



UNICO NATIONAL

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

Monthly Minutes June 21, 2023 ~ 3rd Wednesday

Date June 21, 2023
Place Holy Cross Church ~ Catered by Casa Arturo's
Prayer John Morano, Sgt.At-Arms
Flag John Morano, Sgt.At-Arms
Flag Salute John Morano, Sgt.At-Arms
Dinner/Meeting 7:00 pm Dinner / Meeting followed the dinner.

Members & Guests in Attendance

Members (55) at meeting 20
 Guests at meeting 3 (see last page for guest names)
 Member % at meeting 36%

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	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	x
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	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	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	x
Bruce Ponchak	😊	x	😊	xmas	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊
Chuck Russo	😊	😊	😊	xmas	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	x
Angelo Verrone	😊	x	😊	xmas	x	x	😊	😊	😊	x
Eileen Wood	😊	x	😊	xmas	x	x	x	x	x	x

Opening Remarks

- **President Dominick Bucci**

- Dominick welcomed everyone to the meeting.
- Dominick noted that he updated his community bulletin board, and that it was on the table in the back by the dessert for members to look at. Copies were distributed on each of the tables.
- Dominick reported that since our last meeting there was a lot of Thank You received.
- Holy Cross church thanked us for our donations from the 50/50 at our meetings. This money is used for the building fund.
- St. Josephs home thanked us for the \$115 from Sister Cecilia
- St. James Church of Totowa and First Reformed Church of Little Falls thanked us for the food pantry donations.
- Received a thank you from Christina Lee Morano she won the UNICO National Foundation “De Francis Scholarship.”
- Coccia Foundation thanked us for the donation in memory of Elda M Coccia
- Emilia Klosek, chapter member, thanked the club for the beautiful get-well card and gift card she received for recovery from her surgery she had. Emilia read her card and expressed her gratitude.
- **Dominick mentioned a few Completed Events:**
- Sunday June 11th- scholarship and Brian Piccolo Awards night at the Barnyard in Totowa it was a success thanks to Chuck Russo and his committee!



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- Monday June 19th- Golf Outing and hole Sponsors was also a great success thanks to Joe Barone and his committee!
 - Dominick mentioned The UNICO Foundation has 50/50 raffle tickets. The raffle will be held at the convention in July with 4 prizes to be given to the winners. The tickets are \$20 for a ticket. If anyone is interested in buying any please see Dominick after the meeting.
 - Dominick said his presidents report can be seen every month on our newsletter. He thanked Steve for a great job with the Newsletter. Now we have Chapter dues that need to be into national so members please get your dues in as soon as possible that would be much appreciated.
 - Dominick mentioned there was one new guest Vincent Strignile.
 - Dominick said tonight must resolve our delegates for the UNICO national Convention.
 - Dominick mentioned Chapter voting for the amendments at the convention will be discussed as well.
 - Will appoint next year's executive board and president.
 - Dominick said we need to look for a new food pantry and holiday cheer person Roni is stepping down/retiring this is very important to our chapter.
 - Dominick said we will need new fundraisers for next year. Anything and anyone can do them: raffles, dinners, golf sponsors anything that the club can do. Something for members to think about over the summer and then in September will get the chapter rolling again.
 - **1st VP Carmen Criscione**
Carmen welcomed everyone end of the season thanked everyone for some great fundraisers we did this year and the money raised for some very good people. He wished everyone a good summer!
 - **2nd VP Joe Benvenuti**
Joe welcomed everyone and wished everyone a safe and happy summer. Joe mentioned Chuck Russo was absent tonight his brother Rocco was very sick. Chuck got a call today and he needed to fly out to Colorado right away with his wife Jane to see his brother since is doesn't look very good for his brother. Joe also mentioned Angelo Verrone was also not in attendance tonight. Joe Thanked Joe Barone for all his hard work and how well the golf outing went this year. Joe thanked the club members for all the hole sponsors we got this year and everyone who helped that day working the event. This year was outstanding with the amount of hole sponsors that we got. It went from 46 to over 70 this year. This is pure profit. Lastly Joe mentioned that Sal Nocella was absent as he was in the hospital, then got moved to a nursing home for 20 days to build up his lung capacity. He is struggling very depressed he is in Lincoln Park. He told Joe to say hello to everyone. Joe noted that the members can call him on his cell.



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Secretary Minutes

Secretary: Steve Pelonero PNP

Dominick mentioned Steve was absent tonight. He was in Sparta, so no report Christina Castillo was taking the minutes down for Steve tonight. Carmen and Joe thanked her for doing that.

- Motion to accept was made by:

1st Joe Agresti

2nd Sal Benvenuti

There was no discussion. All were in favor.

