



# UNICO NATIONAL

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

## MONTHLY MINUTES January 8, 2020

**Date** January 8, 2020  
**Place** St. Agnes Church, Little Falls, NJ  
**Prayer** 7:00 pm Sgt. At Arms Dominick  
**Flag Salute** 7:05 pm Sgt. At Arms Dominick  
**Dinner** 6:45 pm  
**Meeting** 7:30 pm

### **Members & Guests in Attendance**

Members  
Guests 2  
Total

### **Executive Board**

<b><u>Attendance at meetings</u></b>	<b>9/19</b>	<b>10/19</b>	<b>11/19</b>	<b>12/19</b>	<b>1/20</b>	<b>2/20</b>	<b>3/20</b>	<b>4/20</b>	<b>5/20</b>	<b>6/20</b>
President: Carmen Gaita	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊					
1 <sup>st</sup> VP: Eileen Wood	😊	😊	😊	😊	x					
2 <sup>nd</sup> VP: Pat Ligouri	😊	😊	😊	x	😊					
Secretary: Steve Pelonero	😊	😊	x	😊	x					
Treasurer: Bruce Ponchak	😊	😊	x	😊	😊					
SgtAtArms: Dominick Bucci	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊					

### **Delegates at meetings**

Jean Chomko	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊					
Joyce O'Hara	😊	😊	😊	x	😊					
Eileen Wood	😊	😊	😊	😊	x					

### **Board of Directors at meetings (6 past Chapter Presidents)**

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

### Opening Remarks

- **President Carmen Gaita:**
  - Carmen welcomed everyone and wished everyone a Happy New Year
  - Carmen noted that we have 2 big fundraisers coming up: The Beefsteak on February 8<sup>th</sup>, and the Golf Outing on June 15<sup>th</sup>
  - Carmen noted that on January 31<sup>st</sup>, our NJ District IV is hosting a \$20 Pasta Dinner to help defray the costs of the 2020 Christmas Dinner for our Special Need Friends
  - Member Emily Klosek brought two prospective members to possibly join our chapter. Carmen gave them applications to fill out if they were interested in joining
  - At 7:33 pm, Sal Benvenuti swore in new member William Ermolowich as a member into our Passaic Valley UNICO Chapter
  - Carmen thanked Joe and Sal Benvenuti for doing an excellent job with the chapter Christmas party at their cousin's restaurant
  - Carmen thanked Evelyn Tosi for making the desert for this meeting
  - Carmen also thanked Pat Ligouri and Carmen Criscione for getting the pizza and muscles for this chapters' dinner meeting



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- **1<sup>st</sup> VP Eileen Wood:**
    - Absent: No Report
  - **2<sup>nd</sup> VP Patrick Ligouri:**
    - No report

## **Secretary Minutes**

Secretary: Steve Pelonero

In Steve's absence President Carmen noted that the minutes were emailed out to of the members by Steve He asked for a motion to accept them  
Motions were made by Joe Agresti PNP and Bob Appaluccio. All were in favor

## **Treasurer Report**

Treasurer: Bruce Ponchak

President Carmen then asked the same for the Treasurer Report. Motions were made by Joe Agresti PNP and Pat Liguori. All were in favor

## **Bills and Communications**

- Pastor Emily Youngberg from the First Reformed Church in Little Falls sent a Thank You Card for a food donation that was made and also for the Food Grant for the church that Roni Corrado gave them to fill out
- Fairfield UNICO is looking for a donation. They are making a Christopher Columbus Statue at the recreation center to help preserve Italian Heritage. They are looking for a \$250 donation. Sal Benvenuti said that it is a worthwhile projet to preserve because usually people are taking statues down in stead of putting them up. Sal made a motion that the chapter give \$200.00 (our chapter limit) and that he would give the other \$50. Then the chapter will get their name on the statue along with the other donators. Joe Agresti PNP 2<sup>nd</sup>d the motion. All were in favor



