



UNICO NATIONAL

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

Monthly Minutes March 8, 2023 ~ 2nd Wednesday

Date February 8, 2023
Place Holy Cross Church, Woodland park
Prayer John Morano, Sgt.At-Arms
Flag Salute John Morano, Sgt.At-Arms
Dinner/Meeting 7:00 pm / 7:55 pm

Members & Guests in Attendance

Members (47) at meeting 24
Guests at meeting 0
Member % at meeting 51%

Executive Board

<u>Attendance at meetings</u>		9/22	10/22	11/22	12/22	1/23	2/23	3/23	4/23	5/23	6/23
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	😊	😊	😊			
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Board of Directors at meetings (6 past Chapter Presidents)

Eileen Wood	😊	x	😊	xmas	x	x	x			
Carmen Gaita	😊	😊	😊	xmas	😊	x	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	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	x			

Opening Remarks

- **President Dominick Bucci**
 - President Dominick introduced and welcomed Claudine Stefanelli, who was then sworn in as a member by PNP Steve Pelonero.
 - Dominick noted that In April our chapter will have an Executive Board Meeting.
 - Dominick said that we were invited to a free concert at St. Thomas Church, by PNP Paul Alongi. Proceeds from any donations will be going to a dog training school for disabled Veterans.
 - Dominick reminded of some important dates which will be brought up by each respective committee chairperson.
- **1st VP Carmen Criscione**
 - Carmen welcomed everyone to the meeting and commented that the Cornhole Tournament Fundraiser was a fun event.
- **2nd VP Joe Benvenuti**
 - Joe also welcomed everyone and wished everyone a Happy St. Patrick's Day. Joe also noted that our April 12th meeting will be at Casa Arturo's in Little Falls. It is a BYO at \$35.00 each person.



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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. They were also sent to all of our chapter members.
- Motion to accept was made by:
1st Joe Benvenuti
2nd Sal Benvenuti
There was no discussion. All were in favor.

Treasurer Report

Treasurer: Bruce Ponchak

- Bruce reported that there were two minutes sent out with the 2nd being a revised version. It was sent to chapter members in an email.
- Motion to accept by:
1st Sal Benvenuti
2nd Chuck Russo
There was no discussion. All were in favor.

Bills and Communications: John Morano

- A golf/chapter sponsor was received.
- A motion was made in the amount of \$125 by Joe Agresti and 2nd by John Morano to have Club Membership Status with the Coccia Institute. All were in favor.

Good and Welfare: Sal Nocella

- It was noted that chapter member Jerry Gaeta's mother-in-law passed away.
- It was noted that UNICO National member, Mary Ann Rae, that her husband passed away. Services for him are on March 18. It was note that a condolence card should be send to the family @ 770 Maine Ave. SW, Washington DC, 20024.
- Prayers were asked for Passaic-Clifton member Dave D'Arco.
- Pat Pelonero asked if the chapter would consider helping a family in Totowa whose house burned down. A motion was made by Joe Agresti for \$200, a 2nd was made by Steve Pelonero. We would need to contact the Totowa mayor for contact information. All were in favor.
- Joe Benvenuti reported that Tony Orlando is doing well in an assisted live place but that he misses all of his friends.



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Chapter Budget

- (N/A)

Fundraising Committees

- **Community Service Day: Chuck Russo**
 - Chuck reported again that UNICO National Community Service Day for our chapter is on Saturday, April 19. It is at ShopRite of Little Falls. He is in need of volunteers so please contact Chuck with when you can help for at least an hour if not more. We service at least 7 food pantries at this event. He is still look for bags however we do have access to 500 paper bags at \$200. **A motion was made by Chuck to purchase them at \$200.** A 2nd was made by Joe Agresti PNP. All we in favor
 - Henry Youngster suggested possibly have a printed flier put in each bag telling the story of UNICO with the hopes that more people can learn about us and possibly even join.
- **Cornhole Tournament: Steve Pelonero PNP**
 - Steve reported that the Cornhole Tournament Fundraiser was a success. It seemed as if everyone had a great time. We split the profit, as everyone was aware, with the Montville Chapter. We each netted \$995.00. Our income was to be put into the general fund. It was asked if we could do this by ourselves and Steve replied that he counted on help with the Montville chapter to set up and cleanup the hall. It was there 2 hours ahead of time to set up and it involves “setting up tables and chairs, the kitchen, etc”. I f we can get a commitment EARLY, then it can be considered. But as of now, Steve said, he was working on it already with the Montville chapter again.
- **Food Pantry: Roni Corrado**
 - Roni reported that the February pantry went to the Veterans with \$150 in cards along with food.
 - March donations will go to The Little Sisters of the Poor and April will be going to St. James.
- **Golf Outing: Joe Barone**
 - Joe reported that we would be having our Golf Outing at the Meadows in Lincoln Park on June 19. He asked for volunteers to work as spotters on the holes and also for members to get sponsors which s what also makes this event a success.
- **Holiday Cheer: Roni Corrado / Joe Benvenuti / Sal Benvenuti**
 - N/A
- **Overseas Soldier Program: Roni Corrado**
 - N/A ~ No news is always good news.



