



UNICO NATIONAL

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

Monthly Minutes May 13, 2020 ~ 2nd Wednesday

Date May 13, 2020
Place Zoom Virtual Meeting
Prayer x
Flag Salute x
Dinner x
Meeting 7:00 pm

Members & Guests in Attendance

Members for dinner	x	
Members just meeting	25	
Guests	1	Steve Calantone, NJ District IV DG
Total	26	
Percentage (of 55 members)	46%	

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	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	n/a	😊	
1 st VP: Eileen Wood	😊	😊	😊	😊	x	😊	😊	n/a	😊	
2 nd VP: Pat Ligouri	😊	😊	😊	x	😊	x	😊	n/a	x	
Secretary: Steve Pelonero	😊	😊	x	😊	x	😊	😊	n/a	😊	
Treasurer: Bruce Ponchak	😊	😊	x	😊	😊	😊	x	n/a	😊	
SgtAtArms: Dominick Bucci	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	n/a	😊	

Delegates at meetings

Jean Chomko	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	x	n/a	x
Joyce O'Hara	😊	😊	😊	x	😊	x	😊	n/a	x
Eileen Wood	😊	😊	😊	😊	x	😊	😊	n/a	😊

Board of Directors at meetings (6 past Chapter Presidents)

Bruce Ponchak	😊	😊	x	😊	😊	😊	x	n/a	😊
John Barbieri	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	n/a	x
Bob Appaluccio	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	n/a	😊
Steve Pelonero	😊	😊	x	😊	x	😊	😊	n/a	😊
Carmen Criscione	x	😊	😊	x	😊	😊	😊	n/a	😊
Sal Benvenuti	😊	x	x	😊	😊	😊	😊	n/a	😊



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

Opening Remarks

- **President Carmen Gaita:**
 - Carmen welcomed everyone
 - Carmen wished everyone good health and a stay safe request
- **1st VP Eileen Wood:**
 - Eileen welcomed everyone to the meeting
- **2nd VP Patrick Ligouri:**
 - Not at meeting

Secretary Minutes

Secretary: Steve Pelonero

Steve reported that the minutes were emailed to all chapter members as well as the National Office for their records

- Motion to accept
 - 1st Roni Corrado
 - 2nd Henry Youngster
- All were in favor



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Treasurer Report

Treasurer: Bruce Ponchak

Bruce reported that the minutes were emailed to all chapter members

Sal Benvenuto noted that Fairfield UNICO did not cash the \$200 check for our donation to them to help in the storing of Columbus Statues. It was noted that we should keep the money in our own account

- Motion to accept
1st Eileen Wood
2nd Angelo Verrone
All were in favor

Bills and Communications

- None reported

Fundraising Committees

- **Beefsteak Dinner: Joe Benvenuti**
 - No report
- **Holiday Cheer: Bob Appaluccio**
 - No report
- **Food Pantry: Roni Corrado**
 - Chuck Russo reported that our chapter had donated a total of \$1,500 to our CERC (Covid Emergency Response Committee) to St. Agnes Pantry. \$200 of that was given from our chapter's Emergency Fund to assist in their efforts to feed local families, the elderly, the shut ins, and ill residents of our three communities
 - Bob Appaluccio asked if St. Agnes received a \$10,000 grant. Chuck Russo and Roni Corrado both noted that regardless, St. Agnes feeds so many people that if they did receive it, it would be used and diminished quickly. Bob Appaluccio requested that Chuck look into it
 - Roni noted that our grants to UNICO National for Torraco Food Pantry requests were submitted for approval
- **Overseas and Food Pantry: Roni Corrado**
 - It was report by Roni Corrado to hold off sending food and that Evelyn Tosi's grandson, Joshua, was currently in Quarantine in Kuwait



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• **Golf Outing: Joe Barone**

