



UNICO NATIONAL

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

Monthly Minutes October 9, 2024 ~ 2nd Wednesday

Date October 9, 2024
Place Casa Arturo, Little Falls, NJ
Prayer 6:30 pm John Morano
Flag Salute 6:30 pm John Morano
Dinner/Meeting 6:30 pm Dinner / 8:02 pm Meeting

Members & Guests in Attendance

Members (59) at meeting 16
Guests at meeting 0
Member % at meeting 27%

Executive Board

<u>Attendance at meetings</u>		9/24	10/24	11/24	12/24	1/25	2/25	3/25	4/25	5/25	6/25
President:	Criscione	x	😊								
1 st VP:	J. Benvenuti	😊	😊								
2 nd VP	Chuck Russo	😊	😊								
Secretary:	Pelonero	😊	😊								
Treasurer:	Ponchak	😊	😊								
Sgt.At-Arms:	Morano	😊	😊								

Delegates at Meetings

1. Sal Benvenuti	😊	😊
2. Pat Pelonero	x	😊

Board of Directors at meetings (6 past Chapter Presidents)

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



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Past Chapter Presidents in attendance at meetings

	9/24	10/24	11/24	12/24	1/25	2/25	3/25	4/25	5/25	6/25
Joe Agresti PNP	😊	😊								
John Barbieri	😊	x								
Sal Benvenuti	😊	😊								
Carmen Criscione	x	😊								
Carmen Gaita	😊	x								
John Morano	😊	😊								
Steve Pelonero	😊	😊								
Bruce Ponchak	😊	😊								
Chuck Russo	😊	😊								
Angelo Verrone	😊	😊								
Eileen Wood	x	x								

Opening Remarks

- **President Carmen Criscione**
 - Caren thanked everyone for attending the meeting. He remarked that this was his first meeting as Chapter president for the 2nd time. Carmen noted that he appreciates all the work that the members do and that the Township of Little Falls presented to our chapter at their town meeting, after our Italian Flag Raising, a proclamation noted that October is Italian heritage month in Little Falls.
- **1st VP Joe Benvenuti**
 - Joe thanked everyone for attending the meeting and asked that we pray for the safety of those in the way of the hurricanes. Joe also wished everyone a Happy Halloween.
- **2nd VP Chuck Russo**
 - Chuck remarked that we need to maintain the history of our chapter. Chuck brought in an Ad Journal from a 1978 dinner that our chapter had. Chuck asked if anyone knew where our original chapter was short of the copies that the National Office made for our 50th chapter anniversary dinner. Joe Agresti commented that Seton Hall University now has an Archive Library where we can store digital copies of our chapter history.



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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.
- He also noted that they are on our chapter website.
- Motion to accept was made by:
 - 1st Joyce O'Hara
 - 2nd Sal 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 and on our CD.
- He also noted that he sent out a \$200 donation to the Melanoma Foundation.
- Motion to accept by:
 - 1st Joe Benvenuti
 - 2nd Pat Pelonero
- All were in favor.

Bills and Communications: John Morano

- A Thank You was received from PNP Ralph Contini
- A thank you was received from some of our high school scholarship recipients
- Three donations were made in deceased chapter president Dominick Bucci's name
- A Thank You was received from Elaine Barone
- A Thank You was received from Frank Capalbo

Chapter Budget

- Chapter President Carmen reminded everyone that the chapter budget was discussed at the September meeting and then asked that a motion be made to accept the budget for our 2024/2025-chapter year.
- A 1st was made by Joe Benvenuti and a 2nd was made by Jean Chomko. All were in favor.