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Non-Fundraising Committees

- **Italian Heritage: Angelo Verrone**
 - Angelo reported that a photo from the UNICO National Heritage Calendar was placed on the tables at the meeting depicting the Roman Colosseum that a UNICO member had taken.
 - President Dominick Bucci, along with Steve Pelonero PNP that if a member would like to see some information on their family roots on their town in Italy to let Steve know so that a page in a future newsletter will have it premiered (no photos are necessary but they can be used if so desired).
- **Italian Studies: Cav. Joe Agresti PNP**
 - Joe reported that the Coccia Institute at MSU will be giving their presentation April and that he would let us know what student will be the next recipient of our \$1,000 study abroad grant.
- **Membership: John Barbieri**
 - John reported that membership is at 47 members.
 - John gave birthday greetings to our March members: Joe Barone 7th, Bill Ermolowich 27th, Anthony Ribauda 30th, Dr. Kyle Eoepchino 31st, Rachel Shalloo 31st.
 - The average age of our chapter is 73.
- **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 89,141 visits to it.
- **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.
 - (Continued next page)



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- 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 member's choice for a \$200 donation.
- It was also noted that it is illegal to run a Super Bowl Pool.

District and National Events

- **National News**
 - The UNICO National Mid-Year Board Meeting will be at an Embassy Suites in Alexandria, VA.
 - It was also noted that next month will be the Executive Board nominations and that if anyone would like to run for an office to please let the Nomination Chair be aware of it.
 - Also, if someone wants to be a delegate of our chapter ~ at 47 members we are entitled to by national Constitution, Chapter President plus 1 member ~ that the chosen delegate is to represent the chapter at district and national meetings.
- **District News**
 - Cav. Joe Agresti PNP reminded everyone of our NJ District IV Pasta Dinner on Friday April 21st at the Wayne PAL building. At just \$20 a person, BYO, all tickets must be pre-purchased and presented at the entrance doo of the PAL building. There will also be a Meatball contest. Entries must be a ½ tray of approximately 24 meatballs. Volunteers to help during the night are "needed". Please step up with your service above self.

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Old Business

- Chuck Russo brought up the fact that our chapter membership has not grown. Possibly a membership drive would be in order.
- Roni Corrado suggested that members who have not attended meetings be contacted and asked “not why” but rather that we miss them and would like to see them attend again.

New Business

- Christina Castillo stepped up to be our Publicity Chair and stay in touch with the Herald News and other publications.
- Roni Corrado said that she would stay in contact with the Italian Tribune.
- Steve Pelonero PNP noted to them that she would send both Christina and Roni the photos that he takes.

Adjournment

- Before President Dominick adjourned the meeting, he reminded that the next chapter meeting will be as always the 2nd Wednesday of the month, April 12th, at Casa Arturo , Main Street Little Falls, \$35.00 BYO
- Motion to adjourn was made at 9:16
 - 1st Joe Benvenuti
 - 2nd John BarbieriAll 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	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Total Attended
Joseph	Agresti	1	1	1		1	1	1				6
Carmen	Allora											0
John	Barbieri	1		1	1	1	1	1				6
Joseph	Barone		1	1	1	1	1	1				6
Phil	Barone											0
Joseph	Benvenuti	1	1	1	1	1	1	1				7
Salvatore	Benvenuti	1	1	1	1	1	1	1				7
Mark	Bifalco					1	1					2
Dominick	Bucci		1	1	1	1	1	1				6
Frank	Capalbo		1	1	1	1		1				5
Christina	Castillo	1	1		1	1	1	1				6
James	Cestone											0
Jean	Chomko	1	1	1	1	1	1	1				7
Patrick	Corrado											0
Roni	Corrado	1	1	1		1	1	1				6
Carmen	Criscione	1	1	1	1	1	1	1				7
Michael	D'Antuono											0
Brianna	DeLuccia											0
Danielle	Dransfield											0
Kyle	Eoepochino											0
William	Ermolowich	1		1								2
Gerardo	Gaeta	1	1				1					3
Jessica	Gaeta											0
Carmen	Gaita Jr	1	1	1	1	1						5
Emilia	Klosek						1	1				2
Pete	Longo						1					1
Joseph	McGill		1	1	1	1	1					5
John	Morano	1	1	1	1	1	1	1				7
Salvatore	Nocella	1		1		1	1	1				5
Joyce	OHara	1	1	1	1	1	1	1				7
Anthony	Orlando	1	1	1								3
Patricia	Pelonero					1	1	1				3
Steven	Pelonero	1	1	1	1	1	1	1				7
Philip	Polizzotto											0
Bruce	Ponchak	1		1	1	1	1	1				6
Michaela	Raguso											0
Anthony	Ribaudo	1										1
Chuck	Russo	1	1	1	1	1	1	1				7
Rachel	Shaloo											0
Gisella	Sisti	1	1	1	1	1	1	1				7
Claudine	Stefanelli							1				1
Angela	Socio	1										1
Gabriella	Socio	1										1
Evelyn	Tosi					1	1	1				3
Angelo	Verrone	1		1	1			1				4
Eileen	Wood	1		1	1							3
Henry	Youngster		1			1		1				3
Total	Members	24	20	23	19	24	24	24	0	0	0	
Total	Guests		4		14	4	3					
Total at	Meeting	24	24	23	33	28	27	24	0	0	0	
Meeting	Location	Amore	Ties	Viva	Ties	HCC	CA	HCC				
Percent	at meeting	41%	41%	39%	56%	64%	61%	51%	0%	0%	0%	



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