



UNICO NATIONAL

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

Monthly Minutes September 14~ 2nd Wednesday

Date September 14, 2022
Place Amore - Woodland Park
Prayer 7:00 pm - Sgt. At Arms John Morano
Flag Salute 7:01 pm - Sgt. At Arms John Morano
Dinner 7:02 pm
Meeting 8:00 pm

Members & Guests in Attendance

Members at meeting	24
Guests at meeting	2
Total (Roster is at 59)	26
Percentage at meeting	44%

Executive Board

<u>Attendance at meetings</u>	<u>9/22</u>	<u>10/22</u>	<u>11/22</u>	<u>12/22</u>	<u>1/23</u>	<u>2/23</u>	<u>3/23</u>	<u>4/23</u>	<u>5/23</u>	<u>6/23</u>
President: Bucci	😊									
1 st VP: Criscione	😊									
2 nd VP: J. Benvenuti	😊									
Secretary: Pelonero	😊									
Treasurer: Ponchak	😊									
Sgt.At-Arms: Morano	😊									

Delegates at Meetings

1. Jean Chomko 😊

Board of Directors at meetings (6 past Chapter Presidents)

Eileen Wood	😊
Carmen Gaita	😊
Bruce Ponchak	😊
John Barbieri	😊
Steve Pelonero	😊



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Past Chapter Presidents in attendance at meetings

	9/20	10/20	11/20	12/20	1/21	2/21	3/21	4/21	5/21	6/21
Joe Agresti PNP	😊									
John Barbieri	😊									
Sal Benvenuti	😊									
Carmen Criscione	😊									
John Morano	😊									
Steve Pelonero	😊									
Bruce Ponchak	😊									
Chuck Russo	😊									
Angelo Verrone	😊									
Eileen Wood	😊									

Opening Remarks

- **President Dominick Bucci**
 - Dominick asked that his agenda be revised and moved around as needed
1st Joe Agresti / 2nd Joyce O'Hara / All in favor
 - Dominick introduced our guests for the evening: Gabriella Socio M.S.U. is our study abroad grant recipient; Angela Socio is Gabriella's mother, Fran Maglio; Patricia Pelonero
 - Dominick welcomes everyone to his first meeting as chapter president
 - Dominick noted that there is a committee questionnaire on the tables. Please consider signing up to help or chair a committee
 - He noted that there are two proclamations on the front table that were given to us from Little Falls and Woodland Park at our scholarship dinner that celebrates us on our 50 years of UNICO Service
 - He said that the convention in New Orleans was great and urged everyone to try to attend one
 - He brought a pamphlet portfolio of the UNICO Foundation to see where the money goes
 - He brought the Gala night program from the convention
- **1st VP Carmen Criscione**
 - N/A
- **2nd VP Joe Benvenuti**
 - N/A



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Secretary Minutes

Secretary: Steve Pelonero

- Steve reported that the minutes were emailed to all chapter members as well as being on our chapter website.
- Motion to accept by:
 - 1st Joe Agresti
 - 2nd Joe BenvenutiAll were in favor.

Treasurer Report

Treasurer: Bruce Ponchak

Bruce emailed the minutes to all the chapter members. He gave a summary of what they show. Bruce also mentioned that so far only two of the students had put in a request for their grant money

- Motion to accept by:
 - 1st Sal Benvenuti
 - 2nd Joe AgrestiAll were in favor.

Chapter Budget

- Treasurer Bruce Ponchak reported that the budget was emailed to all the members, and it was to be reviewed for questions at this meeting and put up for a vote to accept at the October meeting

Bills and Communications

- President Dominick reported that thank you letters were received from:
 - Scholarship recipient Lindsey
 - Joyce O'Hara
 - Evelyn Tosi
 - St. Josephs Home
 - St. James Church
 - The UNICO Foundation for our donations of \$250 for Scholarships, \$250 for Cooley's Anemia, \$500 for Cancer Research



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Fundraising Committees

- **Holiday Cheer: N/A**
- **Food Pantry: Roni Corrado**
 - Roni announced that this meetings food collection will be going to Holy Angels. October's will be going to St. Agnes
 - Carmen Criscione said that with executive board and Board of Directors suggestion that we stop asking members to donate financially at the meetings. This process was started when we met during zoom meetings and were not going to local restaurants with the idea in mind that we were saving dinner costs by not going out. Now that we are meeting again it was recommended that we stop asking
- **Overseas Soldier Program: Roni Corrado**
 - Roni reported that all is good. Evelyn's grandson is safe with no details or requests made
- **Golf Outing: Joe Barone**
 - John Morano reported in Joe's absence. John reported that the past outing brought in just under \$7,000. We had 48 sponsors and 58 golfers. Joe Barone will be looking into a new venue, possibly with a new course and dinner location
- **Community Service Day: Chuck Russo**
 - Chuck said he is working on the National Community Service Day again with Shop-Rite. Workers / volunteers are always needed. Seeing as how there are no more bags given out, he is looking into getting bags printed and/or sponsored to be given out to those who hopefully will donate



