



UNICO NATIONAL

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

Monthly Minutes January 8, 2024 ~ 2nd Wednesday

Date January 8, 2025 ~ 2nd Wednesday
Place Evolution Restaurant, Woodland Park, NJ
Prayer 6:15 pm John Morano
Flag Salute 6:15 pm John Morano
Dinner/Meeting 6:15 pm Dinner / 8 pm Meeting

Members & Guests in Attendance

Members (59) at meeting 28
Guests at meeting 62
Member % at meeting 51%

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	😊	😊	N/A	😊					
1 st VP:	J. Benvenuti	😊	😊	😊	N/A	😊					
2 nd VP	Chuck Russo	😊	😊	😊	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. Pat Pelonero	x	😊	😊	N/A	😊

Board of Directors at meetings (6 past Chapter Presidents)

Carmen Gaita	😊	x	x	N/A	X
Bruce Ponchak	😊	😊	😊	N/A	😊
John Barbieri	😊	x	😊	N/A	😊
Steve Pelonero	😊	😊	😊	N/A	😊



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Past Chapter Presidents in attendance at meetings

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

Opening Remarks

- **President Carmen Criscione**
 - Carmen welcomed everyone to our first meeting of 2025. He noted that there would be a swearing in of three new members and that 4 new applications were received at this meeting.
- **1st VP Joe Benvenuti**
 - Joe welcomed everyone and wished everyone a Happy New Year. He asked that we keep California in our prayers with the fires that they are experiencing.
- **2nd VP Chuck Russo**
 - Chuck reminded everyone that he has with him our Scholarship Bowl



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Secretary Minutes

Secretary: Steve Pelonero PNP

- Steve noted that the minutes were sent to everyone in an email from our November meeting and that there were no minutes from December because we just celebrated Christmas at our District Dinner at the Brownstone
- He also noted that they are on our chapter website.
- Motion to accept was made by:
 - 1st Frank Capalbo
 - 2nd Joe Agresti
- 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.
- Checking account \$16,027 --- CD \$10,500
- Motion to accept by:
 - 1st Joe Agresti
 - 2nd Steve Pelonero
- All were in favor.

Bills and Communications: John Morano

- A Tank You note was received from our UNICO National 2nd VP Steven Calantone and his wife Jules, for our hospitality at our November meeting.

Chapter Budget

- N/A



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Chapter President Carmen then proceeded to swear in our two new members:
Damian Kribs and Thomas Brietwieser



Chapter Budget

- N/A

Chapter Elections: Nominating chair to be appointed by Chapter President

- N/A

Fundraising Committees

- Community Service Day: Chuck Russo
 - Chuck reported that our Community Service Day will again be at ShopRite in Little Falls. He noted that for over 10 years we have been collecting non-perishable items, along with some cash donations, for seven of our local pantries. We stock them up. The date is Saturday, April 26th. There will be a volunteer sign up list at the next meeting and all members are urged to help out with their service to UNICO



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- **Corn Hole: John Barbieri**
 - John reported that our 2nd Annual Corn Hole Tournament will be on Sunday, April 6th, again at the Totowa PL Building. He asked members to volunteer their help in working, getting food donations and sponsors. All of the information is on our chapter website in the member section.
- **Fifty/Fifty: Claudine Stefanelli**
 - Claudine reported that tickets for our chapter 50/50 fundraiser are now available to be taken and sold. She noted that if all 400 tickets are sold that the winner will get \$2,000 and our chapter would also get \$2,000. Claudine thanks Carmen Gaita for donating the raffle tickets with a drawing date to be in April.
- **Food Pantry: Carmen Gaita, Patricia Pelonero**
 - Patricia reported that she is concentrating on four of our local pantries at the moment: Holy Angels was given \$100 in ShopRite Cards, St. Agnes and the Little Falls Methodist were given \$75 each in cards, along with the Little Falls first Reformed. They are currently asking that we try to supply Peanut Butter and Jelly. Pat asked if it is possible to please bring those two items to the February meeting. Pat also noted that she called Woodland Park Borough Hall, and they are not aware of a pantry in their town. Joyce said that there was a shack behind the WP Boys Club Building. Pat would look into it.
- **Golf Outing: Joe Barone**
 - Joe reported that our 40th Annual Golf Outing will be on Monday, June 23rd at the Crystall Springs Golf Course. 7:30 check in – 9 am shotgun start – 2-6 pm dinner at the golf club house. The price to golf is \$175, dinner only is \$65. Joe asked that members try to get golfers and sponsors which is what makes this event a success and gives us our scholarship monies. Joe also asked if anyone can volunteer to work and monitor the holes and/or the registration table to let him know. Joe said he is hoping for 72 golfers.
- **Holiday Cheer: Joe Benvenuti, Sal Benvenuti, Carmen Gaita**
 - Sal reported that 5 local needy families were given \$500 each in gift cards for ShopRite and Target. He noted that \$1500 is budget and the other \$500 came from member donations.



