



UNICO NATIONAL

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

MONTHLY MINUTES March 11, 2020

Date March 11, 2020
Place Francesco's Ristorante, Woodland Park
Prayer Dominick Bucci
Flag Salute Dominick Bucci
Dinner 7:00 pm
Meeting 8:00 pm

Members & Guests in Attendance

Members for dinner	25
Members just meeting	3
Guests	0
Total	28
Percentage (of 55 members)	51%

Executive Board

Attendance at meetings	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	😊	😊	😊	x			
SgtAtArms: Dominick Bucci	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊			

Delegates at meetings

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

Board of Directors at meetings (6 past Chapter Presidents)

Bruce Ponchak	😊	😊	x	😊	😊	😊	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

	9/11	10/9	11/13	12/11	1/8	2/12	3/11	4/	5/	6/
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	😊	😊	😊	😊	x		
Chuck Russo	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊			
Angelo Verrone	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	x		

Opening Remarks

- **President Carmen Gaita:**
 - Carmen welcomed everyone
 - Carmen noted that at this meeting, we discuss the budget of which all the executive and board of directors had met to balance it
 - He noted that we were working on limited funds

- **1st VP Eileen Wood:**
 - Eileen welcomed everyone to the meeting

- **2nd VP Patrick Ligouri:**
 - Pat welcomed everyone to the meeting



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*MONTHLY MINUTES
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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 Roni Corrado
2nd Frank Capalbo
All were in favor

Treasurer Report

Treasurer: Bruce Ponchak

In Bruce's absence, President Carmen 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 Jim Minnella
2nd Bob Appaluccio
All were in favor

Bills and Communications

- A thank you was received from Elaine Barone
- The UNICO National Foundation sent more Foundation Raffle tickets. President Carmen asked that if anyone was interested in buying a chance to come and see him



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Fundraising Committees

- **Beefsteak Dinner: Joe Benvenuti**
 - No report

- **Holiday Cheer: Bob Appaluccio**
 - Bob had no report but thanked everyone again for their support

- **Food Pantry: Roni Corrado**
 - Roni reported that the pantries are always in need of donations and every month. She noted that last months donations were very light

- **Overseas and Food Pantry: Roni Corrado**
 - It was report by Evelyn Tosi that her grandson, Joshua, will be doing his third tour to Kuwait in June. More information when the time draws nearer. Joshua was delayed in going back this time because his wife just had a baby. He was allowed to stay in the states to welcome the new family member

- **Golf Outing: Joe Barone**
 - In Joe Barone's absence, Joe Benvenuti gave the report. Joe noted that the out is on June 15, Monday, as Passaic County Golf Course, with the dinner at the Brownstone. As always were need sponsors to make this a success. If everyone can get one sponsor that would be 55 sponsors (the most we ever have had)
 - Steve Pelonero reported that the purchase of 50 new sign holders @ \$1.00 each are available for purchase and local pick up. The new holders are adaptable to our current signs. Steve noted that if the committee OK's the sample, that is here at the meeting, Steve said he would pick them up
 - The committee had a vote (with mixed comments) but the majority wanted to keep the outing at \$150.00 with a sponsor still at \$100.00
 - The outing will have a 9 am start as per the golf course



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- **Community Service Day: Chuck Russo**

- Chuck reported that Community Service Day is on Saturday, April 25th. It will be the same routine as past years and again at ShopRite in Little Falls. Volunteers are needed to make this a success. Chuck asks that if some of the members could print the suggested list of items to donate it would be greatly appreciated. It is a rain or shine event. Chuck noted that we have in our area about 7 or 8 food pantries and that we were able to supply all of them last year with lots of bags of non-perishable items. It will be from 7:30 am – 4:00 pm and he urged again to please step up for at least an hour or more. Chuck passed a list around so that members' names can be added to it to help

