



UNICO NATIONAL

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

Monthly Minutes October 11, 2023 ~ 2nd Wednesday

Date October 11, 2023
Place Casa Arturo in Little Falls
Prayer John Morano, Sgt.At-Arms
Flag Salute John Morano, Sgt.At-Arms
Dinner/Meeting 7:00 pm Dinner / 8 pm meeting

Members & Guests in Attendance

Members (56) at meeting 23
Guests at meeting 0
Member % at meeting 40%

Executive Board

<u>Attendance at meetings</u>		9/23	10/23	11/23	12/23	1/24	2/24	3/24	4/24	5/24	6/24
President: Bucci		😊	😊								
1 st VP: Criscione		😊	😊								
2 nd VP: J. Benvenuti		x	😊								
Secretary: Pelonero		😊	😊								
Treasurer: Ponchak		😊	😊								
Sgt.At-Arms: Morano		😊	😊								

Delegates at Meetings

1. Sal Benvenuti	😊	😊
2. Jean Chomko	😊	😊
3. Pat Pelonero	😊	😊

Board of Directors at meetings (6 past Chapter Presidents)

Eileen Wood	x	x
Carmen Gaita	😊	😊
Bruce Ponchak	😊	😊
John Barbieri	x	😊
Steve Pelonero	😊	😊



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Past Chapter Presidents in attendance at meetings

	9/23	10/23	11/23	12/23	1/24	2/24	3/24	4/24	5/24	6/24
Joe Agresti PNP	😊	😊								
John Barbieri	x	😊								
Sal Benvenuti	😊	😊								
Carmen Criscione	😊	😊								
Carmen Gaita	😊	😊								
John Morano	😊	😊								
Steve Pelonero	😊	😊								
Bruce Ponchak	😊	😊								
Chuck Russo	x	😊								
Angelo Verrone	x	😊								
Eileen Wood	x	x								

Opening Remarks

- **President Dominick Bucci**
 - Dominick noted that this and every October is Italian Heritage month
 - Our chapter Italian flag raising went very well in Little Falls
 - The community bulletin board is on the front table at this meeting.
 - President Dominick swore in new member Marisa Panicucci.
- **1st VP Carmen Criscione**
Carmen thanked everyone for attending
Carmen remarked that the Flag Raising was well attended and it was a great night
- **2nd VP Joe Benvenuti**
Joe welcomed everyone to the meeting and wished everyone a Happy Halloween



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Secretary Minutes

Secretary: Steve Pelonero PNP

Steve noted that the minutes were sent to everyone in an email from our September meeting. Also noted that they are on our chapter website

- Motion to accept was made by:
 - 1st Carmen Gaita
 - 2nd Sal Benvenuti

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 Pat Pelonero
 - 2nd Joyce O'Hara
- All were in favor.
- Carmen Gaita asked if all scholarships were paid. Bruce "yes"
- Steve asked how Pay Pal money was handled. Bruce "all Pay Pal goes direct from Pay Pal into our PNC account"
- Steve asked if all money was out of the PNC account. Bruce "when the balance is zero then Valley national is our new bank"

Bills and Communications: John Morano

- A thank you was received from UNICO National for our donations at the convention to Anti Bias and Mental Health

Chapter Budget

- (N/A)

Chapter Elections: Nominating chair to be appointed

- N/A



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Good and Welfare: Sal Nocella

- Joe Benvenuti reported that Sal Nocella could still use some positive thoughts and prayers. He is undergoing chemo treatments
- Joe also reported that he would send sympathy cards to the Mangano family. Criss Mangano was a past UNICO National First Lady from the Saddle Brook Chapter
- Prayers for Eileen Wood as she is having some health issues.
- Bruce Ponchak noted that he is now “officially retired”

Fundraising Committees

- **Community Service Day: Chuck Russo**
 - Chuck reported that he requested a Saturday from ShopRite to host our Food Pantry Drive
- **Corn Hole: John Barbieri**
 - John reported that the date for our Corn Hole tournament will be on Sunday, April 7th, at the Totowa PAL Building. Fliers are on our chapter website in the members.com/Cornhole section. There will be teams of two at \$40 per person. There will be other events during the tournament for those that have off time during the tournament. John noted that this is an open tournament to everyone, not just our chapter. It is a BYO
- **Food Pantry: Open: Carmen Gaita, Patricia Pelonero**
 - Carmen Gait and pat Pelonero stepped up to chair the Food Pantry.
 - It was asked how it was handled. Pat said that she would contact Roni Corrado, but any foods that are brought to the meetings would be delivered to one of the Food Banks that we support.
- **Golf Outing: Joe Barone**
 - No report
- **Holiday Cheer: Joe Benvenuti, Sal Benvenuti, Carmen Gaita**
 - Joe reported that our chapter has a budget line item of \$1,500 but also said that if any member would like to contribute to it, it would gratefully be accepted. He noted that we give to needy families in our three towns before and during the Christmas Season.
- **Overseas Soldier Program: To be appointed**
 - Evelyn Tosi reported that there is no report, other than her grandson might be deployed in 2024.



