



UNICO NATIONAL

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

MONTHLY MINUTES February 12, 2020

Date February 12, 2020
Place Francesco's, Woodland Park
Prayer 7:02 Dominick Bucci
Flag Salute 7:03 Dominick Bucci
Dinner 7:05 pm
Meeting 8:06 pm

Members & Guests in Attendance

Total 31
 Members 25
 Guests 6

Steve Calantone, DG; Mary Ann Re, Coccia Institute;
 Christopher Boncimino, Study Abroad Recipient; Chris's mother Terri Boncimino,
 Marlene and Claudio Leggio, prospective members

Executive Board

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

Delegates at meetings

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

Board of Directors at meetings (6 past Chapter Presidents)

Bruce Ponchak	😊	😊	x	😊	😊	😊				
John Barbieri	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊				
Bob Appaluccio	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊				
Steve Pelonero	😊	😊	x	😊	x	😊				
Carmen Criscione	x	😊	😊	x	😊	😊				
Sal Benvenuti	😊	x	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	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊				
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 thanked Joe Benvenuti for chairing the Beefsteak
 - Carmen noted that our chapter officers will meet for our 2020-2021 budget on Wednesday March 4
 - Carmen brought up that we have in our current budget a line item of \$500 for the ad page for the 2020 convention in honor of Steve Pelonero who will be sworn in as National President in July
- **1st VP Eileen Wood:**
 - Eileen thanked everyone for their birthday wishes. Eileen also noted that she will stay on and run for chapter president from her current position as 1st VP for the year 2020-2021
- **2nd VP Patrick Ligouri:**
 - Patrick was not present



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Secretary Minutes

Secretary: Steve Pelonero

Steve reported that the minutes were emailed to all of the chapter members as well as the National Office for their records. A few were also printed and placed on the tables at this meeting. He also noted that they are on our chapter website

- Motion to accept
1st Joe Agresti
2nd Eileen Wood
All were in favor

Treasurer Report

Treasurer: Bruce Ponchak

Bruce reported that the minutes were emailed to all of the chapter members and that a few were printed and placed on the tables

- Motion to accept
1st Joe Agresti
2nd Joe Benvenuti
All were in favor

Bills and Communications

- A thank you was received from Eileen Barone who recently had surgery
- Our chapter Insurance Bill was given to Bruce (treasurer) with the OK to pay it
- A letter to sponsor the Special Olympics was received. A motion to donate was made by Tony Orlando with a 2nd made by Carmen Criscione. All were in favor.
- A letter was received to take an ad journal page out for the 70th Anniversary of the Passaic-Clifton Chapter for \$150.00. Joe Agresti noted that Passaic-Clifton UNICO sponsored our chapter when we were chartered in 1972 as Little Falls UNICO. Joe Agresti made the motion and Steve Pelonero 2nded the motion. All were in favor



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Fundraising Committees

- **Beefsteak Dinner: Joe Benvenuti**
 - Joe reported that the beefsteak was a success with 166 people in attendance, considering that he hoped for at least 130 or more. Joe thanked the committee for their help. A profit was made of \$3217.00
- **Holiday Cheer: Bob Appaluccio**
 - Bob noted that there was no report to give other than he was thinking of possibly following up with a donation for another holiday
- **Overseas and Food Pantry: Roni Corrado**
 - Roni was absent but Evelyn Tosi reported that her grandson is currently in Texas, and ready to be with his wife when she delivers their baby. They he is off to Kuwait
- **Golf Outing: Joe Barone**
 - Joe was absent but it was noted that our Annual Golf Outing is set for June 15, 2020
- **Community Service Day: Chuck Russo**
 - Chuck reported that our Community Service will again be at ShopRite so that we can collect and donate the items to our local food pantries. Chapter members helping collect at the doors and delivering to the pantries make this a success. There will be a sign up sheet at the March meeting

Non Fundraising Committees

- **Scholarship Dinner: Joe Agresti and Chuck Russo**
 - Chuck reported that the scholarship applications were passed out and that if anyone knew of a student outside of Little Falls that might be eligible to receive one to let him know
 - Chuck also noted that past chapter member, Anthony Nappi (deceased), that his granddaughter is now eligible, and that the committee would take into consideration her application
 - A tentative date of June 11 is set for our Scholarship dinner at the Barnyard in Totowa. More information when the details are finalized
- **Good and Welfare: Sal Nocella**
 - Sal reported that all is well