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Non-Fundraising Committees

- **Scholarship: Chuck Russo**
 - Chuck would hope that more members would attend the Scholarship Dinner. 28 were members with guests, 24 were scholarship recipients and their guests. Next year he is looking into having it in May where it would not interfere with other scholarship events and dinners
- **Italian Heritage: Angelo Verrone**
 - Angelo reported that the bus ride to Arthur Ave had no interest with the members and therefore he was forced to cancel it
 - He is now looking into for our Heritage to contact all our chapter members and find out where their heritage is from in Italy/Sicily. He will then create a photo map of the towns and regions, and possibly at one each of the meetings he would report on the towns that we come from
 - Joe Agresti noted that the Italian Museum in Little Italy NYC is almost done but they are hosting walking tours of the area
- **Italian Studies: Cav. Joe Agresti PNP**
 - Joe Agresti introduced our M.S.U. Italian Studies recipient Gabriella Socio. She talked about her semester in Italy and Sicily. Gabriella is a senior and has a double major of Italian Language and wants to possibly be a lawyer. She is on the Dean's list. Gabriella presented a slide show on the big screen. Here are just a few of the many towns that she visited: Venezia, Roma, Modena, Parma, Bologna, Fiernza, Verona, Palermo, Catania, Ragusa, and Milan
- **Good and Welfare: Sal Nocella**
 - We welcomed back to our meetings Joyce O'Hara
 - Evelyn Tosi is back in the hospital. Having more issues with her back
- **Membership: John Barbieri**
 - John reported that we are at 57 members as per the UNICO National chapter roster
 - The averaged age of our chapter is 71 years of age



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- **Newsletter & Website: Steve Pelonero**
 - Steve reported that our website is now at 88,360 visits
 - Steve reported also that the newsletter is on our website and was emailed to all of the members. Steve also noted that all of our newsletters are on our chapter website

District and National Events

- **District News**
 - Steve reported that on Tuesday, Dec. 13th, there was a District meeting, our own NJ IV. In attendance at the meeting, representing our chapter were: President Dominick Bucci, Cav. Joe Agresti PNP, Sal Benvenuti, John Morano, and Steve Pelonero PNP. Talked about at the dinner meeting were chapter reports, and what was going on at the National level
 - Steve Pelonero PNP also reported that District NJ XI sponsored a Cancer Research and Prevention Bocce Tournament. Not financial details have come back yet
- **National News**
 - Steve Pelonero reported that Nov. 6 and 7, Sunday and Monday, are the dates for the ER Meeting at Shawnee in the Poconos. There will be a Sunday evening dinner where the Coccia Award will be presented to William Connell from Seton Hall. There will be workshops and meetings Monday morning
 - Steve reported that there will be a new look to www.UNICO.org website towards the end of September.
 - March 23-26, 2023, will be the UNICO National Mid-Year Board meeting at the Embassy Suites in Alexandria VA
 - Steve reported and reminded everyone that the Seaside Columbus Parade is on October 9th and that the NYC Columbus Parade is on Monday October 10th. All members and chapters are welcome to March in it, with UNICO.



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Old Business

- Steve Pelonero talked about the 40 Bottle Wine Raffle. There was a glitch in our application, and we got denied a permit. Our raffle is currently on hold until we can apply again.
- It was brought up about the LF Police Station, that it could possibly be a place to showcase our plaques, etc. Chuck Russo was told that space was limited, but that maybe in October, which is Italian Heritage month, that something can be worked out for us

New Business

- Carmen Criscione reported that he is looking into the October meeting at Viva La Pizza in Woodland Park. More information and a definite date will be announced
- Chuck Russo presented Eileen Wood with our customary Past Chapter President Plaque
- Chuck Russo suggested that our chapter needs a publicity chair to send to the local newspapers all our events. He said that he has tried to no avail in getting us out there
- John Morano asked our chapter if they were interested in a Christmas Dinner Meeting at the Ties in Singac. John read the venue and asked for an OK to proceed for Dec. 14th, priced at \$40 a ticket
- A motion was made by Carmen Criscione and 2ndd by Eileen Wood
- President Dominick mentioned that he had a membership table for the September 24th Woodland Park Day
- It was brought up about the table place mats for diners

Meeting Attendance





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Meeting Attendance

First Name	Last Name	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
Joseph	Agresti	1									
John	Barbieri	1									
Joseph	Benvenuti	1									
Salvatore	Benvenuti	1									
Christina	Castillo	1									
Jean	Chomko	1									
Roni	Corrado	1									
Carmen	Criscione	1									
William	Ermolowich	1									
Gerardo	Gaeta	1									
Carmen	Gaita Jr	1									
John	Morano	1									
Salvatore	Nocella	1									
Joyce	O'Hara	1									
Anthony	Orlando	1									
Steven	Pelonero	1									
Bruce	Ponchak	1									
Anthony	Ribaudo	1									
Chuck	Russo	1									
Gisella	Sisti	1									
Angela	Socio	1									
Gabriella	Socio	1									
Angelo	Verrone	1									
Eileen	Wood	1									
Total	Members	24									
Total	Guests	2									
Total at	Meeting	26									
Meeting	Location	Amore									

Adjournment

Motion was made to adjourn @ 9:40 pm

- 1st Joe Benvenuti
- 2nd John Barbieri

All were in favor.

Respectfully Taken by

Steve Pelonero, Chapter Secretary