



UNICO NATIONAL

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

Monthly Minutes January 13, 2021 ~ 2nd Wednesday

Date January 13, 2021
Place Virtual Zoom
Prayer Dominick Bucci, Chapter 2nd VP
Flag Salute Dominick Bucci, Chapter 2nd VP
Dinner n/a
Meeting 7:00 pm

Members & Guests in Attendance

Members at meeting 26
Guests at meeting 1 ~ Sal Ingallina, UNICO National Membership & Retention Chair
Total (Roster is at 48) 27
Percentage at meeting 56%

Executive Board

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

Delegates at meetings

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|------------------|---|---|---|---|---|--|--|--|--|--|
| 1. Jean Chomko | 😊 | 😊 | 😊 | 😊 | 😊 | | | | | |
| 2. Joyce O'Hara | 😊 | 😊 | 😊 | 😊 | 😊 | | | | | |
| 3. Need one more | X | 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 | x | | | | | |
| Bob Appaluccio | 😊 | x | 😊 | 😊 | 😊 | | | | | |
| John Barbieri | 😊 | 😊 | 😊 | x | 😊 | | | | | |
| Sal Benvenuti | 😊 | 😊 | 😊 | 😊 | 😊 | | | | | |
| Carmen Criscione | 😊 | 😊 | 😊 | 😊 | 😊 | | | | | |
| John Morano | 😊 | 😊 | 😊 | 😊 | 😊 | | | | | |
| Steve Pelonero | 😊 | 😊 | 😊 | 😊 | 😊 | | | | | |
| Bruce Ponchak | 😊 | 😊 | 😊 | 😊 | 😊 | | | | | |
| Chuck Russo | 😊 | 😊 | 😊 | x | 😊 | | | | | |
| Angelo Verrone | x | 😊 | 😊 | 😊 | x | | | | | |

Opening Remarks

- **President Eileen Wood:**
 - Eileen welcomed and thanked everyone for attending another zoom meeting. (More of her remarks are in the “Good & Welfare” section of these minutes)
 - Eileen wishes everyone a safe and healthy New Year
- **1st VP Pat Ligouri:**
 - Pat welcomed everyone and wished all a healthy and no issue New Year
- **2nd VP Dominick Bucci:**
 - Dominick welcomed everyone and showed everyone a photo of our chapter at a food pantry donation that appears in an issue of the Italian Tribune



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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 by:
 - 1st Bob Appaluccio
 - 2nd Bill ErmolowichAll were in favor.

Treasurer Report

Treasurer: Bruce Ponchak

Bruce emailed the minutes to all chapter members.

- Motion to accept by:
 - 1st Steve Pelonero
 - 2nd Carmen CriscioneAll were in favor.

Chapter Budget

- No report

Bills and Communications

- John Morano reported that we received two Thank You Notes:
 - From the Little Sisters of the Poor in Totowa for our Gift Card Donation
 - From the First Reformed Church in Little Falls for our Gift Card Donation
- John Morano also reported that we received our yearly request to donate to the Special Olympics. This request was tabled for another meeting.



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Fundraising Committees

- **Holiday Cheer: Bob Appaluccio**
 - Bob reported that we gave during the Christmas Holiday to five families. Four of the families were from the school that one of our members wives works at. The other family is from St. Agnes Church. Most of the families are single parents and/or out of work

- **Food Pantry: Roni Corrado**
 - Eileen Wood asked that if members wanted to again donate any amount to our Chapter Food Pantry Fund, as we have been doing recently in lieu of going out to and the cost of a dinner, that the donations should be sent directly to Roni (Veronica) Corrado. Eileen will be sending out an email with Roni's address, etc
 - Roni asked if there were any special requests for the next donations to be made to, that you can contact her. Sal Benvenuti suggested that it be left up to the chair and her committee as there might be too many suggestions, not that they would not all be good and worthy of one of them. Roni noted that next on her list was to be St. James Church in Totowa with a family who just had born two preemie babies. Also on the list are the Little Sisters of the Poor in Totowa, and the Veterans Home
 - Roni also reported that last month (December) we gave \$175 in gift cards to Little Falls first Reformed Church.

- **Overseas Soldier Program: Roni Corrado**
 - No report

- **Golf Outing: Joe Barone**
 - Joe reported that first and foremost that his wife Elaine is making progress.
 - Joe reported that as of now there is no commitment anywhere for a golf outing. He said that he has already purchase the give-away golf balls that go to the golfers at the registration/check in table.

