

# PASSAIC VALLEY UNICO MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, January 12, 2022

**Place:** ZOOM Meeting

***Meeting called to order at 7:10PM by President Eileen Wood***

**Prayer and Flag Salute:** Dominick Bucci

**In Attendance:** Members - 19

<u>CHAPTER OFFICERS</u>	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan
President Eileen Wood	x	x	x	x	x
1 <sup>st</sup> VP Pat Ligouri	o	x	x	x	o
2 <sup>nd</sup> VP Dominick Bucci	x	x	x	x	x
Secretary, Chuck Russo	x	x	x	x	x
Treasurer Bruce Ponchak	x	x	o	o	x
Sgt At Arms James Minnella	o	x	o	x	o

## **OFFICERS' COMMENTS/REPORTS**

➤ **President Eileen Wood**

Eileen welcomed all to the meeting. She reported on 2 items:

- 1) Chapter member Emilia Klosek has transferred to the Wayne chapter
- 2) She has sent congratulatory letters to the two newest UNICO chapters, Elmwood Park, NJ and Orlando, FL and she is seeking guidance/approval on sending each of those chapters \$100 as is the tradition.

Treasurer Bruce Ponchak advised this would need chapter approval. A motion to do so was made by Joe Barone; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Steve Pelonero. Voted and approved

➤ **1<sup>st</sup> VP Pat Ligouri** – not present

➤ **2<sup>nd</sup> VP Dominick Bucci**

Dominick wished everyone a Happy New Year

- **Secretary Chuck Russo**  
With no additions or corrections to December minutes which had been distributed via email, the minutes were accepted. Motion by Steve P, second by Sal B
- **Treasurer Bruce Ponchak**  
Treasurer's report had been distributed via email. With no questions or corrections, the report was accepted. Motion by Steve P; second by Joe Barone
- **Sgt at Arms Jim Minnella** – not present

#### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- **VALENTINES DINNER** Dominick Bucci  
Dominick had previously advised that the dinner had been cancelled due to the pandemic. Carmen Criscione clarified that the dinner was never actually official but it was agreed to cancel same. Carmen thanked Dominick for all his initial efforts on this event.
- **GOLF OUTING** Joe Barone  
Joe reported nothing has been made definite yet but the outing will most likely be held on Monday June 13<sup>th</sup>. Joe will have more information next month.
- **FOOD PANTRY** Roni Corrado  
Roni reported that this month the chapter would be supporting Little Falls United Methodist food pantry with ShopRite gift cards and is accepting donations for that. She will send out an email tomorrow with details for those who want to contribute.
- **COMMUNITY SERVICE** Pat Liguori – not present, no report
- **SCHOLARSHIP** Pat Liguori – not present, no report

➤ **RAFFLE COMMITTEE** Carmen Gaita

In Carmen's absence, Sal B emphasized we should be selling the raffle tickets for the drawing on May 11<sup>th</sup> to be held at St Agnes Church

➤ **CHAPTER 50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY GALA** Joe Agresti

Joe has signed a contract with Nanina's in the Park for our event to be held on Tuesday April 26<sup>th</sup>. Our cost at Nanina's comes out to be \$98/person so we will be charging \$100 a ticket. Joe briefly summarized the menu for the affair and that entertainment will be by Julian & Dominique. Joe emphasized the importance members attending and selling ads for the journal to offset the entertainment and other extras. All members will receive a mailing next week regarding tickets and ads. President Eileen asked about guarantees to the restaurant and if there is now a projection of people from other chapters/national who have committed to attend. Joe advised that we are guaranteeing 110 people and that he right now has about 18 tickets outside our chapter already. So Joe feels based on that and the chapter members who responded at the November meeting, he is estimating about 60 people right now. Joe also explained that there will be 2 rooms for the cocktail hour and buffet and that seating arrangements can be made if so desired similar to a wedding. A program for the evening will be worked on. Carmen C asked if we are now committed to this event at Nanina's even with the possibility of a rise in covid numbers or some other unforeseen problem. Joe replied yes unless the governor imposes state-wide restrictions.

**DISTRICT/NATIONAL**

NP Steve P reported the national convention scheduled for July has to find a replacement hotel in New Orleans as the one that was booked has cancelled due to renovations. The national mid-year scheduled for Myrtle Beach in March is still on.

Steve also advised that he will be nominating Dr William Connell of Seton Hall Univ for the UNICO National Rizzuto Award.

Chuck R mentioned that Dr Connell holds the Italian Chair at Seton Hall which our chapter was at the forefront of the efforts by UNICO National to fund a number of years ago and that Dr Connell is very worthy of this recognition.

**OLD BUSINESS** – None

**NEW BUSINESS**

The February chapter meeting on 2/9 is scheduled for Holy Cross Church basement and will be just coffee and desserts (members are encouraged to bring a dessert) and will start at 7:30PM since it is only coffee and.