- In Joe Barone's absence, Joe Benvenuti noted that the golf outing is cancelled.
- Steve Pelonero reported that Joe Barone, gold chair, came up with a fundraising idea to raffle off among our chapter members only the TV that would have been given out as a raffle prize. Each member that was interested in a chance to win the 55" TV was to write a check made out to PV UNICO in the amount of \$20 per chance (members only). Make a note in the memo section "Golf TV". Checks are to be sent to chapter president Carmen Gaita. The winning ticket will be drawn on the Gold Outing date of June 15th.
- Joe Barone attended this Zoom meeting late and gave a recap of all the above mentioned
- The TV cost \$300 so a minimum of 15 tickets would be needed to break even ... I all 55 members were to send a check in we could theoretically make \$1,100.00

• **Community Service Day: Chuck Russo**

- Food Pantry drive was cancelled due to Covid 19
- It was rescheduled, by our chapter, to Saturday, October 17th still at Little Falls ShopRite

Non-Fundraising Committees

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

- Chuck Russo reported that our Annual Scholarship Dinner is cancelled
- The scholarship committee is only allocating \$4,000 this year to scholarships with the thought process that there may be no fundraising and we would use the other \$4,000 of the \$8,000 for the 2021 awards
- There were 3 high school and 1 study abroad recipients chosen
- The high school students were:
 - Elizabeth Mezzina (granddaughter of Chapter Charter member and past chapter president Tony Nappi) ... resides in Boonton, attends Morris Catholic HS
 - Alexander Martin ... PVHS ... Totowa
 - Michaela Raguseo ... PVHS ... Woodland Park
- Unfortunately, there will be no Brian Piccolo presented this year
- The College Study abroad grant is to Deanna DeCorte ... Cedar Grove ... Montclair State University



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- **Good and Welfare: Sal Nocella**

- It was noted that member Mark BiFalco's wife, Caroline, is in remission from cancer. Carmen Gaita asked that a get well be sent to her from our Good and Welfare Committee Chair Sal Nocella
- It was noted that Evelyn Tosi's grandson is again overseas and in Quarantine, at the moment, in Kuwait
- It was noted that member Dominick Giuliano's brother had passed

- **Membership: John Barbieri**

- In John's absence it was noted that we are still at 55 members

- **Newsletter & Website: Steve Pelonero**

- Newsletter: April and May issues are on our chapter website and were sent to UNICO National for filing
- Website ... From March 11th meeting though tonight's May 13th meeting (2 months), we have had 107 visits to our website for a total of 85,649 hits

District and National Events

- **District News**

- Our NJ District DG, Steve Calantone attended this Zoom meeting. He welcomed and thanked everyone for their continued UNICO work. He noted that he attended the National Conference call of National Executive Board and Board of Directors. He gave a recap that all National officers, because of Covid 19, would remain the same and that the conventions would be held one in postponed. UNICO National will send out more information in an email to all members

- **National News**

- The convention has been cancelled for 2020. But will be rescheduled for 2021 with the same venues
- The March Midyear was also cancelled but the National Executive Board and Board of Directors did meet via a phone conference



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Old Business

- Carmen Gaita reported that he assigned a Nominating Committee and thanked those that volunteered their service to our chapter. A vote was needed to approve, but Carmen then asked as per guidelines, that if anyone was interested in coming off the floor to make it known now
 - For president: Eileen Wood
 - For 1st VP: Pat Ligouri
 - For 2nd VP: Dominick Bucci
 - Treasurer: Bruce Ponchak
 - Secretary: Chuck Russo
 - Sgt.At-Arms: Jim Minnella
- Steve Pelonero ask if he could submit it his name, to run again for another year, as chapter Secretary, seeing that there was to be no convention where he would be sworn in as National President. It was approved
- On that note all were in favor to replace Chuck as secretary, with Steve, for our chapters 2020-2021 year

New Business

- Sal Benvenuti and Chuck Russo contacted Little Falls Mayor James Damiano in regard to making a donation to the LF PD. Mayor James said it was not needed by them but if we could do something for the Food Pantries instead it would be appreciated

Adjournment

Motion was made to adjourn @ 7:45 pm

1st Sal Benvenuti

2nd Joe Benvenuti

All were in favor

Respectfully Taken by

Steve Pelonero, Chapter Secretary