



UNICO NATIONAL

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

Monthly Minutes March 13, 2024 ~ 2nd Wednesday

<u>Date</u>	March 13, 2024
<u>Place</u>	Casa Arturo. Little Falls, NJ
<u>Prayer</u>	7:00 pm
<u>Flag Salute</u>	7:01 pm
<u>Dinner/Meeting</u>	7:02 pm Dinner / 8 pm meeting *

- It was voted on, going forward at all meetings, to get together still at 7 pm but start the meeting at 7:30 pm during dinner and in between the serving of courses

Members & Guests in Attendance

Members (49) at meeting	24
Guests at meeting	0
Member % at meeting	49%

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	😊	😊	😊	n/a	😊	😊	😊			
1 st VP:	Criscione	😊	😊	😊	n/a	😊	😊	😊			
2 nd VP:	J. Benvenuti	x	😊	x	n/a	😊	😊	😊			
Secretary:	Pelonero	😊	😊	😊	n/a	😊	😊	😊			
Treasurer:	Ponchak	😊	😊	😊	n/a	😊	😊	😊			
Sgt.At-Arms:	Morano	😊	😊	😊	n/a	😊	😊	😊			

Delegates at Meetings

1. Sal Benvenuti	😊	😊	😊	n/a	😊	😊	😊
2. Jean Chomko	😊	😊	😊	n/a	😊	😊	😊
3. Pat Pelonero	😊	😊	😊	n/a	😊	😊	😊

Board of Directors at meetings (6 past Chapter Presidents)

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



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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	😊	😊	😊	n/a	😊	😊	😊			
John Barbieri	x	😊	😊	n/a	😊	😊	😊			
Sal Benvenuti	😊	😊	😊	n/a	😊	😊	😊			
Carmen Criscione	😊	😊	😊	n/a	😊	😊	😊			
Carmen Gaita	😊	😊	😊	n/a	😊	😊	😊			
John Morano	😊	😊	😊	n/a	😊	😊	😊			
Steve Pelonero	😊	😊	😊	n/a	😊	😊	😊			
Bruce Ponchak	😊	😊	😊	n/a	😊	😊	😊			
Chuck Russo	x	😊	😊	n/a	😊	😊	😊			
Angelo Verrone	x	😊	😊	n/a	x	😊	😊			
Eileen Wood	x	x	x	n/a	x	x	x			

Opening Remarks

- **President Dominick Bucci**
 - Announced that the April 10th meeting will be at Casa Arturo
 - Announced that the May 8th meeting will be at Casa Arturo
 - Announced that the June 12th meeting will be our traditional year end Pizza and Mussels dinner at Holy Cross Church in Woodland Park
 - President Dominick said that he was going to pass around two sign up sheets: one was for those who wanted to help at the Woodland Park Bunny Breakfast and the other was for those that were going to attend the march 20th NJ District IV Meeting that we are the host chapter
- **1st VP Carmen Criscione**
 - Carmen welcomed everyone
- **2nd VP Joe Benvenuti**
 - Joe welcomed everyone and noted that there was no Good and Welfare and that everyone was ok



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Secretary Minutes

Secretary: Steve Pelonero PNP

- Steve noted that the minutes were sent to everyone in an email from our January meeting.
- He also noted that they are on our chapter website.
- Motion to accept was made by:
 - 1st Carmen Gaita
 - 2nd Joe Benvenuti
- All were in favor.

Treasurer Report

Treasurer: Bruce Ponchak

- Bruce reported that he had sent out the treasurer's report to all members in an email.
- Bruce reported on the bank balances
- Bruce noted that in addition our checking balance that we also still had a \$ CD
- Bruce confirmed to Joe Agresti that we also had approximately \$3000 from our 50th Anniversary Dinner which was earmarked for Scholarship
- Motion to accept by:
 - 1st Joe Agresti
 - 2nd Carmen Criscione
- All were in favor.

