



# 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 December 9, 2020 ~ 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday

**Date** December 9, 2020  
**Place** Virtual Zoom  
**Prayer** Dominick Bucci, Chapter 2<sup>nd</sup> VP  
**Flag Salute** Dominick Bucci, Chapter 2<sup>nd</sup> VP  
**Dinner** n/a  
**Meeting** 7:00 pm

### **Members & Guests in Attendance**

Members at meeting 21  
Guests at meeting 1 ~ Steven Calantone, NJ District IV Governor  
Total 22  
Percentage (of 57 members) 39%

### **Executive Board**

<b><u>Attendance at meetings</u></b>	<b>9/20</b>	<b>10/20</b>	<b>11/20</b>	<b>12/20</b>	<b>1/21</b>	<b>2/21</b>	<b>3/21</b>	<b>4/21</b>	<b>5/21</b>	<b>6/21</b>
President: Eileen Wood	😊	😊	😊	😊						
1 <sup>st</sup> VP: Pat Ligouri	😊	😊	😊	😊						
2 <sup>nd</sup> VP: Dominick Bucci	😊	😊	😊	😊						
Secretary: Steve Pelonero	😊	😊	😊	😊						
Treasurer: Bruce Ponchak	😊	😊	😊	😊						
Sgt.At-Arms: Jim Minnella	😊	😊	😊	X						

### **Delegates at meetings**

1. Jean Chomko	😊	😊	😊	😊						
2. Joyce O'Hara	😊	😊	😊	😊						
3. Need one more	X	X	X	X						

### **Board of Directors at meetings (6 past Chapter Presidents)**

Carmen Gaita	😊	😊	😊	😊						
Bruce Ponchak	😊	😊	😊	😊						
John Barbieri	😊	😊	😊	X						
Bob Appaluccio	😊	X	😊	😊						
Steve Pelonero	😊	😊	😊	😊						
Carmen Criscione	😊	😊	😊	😊						



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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	x	x	😊	x						
Bob Appaluccio	😊	x	😊	😊						
John Barbieri	😊	😊	😊	x						
Sal Benvenuti	😊	😊	😊	😊						
Carmen Criscione	😊	😊	😊	😊						
John Morano	😊	😊	😊	😊						
Steve Pelonero	😊	😊	😊	😊						
Bruce Ponchak	😊	😊	😊	😊						
Chuck Russo	😊	😊	😊	x						
Angelo Verrone	x	😊	😊	😊						

### Opening Remarks

- **President Eileen Wood:**
  - Eileen welcomed and thanked everyone for attending this Zoom meeting. Eileen said that it was a shame to meet this way, but this is what it is for a while. Eileen wished everyone a safe and a healthy Merry Christmas and New Year
- **1<sup>st</sup> VP Pat Ligouri:**
  - Pat welcomed everyone
- **2<sup>nd</sup> VP Dominick Bucci:**
  - Dominick welcomed everyone

### 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
  - 1<sup>st</sup> Carmen Gaita
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> Bill Ermolowich
 All were in favor



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## **Treasurer Report**

Treasurer: Bruce Ponchak

Bruce emailed the minutes to all chapter members

- Motion to accept
  - 1<sup>st</sup> Sal Benvenuti
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> Pat Liguori
- All were in favor

## **Chapter Budget**

- No report

## **Bills and Communications**

- We received a thank you letter for our donation of gift cards to the Little Sisters of The Poor

## **Fundraising Committees**

- **Holiday Cheer: Bob Appaluccio**
  - Bob reported that from our chapter budget, member donations, Community Service Day collected cash and gift cards, that we have a total of \$2,500 to be give to 5 families of \$500 each.
  - Bob thanked our chapter for their generosity
  - Carmen Gaita asked if our chapter would be noted in the presentation so that the families know of us. Bob answered yes, they will know it came from our chapter
- **Food Pantry: Roni Corrado**
  - Roni reported that the United Methodist Church Pantry received \$200 in ShopRite cards, and that the Little Sisters of the Poor also received \$200 in cards. Sal Benvenuti present to United Methodist and Roni presented to the Sisters
  - Roni asked if there were any special request for the next donations to be made to in January if the generosity of the members continues. She noted that next on her list was to be St. James Church in Totowa, the First Reformed Church in Little Falls, and the Veterans Home
- **Overseas Soldier Program: Roni Corrado**
  - Evelyn Tosi's grandson is home



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- **Golf Outing: Joe Barone**
  - In Joe's absence there was no report
- **Community Service Day: Pat Liguori**
  - No report

