



# UNICO NATIONAL

PASSAIC VALLEY CHAPTER  
 P.O. BOX 341  
 LITTLE FALLS, NJ 07424  
 PassaicValleyUNICO@gmail.com  
[www.PassaicValleyUNICO.org](http://www.PassaicValleyUNICO.org)

*Monthly Minutes*  
 April 12, 2023 ~ 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday

**Date** April 12, 2023  
**Place** Casa Arturo, Little Falls  
**Prayer** John Morano, Sgt.At-Arms  
**Flag Salute** John Morano, Sgt.At-Arms  
**Dinner/Meeting** 7:00 pm Dinner / Meeting followed the dinner courses

### Members & Guests in Attendance

Members (47) at meeting 28  
 Guests at meeting 3  
 Member % at meeting 58%

### 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 <sup>st</sup> VP: Criscione	😊	😊	😊	xmas	😊	😊	😊	😊		
2 <sup>nd</sup> 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	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	x		

**Opening Remarks**

- **President Dominick Bucci**
  - Dominick welcomed everyone to the meeting. Dominick acknowledged and welcomed to the meeting our NJ District IV Governor, Gary D’Uva and his wife Laura. Dominick welcomed Domenica Campen to the meeting and noted that she will be joining our chapter as a new member. Two other guests in attendance were Elaine Barone and Fran Maglio.
  - Dominick reported and gave footnotes to all of the committee reports. The notes will be in each of the committee reports in these minutes.
  - Dominick noted that he created a community bulletin board, and that it was at the back of the room at our meeting. Steve Pelonero noted that all of the same information is always on our chapter website and in the newsletter.
  - Dominick reported that our May meeting will be at Holy Cross Church.
  - Dominick reported that himself, John Barbieri, **Carmen Gaita**, Claudine Stefanelli, and guest Fran Maglio attended the Woodland Park Bunny Breakfast.
  
- **1<sup>st</sup> VP Carmen Criscione**
  - Carmen welcomed everyone.
  
- **2<sup>nd</sup> VP Joe Benvenuti**
  - Joe welcomed everyone and noted that this meeting dinner cost is \$35.00.



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## **Secretary Minutes**

Secretary: Steve Pelonero PNP

- Steve reported that the minutes are on our chapter website at [www.PassaicValleyUNICO.org](http://www.PassaicValleyUNICO.org) in the minutes section. They were also sent to all of our chapter members.
- Motion to accept was made by:
  - 1<sup>st</sup> Chuck Russo
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> Roni CorradoThere was no discussion. All were in favor.

## **Treasurer Report**

Treasurer: Bruce Ponchak

- Bruce reported that there could be no vote to approve the treasurer's report seeing that there was none available for this month. A vote would be taken at the May meeting.
- Bruce did note that there was \$21,061.
- Motion to accept by:
  - 1<sup>st</sup> n/a
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> n/aThere was no discussion.

## **Bills and Communications: John Morano**

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



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## **Good and Welfare: Sal Nocella**

- (DB) Thank you was received from the Gaeta family in memory of Jerry's mother-in-law.
- (DB) Thank you was received from St. Joseph's Home for our \$150 food pantry donation.
- (DB) Thank you was received from the Martinez family for our donation in regard to their house burning down.
- It was asked if there was any information on the well-being of David D'Arco, who is a very active Passaic-Clifton chapter member.
- Covering for Sal Nocella while he was out for the month, Joe Benvenuti noted that donations were made to the following:
  - In memory of William Ermolowich. His son William is a member of our chapter.
  - In memory of Elda Coccia. Elda was the wife of Past National President Cav. Joseph Coccia.
  - A get-well card was sent to chapter member Sal Nocella.

## **Chapter Budget**

- (N/A)

## **Fundraising Committees**

- **Community Service Day: Chuck Russo**
  - (DB) April 29<sup>th</sup>.
  - Chuck Russo reported that our chapter community service day is set for April 29<sup>th</sup>, Saturday. It will start at 7 am. We will have members at both entrance doors handing fliers to the customers which give ideas on what non-perishables can be donated to one of the 8 food pantries that we serve. Chuck handed out a time slot chart to those that previously volunteered. It is a rain or shine event from 7 am – ¾ pm.
  - Chuck asked, that if possible, to please wear a UNICO shirt. Chuck noted that there will be a limited number of food bags for the customers.
- **Food Pantry: Roni Corrado**
  - Roni reported that April's collections will be going to St. James Church in Totowa. May's collection will be going to St. George's.