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Chapter Elections: Nominating chair to be appointed by Chapter President

- N/A

Fundraising Committees

- **Community Service Day: Chuck Russo**
 - Chuck reported that he requested from ShopRite, for our Food Pantry Drive, the Saturday after Easter, April 26th. More information will follow as he gets it.
- **Corn Hole: John Barbieri**
 - No report
- **Fifty/Fifty: Claudine Stefanelli**
 - No report . Carmen did note however that we did get our gaming license renewed and we are ready to go with a report hopefully at the November meeting.
- **Food Pantry: Carmen Gaita, Patricia Pelonero**
 - Patricia reported that she will start looking into the UNICO National Food Pantry Grants and will be contacting our pantries to fill them out.
- **Golf Outing: Joe Barone**
 - In Joe's absence, Joe Benvenuti reported that the outing is at Crystal Springs in Sussex on Monday, June 23rd. Price for golf and dinner is \$175.00. Breakfast starts at 7:30 am and golf is at 9:00 am. The usual prizes and contests. An after-golf BBQ dinner will be at the golf course from 2-6 pm. The committee wanted to expand and try other courses, and this was a great deal that was offered to us. Joe noted that as always, we are looking for golfers and sponsors ... so please start spreading the word.



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- **Holiday Cheer: Joe Benvenuti, Sal Benvenuti, Carmen Gaita**
 - Sal report that there was no report to be given at this time but that the committee will start to look for needy families. If any member knows of a family that could use our support to please contact himself, Joe, or Carmen. Last year he reported that we gave 5 different families \$500 each in gift cards. The chapter also has in our budget a line item to support it as well.
- **Overseas Soldier Program: To be appointed**
 - In Roni's absence, she asked if we could relay her message to the members. Steve Pelonero reported that Evelyn's grandson is in the transition process of coming home. No packages are being planned to send to him at this time.
- **Scholarship: Chuck Russo**
 - Chuck reported that there was no update yet but hopefully he will have some news at our November meeting. He is thinking about working on another fundraiser.

Non-Fundraising Committees

- **Good & Welfare: Joe Benvenuti**
 - Joe reported that we received a thank you card from Elain Barrone . She had back surgery.
- **Italian Flag Raising: Steven Pelonero PNP**
 - Steve reported that the Flag Raising went very well in Little Falls. He noted that for the past few years Little Falls always approached him and asked if we would want to do it again. Steve reported that 28 people were in attendance along with members, guests, National officers and town officials.
 - Steve thanked those that helped; Joe and Mary Benvenuti for the coffee and homemade cookies, and others who helped clean up afterwards.
 - The township, immediately after the flag raising had their weekly meeting and invited us in for the reading of a proclamation that declares October as Italian Heritage Month in Little Falls. Carmen Criscione, National President Anthony Bengivenga and Steve were present for the reading.
 - Carmen Criscione noted that he was to get a frame for the proclamation, and it will be hung in the Little Falls Civic Center on the wall that was given to us.



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- **Italian Heritage: Angelo Verrone**
 - Angelo said that he was still in contact with the PVHS Italian Club teacher to see if they are still interested in a heritage program as they have done in the past . it is usually done one night in October.
- **Italian Studies: Cav. Joe Agresti PNP**
 - Joe reported that our Study Abroad recipient is finishing up his semester in Italy and that when he comes back, he will set a chapter meeting date so that we can meet him and hear all about his travels and studies abroad. It will possibly be done in December or January.
- **Membership: John Barbieri**
 - In Johns absence, Steve Pelonero reported that were are at 59 members and at this meeting there were still 11 members who have not yet paid their annual dues. There is a deadline to pay at our November meeting
 - Steve reported that the breakdown of our chapter is: 34 regular paid members ~ 7 lifetime members ~ 18 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 92,356 visits, which is up 89 hits since our September meeting.
 - All dates of our events, photos and monthly minutes are also on the website.
 - The chapter website also has a member section where you can access member information.
- **Public Relations: Christina Castillo and Roni Corrado**
 - Christine reported that the three local papers, The Italian Tribune, The Little Falls Today Paper , and the Woodland Park Newspaper have been publishing everything that is sent to them

District and National Events

- **National News**
 - There is a Cigar Night Fundraiser for the 2025 Convention. It will be held at the Brickhouse in Wyckoff with Cigars and Dinner on November 20. Contact the National Office if interested.
 - The Meet the National President has been cancelled.