- **Community Service Day: Pat Liguori**
 - No report



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Non-Fundraising Committees

- **Scholarship: Carmen Gaita**
 - Carmen reported he had a recent committee meeting and that three of our chapter members have grandchildren who will be graduating high school in June. Carmen noted that chapter family members usually get precedence over others for a scholarship that we award, as long as they fill out, qualify, and file the necessary papers before the deadline.
 - It was discussed to lower the award to \$500, but the committee decided to keep it at \$1,000.
 - Carmen reported that personal donations were received, and he wanted to thank those who did so, in the amount of \$900 and that any member can still donate and have a scholarship jointly given in their names. On that note, Eileen Wood stated that she has not used any of her presidential discretionary fund that that she would be contacting Carmen for more information.
 - Carmen reported that College Study Abroad Grants are given to students who have traveled, or who have pre-booked travel flights over seas for a semester. This question came up in regard to student from Cedar Grove and who is attending M.S.U. in their Italian Studies Program, who received our grant for the semester but because of Covid has not had the opportunity to travel yet, but will as soon as they could.
 - Carmen reported that to raise funds for the scholarship program the committee was planning on running a cash raffle with 40% for the 1st prize, 2nd prize would be a wine give-a-way, 3rd prize possibly would be a wine refrigerator.
 - Chuck Russo asked if anyone has a form letter which requests donations from outside entities that would be used to help support our scholarship program. Joe Barone said that he would send to him the letter used for golf but that he of course would have to reword it.
- **Italian Heritage: Angelo Verrone**
 - No report
- **Italian Studies: Joe Agresti PNP**
 - No report
- **Good and Welfare: Sal Nocella**
 - Sal Nocella reported that a Fruit Basket was sent to the Agresti Family in memory of Joe's wife Arlene who had recently passed.
 - Chapter President Eileen reported that she talked to chapter member PNP Joe Agresti and that Joe asked her to thank everyone for the fruit basket and also to thank everyone for the prayers and to those that stopped in at the funeral home to pay their respects and for their support.



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- **Membership: John Barbieri**
 - John reported that we are at 48 members, down from 57. December 31st was the cut-off date to pay chapter dues and when our final payment was also due to UNICO National.
 - John reported that the average age of our chapter is 72 years of age.
- **Newsletter & Website: Steve Pelonero**
 - Steve reported that all was up to date on both the website and newsletter.
 - Our website is at 86,200 visits which is up from December at 86,089 visits. A total of 111 visits.

District and National Events

- **District News**
 - No report
- **National News**
 - Sal Benvenuti reported that UNICO National, even also slow as our chapters are, is still active and possibly going to do their March Mid-Year Board Meeting Virtually
 - He mentioned that the 2021 convention, when chapter member Steve Pelonero will be installed as National president, that there was a meeting to discuss alternative locations in case the pandemic prevented members from traveling to Florida. More information on that will follow when it becomes available.
 - Sal reported that National is down about 300 members due to possibly because those members who resigned joined originally to be part of a social club. Sal constantly reminds members that we are a service organization where we help others with Scholarships and to keep our Italian heritage strong, which is our UNICO Mission Statement.
 - Sal reported that the office staff is down to one full time person (Sue) and himself as National Executive Director. He reported that when the pandemic is over and chapters start meeting again and when office business picks up that another part time person possibly might be hired to replace Michele (our part time person) who recently passed away unexpectedly



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Old Business

- No old business

New Business

- Carmen Criscione asked if chapters could merge to help raise funds. It was reported that some chapters and districts to work together, even in our own district with the Christmas Dinner for Special Needs, as well as Pequannock UNICO working often with Wayne UNICO.
- It was asked about the Roma Club. It was noted that they are a social organization who works well with Wayne UNICO. Wayne UNICO has many members who speak the Italian Language which is possibly why they get along so well.
- Chuck Russo noted that the Little Sisters of the Poor is looking for books for their residents to read. Appropriate books at that. Chuck said that he is willing to collect them and drop them off
- Roni Corrado also reported that they use a lot of Scotch Tape there, so that if some one wants to buy a few rolls we can also donate that to them as well.
- Pat Ligouri as if the February meeting can be an in person one. Sal Benvenuti noted that NJ still has gatherings at 10% capacity in a room.

Attendance at the January 13, 2021 Zoom meeting

The photo below represents those who were online at the zoom meeting at the time that the photo was taken at 7:09 pm. More could have been online before or after it was taken ... 25 are show but there were 27 total in attendance

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| | | |
|----|-----------|------------|
| 1 | Bob | Appaluccio |
| 2 | John | Barbieri |
| 3 | Joseph | Barone |
| 4 | Joseph | Benvenuti |
| 5 | Salvatore | Benvenuti |
| 6 | Dominick | Bucci |
| 7 | Christina | Castillo |
| 8 | Jean | Chomko |
| 9 | Pat | Corrado |
| 10 | Roni | Corrado |
| 11 | Carmen | Criscione |
| 12 | William | Ermolowich |
| 13 | Carmen | Gaita Jr |



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| | | |
|----|-----------|---|
| 14 | Pat | Liguori |
| 15 | Joe | McGill |
| 16 | John | Morano |
| 17 | Salvatore | Nocella |
| 18 | Joyce | O'Hara |
| 19 | Tony | Orlando |
| 20 | Steven | Pelonero |
| 21 | Bruce | Ponchak |
| 22 | Anthony | Ribaudo |
| 23 | Chuck | Russo |
| 24 | Jay | Sisti |
| 25 | Eileen | Wood |
| 26 | Henry | Youngster |
| 27 | Sal | Ingallina (UNICO National Membership & Retention Chair) |

Adjournment

Motion was made to adjourn @ 8:11 pm

- 1st John Barbieri
 - 2nd Pat Ligouri
- All were in favor.

Respectfully Taken by

Steve Pelonero, Chapter Secretary