive Director) to review the amendments that are up for a vote at the convention, and to be voted on by our chapter delegates (President +3).
- Sal then reported on the 5 amendments for National and the 2 amendments for the foundation. Sal also noted that even if you are not a delegate, that any member that attends the convention is eligible to vote at the foundation meeting, which is also recommended that everyone attend to hear and learn of what UNICO actually does with all of the money that is donated to UNICO through the foundation
- For the privacy of a secret ballot, the motions made by our chapter on how to vote is being kept out of these minutes

District News

- Joe Agresti PNP reported that member Jim Minnella's daughter, Alyse, will receive our NJ District Scholarship Award at the Tuesday, June 25th District Dinner at Lena's in Bloomingdale
- President Carmen asked for a hand raise of the members that will be attending the District Meeting. Six members had raised hands
- Steve Pelonero reported that it is also too early to advertise it, but that the Passaic Clifton Chapter will host, through our NJ IV District, a bus ride in December to the Little Italy Section of NYC with dinner and a visit to the Rockefeller Tree. Seating on the bus will be to the first 50 people to pay. More information will follow soon after we come back from the July Convention in Nashville



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Old Business

- President Carmen reported that two freezers were able to be purchased for St. Agnes Church from our \$200 donation to the church. However, we did fall short by \$80 and he asked that extra personal donations be made, of which they were to make it a total donation for the two freezers from our chapter

New Business

- President Carmen thanked Carmen Criscione for handling the pizza dinner which came from one of our chapter sponsors, Viva La Pizza.
- President Carmen wished everyone a safe and happy summer. See you in September

Adjournment

Motion was made to adjourn @ 8:54 pm

1st Joe Agresti PNP

2nd Patrick Ligouri

All were in favor

Respectfully Taken by

Steve Pelonero, Passaic Valley Chapter Secretary