

PASSAIC VALLEY UNICO MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, April 13, 2022

Place: St Agnes Church Hall, Little Falls, NJ

Type: Pizza

Pre-meeting: Mozzarella making demonstration by the Mozzarella Master, Sal Nocella.
Special thanks to Sal for the class and the great mozzarella

Meeting called to order at 8:12PM by President Eileen Wood

Prayer and Flag Salute: Dominick Bucci, followed by a moment of silence in prayer for the people of Ukraine

In Attendance: Members - 23

<u>CHAPTER OFFICERS</u>	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr
President Eileen Wood	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
1 st VP Pat Ligouri	o	x	x	x	o	x	o	o
2 nd VP Dominick Bucci	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Secretary, Chuck Russo	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Treasurer Bruce Ponchak	x	x	o	o	x	x	x	x
Sgt At Arms James Minnella	o	x	o	x	o	o	o	o

OFFICERS' COMMENTS/REPORTS

- **President Eileen Wood**
Eileen welcomed all and wished everyone a Happy Easter
- **1st VP Pat Ligouri** - Not present
- **2nd VP Dominick Bucci**
Dominick wished all Happy Easter and mentioned that our chapter banner is up to date including the recent patches.
- **Secretary Chuck Russo**
With no additions or corrections to the March minutes which had been distributed via email, the minutes were accepted. Motion by Carmen G, second by Sal B

- **Treasurer Bruce Ponchak**
Treasurer's report was distributed by email. With no questions, report was accepted. Motion by Joe Agresti, 2nd by Joe Benvenuti
- **Sgt at Arms Jim Minnella** – not present

BILLS AND COMMUNICATIONS

Eileen reported we have received a thank you from the Coscia Institute for our donation/membership renewal.

Also a notice from the Verona chapter regarding their 50th anniversary on May 20th. Joe Agresti made a motion that we take a \$100 ad in their ad journal. 2nd by Carmen G. voted and approved. We also have a request from National for an ad in the convention journal. We normally take an ad for \$275 (\$250 with the discount).

Motion to do so again this year made by Joe Benvenuti; 2nd by Sal B. Voted and approved.

The Montville chapter will be sponsoring a bocce tournament/BBQ on May 21 as a convention fundraiser. (clarified by Sal B)

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- **GOLF OUTING** Joe Barone
The outing will be on June 6th. Breakfast at 9am. The tournament will be followed by a beefsteak dinner at the Brownstone. Joe enumerated and explained the various contests and prizes which will be a part of the tournament.
So far there are only 6 or 7 sponsors, so we do need more as that is the most profitable aspect of the tournament. Joe also reiterated the need for golfers. He has flyers/brochures which members should take to bring in sponsors and golfers. Joe will also be speaking to those members who may be helping that day at registration, hole monitoring, etc.
- **FOOD PANTRY** Roni Corrado
There will be no separate collection this month because of our Food Drive at the ShopRite on April 23 will be providing to all the food banks we support.

➤ **COMMUNITY SERVICE** Pat Liguori

In the absence of Pat, Chuck advised anyone who missed the sign up sheet at the last meeting can still volunteer since it is the members who fill the posts at the store that day who make the drive successful. He will send out an email prior to the event as a reminder and seeking other volunteers.

Flexibility is the key as far as time spent that day. It is a rain or shine event..no rain date. Setup will be at 7:45 and we will stay until somewhere between 3 and 4 depending on who is able to stay. Chuck thanked those members who have made copies of the “shopping lists” and asked if anyone else could make more.

➤ **SCHOLARSHIP** Pat Liguori

Chuck reported that the Scholarship Dinner is now set for Thursday June 9th to avoid a conflict on the originally scheduled date of June 15. Ticket price will be determined by the committee and will be based on the number of recipients, guests, and catering hall costs. Please try to commit and bring payment and request for seating to the May meeting.

Currently we have only 10 applications from PVHS. Members are again encouraged to notify the committee if they have knowledge of any student from our 3 towns who do not attend PV.

Chuck explained the memorial scholarships. Application deadline is April 15th. The committee will meet to evaluate the applications and then present a list of potential recipients to the chapter at the May meeting.