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- **Membership: John Barbieri**
 - 55 members
 - Average age is 70
 - John Barbieri wished the 6 of our chapter members a Happy February Birthday
 - Website is good
- **Newsletter: Steve Pelonero**
 - Steve reported that the newsletter is on our chapter website and a few copies were placed on the tables at this meeting

District and National Events

- **UNICO NJ District IV Pasta Dinner**
 - Steve Calantone, our NJ District IV Governor was at the meeting to talk about this dinner. Steve C thanked Joe Agresti PNP for his help in organizing it. Approximately 280 people attended. 99% of all goods were donated and we made an approximate profit of \$7,000.
- **District News**
 - Joe Agresti PNP added on to Steve Calantones report noting that the money from the District IV Pasta Dinner in January will be going towards comping and getting gifts for our Special Need Friends at our December 2020 Christmas Dinner. There is a new venue for the December dinner and more information will follow when it gets closer to the date
 - District Governor Steve Calantone reported that the next NJ IV District Meeting will be hosted by the Passaic-Clifton Chapter. No set date or location has been set yet, but he did say that it might be at Mario's Restaurant in Clifton on March 18th
- **National News**
 - **Convention**

Steve Pelonero reported that the convention theme will be our Italian heritage with the Ice Breaker suggested, but not mandatory attire, being our Italian colors of green, white, and red. Steve also noted that there will be a Friday night BBQ at one of the hotel pools. Steve also noted that National President Frank DeFrank will still run the general session meetings on Thursday, Friday and Saturday. Saturday at the end of Frank's General Session is when Steve Pelonero gets sworn in as National President. Right after the swearing in Steve has his Board of Directors Meeting. Sal Benvenuti noted that if you were interested in attending the convention to book your rooms as soon as possible in case they sell out as was the case in Nashville. You have 3 days prior to cancel



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- **Calendar**

Steve noted that at the Midyear Meeting in St. Petersburg FL is when the Heritage Calendar will come up as when the sponsors will be asked to step forward and support it. In our chapter budget is already a line item as Booster Sponsor of \$200.

- **National Family Hockey Night**

Sal Benvenuti, National Executive Director, reported that at the Tuesday night, February 11, Family Hockey Night at the Devils vs. Florida Panther game that approximately 100 people showed up

- **February 18th Basking Ridge Charter Night**

Steve Pelonero reported that a new chapter will be chartered on Tuesday February 18. The Basking Ridge UNICO Chapter. Steve Pelonero, as secretary, already sent them a welcome to our UNICO family letter via email

- **Midyear ~ March 19, 20, 21 ~ Thurs, Fri, Sat ~ St. Petersburg FL**

Sal Benvenuti reported that the room nights for the Midyear Board meeting are sold out. Sal also reported that this meeting is when chapters can submit amendment changes for a vote to pass them at the July convention

- **Foundation Raffle**

Steve Pelonero presented a Foundation Raffle Book that was also budgeted as a line item in the chapter budget. The book was given to Bruce (treasurer) for a check of \$100.00 for 6 tickets. The check and ticket stubs were given to Sal Benvenuti who would turn them in to the foundation. The winning ticket numbers would be drawn at the convention



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Old Business

None

New Business

- Our guest, Chris Boncimino, MSU Study Abroad recipient, gave a video presentation on his semester in Italy. He talked about his heritage and thanked us again for our financial support with the grant that he received at our 2019 Scholarship Dinner
- Sal Benvenuti reported that brought to the meeting some sample UNICO shirts that could be purchased for \$20.00 each. He noted that when Joe Agresti PNP was sworn in as National President our chapter wore at each meeting corresponding shirts colors each day (green, white, red)
- Mary Ann Re, MSU Coccia Director, talked out her heritage and growing up as an Italian
- Carmen Gaita reported that he assigned a Nominating Committee and hoped that members would step up to an office in our chapter. The committee will announce at the March meeting who stepped forward

Adjournment

Motion was made to adjourn @ 9:15 pm

1st Joe Agresti

2nd Jean Chomko

All were in favor

Respectfully Taken by

Steve Pelonero, Chapter Secretary