Bills and Communications: John Morano

- John reported that a Thank You card was received from Roni Corrado

Chapter Budget

- (N/A)

Chapter Elections: Nominating chair to be appointed

- Nominations from the floor will be held at the April meeting



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Fundraising Committees

- **Community Service Day: Chuck Russo**
 - Chuck reported that the day is set for April 27th, rain or shine, at ShopRite in Little Falls. This is our 15th year of collecting food for our local Food Pantries. Starting at 7 am till about 3 pm. There was a sign-up sheet at the February meeting, but if you still can help, Chuck asked that you reach out to him. Shopping lists were printed but we can always use more. Helpers are always needed to stand at the entrances to hand at the fliers, and also at the exits to thank and receive the donations from the shoppers. Chuck noted that there no more Little Sisters of The Poor in Totowa but if anyone knows of a pantry to please let him know.
- **Corn Hole: John Barbieri**
 - John reported that all is going well, and the date of the Cornhole Tournament is April 7th. Helps are needed. At this day there are 25 teams, but he would like 48 teams. There will be food, with an electronic scoreboard. Cutoff day to sign up is March 28th
- **Food Pantry: Carmen Gaita, Patricia Pelonero**
 - Pat Pelonero reported that both Holy Angels and St. Agnes Church reached out with almost identical lists of items that were needed. Pat thanked and acknowledged the donations that were brought and made at this chapter meeting. Pat noted that she would divide equally the cash, cards and non-perishables and bring them to the pantries
- **Golf Outing: Joe Barone**
 - Joe reported that the Meadows in Lincoln Park is booked with a beefsteak to follow at the Brownstone. Registration is 8 am, Shotgun start at 9 am, Beefsteak at 3 pm. There will be prizes on every par 3 plus raffles at the Beefsteak dinner. Joe asked to get the foursomes submitted early and to make it a success we need the sponsors
- **Holiday Cheer: Joe Benvenuti, Sal Benvenuti, Carmen Gaita**
 - N/A
- **Overseas Soldier Program: To be appointed**
 - N/A



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Non-Fundraising Committees

- **Good & Welfare: Joe Benvenuti**
 - Joe reported no news within our chapter
 - Pat Pelonero asked that our chapter send a sympathy card to the Connell family. Pat said that she would get the address and get it to Joe Benvenuti. William Connell's father passed away at 91 years. William, the son, is an author of Italian Heritage and works at Seton Hall and is an avid supporter of UNICO and our Heritage

- **Italian Heritage: Angelo Verrone**
 - X

- **Italian Studies: Cav. Joe Agresti PNP**
 - Joe Agresti reported that he will be stopping in at MSU to pick up a few applications and then start the process of picking a winner

- **Membership: John Barbieri**
 - John reported that we are at 49 members.
 - Three chapter birthdays in March, all are shown in the March Chapter Newsletter
 - The average age of our chapter is 74.
 - The breakdown of our chapter is:
 - 33 regular paid members ~ 7 lifetime members ~ 9 youth (25 and younger) members.

- **Newsletter & Website: Steve Pelonero PNP**
 - Steve reported that everything is in order with the newsletter and chapter website.
 - The website is now at 91,293 visits, which is up 163 visits from February's meeting.
 - All dates of our events, and monthly minutes are also on the website.
 - Steve noted that the April newsletter and our chapter website are updated with our 2024-2025 chapter sponsors: Please support them when possible



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- **Public Relations: Christina Castillo and Roni Corrado**
 - Christina reported that she sent the Cornhole flier to multiple local newspapers and websites and that our chapter ad was submitted and shown in the 2024 PVHS Girls Show Ad Journal
- **Scholarship: Chuck Russo**
 - Chuck reported that Sunday, June 9th, is the date of our Annual Scholarship, Brian Piccolo Awards and Installation Dinner. At the Barnyard in Totowa 6 pm. It is planned again for our tradition 5pm Presidential Cocktail Hour. No price has been set yet. Planned are 8 scholarships, possibly 1 or 2 Study Abroad Grants and two Brian Piccolo recipients. Also available are Chapter Memorial Name Awards with a donation of \$200. Please contact Chuck for more of that information. Chuck noted that it is important for members to attend this dinner, which is the culmination of our work during the year. More information will follow as the date gets closer

District and National Events

- **National News**
 - Joe Agresti reported that the UNICO National Mid-Year Board meeting will be held this Sunday and Monday, March 17 and 19 in Atlantic City. In addition to the awards and meetings, this is when the UNICO National Budget will be voted on.
- **District News**

Joe Agresti reminded everyone that April 19th is the date of our NJ District IV Pasta Dinner which supports the Christmas Dinner for our Special Need Friends. Our chapter is just one where members still have not yet volunteered to help, whether it be with set-up, clean-up, cooking, serving, all around help. Joe noted that Steve and Pat Pelonero, and himself, have signed up but that other chapters have at least 7-10 members volunteering. Joe also noted that Steve Pelonero has tickets available for purchase at \$20 per person.