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- PNP Joe Agresti reported that at the Mid-Year Board Meeting, in Chicago, that the Coccia Award would be presented.
 - **District News**
 - There will be our District Christmas Party on December 3rd, 2024 at The Brownstone in Paterson. \$60 per person family style. Need a commitment as there will only be 240 people sitting capacity. Members are urged to bring their checks to the November meeting if they plan on attending. This will also be our chapter Christmas party as it has been the past few years.
 - The Special Needs Breakfast, which was held at LaNeces Restaurant in Haledon was a huge success.
 - Our NJ District IV Bus ride to Little Italy in NYC along with a dinner at Puglia's and a tour of the newly renovated Italian American Museum is set for December 7th. The price is \$110.00

Old Business

- No report

New Business

- Chuck Russo thought it would be a good idea to run a special bus ride for our chapter members to the Italian American Museum
- Our next chapter meeting is in November at Holy Cross Church. The 2nd Wednesday as always, November 13th. More information will follow.

Adjournment

- Motion to adjourn was made at 8:58 pm by:
 - 1st Christine Castillo
 - 2nd Joe AgrestiAll were in favor.

Respectfully Taken by

Steve Pelonero PNP / Chapter Secretary



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Meeting Attendance

The year's meeting attendance

			Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Total
	Total	Members	24	16	0	n/a	0	0	0	0	0	0	
1	Agresti	Joseph	1	1									2
2	Bacchioni	Christopher											0
3	Barbieri	John	1										1
4	Barone	Elaine											0
5	Barone	Joseph	1										1
6	Barone	Nicholas											0
7	Benvenuti	Joseph	1	1									2
8	Benvenuti	Salvatore	1	1									2
9	Bergamasco	Giavonna											0
10	Bifalco	Mark											0
11	Campagna	Juliana											0
12	Campan	Domenica	1										1
13	Capalbo	Frank	1	1									2
14	Carbonelli	Michael	1										1
15	Castillo	Christina	1	1									2
16	Castillo	Sara											0
17	Cervino	Peter											0
18	Cestone	James		1									1
19	Chomko	Jean	1	1									2
20	Corrado	Roni	1										1
21	Corsetto	Brianna											0
22	Criscione	Carmen		1									1
23	DeLuccia	Alexander	1										1
24	Dransfield	Daniel											0
25	Eoepochino	Kyle											0
26	Ermolowich	William											0
27	Gaeta	Gerardo	1										1
28	Gaita	Jessica											0
29	Gaita Jr	Carmen	1										1
30	Kazmark	Keith											0
31	Klosik	Emilia											0
32	Kribs	Damian											0
33	Longo	Pete											0
34	Lynch	Peter											0
35	McInerney	Cielle											0
36	Meletta	Connor											0
37	Morano	Christina Lee											0
38	Morano	John	1	1									2
39	Nicora	Peggy Ann											0



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40	OHara	Joyce	1	1										2
41	Orlando	Anthony												0
42	Orlando	Jack												0
43	Panicucci	Marisa												0
44	Pelonero	Patricia		1										1
45	Pelonero	Steven	1	1										2
46	Polizzotto	Philip												0
47	Ponchak	Bruce	1	1										2
48	Ragusso	Michaela												0
49	Russo	Alyssa												0
50	Russo	Chuck	1	1										2
51	Russo	Michael	1											1
52	Sisti	Gisella	1	1										2
53	Stefanelli	Alexandra												0
54	Stefanelli	Claudine												0
55	Strippoli	Alyssa												0
56	Tosi	Evelyn	1											1
57	Verrone	Angelo	1	1										2
58	Wood	Eileen												0
59	Youngster	Henry	1											1

Total	Members	24	16											
Total	Guests	1	0											
Total at	Meeting	24	16											
Meeting	Location	Casa	Casa											
Percent	at meeting	42%	27%											

Guests														
DeGennaro	DG Anthony	1	0											

x