Treasurer Report

Treasurer: Bruce Ponchak

- Bruce reported that he had sent out the treasurer's report to all members in an email.
- Motion to accept by:
 - 1st John Barbieri
 - 2nd Carmen Gaita
- Discussion: Bruce mentioned that as suggested he was going to do his research about a CD as PNC is not giving our chapter anything. 5% at Valley so he will look into switching everything over to Valley National Bank. Bruce said that he has no problem doing that as PNC does not charge for the account with them. There is one problem however: only one person has access to the PNC account and that is Joe McGill as he was the treasurer and PNC will not transfer it over to anyone else unless a corporate resolution is made. Sal Benvenuti said that are ways to fill out the paperwork and get it resolved. Bruce also said that he would like the stuff to be mailed to our PO Box so this way in case he (Bruce) decides to no longer be the treasurer there will be no issues. Bruce noted that Valley Bank would be the best bet seeing as it is close distance to everyone. Joe Agresti wanted the unedited version in September Bruce mentioned what Joe saw is the whole thing. Everything is all in one account, no separate listing for the Martini listing. However, the martini money that was transferred was \$12,500.

Bills and Communications: John Morano

- None . See the president message

Chapter Budget

- (N/A)



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Chapter Elections

- In lieu of there being no Nominating Committee, Secretary Steve Pelonero PNP was asked to give the chapter election report. At the May meeting, it was announced that the chapter executive committee and chapter board of directors were putting forward the following: Dominic Bucci for his 2nd term as Chapter President; Carmen Criscione for 1st VP; Joe Benvenuti for 2nd VP; Bruce Ponchak for Treasurer; Steve Pelonero PNP for Secretary; John Morano for Sgt.At-Arms. Secretary Steve then case one for all.
- It was noted that our chapter, having 48 members, is eligible for two-chapter delegates, in addition to the chapter president. At the June meeting the delegates will be chosen and announced.

Good and Welfare: Sal Nocella

- See the president message
- See the 2nd VP message

Fundraising Committees

- **Community Service Day: Chuck Russo**
 - No report
- **Food Pantry: Roni Corrado**
 - No report. Looking for a new chairperson.
- **Golf Outing: Joe Barone**
 - Joe Barone reported that if he looks around at all the people in the room there is not one person who didn't help with the golf outing this year. He was very happy with the club and all that they did to make this year's golf outing a success. Joe said this year the golf outing raised roughly \$13,000 as that number isn't finalized yet but will be in that range. Joe mentioned an advantage to this year's golf outing was that in January the club started looking for hole sponsors and thanks to the club this year 89 golfers played and there were 5 extra people for dinner at Franks. There was a money raffle which raised \$620. There was a big jump of hole sponsors from 46 in 2022 to 74 this year which brought in over \$7700 just on sponsors. The expenses were as follows the Meadows charged \$60 a head and came to \$5500. gifts and balls were \$1000. Franks was \$1500 so the total was \$13,000. Joe Thanked everyone for a great year and he is looking forward to next year. John Barbieri mentioned how this year there were a lot of new hole sponsors. It only takes a few minutes to ask someone, and most people are very willing to donate to get their business name out there.



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- **Overseas Soldier Program: Roni Corrado**
 - No report. No news is good news.

Non-Fundraising Committees

- **Italian Heritage: Angelo Verrone**
 - No report.
- **Italian Studies: Cav. Joe Agresti PNP**
 - Cav. Joe Agresti reported that there is a Coccia award coming up the deadline is July 1st and he wants our Chapter to nominate Joe Scelsa the guy who is starting the Italian Museum as a candidate for that award. As long as its ok from the executive board. Joe figured it would be nice coming from our Chapter to give this to Joe. Everyone thought it was a great idea. Everyone was in favor of this. Joe asked if we could have Joe Cerbo, the Italian studies recipient at our meeting in September and if the meeting could be at a restaurant so Joes family could attend. The executive board will look into another restaurant since Casa Arturo is booked for September, but our meeting will be there in October and November.
- **Membership: John Barbieri**
 - John reported that membership is currently at 48 members plus 7 from the scholarship dinner so 55 members and 1 parent so 56. The number will drop once the kids get eliminated for next year.
 - John said if anyone was paying their dues tonight to put it in the envelope they received and hand to him.
 - John gave birthday greetings to our June members: Angelo Verrone and Henry Youngster
 - The average age of our chapter is 73.
- **Newsletter & Website: Steve Pelonero PNP**
 - No report
- **Public Relations: Christina Castillo and Roni Corrado**
 - N/A
- **Scholarship: Chuck Russo**
 - Joe Agresti reported for Chuck saying that the scholarship dinner went great and that in September Chuck will give his detailed report



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District and National Events National News

- National News

- Chapter President Dominick reminded everyone that there are \$20 UNICO Foundation Raffle Tickets still available. It was noted that it was in our chapter budget to purchase a book for \$100.00.
- Sal Benvenuti spoke about the 2 amendments that will be voted on at the National Convention. The first amendment was about changing the name of National membership to Ameche membership. Everything else remains the same must be Italian or of Italian descent, over the age of 18, and a US citizen to become a member. Sal recommended that our delegates at the convention vote yes to this first amendment. Sal made a motion to Vote yes to this and 1st was Carmen Gaita 2nd was Joe Agresti all were in favor. The 2nd amendment is to change the definition of a member to any ethnic group. You do not need to be Italian or have any Italian blood to join UNICO National. This amendment is very controversial or radical. The reason behind this is to get new members and feel this would get more people to join this organization. Joe Agresti said if this passes, he knows lots of chapters will drop out and will loose lots of current members. Sal made a motion to vote no to this amendment. 1st Joe Agresti 2nd Joe Benvenuti There was lots of discussion, but the consciences was to vote No. everyone was in favor. This is how delegates will vote at the convention.

