



UNICO NATIONAL

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

Monthly Minutes March 12, 2025 ~ 2nd Wednesday

Date March 12, 2025 ~ 2nd Wednesday
Place Holy Cross Church, Woodland Park, NJ
Prayer 7:00 pm John Morano
Flag Salute 7:00 pm John Morano
Dinner/Meeting 7:00 pm Dinner / 8:00 pm Meeting

Members & Guests in Attendance

Members (55) at meeting 28
 Guests at meeting 0
 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	😊	x	😊			
2. Pat Pelonero	x	😊	😊	N/A	😊	😊	😊			

Board of Directors at meetings (6 past Chapter Presidents)

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



UNICO NATIONAL

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

Monthly Minutes March 12, 2025 ~ 2nd Wednesday

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	😊	x	😊			
Carmen Criscione	x	😊	😊	N/A	😊	😊	😊			
Carmen Gaita	😊	x	x	N/A	x	x	x			
John Morano	😊	😊	😊	N/A	😊	😊	😊			
Steve Pelonero	😊	😊	😊	N/A	😊	😊	😊			
Bruce Ponchak	😊	😊	😊	N/A	😊	😊	😊			
Chuck Russo	😊	😊	😊	N/A	😊	😊	😊			
Angelo Verrone	😊	😊	x	N/A	😊	x	😊			

Opening Remarks

- **President Carmen Criscione**
 - Carmen welcomed and thanked everyone for attending the meeting.
 - Carmen swore in a new member, Alexander “Lex” DeLuccia
 - Carmen welcomed back Frank Capalbo
 - Carmen noted that our chapter has two Past National Presidents: Joe Agresti and Steve Pelonero
- **1st VP Joe Benvenuti**
 - Joe welcomed everyone to the meeting
 - Joe wished everyone a safe St. Patrick’s Day
 - Joe asked everyone to support our events and fundraisers
- **2nd VP Chuck Russo**
 - Chuck welcomed everyone to the meeting and noted that all of the new members sworn in this year calendar year are in attendance at this meeting
 - Chuck asked them to get involved and keep our UNICO traditions alive



UNICO NATIONAL

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

Monthly Minutes
March 12, 2025 ~ 2nd Wednesday

Secretary Minutes

Secretary: Steve Pelonero PNP

- Steve noted that the minutes were sent to everyone in an email from our February meeting
- He also noted that they are on our chapter website.
- Motion to accept was made by:
 - 1st Joe Agresti
 - 2nd Angelo Verrone
- 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 \$16,000 --- CD \$10,500
- Motion to accept by:
 - 1st Joe Benvenuti
 - 2nd Joe Agresti
- All were in favor.

Bills and Communications: John Morano

- None reported

Chapter Budget

- N/A

Chapter Elections: Nominating chair to be appointed by Chapter President

- N/A



UNICO NATIONAL

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

Monthly Minutes
March 12, 2025 ~ 2nd Wednesday

Fundraising Committees

- **Community Service Day: Chuck Russo**
 - Chuck reminded everyone that the Community Service Day is set for Saturday, April 6th at ShopRite Little Falls. There will be a sign-up sheet at the April meeting. We will be at ShopRite from 7:30 am till? ... He urged everyone to help and participate in our goal to fill up the 7 local pantries in our three towns. There is an itemized list available that we will be giving to the customers upon entry into ShopRite and at the exit doors we will also be standing and collecting any items that they purchase. We hope to again bags donated so that we can put the non-perishables in them so that they can be brought to the pantries.
- **Corn Hole: John Barbieri**
 - John reported that the tournament will be on Sunday, April 6th. To date there are only three teams as opposed to last year's 45 teams. It will be at the Totowa PAL building. The bulk of the food will be donated. Workers are needed to monitor the games. \$300 to the winning team. The cornhole flier is on our Facebook page and also on our chapter website.
- **Fifty/Fifty: Claudine Stefanelli**
 - In Claudine's absence, Joyce O'Hara collected the money and ticket stubs. Joyce asked that members return their tickets as soon as possible days before the drawing. The drawing will take place at the next chapter meeting on April 9th. The time of the drawing is at 7 pm at Casa Arturo in Little Falls.
- **Food Pantry: Carmen Gaita, Patricia Pelonero**
 - Pat noted that she will be going to the 4 pantries in Little Falls with non-perishables and gift cards. She thanked everyone for the items that they brought and keep bringing to the meetings. Pat also reported that the United Methodist Church in Little Falls did fill out a UNICO National Food Grant Application and that at the Mid-Year Board meeting in Chicago, it was announced that they will be giving them \$1,000. All of the pantries were advised and told about the grants that National gives.



