

## PASSAIC VALLEY UNICO MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, March 16, 2022

**Place:** Holy Cross Church basement, Woodland Park, NJ

**Type:** Coffee and dessert

### ***Meeting called to order at 7:35PM by President Eileen Wood***

**Prayer and Flag Salute:** Dominick Bucci, followed by a moment of silence in prayer for the people of Ukraine

**In Attendance:** Members - 24

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

### **OFFICERS' COMMENTS/REPORTS**

- **President Eileen Wood**  
Eileen welcomed all and thanked everyone for attending this rescheduled meeting. She also wished all a Happy St Patrick's Day and St Joseph's Day.
- **1<sup>st</sup> VP Pat Ligouri** - Not present
- **2<sup>nd</sup> VP Dominick Bucci**  
Dominick thanked all for attending and displayed the 2 new patches for our banner, our chapter 50th anniversary and National's 100 year patch
- **Secretary Chuck Russo**  
With no additions or corrections to the January minutes which had been distributed via email, the minutes were accepted. Motion by Steve P, second by Joe Benvenuti.  
Chuck advised that it would be much more efficient to communicate via text instead of email in special situations such as the cancelation of last week's

meeting. A sheet was passed around to indicate the current cell number of those in attendance and the willingness to receive group text messages in certain situations.

- **Treasurer** Bruce Ponchak  
Treasurer's report had been distributed via email. Current account balance is approximately \$21,000 which includes collected 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary monies, leaving available money to be approximately \$19,500  
With no other questions the treasurer's report was accepted. Motion by Carmen G, second by Joe B.
- **Sgt at Arms** Jim Minnella – not present

#### **BILLS AND COMMUNICATIONS**

Eileen reported we have received thank yous from National for our Donation to the Kentucky Tornado Relief Fund as well as a thank you from Holy Cross Church for our contribution for the replacement of the Nativity statues. Another thank you was received from the Nocella family for our expression of sympathy upon the passing of Sal's sister Mary. Another thank from Pastor Emily of First Reformed for our donation to their food bank, Eileen also has UNICO Foundation 50/50 raffle tickets for the National convention. It is in our budget to purchase some of these tickets.

#### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- **GOLF OUTING** Joe Barone  
The golf committee will meet following the chapter to finalize many of the details for the June 6<sup>th</sup> outing
- **FOOD PANTRY** Roni Corrado  
Roni will accept donations tonight of food and/or money which will be directed to The Veteran's Food Pantry in Paterson. There will be no separate collection in April because of our Food Drive at the ShopRite on April 23.
- **OVERSEAS SOLDIERS** Roni Corrado  
Evelyn Tosi's 3 grandsons will be deployed in the near future. When that happens, we will be putting together a care package.
- **COMMUNITY SERVICE** Pat Liguori

In the absence of Pat, Chuck passed around a sign up sheet for members to indicate they will be in attendance at the food drive on April 23<sup>rd</sup> and preferred time slots to cover the whole day.

➤ **SCHOLARSHIP** Pat Liguori

In the absence of Pat, Chuck reported that the Scholarship Dinner is set for Wednesday June 15<sup>th</sup> at the Grand Room at the Barnyard in Totowa. Ticket price and details on the dinner will follow in the next meetings.

Applications are in PV and have been sent to a number of private schools in the area since students from our 3 towns who do not attend PV are still eligible for the scholarship. Members are encouraged to notify the committee if they have knowledge of any such student.

Chuck reminded all that the committee tries to make special provision for children/grandchildren of members. No guarantee and such applicant would still have to meet the qualifications and apply. Application deadline is April 15<sup>th</sup>. The committee will meet to evaluate the applications and then present a list of potential recipients to the chapter at the May meeting.

Joe A brought us up to date on the study abroad grant. There are potential recipients from Montclair State who will be submitting applications.

➤ **RAFFLE COMMITTEE** Carmen Gaita

Carmen reported he has been collecting money and tickets. As of now the winner and the chapter would receive about \$600 each but there are still many tickets out. The drawing will be held on May 11<sup>th</sup> at St Agnes Church.

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

Joe advised as of today we have 58 paid tickets with a promise of another 20 to 25 more tickets. We have approximately \$2900 in paid ads. He again urged all to really get behind this event as time is running out and we have made a certain guarantee to Nanina's as far as attendees. Only 17 members have thus far purchased tickets

➤ **ITALIAN HERITAGE** Angelo Verrone

Angelo advised that Steve P had placed information sheets on the tables about Sicily and that he will do so again at future meetings about other regions of Italy.

Angelo will attempt to resurrect the event we had done in the past in conjunction with PVHS Italian club for some kind of joint event in the fall.

Also, possibly in the early fall, Angelo would like to see us have a bus trip to Arthur Avenue in the Bronx. This could possibly be a whole day venture including something like a visit to the NY Botanical Garden. Angelo will investigate bus rental etc and let us know of the progress he makes.

➤ **GOOD AND WELFARE** Sal Nocella

Before his report, Eileen requested that Sal make and present a lesson on his world famous home made mozzarella at next month's meeting.

Sal thanked the chapter for the fruit basket his family received and recommended that in the future instead of the traditional fruit basket the chapter send out gift cards or something more practical in "good and welfare" situations. The consensus was that this was a great idea.

➤ **MEMBERSHIP** John Barbieri

Eileen advised us that Angela Jones will be moving to South Jersey and will be leaving our chapter.

John read off the March birthdays and alluded to the average age of the chapter members. John advised that he received from National a list reflecting 91 "inactive members". Joe Barone would like to see us access our student/youth members to assist at things like the golf outing

## **DISTRICT/NATIONAL**

Eileen and Joe A reminded all of the district pasta dinner on April 22<sup>nd</sup> in Wayne and stressed its informality and the value of the event to help fund the annual district Christmas party for special needs guests.

Eileen has received notice from National regarding suggestions from the chapter level for possible amendments to the National Constitution. Sal B clarified the amendment process.

Steve gave a brief synopsis of the events at the recently completed National Mid-Year Board Meeting in Myrtle Beach.

National will soon be sending out requests for donations to be directed to Ukraine relief.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

Based on last month's Executive board meeting, Eileen presented to the chapter the recommendation that the chapter donate \$3000 to Al Capela's

family for his 6-year son with brain cancer. Motion made by Steve P, 2<sup>nd</sup> by  
Bruce P. Voted and approved.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Joe A reported on the progress of the Italian Museum in NYC and of the plan  
to offer walking tours of Little Italy as well as the re-done museum.  
Special welcome and recognition to Joe McGill upon his return from his period  
of illness.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Motion to adjourn by Joe B; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Joyce O.  
Meeting adjourned at 8:45PM

MINUTES RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED BY:

*Secretary Chuck Russo*

Meeting Attendance - March

Twenty-four (24) members were in attendance.

Joe	Agresti	Pete	Longo
Bob	Appaluccio	Joe	McGill
John	Barbieri	John	Morano
Joe	Barone	Sal	Nocella
Joe	Benvenuti	Joyce	O'Hara
Sal	Benvenuti	Steve	Pelonero
Mark	Bifalco	Bruce	Ponchak
Dominick	Bucci	Chuck	Russo
Frank	Capalbo	Jay	Sisti
Christina	Castillo	Angelo	Verrone
Roni	Corrado	Eileen	Wood
Carmen	Criscione		
Carmen	Gaita		