PASSAIC VALLEY UNICO

MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, November 10, 2021

**Place** Holy Cross Church Basement, Woodland Park

**Prayer and Flag Salute 7:10PM-**  Dominick Bucci, 2nd VP

**Dinner** (Catered by Amore)

**In Attendance** – **Members - 26; Guests – 3**

**CHAPTER OFFICERS** Sep Oct Nov

President Eileen Wood x x x

1st VP Pat Ligouri o x x

2nd VP Dominick Bucci x x x

Secretary, Chuck Russo x x x

Treasurer Bruce Ponchak x x o

Sgt At Arms James Minnella o x o

**Business Meeting initiated at 8PM**

**OFFICERS’ REMARKS**

* PRESIDENT Eileen Wood

Eileen welcomed everyone to the meeting and welcomed and introduced our 3 guests – UNICO National First Lady, Pat Pelonero as well as District IV District Governor, Gary D’Uva and Mrs D’Uva from Sparta

District Governor D’Uva swore in our 2 new chapter members, Joe Ciarfella and Nick Zumma.

Joe and Nick were officially welcomed, and photos were taken.

Eileen mentioned that she was remiss last month by not officially announcing that the position of Chapter Secretary had been filled and that Chuck Russo had happily agreed to fill the position. Chuck disputed the word happily but agreed to continue in the position.

* 1st VP Pat Ligouri – After initially indicating he had no report (much to the delight of the membership), Pat did make reference to October’s Meet the President(“Meet the Steve”) Dinner at the Venetian and what a nice affair it was.
* 2nd VP Dominick Bucci – wished everyone a Happy Veteran’s Day tomorrow.
* SECRETARY Chuck Russo – Chuck took the opportunity to welcome himself to the executive since he had been ignored in the past. He also wanted to dispel rumors that President Wood had made requests of Chuck to sit on her lap for dictation.

On a more serious note, Chuck indicated that the minutes from the October meeting had been sent out via email and that he would try to do that within a week or 2 after each meeting. The email would request that any changes or correction be emailed back to him. Since there were none by email and none at the meeting, a motion was made by Joe Agresti to accept the October minutes, 2nd by Carmen Gaita. October minutes are accepted.

* TREASURER Bruce Ponchak – Bruce was not present, but a motion was made by Joyce O’Hara to accept the treasurers report as had been emailed by Bruce, 2nd by Joe Benvenuti. Treasurer’s report was accepted.
* SGT AT ARMS Jim Minnella – Not present

**BILLS AND COMMUNICATIONS**

Eileen reported that a thank you had been received from the national office for our chapter donation for cancer research at the Meet the President Dinner in honor of Steve’s brother. In conjunction to that we also received a thank you from the Pelonero family.

**FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE REPORTS**

* HOLIDAY CHEER (Baskets for Needy Families) Bob Appaluccio

Bob again advised that the program consists of donating gift cards to area families in need. These donations are based on the contributions of the chapter and chapter members. Bob emphasized how thankful families have been in the past for this support. In the past the families have come from various sources such as Carmen Criscione’s wife, Sal Benvenuti’s church and other individual chapter members. Bob praised the generosity of the chapter and chapter members and advised that if anyone knows of a needy family, Bob should be notified and that he would gladly be accepting donations.

* FOOD PANTRY Roni Corrado – Roni was not present

Eileen stated that this month’s donation by chapter members would be going to St Agnes Food Pantry which will be serving close to 200 families this month. There is food here at the meeting and Jay Sisti will be collecting money tonight for this cause. Eileen had also given approval for Roni to purchase 3 turkeys for the food pantry as per their request. Joe Agresti stated that he has a contact in the supermarket field and, in the future, if he were notified of such a request, he could probably secure a donation from that source.

* OVERSEAS SOLDIERS Roni Corrado

Roni was absent but Eileen indicated we have nothing to report for this item.

Evelyn Tosi stated her grandson would soon be going to Egypt to train troops there.

* COMMUNITY SERVICE Pat Liguori

Pat stated he would soon be contacting ShopRite to obtain a date for the annual Food

Drive in April

* SCHOLARSHIP

Eileen advised that Pat Liguori had volunteered to Chair the scholarship Committee.

Pat advised the committee soon will be meeting and more information would be available next month.

* RAFFLE COMMITTEE Carmen Gaita

Carmen requested members take tickets tonight to sell and noted that they are especially good for the holiday season. There are currently 300 tickets out and $80 has been collected so far. Carmen has tickets with him in case members want them tonight. The drawing will be in May 2022 and proceeds will go into the chapter general fund, not just the scholarship as last year.

* PASTA DINNER Dominick Bucci

Dominick reported the pasta dinner was attended by approximately 100 people and was very successful. There was excellent entertainment provided by Al Russo who was paid but since he is a member of Dominick’s church, Al gave us a great discount. Everyone had a great time. There were many donations; Dominick thanked ShopRite for the cake and Ed of the church for all the work he did in the kitchen. Overall, $2750 was made, 50% to the church and 50% to the chapter. Bob Appaluccio added that while most attendees were from our chapter, most of the work and supplies was attributed to the church so the breakdown of funds is very fair as it was a true joint effort.

**NON-FUNDRAISING COMMITTEES**

* ITALIAN HERITAGE Angelo Verrone

No report

* GOOD AND WELFARE Sal Nocella

Sal reported a basket of fruit had been sent to Joe Benvenuti after his recent knee surgery.

Joe thanked the chapter and then spoke regarding Tony Orlando and his recent medical situation. His biggest problem is the broken arm he suffered in the fall

We are glad to hear that Tony is doing much better and continues to make progress and is in recuperation.