UNICO NATIONAL

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

Monthly Minutes
March 12, 2025 ~ 2nd Wednesday

- **Golf Outing: Joe Barone**
 - Joe reported that the outing is all set for Monday, June 23rd, at Crystal Springs in Hamburg NJ. There is a 7 am registration and breakfast. There is a driving range at the course. There is a 9 am shot gun start. There is a BBQ luncheon/dinner from 2 pm – 6 pm. Joe noted that in addition to all of our regular prizes, that there will be two hold in one awards. One is from Schumacher Chevy in Little Falls and the other is from Crustal Springs Golf Course for a 3-night stay with golf at their course. As always sponsors and golfers are needed so please start asking. All of our sponsors, at \$100, are on our website and in the newsletter for an entire UNICO year (July through June).
- **Holiday Cheer: Joe Benvenuti, Sal Benvenuti, Carmen Gaita**
 - Joe reported and reminded everyone that this committee is subsidized by the chapter, and that along with donations from our members, that we are/were able to give to five recommended families, \$500 each in gift cards to make their Christmas a better one.
- **Overseas Soldier Program: To be appointed**
 - Evelyn Tosi reported that there was no news this month
- **Scholarship: Chuck Russo**
 - Chuck reported that the Scholarship applications were given to PVHS and that all the students from our three towns are eligible to receive a scholarship even if they do not go to PV. Chuck said that if you know of a student attending another school to get them an application from our chapter. The committee will meet soon to start looking at the applicants. Pat Pelonero noted that UNICO National also has grants for college students and that maybe we can send our past recipients an email that directs them to the National site to see if one of the grants fits their criteria. Steve Pelonero said that if he was given their emails that he would send them the information



UNICO NATIONAL

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

Monthly Minutes
March 12, 2025 ~ 2nd Wednesday

Non-Fundraising Committees

- **Good & Welfare: Joe Benvenuti**

- Frank Capalbo was welcomed back to our chapter meeting
- John Morano reported noted that Dave D'Arco from the Passaic Clifton Chapter had passed, and John asked for prayers for him and his family

- **Italian Flag Raising: Steven Pelonero PNP**

- No report

- **Italian Heritage: Angelo Verrone**

- No report

- **Italian Studies: Cav. Joe Agresti PNP**

- Cav/PNP Joe Agresti reported that MSU had given his a student that will be going to Reggio Italy for a semester. Joe also reported that our chapter was invited to attend the talk at MSU to meet the students and that if anyone wanted to attend with him, to let him know

- **Membership: John Barbieri**

- John reported that we are at "55" members. John also reported and noted all of the members who celebrate their birthday this month of March. Joe Agresti also reminded everyone that it was our chapter's birthday and that we were chartered in 1972



UNICO NATIONAL

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

Monthly Minutes
March 12, 2025 ~ 2nd Wednesday

- **Newsletter & Website: Steve Pelonero PNP**
 - Steve reported that everything is in order with the newsletter and chapter website.
 - The website is now at 92,944 visits, which is up from 92,830 in February (114 new hits)
 - 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.
 - Steve also noted that if a member would like to see a page in our monthly newsletter about the town that their ancestry in from in Italy to just let him know, what that town is, and he would take it from there

- **Public Relations: Christina Castillo and Roni Corrado**
 - Roni reported that the photo with all of the members that had been sworn in at the February meeting was shown in the Italian Tribune Newspaper.
 - Christina reported that our chapter was listed ion the PVHS Girls Show Magazine

District and National Events

- **National News**
 - No report given

- **District News**
 - Joe Agresti reported on the Annual Pasta dinner fundraiser, which supplements and gives us the money for our Annual Christmas dinner for our special need friends. The district will be asking all of the chapters to have members sign up to HELP. Dinner servers, set up and clean up, cooks, etc ... all of the chapters pitch in. Carmen Criscione said that he had tickets and more will be available at the district meeting on Thursday, March 13th at Casa Arturo (7 pm)

Old Business

- No old business brought up



UNICO NATIONAL

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

Monthly Minutes
 March 12, 2025 ~ 2nd Wednesday

New Business

- Carmen Criscione as for a motion for \$200 which would be given to the Woodland Park family to help with costs for the death their freshman son who was tragically killed in a bicycle accident. A motion was made by Joe Agresti and 2nd'd by Joyce O'Hara. All were in favor. Joe Agresti asked the Scholarship Committee to possibly make one of Scholarship Awards in this child's name.