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- **Overseas Soldier Program: To be appointed**
 - Evelyn reported that her one grandson is back in the states but that her other may be leaving soon
 - **Scholarship: Chuck Russo**
 - Chuck reported that the Scholarship Applications are out to PV and said that if anyone knows of a high school senior that is not attending PVHS to let him know so that we can get that student an application as well. The Scholarship / Brian Piccolo Awards Dinner is set for June 8th, Sunday, at the Barnyard in Totowa. Chuck noted that a Super Scholarship Project is underway to help raise funds for the scholarships.
 - Here is a photo of our 2024 Brian Piccolo Award Recipient Damian Kribs. Damian was not able to attend the 2024 dinner



Non-Fundraising Committees

- **Good & Welfare: Joe Benvenuti**
 - John said there was nothing to report on
 - Pat asked to think about the injured Policeman who experienced a medical emergency that possibly there was something that we can do for the family
 - Joe Agresti noted that years ago we used to donate to the three towns: whether it was for the police, fire, ambulance or libraries. We should think about making ourselves known out there again as there are still some people who have never heard of UNICO.



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- **Italian Flag Raising: Steven Pelonero PNP**
 - Steve reported that the October Flag raising went well and hopes to have one again this October which is one way to celebrate our Italian Heritage
 - **Italian Heritage: Angelo Verrone**
 - Angelo reported that he again talked to the Italian Club Teacher, and they are still looking into it
 - **Italian Studies: Cav. Joe Agresti PNP**
 - Joe Agresti, our chapter Study Abroad Chair, introduced our Montclair State University Study Abroad Grant Recipient Matthew Scialla



- **Membership: John Barbieri**
 - John reported that we are at “55” which includes the four members who signed up with tonight and will be sworn in at the next meeting that they attend. John noted that the average age of our chapter is 76. John also wished our only January birthday member, Pat Pelonero, a Happy Birthday.



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- **Newsletter & Website: Steve Pelonero PNP**
 - Steve reported that everything is in order with the newsletter and chapter website.
 - The website is now at 92,692 visits
 - 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**
 - Christina reported that Roni would like to send a photo in to the Italian Tribune with all of our newer members in it. She asked the new members to try to attend the February meeting.

District and National Events

- **National News**
 - The National Mid-Year Board meeting is set for March 6 in Chicago. All are always invited to attend. Registrations forms are available through the National Office. Going from our chapter are Joe Agresti, Sal Benvenuti and Steve and Pat Pelonero.
- **District News**
 - The next NJ District IV meeting (our district is comprised of 10 chapters). The meeting will be at LA Neves in Haledon on January 15th. If you plan on attending, please let our chapter president Carmen know
 - The NJ District IV Pasta Dinner is set for April 25th at the Wayne PAL Building. More information at the February meeting.

Old Business

- Chapter president Carmen did mention that a survey was sent to all of our chapter members asking them to have a voice / opinion on where they would like to see our chapter meetings. The results of the survey will be announced at the February meeting.

New Business

- Carmen noted that our next meeting will be on Wednesday, February 12th, at Holy Cross Church. More information will come out at a later date.



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Adjournment

- Motion to adjourn was made at 9:17 pm by:
 - 1st Joe Benvenuti
 - 2nd Sal Benvenuti
- All were in favor.

Respectfully Taken by

Steve Pelonero PNP / Chapter Secretary

Meeting Attendance

The year's meeting attendance is on this, and on the following page >>>

		Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Total
Total	Members	24	16	21	n/a	28	0	0	0	0	0	
1	Agresti Joseph	1	1	1	n/a	1						4
2	Barbieri John	1		1	n/a	1						3
3	Barone Joseph	1		1	n/a	1						3
4	Barone Nicholas				n/a							0
5	Benvenuti Joseph	1	1	1	n/a	1						4
6	Benvenuti Salvatore	1	1	1	n/a	1						4
7	Bergamasco Giavonna				n/a							0
8	Bifalco Mark				n/a							0
9	Campagna Juliana				n/a							0
10	Campen Domenica	1			n/a							1
11	Capalbo Frank	1	1	1	n/a	1						4
12	Carbonelli Michael	1			n/a	1						2
13	Carrubba Michael	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	1						1
14	Castillo Christina	1	1	1	n/a	1						4
15	Castillo Sara				n/a							0
16	Cervino Peter				n/a							0
17	Cestone James		1	1	n/a	1						3
18	Chomko Jean	1	1	1	n/a	1						4
19	Corrado Roni	1		1	n/a							2
20	Criscione Carmen		1	1	n/a	1						3
21	DeLuccia Alexander	1			n/a							1
22	DeMarco Fred	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	1						1
23	Dransfield Daniel				n/a							0
24	Eoepochino Kyle				n/a							0
25	Ermolowich William				n/a							0
26	Gaeta Gerardo	1			n/a	1						2
27	Gaita Jessica				n/a							0
28	Gaita Jr Carmen	1			n/a							1

