



UNICO NATIONAL

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

Monthly Minutes February 8, 2023 ~ 2nd Wednesday

Date February 8, 2023
Place Casa Arturo's, Little Falls
Prayer John Morano
Flag Salute John Morano
Dinner/Meeting 7:00 pm

Members & Guests in Attendance

Members (46) at meeting 24
 Guests at meeting 3
 Member % at meeting 52%

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 | 😊 | 😊 | 😊 | xmas | 😊 | 😊 | | | | |
| 1 st VP: Criscione | 😊 | 😊 | 😊 | xmas | 😊 | 😊 | | | | |
| 2 nd VP: J. Benvenuti | 😊 | 😊 | 😊 | xmas | x | 😊 | | | | |
| Secretary: Pelonero | 😊 | 😊 | 😊 | xmas | 😊 | 😊 | | | | |
| Treasurer: Ponchak | 😊 | x | 😊 | xmas | 😊 | 😊 | | | | |
| Sgt.At-Arms: Morano | 😊 | 😊 | 😊 | xmas | 😊 | 😊 | | | | |

Delegates at Meetings

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|----------------|---|---|---|------|---|---|--|--|--|--|
| 1. Jean Chomko | 😊 | 😊 | 😊 | xmas | 😊 | 😊 | | | | |
|----------------|---|---|---|------|---|---|--|--|--|--|

Board of Directors at meetings (6 past Chapter Presidents)

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|----------------|---|---|---|------|---|---|--|--|--|--|
| Eileen Wood | 😊 | x | 😊 | xmas | x | x | | | | |
| Carmen Gaita | 😊 | 😊 | 😊 | xmas | 😊 | x | | | | |
| Bruce Ponchak | 😊 | x | 😊 | xmas | 😊 | 😊 | | | | |
| John Barbieri | 😊 | x | 😊 | xmas | 😊 | 😊 | | | | |
| Steve Pelonero | 😊 | 😊 | 😊 | xmas | 😊 | 😊 | | | | |



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Past Chapter Presidents in attendance at meetings

| | 9/20 | 10/20 | 11/20 | 12/20 | 1/23 | 2/23 | 3/23 | 4/23 | 5/23 | 6/23 |
|------------------|------|-------|-------|-------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Joe Agresti PNP | 😊 | 😊 | 😊 | xmas | 😊 | 😊 | | | | |
| John Barbieri | 😊 | x | 😊 | xmas | 😊 | 😊 | | | | |
| Sal Benvenuti | 😊 | 😊 | 😊 | xmas | 😊 | 😊 | | | | |
| Carmen Criscione | 😊 | 😊 | 😊 | xmas | 😊 | 😊 | | | | |
| Carmen Gaita | 😊 | 😊 | 😊 | xmas | 😊 | x | | | | |
| John Morano | 😊 | 😊 | 😊 | xmas | 😊 | 😊 | | | | |
| Steve Pelonero | 😊 | 😊 | 😊 | xmas | 😊 | 😊 | | | | |
| Bruce Ponchak | 😊 | x | 😊 | xmas | 😊 | 😊 | | | | |
| Chuck Russo | 😊 | 😊 | 😊 | xmas | 😊 | 😊 | | | | |
| Angelo Verrone | 😊 | x | 😊 | xmas | x | x | | | | |
| Eileen Wood | 😊 | x | 😊 | xmas | x | x | | | | |

Opening Remarks

• President Dominick Bucci

- Dominick
- On behalf of Dominick, Secretary Steve Pelonero PNP introduced the guests at the meeting: Patricia Pelonero, who will be sworn in as a new member of our chapter; Emilia Klosek who is reinstated as a member again of our chapter; Gene and Michele Maddalena from the Montville Chapter (Michele is the chapters president OF Montville UNICO)
- President Dominick welcomed everyone to the meeting and wished everyone a Happy Valentine's Day
- Dominick report on letters received in the mail They can be seen in the Bills and Communications Section of these minutes.
- Dominick reported on a NJ District IV event which can be seen in the District News section of these minutes.

• 1st VP Carmen Criscione

- Carmen thanked everyone for attending this venue which is the first time that the Casa Arturo Restaurant has been used as a meeting location.

• 2nd VP Joe Benvenuti

- Joe welcomed and thanked everyone for attending as well.



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Secretary Minutes

Secretary: Steve Pelonero PNP

- Steve reported that the minutes are on our chapter website at www.PassaicValleyUNICO.org in the minutes section.
 - Motion to accept was made by:
 - 1st Joe Agresti
 - 2nd Joe Benvenuti
- There was no discussion. All were in favor.