Joe A brought us up to date on the study abroad grant. He attended the ceremony at Montclair State earlier this evening and awarded our grant to a very deserving student and he has invited her to attend our September chapter meeting. All at MSU were very thankful for our grants. We have now been doing this for 21 years.

➤ **RAFFLE COMMITTEE** Carmen Gaita

Carmen reported he has been collecting money and tickets. As of now the winner and the chapter would receive about \$1100 each but there are still many tickets out. The drawing will be held on May 11th at St Agnes Church at the May meeting at 8pm. Please bring in tickets and money even up to that night.

- **CHAPTER 50TH ANNIVERSARY GALA** Joe Agresti
Joe advised as of today we have about 141 tickets sold. He has been working on a seating chart for the event. We have approximately \$8000 in paid ads. Since it appears that we will make a profit on the event Joe would like to see some of that profit directed towards scholarship/study abroad.
- **ITALIAN HERITAGE** Angelo Verrone
Angelo is continuing to work on the bus trip to Arthur Avenue in the Bronx in the fall possibly combined with a visit to the NY Botanical Gardens. He will be contacting bus companies and by the May meeting will have a package to present to the chapter.
- **GOOD AND WELFARE** Sal Nocella
Sal reported that Bob A recently spent 2 nights in the hospital. Bob brought us to date on his situation. John Morano questioned if the chapter had done anything regarding the recent death of Agnes Arena, wife of prior chapter president, Phil Arena. After some discussion about chapter "responsibilities" in this type of situation, it was determined that we will send a sympathy card to the Arena family
- **MEMBERSHIP** John Barbieri
John reported that as of now we have 58 members.
John read off the March birthdays and alluded to the average age of the chapter members.

DISTRICT/NATIONAL

Steve P advised the next district meeting will be sponsored by the Clifton-Passaic Chapter on May 10 at Bela Napoli. Joe A reminded us of the district pasta dinner on April 22nd in Wayne. A casual BYOB event supporting the special needs district Christmas party. A great event for only \$20. There will also be a meatball contest at the dinner.

Sal B brought us up to date on the national convention to be held this summer in New Orleans. Rooms are going quickly so Sal urged anyone who may be attending the convention to make their reservations as soon as possible. And it was with great sadness that Sal advised us that the convention mark the end of his career as UNICO Executive Director.

OLD BUSINESS

Steve P brought us up to date on his efforts to have a wine raffle as a fundraiser. Tickets will be \$5. Steve will be applying for the raffle permit and seeking wine donations both from individuals and businesses. The drawing is planned for December 7th at The Ties (old Russian Hall) in Little Falls.

NEW BUSINESS

Christina Castillo advised the chapter of a local woman, Totowa business owner, single mother of 2, recently diagnosed with breast cancer.

Fundraisers in Totowa have started. One will be a dinner fundraiser at Sette on April 25th. Christina asked that we support that event and possibly donate \$200 towards the cause. Motion to do so made by Joe A, Second by John M. Voted and approved.

CHAPTER NOMINATIONS

With the unclear status of 1st VP Pat Liguori and Sgt at arms, Jim Minnella, and after much discussion, nominating committee chairman, John Morano was able to piece together a Slate of candidates for chapter officers for

2022-23. Those candidates are: President – Dominick Bucci, 1st VP - Carmen Criscione, 2nd VP – Joe Benvenuti, Secretary – Steve Pelonero, Treasurer – Bruce Ponchak, Sgt at Arms – John Morano.

Chapter delegates will be selected later. Elections will be held at the May meeting. Nominations can be made from the floor at that time.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn by bob A; 2nd by Joyce O.

Meeting adjourned at 9:15PM

MINUTES RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED BY:

Secretary Chuok Russo

Meeting Attendance - April

Twenty-three (23) members were in attendance.

Joe	Agresti	Joe	McGill
Bob	Appaluccio	John	Morano
John	Barbieri	Sal	Nocella
Joe	Barone	Joyce	O'Hara
Joe	Benvenuti	Steve	Pelonero
Sal	Benvenuti	Bruce	Ponchak
Dominick	Bucci	Anthony	Ribaudo
Frank	Capalbo	Chuck	Russo
Christina	Castillo	Angelo	Verrone
Jean	Chomko	Eileen	Wood
Carmen	Criscione		
Bill	Ermolowich		
Carmen	Gaita		