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- **Golf Outing: Joe Barone**

- (DB) June 19<sup>th</sup>
- Joe Barone reported that our 38<sup>th</sup> Annual Golf Outing will be at The Meadows Golf Course in Lincoln Park. \$150 per player. Tee time is 10 am. Course contests will be run. Continental breakfast before starting. Dinner afterwards, at Franks Pizzeria Restaurant in Lincoln Park, Players can now pay online (\$153.00 online price) through our website. Sponsors can also sponsor through the website.

- **Overseas Soldier Program: Roni Corrado**

- No report. No news is good news.

## **Non-Fundraising Committees**

- **Italian Heritage: Angelo Verrone**

- (DB)
- Angelo reported that there was in the newsletter a photo from the UNICO National Heritage and Photo Calendar. He again asked that if a member wanted their town in Italy/Sicily be shown in our chapter newsletter to please contact him so that a nice write up can be included in it.

- **Italian Studies: Cav. Joe Agresti PNP**

- Cav. Joe Agresti reported that our Study Abroad recipient is a student at MSU and with the Coccia Program. Michael Cerbo will be doing a semester in Sicily and said he can attend our September chapter meeting.

- **Membership: John Barbieri**

- John reported that membership is at 47 members. It will be 48 members when our new member, Domenica Campen's application is processed.
- John gave birthday greetings to our April members: Steven Pelonero 04-03, Michael D'Antuono 04-16, Bruce Ponchak 04-27
- 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, National Officers and prospective members, if any.
- Our chapter website has 89,352 visits to it, Up from last month's meeting by 212.



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- **Public Relations: Christina Castilo and Roni Corrado**
    - One of the photos of our new member, Pat Pelonero, made in in the Passaic Valley Today Paper.
  - **Scholarship: Chuck Russo**
    - (DB) June 11
    - Chuck Russo reported that there will be a committee meeting immediately following the chapter meeting. The scholarship dinner is set for Sunday, June 11. From 6 pm – 9 pm. At the Barnyard in Totowa. Ticket price is \$45.00. There are Memorial Scholarship in name of a family member or person of your choice for \$200. Chuck noted that only 7 applications were received.
    - District Governor Gary D’Uva also noted that our NJ District IV will be given one scholarship at \$1500 to one of our 10 chapters in our district. Gary urged that we submit the best candidate for consideration to the district committee. Selection date for the district is April 19<sup>th</sup>.

## **District and National Events**

- **National News**
  - Chapter secretary Steve noted that he took some abbreviated minutes at the National Mid-Year Board meeting and that a few copies of them were on the back table in the meeting room and that they were also emailed out to all of the chapter members.
  - Steve also reminded everyone that there were still available UNICO Foundation Raffle Tickets for sale in his possession. Raffle ticket price is \$20 or a book of 6 for \$100.
- **District News**
  - (DB) Pasta Dinner April 21<sup>st</sup>
  - District Governor Gary D’Uva reported that the Belleville Chapter, who almost gave up their charter, is back up and running with 15 members and having their first fundraiser dinner on May 6. He asked if members could possibly attend it to support them on May 6<sup>th</sup>. It will be a comedy night.
  - DG Gary reported on the Pasta Dinner on April 21. Please support it by coming out to an all-night dinner for just \$20.00. Gary also noted that workers from every chapter are needed to make this night run smoothly. Please call your chapter president and let him know if you can work some or all of the night. There will also be a meatball contest that night for those that would like to bring and donate a tray of 24 meatballs.



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- DG Gary reported that Pequannock UNICO, also in our district, is having their annual Taste of the Town Fundraiser.
  - DG Gary reported that Sparta UNICO, also in our district, is working on another Italian Day at the Skyland Baseball Stadium. He noted that when PV Chapter member Steve Pelonero was National President, that he threw the opening pitch that day and it was a perfect strike.
  - DG Gary reported that our next District IV meeting will be on June 19<sup>th</sup>. More information will follow.