## **Non-Fundraising Committees**

- **Scholarship: Carmen Gaita**
  - Carmen reported that seeing as there was no fundraising to replenish the Scholarship Fund that the only money we have for June of 2021 was \$3,500. That breaks down to two \$1,000 awards to high school, one \$1,000 for a study abroad, and \$500 for Brian Piccolo expenses
  - Carmen noted that we still have the donation clause of \$200 which gets your name of choice to be added to one of the scholarships.
  - Carmen also noted that he and the committee were thinking of possibly running a raffle to raise extra money.
  - Carmen Criscione suggested that possibly instead of two \$1,000 awards, that we think about four \$500 awards
  - Carmen Gaita also reported that the forms were sent to the high schools and that the guidance department said that the students were to be made aware of such.
  - Carmen Gaita noted that we have two members with grandchildren who are eligible for consideration for a scholarship and if anyone has someone in mind to let him know as well
  - Carmen Gaita did not that UNICO was formed in 1922 with Scholarships as its main idea
- **Italian Heritage: Angelo Verrone**
  - No report
- **Italian Studies: Joe Agresti PNP**
  - No report
- **Good and Welfare: Sal Nocella**
  - We welcomed Tony Orlando back. He was also on our Zoom meeting and thanked everyone for their calls, letters and prayers



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- **Membership: John Barbieri**

- In John's absence, Steve Pelonero reported that we are at 57 members. As of the meeting we still have 10 members who have not yet paid their dues which are due to us on December 15<sup>th</sup>, so that we can then meet and submit our last payment to National which is due by the end of the month of December.
- Steve also noted that the membership list of paid and not paid was emailed to the Executive Board and Board of Directors for review.
- Steve also noted that of the 10 members that were not paid, that 3 of them were regular members of which one of them had turned in a resignation letter due to health issues. The other 7 were student / youth members. Steve also noted that we did receive youth dues from 3 of our youth members
- Finally, Steve noted that our Chapter Birthday members for December are listed on our website in the "Important Dates Section"

- **Newsletter & Website: Steve Pelonero**

- Steve reported that all was up to date on both the website and newsletter
- Our website is at 86,089 which is up from November at 86,012 visits

## **District and National Events**

- **District News**

- NJ IV District Governor Steve Calantone reported that he has been visiting the chapters in our district, both in person, but mainly via Zoom. All chapters are having the same issues as ours with fundraising and scholarships and member retention. He noted that it seems that golf outings are the big fundraiser for most of the chapters

- **National News**

- Steve Pelonero reported about National. He said that we are still hoping for a convention in Florida in 2021 but that alternate venues are being looked into just in case it deems necessary to do so
- Steve and Eileen Wood remarked that Joe Agresti, being the National Ad Journal Chair for the conventions, has been sending out to all chapters request to take a sponsor ad in the journal. Eileen reported that Joe would be sending a request to our chapter members to help support it seeing as Steve Pelonero will be sworn in as the 2021 National President of UNICO
- Sal Benvenuti reported that most chapters are having issues collected dues from their members but that the deadline was extended to the end of the Calendar year, December 31<sup>st</sup>. He noted that the dues to national covers the administration costs of the office



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## Old Business

- No old business

## New Business

- Steve Pelonero reported that seeing it looks like there would be no District or Chapter Christmas Dinner or Get-Together, he said that he did send an email out to all of our chapter members that if they wanted to send in a family Christmas Photo that it would be put in a section in the Photo Gallery of our website so that this way we could still celebrate the holiday together virtually. So far one person did respond with a photo

## Attendance at the December 9, 2020 Zoom meeting

The photo below represents those who were online at the zoom meeting at the time that the photo was taken at 7:37 pm. More could have been online before or after it was taken ... 22 were in attendance





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	First Name	Last Name
1	Robert	Appaluccio
2	Salvatore	Benvenuti
3	Dominick	Bucci
4	Christina	Castillo
5	Jean	Chomko
6	Patrick	Corrado
7	Roni	Corrado
8	Carmen	Criscione
9	Bill	Ermolowich
10	Carmen	Gaita Jr
11	Emelia	Klosek
12	Patrick	Liguori
13	John	Morano
14	Sal	Nocella
15	Joyce	O'Hara
16	Tony	Orlando
17	Steven	Pelonero
18	Bruce	Ponchak
19	Angelo	Verrone
20	Eileen	Wood
21	Henry	Youngster
22	Steven	Calantone DG

## **Adjournment**

Motion was made to adjourn @ 7:43 pm

- 1<sup>st</sup> Bill Ermolowich
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Angelo Verrone

All were in favor

## **Respectfully Taken by**

Steve Pelonero, Chapter Secretary