Dominick Bucci addressed the chapter regarding the recent theft of the Nativity Scene figures from the front of Holy Cross Church. Dominick spoke of the value of the statues and the cost to replace same (approximately \$4000) and suggested the chapter might want to donate and help defray the cost. Sal B reminded the members that any expenditure over \$200 must be initially discussed by the executive committee and presented to the chapter for approval. Thus any potential donation will be discussed and presented by the executive board.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Motion to adjourn by Sal B; 2<sup>nd</sup> by John B.

Meeting adjourned at 8:40PM

MINUTES RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED BY:

*Secretary Chuck Russo*

## **BILLS AND COMMUNICATIONS**

Eileen reported that a thank you had been received from the national office for our chapter donation for cancer research at the Meet the President Dinner in honor of Steve's brother. In conjunction to that we also received a thank you from the Pelonero family.

## **FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE REPORTS**

➤ **HOLIDAY CHEER** (Baskets for Needy Families) Bob Appaluccio

Bob again advised that the program consists of donating gift cards to area families in need. These donations are based on the contributions of the chapter and chapter members. Bob emphasized how thankful families have been in the past for this support. In the past the families have come from various sources such as Carmen Criscione's wife, Sal Benvenuti's church and other individual chapter members. Bob praised the generosity of the chapter and chapter members and advised that if anyone knows of a needy family, Bob should be notified and that he would gladly be accepting donations.

➤ **FOOD PANTRY** Roni Corrado – Roni was not present

Eileen stated that this month's donation by chapter members would be going to St Agnes Food Pantry which will be serving close to 200 families this month. There is food here at the meeting and Jay Sisti will be collecting money tonight for this cause. Eileen had also

given approval for Roni to purchase 3 turkeys for the food pantry as per their request. Joe Agresti stated that he has a contact in the supermarket field and, in the future, if he were notified of such a request, he could probably secure a donation from that source.

- OVERSEAS SOLDIERS Roni Corrado  
Roni was absent but Eileen indicated we have nothing to report for this item.  
Evelyn Tosi stated her grandson would soon be going to Egypt to train troops there.
- COMMUNITY SERVICE Pat Liguori  
Pat stated he would soon be contacting ShopRite to obtain a date for the annual Food Drive in April
- SCHOLARSHIP  
Eileen advised that Pat Liguori had volunteered to Chair the scholarship Committee.  
Pat advised the committee soon will be meeting and more information would be available next month.
- RAFFLE COMMITTEE Carmen Gaita  
Carmen requested members take tickets tonight to sell and noted that they are especially good for the holiday season. There are currently 300 tickets out and \$80 has been collected so far. Carmen has tickets with him in case members want them tonight. The drawing will be in May 2022 and proceeds will go into the chapter general fund, not just the scholarship as last year.
- PASTA DINNER Dominick Bucci  
Dominick reported the pasta dinner was attended by approximately 100 people and was very successful. There was excellent entertainment provided by Al Russo who was paid but since he is a member of Dominick's church, Al gave us a great discount. Everyone had a great time. There were many donations; Dominick thanked ShopRite for the cake and Ed of the church for all the work he did in the kitchen. Overall, \$2750 was made, 50% to the church and 50% to the chapter. Bob Appaluccio added that while most attendees were from our chapter, most of the work and supplies was attributed to the church so the breakdown of funds is very fair as it was a true joint effort.

### NON-FUNDRAISING COMMITTEES

- ITALIAN HERITAGE Angelo Verrone  
No report

- GOOD AND WELFARE Sal Nocella  
Sal reported a basket of fruit had been sent to Joe Benvenuti after his recent knee surgery.  
Joe thanked the chapter and then spoke regarding Tony Orlando and his recent medical situation. His biggest problem is the broken arm he suffered in the fall  
We are glad to hear that Tony is doing much better and continues to make progress and is in recuperation.
  
- MEMBERSHIP John Barbieri  
John reported, based on figures from Steve Pelonero, that, according to chapter dues going to national this month, our chapter membership is officially 60 members.  
John listed November birthdays. Average age of members is 72.
  
- NEWSLETTER AND WEB-SITE Steve Pelonero  
As per Steve, there is much interesting information in the monthly newsletter. He stressed that we should support chapter sponsors listed in the newsletters whenever possible.

#### **DISTRICT IV AND UNICO NATIONAL**

Joe Agresti spoke about the annual District Christmas Party for special children.

There will be a District Pasta dinner on January 7th, 2022, proceeds of which will be used to fund next year's district Christmas party. Joe encouraged all to attend both the pasta dinner in January as well as the Christmas Party on December 7<sup>th</sup> at the Brownstone. Tickets are \$55 a person.

There will be a Cigar night tomorrow, Nov 11<sup>th</sup> in support of the 2022 National Convention at the Brick House in Wyckoff.

#### **DISTRICT GOVERNOR PRESENTATION**

District Governor D'Uva addressed the chapter. He reiterated the importance of the upcoming district events, Christmas Party on Dec 7<sup>th</sup>, and Pasta Dinner on Jan 7<sup>th</sup>, and encouraged members to attend these very worthwhile events,

The next district meeting will be on Nov 16<sup>th</sup> at Anthony Franco's in Wayne.