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Non-Fundraising Committees

- **Italian Heritage: Angelo Verrone**
 - Angelo report that the Flag raising in Little Falls went very well
 - He noted that there were extra copies of the UNICO National 2024 Heritage & Photo Calendar on the front table of the meeting.
 - UNICO National Calendars for 2024 we sent USPS to all members ... extras are available, see Steve Pelonero PNP / Secretary
 - Angelo reported on a piece of our Italian Heritage by telling a story about Bruno Samartino (Professional Wrestler). Bruno was bor in Abruzzi, Italy, was so strong that he held the Bench Press Record. Bruno is an icon of wrestling. In 1977 Bruno wrestled in South Mountain Arena and the proceeds went to UNICO.
- **Italian Studies: Cav. Joe Agresti PNP**
 - Joe reported the our Study Abroud student could not make this October meeting but that he will try again for our November meeting at Casa Arturo.
- **Membership: John Barbieri**
 - John reported that were are now at 58 members which is up three from the beginning of the UNICO year. In addition to the many October birthdays in our chapter, John noted that UNICO National celebrated its 101st birthday on October 10. UNICO was start in Waterbury CT in 1922.
- **Newsletter & Website: Steve Pelonero PNP**
 - Steve reported that everything is in order with the newsletter and chapter website. The website is at 90,552 visits
 - All dates of our events are also on the website in the “Important Dates Section”
 - Steve noted that he always welcomes reports from the committee chairs as well as a town of heritage that one of our members’ family history is from. Steve said give him the town and he would do the research.
- **Public Relations: Christina Castillo and Roni Corrado**
 - Christina reported that photos from the Flag Raising in Little Falls were sent to the ComUNICO magazine
- **Scholarship: Chuck Russo**
 - No report



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District and National Events

- National News

- President Dominick report that the UNICO Meet the National President is October 24 at the Venetian in Garfield. Price is \$85.00. Tickets are available. Dominick asked if anyone was interested in going. No one responded.

- District News

- Discussion was made about our chapter Christmas get-together. Carmen Criscione suggested that we have our dinner at the NJ District Dinner for our Special Need Friends on December 5th.
- A sign-up sheet went out to the members who said they would attend, and Secretary Steve said that he would email those people to remind them to bring their money to the November 8th meeting. Joe Agresti said that we need to commit to this dinner early as tables are at a premium and that room is running out as there will be a lot of guests with the sponsors attending. Joe Agresti reminded everyone that the pasta dinner that was held a few months ago, run by our NJ District IV, is what pays for the guests. Gifts are always welcome so that the Christmas bags can be filled up for the recipients. Ticket prices are \$60.00 per person. Thirty people signed the sheet with a possibility of a few more.
- There is also a NJ District IV Bus ride on December 9th for \$110 per person. This Ride leaves Little Falls and goes to Bryant Park in NYC, followed by a dinner at Puglia's near Mulberry Street. The bus arrives back in Little Falls at 8 pm. Must prepay with cash. The first 50 people that pay are on the bus. First pay, first go.

Old Business

- N/A

New Business

- It was noted that the Board of Directors need to attend the next Executive Board meeting.

Adjournment

- Motion to adjourn was made at 9:08 pm by:
 - 1st Joyce O'Hara
 - 2nd Jon BarbieriAll were in favor.



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Respectfully Taken by

Steve Pelonero PNP / Chapter Secretary

Meeting Attendance

		Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Total Attended
Total	Members	19	23	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Agresti	Joseph	1	1									2
Allora	Carmen											0
Barbieri	John		1									1
Barone	Elaine		1									
Barone	Joseph	1	1									2
Barone	Phil											0
Bacchioni	Christopher											0
Benvenuti	Joseph		1									1
Benvenuti	Salvatore	1	1									2
Bifalco	Mark											0
Bucci	Dominick	1	1									2
Campagna	Juliana											0
Campen	Domenica											0
Capalbo	Frank	1										1
Castillo	Christina	1	1									2
Cestone	James		1									1
Cevino	Peter	x										
Chomko	Jean	1	1									2
Corrado	Patrick											0
Corrado	Roni											0
Corsetto	Brianna											0
Criscione	Carmen	1	1									2
D'Antuono	Michael											0
DeLuccia	Brianna											0
Dransfield	Danielle											0
Eopechino	Kyle											0
Ermolowich	William											0
Gaeta	Gerardo	1										1
Gaeta	Jessica											0
Gaita Jr	Carmen	1	1									2
Klosek	Emilia											0
Longo	Pete	1										1
McGill	Joseph											0



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McInerney	Cielle											0
Meletta	Connor											0
Morano	Christina Lee											0
Morano	John	1	1									2
Nocella	Salvatore											0
OHara	Joyce	1	1									2
Orlando	Anthony											0
Panicucci	Marisa	1	1									2
Pelonero	Patricia	1	1									2
Pelonero	Steven	1	1									2
Polizzotto	Philip											0
Ponchak	Bruce	1	1									2
Raguso	Michaela											0
Ribaudo	Anthony											0
Russo	Chuck		1									1
Shalloo	Rachel											0
Sisti	Gisella	1	1									2
Stefanelli	Claudine		1									1
Socio	Angela											0
Socio	Gabriella											0
Tosi	Evelyn	1	1									2
Verrone	Angelo		1									1
Wood	Eileen											0
Youngster	Henry											0
Total	Members	19	23	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Total	Guests	1	0									
Total at	Meeting	20	23									
Meeting	Location	Barnyard	Casa	Casa								
Percent	at meeting	34%	40%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	
Guests		Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	
Panicucci	Marisa	1										