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## Fundraising Committees

- **Beefsteak Dinner: Joe Benvenuti**
  - Joe reminded everyone that the Beefsteak will be on February 8<sup>th</sup> at the Russian Hall in Singac. The flier is on our chapter website and in our monthly newsletter. It is from 7 pm – 11 pm
  - Cost is \$55 a person and if someone does not want beef, they can be accommodated with fish, fried chicken or eggplant. Those special dinners must be pre-ordered. Joe asked to contact him as soon as possible with special request and if you plan on attending and with how many at your table
  - The entertainment will be The American Expression Band. They are a 3 piece band. If there is a commitment by a huge attendance Joe said he will ask for a 4<sup>th</sup> band member
  - No tickets will be sold at the door. Tables will be set up for reservations made for 8-10 people
  - Joe asked that everyone support the event and to please let him know how many tickets you need and to get the money in to him as soon as possible before the event
- **Holiday Cheer: Bob Appaluccio**
  - Bob thanked the members who donated at this meeting. Bob also noted how the families from the three towns are chosen based on how much the family is in need. Bob commented on how wonderful it is that we do this to make families happy for the holiday season
  - Bob noted that this was started 6 years ago, and it was for only two families. Now it is up to 7 families with the generosity of the chapter and with its members. Bob said that we are able to give out \$500 worth of gift certificates to each of the 7 families to Kohl's and Target
  - Bob read two thank you letters from the families saying that they are very much appreciative
  - Carmen Criscione's wife works at Memorial Middle School in Woodland Park and she was able to get 3 of the families from her school
  - The generosity from the members is greatly appreciated
  - Roni Corrado came up with idea of giving some of these families maybe a turkey for Thanksgiving or something for Easter, or even a dinner to follow up with these families
- **Overseas and Food Pantry: Roni Corrado**
  - President Carmen spoke on Roni's behalf seeing as she was absent
  - The food that was collected at tonight's meeting will stay here for the St. Agnes Pantry
  - Carmen noted that regarding our Overseas program that Evelyn Tosi's grandchildren and all four of her children have served in the armed forces in some way
  - Her one grandson will be going back Kuwait for his third tour after his wife has their baby
  - President Carmen thanked Evelyn for her families dedication to our country



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- **Golf Outing: Joe Barone**
  - Joe remarked that preparations are underway. The date of the outing is June 15<sup>th</sup>. Tee time has been moved up to 9 am due to policy changes
  - The meal will still be at the Brownstone one hour earlier at 3 pm
  - The cost of the gold from the county will go up which will increase the cost to the golfers
  - The grand prize will be a smart TV valued at \$300. Joe Agresti PNP knows someone at PC Richards and will handle getting the TV
- **Community Service Day: Chuck Russo**
  - The date is set for April 25<sup>th</sup> at ShopRite in Little Falls where food is collected for our local food pantries
  - Church remarked that this is all possible due to the members who show up and help that day. It works out great

## **Non Fundraising Committees**

- **Scholarship Dinner: Joe Agresti and Chuck Russo**
  - PV High School as the applications to be filled out
  - The private high schools have the applications as well
  - Next is to a date for the dinner along with a venue and it will be reported back to the members when all is done
- **Good and Welfare: Sal Nocella**
  - Carmen Criscione had a hip replacement and a get well card was sent to him. Carmen C thanked everyone for the thoughtfulness
  - A Sympathy Card was sent to Phil Polizzotto for the passing of his daughter-in-law. Phil has been a member of our chapter for many years and is member Frank Capalbo's brother-in-law. Only a card was sent but discussion was had to send money for Phil's sons 4 year old child education. A motion was made by Joe Benvenuti to send \$100 to Phil and \$80 from the 50/50. A 2<sup>nd</sup> to the motion was made by Jim Minnella. All were in favor
- **Membership: John Barbieri**
  - 54 members (55)
  - Average age is 70
  - Website is good



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## **District and National Events**

- **UNICO NJ District IV Pasta Dinner: Joe Agresti PNP**
  - Joe commented that the Pasta party is on Friday, January 31<sup>st</sup> at the Wayne PAL Building. Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$10 for children
  - It will be from 6:30 pm to 10:30 pm. Joe asked that all come out to support it as the money raised will be going towards the 2020 Christmas Part for our Special Needs Friends
  - Joe commented that this is a great event and it means a lot to the guests who attend it and Joe said that he would hate to see it end for lack of funds. Please contact Joe for tickets
- **District News**
  - Joe Agresti PNP noted that the next NJ IV District meeting is set for January 21 at the Brookdale Tavern in Bloomfield
- **National News**
  - Joe Agresti PNP noted that National Food Grant Applications are due in by January 17
  - Joe Agresti PNP noted that March 1<sup>st</sup> is the deadline Study Abroad
  - Sal Benvenuti talked about changing the National Constitution. Any chapter can submit changes to it by submitting through the chapter president, who in turn must submit it to National 100 days before the convention
  - Sal Benvenuti noted that the Mid Year Board Meeting will be in St. Petersburg, FL on March 19, 20, and 21. He remarked that it is a great venue to experience along with the great weather that time of in Florida

## **Old Business**

None

## **Adjournment**

Motion was made to adjourn @ 8:25 pm

1<sup>st</sup> Chuck Russo

2<sup>nd</sup> Joe Agresti PNP

All were in favor

## **Respectfully Taken by**

Christina Castillo: substituting for Secretary