- District News

- Chapter President Dominick announced that the next NJ District IV Meeting was to be on July 11th in Packanack lake at the Lakeside restaurant the dinner is \$45 please let Dominick know so he can let Gary know who is coming from our Chapter. The executive committee decided that any delegates who go to the district meeting will get \$25 back for attending.

Old Business

- None

New Business

- Sal Benvenuti discussed the delegates for the convention and how we are entitled to the president plus 3. The 3 people who will be those delegates are Pat Pelonero, Jeanie Chomko, and Sal Benvenuti. These 3 were voted on by the members and all were in favor. Sal Benvenuti is going as a delegate but will not be taking any money from the chapter.



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- Carmen Criscione mentioned how Jersey Discount Tool in Totowa the owner Nick Morello heard about the great work that UNICO was doing, and he wanted to donate towards anti bias started at \$400 and went to \$1,000 so want to use the money for a National and local basis. Then the executive board decided to use the \$200 and present it at the convention to be used for anti-bias. The rest will decide where to use that money. Motion was made by 1st Sal Benvenuti 2nd Bruce Ponchak all were in favor.

Adjournment

- Motion to adjourn was made by:
 - 1st John Barbieri
 - 2nd Carmen GaitaAll were in favor.

Respectfully Taken by

Christina Castillo, Chapter Member

< Member meeting attendance=, as well as guest attendance is continued on the next two pages >



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Meeting Attendance

		Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Total Attended
Agresti	Joseph	1	1	1		1	1	1	1	1	1	9
Allora	Carmen											0
Barbieri	John	1		1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	9
Barone	Joseph		1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	9
Barone	Phil											0
Bacchioni	Christopher											0
Benvenuti	Joseph	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	10
Benvenuti	Salvatore	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	10
Bifalco	Mark					1	1					2
Bucci	Dominick		1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	9
Campagna	Juliana											0
Campan	Domenica								1			1
Capalbo	Frank		1	1	1	1		1	1	1	1	8
Castillo	Christina	1	1		1	1	1	1	1	1	1	9
Cestone	James											0
Chomko	Jean	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	10
Corrado	Patrick											0
Corrado	Roni	1	1	1		1	1	1	1	1		8
Corsetto	Brianna											0
Criscione	Carmen	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	10
D'Antuono	Michael											0
DeLuccia	Brianna											0
Dransfield	Danielle											0
Eoepchino	Kyle											0
Ermolowich	William	1		1								2
Gaeta	Gerardo	1	1				1		1			4
Gaeta	Jessica											0
Gaita Jr	Carmen	1	1	1	1	1			1	1	1	8
Klosek	Emilia						1	1			1	3
Longo	Pete						1				1	2
McGill	Joseph		1	1	1	1	1		1	1	1	8
McInerney	Cielle											0
Meletta	Connor											0
Morano	Christina Lee											0
Morano	John	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	10
Nocella	Salvatore	1		1		1	1	1	1	1	1	7
OHara	Joyce	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	10
Orlando	Anthony	1	1	1								3
Pelonero	Patricia					1	1	1	1	1		5
Pelonero	Steven	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		9
Polizzotto	Phillip											0
Ponchak	Bruce	1		1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	9
Raguso	Michaela											0
Ribaud	Anthony	1										1
Russo	Chuck	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		9
Shalloo	Rachel											0
Sisti	Gisella	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	10
Stefanelli	Claudine							1	1	1		3
Socio	Angela	1										1
Socio	Gabriella	1										1
Tosi	Evelyn					1	1	1		1	1	5
Verrone	Angelo	1		1	1			1	1	1		6
Wood	Eileen	1		1	1							3
Youngster	Henry		1			1		1		1	1	5
Total	Members	24	20	23	19	24	24	24	25	25	20	
Total	Guests		4		14	4	3		3	2	3	
Total at	Meeting	24	24	23	33	28	27	24	28	27	23	
Meeting	Location	Amore	Ties	Viva	Ties	HCC	CA	HCC	CA	HCC	HCC	



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Percent	at meeting	41%	41%	39%	56%	64%	61%	51%	58%	61%	36%
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Guests		Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June
Gary	D'Uva		1						1		
Larua	D'Uva		1						1		
Eilaine	Barone		1						1	1	1
Geri	Samuel		0			1					
Gene	Maddalena					1					
Michele	Maddalena					1					
Fran	Maglio		0						1	1	1
Vincent	Strignile										1