## **Old Business**

- A vote was taken to donate to PN Paul Alongi's organization that trains retired Police Dogs so that can be of service to Veterans. ~ 1<sup>st</sup> Joe Benvenuti, 2<sup>nd</sup> Carmen Criscione. All were in favor.

## **New Business**

- Carmen Gaita asked, by a recommendation of 4 members to him, that we have all of our meetings at Casa Arturo.
- Because no raffle was held at a recent meeting it was suggested that tonight's raffle will go to Holy Cross Church. ~ 1<sup>st</sup> Joe Benvenuti, 2<sup>nd</sup> John Barbieri. All were in favor.
- Chapter Elections
  - Secretary Steve Pelonero nominated for the chapters 2023-2024 year, the following positions: For Chapter President, Dominick Bucci; 1<sup>st</sup> VP, Carmen Criscione; 2<sup>nd</sup> VP, Joe Benvenuti; Treasurer, Bruce Ponchak; Secretary, Steve Pelonero PNP, Sergeant at Arms, John Morano.
  - Secretary Steve noted that nominations from the floor will be taken at the May Meeting

## **Adjournment**

- Before a request was made for a motion to adjourn the meeting, Chapter President Dominick again noted that the May meeting will be at Holy Cross Church. The venue has not yet been
- Motion to adjourn was made at 9:07 pm
  - 1<sup>st</sup> John Barbieri
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> Joe BenvenutiAll 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	1			7
Carmen	Allora											0
John	Barbieri	1		1	1	1	1	1	1			7
Joseph	Barone		1	1	1	1	1	1	1			7
Phil	Barone											0
Joseph	Benvenuti	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1			8
Salvatore	Benvenuti	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1			8
Mark	Bifalco					1	1					2
Dominick	Bucci		1	1	1	1	1	1	1			7
Domenica	Campan								1			1
Frank	Capalbo		1	1	1	1		1	1			6
Christina	Castillo	1	1		1	1	1	1	1			7
James	Cestone											0
Jean	Chomko	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1			8
Patrick	Corrado											0
Roni	Corrado	1	1	1		1	1	1	1			7
Carmen	Criscione	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1			8
Michael	D'Antuono											0
Brianna	DeLuccia											0
Danielle	Dransfield											0
Kyle	Eoepchino											0
William	Ermolowich	1		1								2
Gerardo	Gaeta	1	1				1		1			4
Jessica	Gaeta											0
Carmen	Gaita Jr	1	1	1	1	1			1			6
Emilia	Klosek						1	1				2
Pete	Longo						1					1
Joseph	McGill		1	1	1	1	1		1			6
John	Morano	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1			8
Salvatore	Nocella	1		1		1	1	1	1			6
Joyce	OHara	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1			8
Anthony	Orlando	1	1	1								3
Patricia	Pelonero					1	1	1	1			4
Steven	Pelonero	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1			8
Philip	Polizzotto											0
Bruce	Ponchak	1		1	1	1	1	1	1			7
Michaela	Raguso											0
Anthony	Ribaudo	1										1
Chuck	Russo	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1			8
Rachel	Shalloo											0
Gisella	Sisti	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1			8
Claudine	Stefanelli							1	1			2
Angela	Socio	1										1
Gabriella	Socio	1										1
Evelyn	Tosi					1	1	1				3
Angelo	Verrone	1		1	1			1	1			5
Eileen	Wood	1		1	1							3
Henry	Youngster		1			1		1				3
<b>Total</b>	<b>Members</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	
<b>Total</b>	<b>Guests</b>		<b>4</b>		<b>14</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>		<b>3</b>			
<b>Total at</b>	<b>Meeting</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	
<b>Meeting</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Amore</b>	<b>Ties</b>	<b>Viva</b>	<b>Ties</b>	<b>HCC</b>	<b>CA</b>	<b>HCC</b>	<b>CA</b>			
<b>Percent</b>	<b>at meeting</b>	<b>41%</b>	<b>41%</b>	<b>39%</b>	<b>56%</b>	<b>64%</b>	<b>61%</b>	<b>51%</b>	<b>58%</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>0%</b>	