Treasurer Report

Treasurer: Bruce Ponchak

- Bruce reported that the minutes were sent out to chapter members in an email.
 - Motion to accept by:
 - 1st Cav. Joe Agresti PNP
 - 2nd Sal Benvenuti
- There was no discussion. All were in favor.

Bills and Communications: John Morano

- President Dominick reported that we received a thank you letter from the United methodist Church for our Food Pantry donation.
- Treasurer Bruce Ponchak reported that our annual bill for our General Liability Insurance came in.
- Cav. Joe Agresti PNP asked if our 1099 was submitted. Sal Benvenuti said yes.

Good and Welfare: Sal Nocella

- Sal welcomed Elaine Barone to the meeting as a guest after her surgery.
- Joe Agresti reported that member Tony Orlando is in assisted living and asked that members give him a call.
- President Dominick reported that we received a thank you letter from the United methodist Church for our Food Pantry donation.



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Chapter Budget

- (N/A)

Fundraising Committees

- **Community Service Day: Chuck Russo**
 - Chuck reported that our Annual Community Service Day (which is a UNICO National event) is scheduled to be at ShopRite on Saturday, April 29. It will again be a Food Pantry Drive which supplies 8 of our local pantries. Chuck noted that he still working on getting some type of bag to give to the shoppers before they walk in. He asked members to save boxes and bring them to the event. Questions asked were: do we know of any printers to put our logo on the bag. Can we get sponsors to help support the bag cost. Chuck also noted that a sign-up sheet was being passed around and asked that members sign up to help.
- **Cornhole Tournament: Steve Pelonero PNP**
 - Steve reported: March 1st is the deadline to pay if you wanted to enter a team into the event. The reason being is that we need a head count to make sure that we have enough food. Gene Maddalena (guest in attendance from the Montville UNICO chapter and co-chair of the event) said that the food will be catered by Hollywood Pizza in Fairfield. Steve noted that players must prepay. March 5th is the event.
- **Food Pantry: Roni Corrado**
 - Roni reported that the United Methodist Church received a full truck load of goods from us. Our next donation will be going to the Veterans Food Bank.
- **Golf Outing: Joe Barone**
 - Joe reported that our date is set for our Annual Gold Outing at the Meadows in Lincoln Park. It is a Monday on June 19. It is an 8 am registration, with a 9 am shot gun start. Dinner will follow at Franks Pizzeria in Lincoln Park. Golf and dinner are \$150. Dinner only is \$50. Golf Sponsorships are \$100.



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-
- **Holiday Cheer: Roni Corrado / Joe Benvenuti / Sal Benvenuti**
 - N/A
 - **Overseas Soldier Program: Roni Corrado**
 - Roni reported that no one was overseas at the moment.
 - Evelyn Tosi said that she would keep us informed.

Non-Fundraising Committees

- **Italian Heritage: Angelo Verrone**
 - In Angelo's absence, Steve Pelonero PNP handed out a survey of an Italian Sunday Dinner. The answers from the turned in surveys are to be tallied up and will be emailed to the members at a future time. Steve noted also that photos of Italy are also in the February monthly newsletter.
- **Italian Studies: Cav. Joe Agresti PNP**
 - Cav. Joe Agresti PNP reported that Montclair University is now in the process of getting us their students that might be eligible for our Italian Studies Grant.
 - Bruce Ponchak, chapter treasurer, suggested that we take \$1,000 from our general fund and give it to the chapter Italian Studies Committee for another scholarship. A motion was made by Sal Benvenuti and seconded by Gerry Gaeta.
- **Membership: John Barbieri**
 - John reported that membership, after Pa Pelonero is sworn in, will be at 46 members.
 - John gave birthday greetings to our February members: Chuck Russo, Jay Sisti, Eileen Wood, Angela Socio, Joyce O'Hara, Jim Cestone, John Morano.
 - Steve Pelonero PNP swore Patricia Pelonero as our newest and 46th member. Patricia is also the ComUNICO magazine editor.
- **Newsletter & Website: Steve Pelonero PNP**
 - Steve reported that all of our monthly newsletters are on our chapter website and also emailed to the members as they are released. Emails are also sent to the mayors in our three towns of Little Falls, Totowa and Woodland Park.
 - Our chapter website is still going strong with many visits to it



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- **Scholarship: Chuck Russo**

- Chuck reported that our Super Bowl fundraiser was a success and it raised \$1,275. He noted that the scholarship applications were given to the high schools as in the past and that if anyone knows of a student from our 3 towns, that they should let them know of our scholarship.
- The date of the awards dinner for our Brian Piccolo and Scholarships is Sunday, June 11, from 6-9 pm. It will be at the Barnyard in Totowa. No price has been set yet until the scholarship committee meets.
- Chuck also reminded everyone that this event is the culmination of all of our fundraising work and that all of our members are urged to try to attend and celebrate it with our students and parents.
- Chuck wanted to remind members that children and grandchildren are eligible as long as the grades meet our criteria.
- Chuck noted that we again offer a onetime memorial scholarship to be named to a person of a members choice for a \$200 donation.