* MEMBERSHIP John Barbieri

John reported, based on figures from Steve Pelonero, that, according to chapter dues going to national this month, our chapter membership is officially 60 members.

John listed November birthdays. Average age of members is 72.

* NEWSLETTER AND WEB-SITE Steve Pelonero

As per Steve, there is much interesting information in the monthly newsletter. He stressed that we should support chapter sponsors listed in the newsletters whenever possible.

**DISTRICT IV AND UNICO NATIONAL**

Joe Agresti spoke about the annual District Christmas Party for special children.

There will be a District Pasta dinner on January 7th, 2022, proceeds of which will be used to fund next year’s district Christmas party. Joe encouraged all to attend both the pasta dinner in January as well as the Christmas Party on December 7th at the Brownstone. Tickets are $55 a person.

There will be a Cigar night tomorrow, Nov 11th in support of the 2022 National Convention at the Brick House in Wyckoff.

DISTRICT GOVERNOR PRESENTATION

District Governor D’Uva addressed the chapter. He reiterated the importance of the upcoming district events, Christmas Party on Dec 7th, and Pasta Dinner on Jan 7th, and encouraged members to attend these very worthwhile events,

The next district meeting will be on Nov 16th at Anthony Franco’s in Wayne.

**SPECIAL COMMITTEE**

* CHAPTER 50TH ANNIVERSARY Joe Agresti

Joe reported the difficulty of booking a catering hall at a somewhat reasonable cost.

The prices at all venues in the area are high and going higher. Committee members have visited a number of catering places with pretty much the same results which indicate ticket prices would have to be in the area of $100 a person for an event worthwhile of our 50th anniversary. There are still some venues which will be approached.

Joe advised the committee is not giving up and we will have some kind of celebration.

Angelo Verrone, a member of the committee, advised a visit to the Brownstone about a month ago resulted in an excellent menu including cocktail hour, open bar, etc on a Sunday afternoon in April would also be in the area of $100 per ticket.

Chuck Russo added that it looks like it’s going to be about $100 a ticket but there are ways to offset that kind of price for chapter members. The first is by having our chapter meetings over the next 4 or 5 months catered in a church at a price of around $10 to $15 a person instead of in a restaurant at $30 or $35 a person, the savings could be directed toward the 50th anniversary ticket price. Chuck also suggested that ticket prices could conceivably be supplemented by the “cushion” in the chapter treasury as we had done in the past for the Meet the President dinner. Regardless, Chuck very strongly stressed that some kind of commitment to this event must be made now; waiting until December or January may be too late to secure a venue.

Bob Appaluccio suggested the chapter make a commitment to a special event to commemorate our 50th even if it costs a bit more. Much discussion ensued.

Eventually all members present indicated they would commit to a special event in the Spring with tickets in the range of $100.

**OLD BUSINESS**

None

**NEW BUSINESS**

* PARTICIPATION IN LOCAL CHRISTMAS LIGHTINGS

Eileen raised the question if the chapter would be participating in this year’s

Woodland Park ceremonies on November 27th. Joe Agresti stated he has not gotten any definitive answer yet as to what the town was planning or what our chapter might do.

Joe is awaiting a call from a Woodland Park official for details. Nick Zummo, a volunteer fireman in WP is on the parade committee and provided specifics as far as the parade on the 27th. Joe Agresti suggested that, due to his current schedule, perhaps someone else should take over the role of liaison between the chapter and Woodland Park.

Chuck Russo stated that he was contacted by John Pace of Little Falls recreation wanting to know if we were going to participate in their tree lighting ceremony on Wednesday Dec 1st. Chuck stated he could not be there that night and asked if anyone else would serve as the go-between with LF. Bob Appaluccio and Sal Nocella volunteered and will reach out to John Pace for details and advise our chapter would be involved. A vote was taken and participation by the chapter was approved and funds from the chapter would be allocated for candy, hot chocolate etc.

**NEXT MEETING**

Eileen stated our next meeting in December is traditionally our Christmas party meeting but is concerned because the district Christmas party is Dec 7th, the night before our regularly scheduled meeting on the 8th. A suggestion was made by Bob Appaluccio that we possibly go to Frank’s Pizzeria in Lincoln Park as we had done a couple of years ago, and not necessarily on our regular meeting night. Steve Pelonero interjected that he and Pat would like to have a members-only get together at their house as a thank you to the chapter for support and attendance at the national convention in July. Eileen stated that if this happened, the chapter would subsidize the cost of the party for food etc. After discussion, Steve offered to host at 7PM on December 15th, instead of the 8th. This would be a BYOB party. There would be a quick business meeting followed by the members only party.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Motion was made to adjourn @ 9:05 pm by Pat Liguori

2nd – Angela Jones

 All were in favor. Meeting Adjourned

MINUTES RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED BY:

**Secretary Chuck Russo**

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# Meeting Attendance  - October

Twenty-six (26) members were in attendance.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Joe | Agresti |  | Pat | Liguori |
| Bob | Appaluccio | John | Morano |
| John | Barbieri | Sal | Nocella |
| Joe | Benvenuti | Joyce | O’Hara |
| Dominick | Bucci | Steve | Pelonero |
| Frank | Capalbo | Chuck | Russo |
| Christina | Castillo | Jay | Sisti |
| Jean | Chomko | Evelyn | Tosi |
| Joe | Ciarfella | Angelo | Verrone |
| Carmen | Criscione | Eileen | Wood |
| Gerry | Gaeta | Henry | Youngster |
| Carmen | Gaita | Nick | Zummo |
| Angela | Jones |  |  |  |
| Emilia | Klosek |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |

**GUESTS -**  National First Lady, Pat Pelonero; District Governor, Gary D’Uva; Laura D’Uva