Non Fundraising Committees

- **Scholarship Dinner: Joe Agresti and Chuck Russo**

- Chuck Russo reported that our Annual Scholarship Dinner will be held at the Barnyard in Totowa. He urged members to attend this end of the year event which culminates all of our work which one of the values of UNICO National are to give Scholarships. The dinner will be held on Thursday, June 11. Carmen Gaita noted that the budget was fine tuned that there is only \$6,000 in it for scholarships.
- Some members asked if there could be a need-based award given. Chuck noted that financial records would be needed from the parents and also with a FAFSA form filled out, and that it was too late to get those for this year
- There were mixed feelings about the Study Abroad Grants and it will be looked into by the committee

- **Bunny Breakfast: Joe Agresti**

- Joe reported that if the chapter wanted to again support this event for the youth of our towns, that we needed a motion for \$100 to get our donations
 - Pat Ligouri made the motion
 - Bob Appaluccio gave the 2nd
 - All were in favor

- **Good and Welfare: Sal Nocella**

- Sal reported that a get-well fruit basket was sent to Elaine Barone



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- **Membership: John Barbieri**
 - 55 members
 - Average age is 70
 - John noted that there were no email addresses on the new student applications, which means that they are not and cannot be included in our chapter email blasts
 - John wish the six members in our chapter whose birthdays are this month of March
- **Newsletter: Steve Pelonero**
 - No report
 - Website ... February 12th meeting 85,476 hits ... March 11th meeting 85,542 hits ... 66 total hits

District and National Events

- **District News**
 - Our next NJ IV District meeting will be on March 25th, at Mario's on Van Houten Avenue in Clifton. An email blast will go to see who will be attending. President Carmen urged that Delegates are required to attend chapter, district, and other national meetings
 - Joe Agresti PNP thanked everyone again for participating and to those who attended the Christmas Pasta Dinner Fundraiser
- **Passaic-Clifton 70th**
 - Joe Agresti PNP brought in the ad journal that Passaic-Clifton used to raise funds for their anniversary dinner
 - Steve Pelonero noted that our chapter just had our 48th year of Service on March 8th. Something to start thinking about when we could celebrate ours in another 2 years
 - Joe noted that the ad journal is a great fund raiser
- **National News**
 - **Convention**
 - **Midyear ~ March 19, 20, 21 ~ Thurs, Fri, Sat ~ St. Petersburg FL**
 - Sal Benvenuti reported that the Mid-Year may be cancelled due to the Corona Virus



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Old Business

- Sal Benvenuti reported that this was the last meeting that UNICO Chapter shirt orders would be taken. See him after the meeting to place your orders. It was noted that this was the ideal time to purchase them if you intended to attend the national Convention when chapter member Steve Pelonero would be sworn in as National President, When chapter member, PNP Joe Agresti became president in 2007, our members wore the different color shirts the three days we were there: green, white, red: the Italian colors
- Carmen Gaita reported that he assigned a Nominating Committee and thanked those that volunteered their service to our chapter. A motion to come off the floor will be at a future meeting, but those that the committee pushed forward are:
 - For president: Eileen Wood
 - For 1st VP: Pat Ligouri
 - For 2nd VP: Dominick Bucci
 - Treasurer: Bruce Ponchak
 - Secretary: STILL OPEN: Looking for someone to step up
 - Sgt.At-Arms: Jim Minnella

New Business

- President Carmen reported that the budget was balanced but in order to make it balance it was needed to take \$4,500 from our slush fund. He stressed that we need to / should stick to the budget for the rest of the year unless someone has a fundraiser that they would like to chair
- Carmen Criscione, who is on our dinner meeting committee, remarked that most restaurants will work with us, but that Wednesday is a bad day for some of them. Carmen Gaita asked if anyone was against changing the day of the week. Steve Pelonero noted that as per our chapter constitution, that as long as we give a two week notice any day of the week is ok

Adjournment

Motion was made to adjourn @ 9:10 pm

1st Jerry Gaeta

2nd Joe Benvenuti

All were in favor

Respectfully Taken by

Steve Pelonero, Chapter Secretary