District and National Events

- **National News**

- Steve Pelonero PNP reported that the UNICO National Mid-Year Board meeting is scheduled for the end of March in Alexandria, VA. It is at an Embassy Suites, Pat noted that the hotel supplies on their own an included breakfast and a cocktail hour in the evening.
- Pat Pelonero noted that the Mid Year meeting prices were \$189 per night, and registration was \$175.
- It was also noted that Dr. Fauci was a guest speaker.
- Steve also reported that the next convention is set for Fort Myers, FL at the Sanibel Harbor Beach Marriot. All information on both events can be seen on the UNICO National website at www.UNICO.org.



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- **District News**

- President Dominick reported that our NJ District IV will again be having our \$20 Pasta Dinner to support our Special Need Friends. It will be on April 21st, Friday, at the Wayne PAL Building. More information will follow at the March meeting. It is strongly urged that our chapter members volunteer as helpers at this event.
- Cav. Joe Agresti PNP noted that our NJ District IV will probably be giving a scholarship out and that we should be ready to submit our best candidate if that is the case.

Old Business

- Much discussion was made in regard to the bags for our community service day.

New Business

- Secretary Steve Pelonero PNP had the honor of swearing in our newest member, his wife, Patricia Pelonero. That brings our chapter to forty-six members.
- Discussed at length were how to attract people to UNICO. Some ideas that came up were participate in street fairs, advertise in restaurants (costly idea), advertise in church bulletins (also costly), other than the Cornhole Tournament, which should bring some younger people to the table, it was asked again on what other ideas can be made to attract new members (especially younger). If anyone has an idea and would especially like to chair an event, please step up.

Adjournment

- Before President Dominick adjourned the meeting, he noted that the next chapter meeting will be on March 8th, the 2nd Wednesday. No location was set yet.
- Motion to adjourn was made at 9:08 pm.
 - 1st John Barbieri
 - 2nd Patricia PeloneroAll were in favor.

Respectfully Taken by

Steven Pelonero PNP, Chapter Secretary

< Member meeting attendance is continued on next page >



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Meeting Attendance

| | | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec | Jan | Feb |
|-----------|------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Joseph | Agresti | 1 | 1 | 1 | | 1 | 1 |
| Carmen | Allora | | | | | | |
| John | Barbieri | 1 | | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Joseph | Barone | | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Phil | Barone | | | | | | |
| Joseph | Benvenuti | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Salvatore | Benvenuti | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Mark | BiFalco | | | | | 1 | 1 |
| Dominick | Bucci | | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Frank | Capalbo | | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | |
| Christina | Castillo | 1 | 1 | | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| James | Cestone | | | | | | |
| Jean | Chomko | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Patrick | Corrado | | | | | | |
| Roni | Corrado | 1 | 1 | 1 | | 1 | 1 |
| Carmen | Criscione | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Michael | D'Antuono | | | | | | |
| Brianna | DeLuccia | | | | | | |
| Danielle | Dransfield | | | | | | |
| Kyle | Eoepochino | | | | | | |
| William | Ermolowich | 1 | | 1 | | | |
| Gerardo | Gaeta | 1 | 1 | | | | 1 |
| Jessica | Gaeta | | | | | | |
| Carmen | Gaita Jr | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | |
| Emilia | Klosek | | | | | | 1 |
| Pete | Longo | | | | | | 1 |
| Joseph | McGill | | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| John | Morano | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Salvatore | Nocella | 1 | | 1 | | 1 | 1 |
| Joyce | O'Hara | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Anthony | Orlando | 1 | 1 | 1 | | | |
| Patricia | Pelonero | | | | | 1 | 1 |
| Steven | Pelonero | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Philip | Polizzotto | | | | | | |
| Bruce | Ponchak | 1 | | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Michaela | Raguso | | | | | | |
| Anthony | Ribauda | 1 | | | | | |
| Chuck | Russo | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Rachel | Shalloo | | | | | | |
| Gisella | Sisti | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Angela | Socio | 1 | | | | | |
| Gabriella | Socio | 1 | | | | | |
| Evelyn | Tosi | | | | | 1 | 1 |
| Angelo | Verrone | 1 | | 1 | 1 | | |
| Eileen | Wood | 1 | | 1 | 1 | | |
| Henry | Youngster | | 1 | | | 1 | |
| Total | Members | 24 | 20 | 23 | 19 | 24 | 24 |