Old Business

- N/A



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New Business

- A motion was made by John Morano to not only start the dinner at 7 pm but also start the meeting at 7 pm. Chuck Russo noted that most members like the comradery time to be with other members. Bruce Ponchak asked that a revision be made to the motion to still start the dinner at 7 pm, but start the meeting at 7:30 pm. With no objections, the motion was 2nd'd by Steve Pelonero. All were in favor. This change will take effect at our April 10th meeting and continue to go forward at all future meetings.

Adjournment

- Motion to adjourn was made at 9:04 pm by:
 - 1st Joe Benvenuti
 - 2nd John BarbieriAll were in favor.

Respectfully Taken by

Steve Pelonero PNP / Chapter Secretary

Meeting Attendance

See the next page for this year's meeting attendance



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		Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Total
Total	Members	19	23	23	0	23	25	24	0	0	0	
Agresti	Joseph	1	1	1	n/a	1	1	1				6
Allora	Carmen				n/a							0
Bacchioni	Christopher				n/a							0
Barbieri	John		1	1	n/a	1	1	1				5
Barone	Elaine		1	1	n/a			1				3
Barone	Joseph	1	1	1	n/a		1	1				5
Benvenuti	Joseph		1		n/a	1	1	1				4
Benvenuti	Salvatore	1	1	1	n/a	1	1	1				6
Bifalco	Mark				n/a							0
Bucci	Dominick	1	1	1	n/a	1	1	1				6
Campagna	Juliana				n/a							0
Campen	Domenica				n/a	1						1
Capalbo	Frank	1		1	n/a	1	1	1				5
Carbonelli	Michael	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	1	1	1				3
Castillo	Christina	1	1	1	n/a	1	1	1				6
Cervino	Peter				n/a	1	1					2
Cestone	James		1	1	n/a			1				3
Chomko	Jean	1	1	1	n/a	1	1	1				6
Corrado	Roni				n/a							0
Corsetto	Brianna				n/a							0
Criscione	Carmen	1	1	1	n/a	1	1	1				6
Dransfield	Danielle				n/a							0
Eoepochino	Kyle				n/a							0
Ermolowich	William				n/a							0
Gaeta	Gerardo	1		1	n/a	1		1				4
Gaeta	Jessica				n/a							0
Gaita Jr	Carmen	1	1	1	n/a	1	1	1				6
Kazmark	Keith				n/a							0
Klosek	Emilia				n/a		1					1
Longo	Pete	1		1	n/a							2
McInerney	Cielle				n/a							0
Meletta	Connor				n/a							0
Morano	Christina Lee				n/a	1						1
Morano	John	1	1	1	n/a	1	1	1				6
OHara	Joyce	1	1	1	n/a	1	1	1				6
Orlando	Anthony				n/a							0
Panicucci	Marisa	1	1		n/a							2
Pelonero	Patricia	1	1	1	n/a	1	1	1				6
Pelonero	Steven	1	1	1	n/a	1	1	1				6
Polizzotto	Philip				n/a							0
Ponchak	Bruce	1	1	1	n/a	1	1	1				6
Ragusso	Michaela				n/a							0
Russo	Chuck		1	1	n/a	1	1	1				5
Sisti	Gisella	1	1	1	n/a	1	1					5
Stefanelli	Claudine		1		n/a		1	1				3
Tosi	Evelyn	1	1		n/a	1	1					4
Verrone	Angelo		1	1	n/a		1	1				4
Wood	Eileen				n/a							0
Youngster	Henry			1	n/a		1	1				3