Adjournment

- Motion to adjourn was made at 8:53 pm by:
 - 1st John Barbieri
 - 2nd Joyce O'Hara
 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 two pages >>>

			Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Total
Total		Members	24	16	22	n/a	29	26	28	0	0	0	
1	Agresti	Joseph	1	1	1	n/a	1	1	1				6
2	Barbieri	John	1	.	1	n/a	1	1	1				5
3	Barone	Joseph	1	.	1	n/a	1	1	1				5
4	Barone	Nicholas	.	.	.	n/a	.	.	.				0
5	Benvenuti	Joseph	1	1	1	n/a	1	1	1				6
6	Benvenuti	Salvatore	1	1	1	n/a	1	.	1				5
7	Bergamasco	Giavonna	.	.	.	n/a	.	.	.				0
8	Bifalco	Mark	.	.	.	n/a	.	.	.				0
9	Breitwieser	Thomas	n/a	n/a	1	n/a	1	1	1				4
10	Campen	Domenica	1	.	.	n/a	.	.	.				1
11	Capalbo	Frank	1	1	1	n/a	1	.	1				5
12	Carbonelli	Michael	1	.	.	n/a	1	1	1				4
13	Carrubba	Michael	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	1	1	1				3
14	Castillo	Christina	1	1	1	n/a	1	1	1				6
15	Castillo	Sara	.	.	.	n/a	.	.	.				0



UNICO NATIONAL

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

Monthly Minutes March 12, 2025 ~ 2nd Wednesday

16	Cervino	Peter	.	.	.	n/a	.	.	1				1
17	Cestone	James	.	1	1	n/a	1	1	.				4
18	Chomko	Jean	1	1	1	n/a	1	1	1				6
19	Corrado	Roni	1	.	1	n/a	.	1	1				4
20	Criscione	Carmen	.	1	1	n/a	1	1	1				5
21	DeLuccia	Alexander	1	.	.	n/a	.	.	1				2
22	DeMarco	Fred	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	1	1	1				3
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
29	Klosik	Emilia	.	.	.	n/a	.	1	.				1
30	Kribs	Damian	.	.	.	n/a	1	.	.				1
31	Kribs	Ken	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	1	1	1				3
32	Longo	Pete	.	.	1	n/a	.	.	.				1
33	Lynch	Peter	.	.	.	n/a	.	.	.				0
34	Morano	Christina Lee	.	.	.	n/a	.	.	.				0
35	Morano	John	1	1	1	n/a	1	1	1				6
36	Nicora	Peggy Ann	.	.	.	n/a	.	.	.				0
37	OHara	Joyce	1	1	.	n/a	1	1	1				5
38	Orlando	Anthony	.	.	.	n/a	.	.	.				0
39	Orlando	Jack	.	.	.	n/a	.	.	.				0
40	Pelonero	Patricia	.	1	1	n/a	1	1	1				5
41	Pelonero	Steven	1	1	1	n/a	1	1	1				6
42	Polizzotto	Philip	.	.	.	n/a	.	.	.				0
43	Ponchak	Bruce	1	1	1	n/a	1	1	1				6
44	Ragusso	Michaela	.	.	.	n/a	.	.	.				0
45	Russo	Alyssa	.	.	.	n/a	.	.	.				0
46	Russo	Chuck	1	1	1	n/a	1	1	1				6
47	Russo	Michael	1	.	1	n/a	1	1	1				5
48	Scialla	Matthew	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	1	.	.				1
49	Sisti	Gisella	1	1	1	n/a	1	1	1				6
50	Stefanelli	Alexandra	.	.	.	n/a	.	.	.				0
51	Stefanelli	Claudine	.	.	1	n/a	1	1	.				3
52	Strippoli	Alyssa	.	.	.	n/a	.	.	.				0
53	Tosi	Evelyn	1	.	1	n/a	1	1	1				5
54	Verrone	Angelo	1	1	.	n/a	1	.	1				4
55	Youngster	Henry	1	.	.	n/a	.	1	1				3



UNICO NATIONAL

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

Monthly Minutes
 March 12, 2025 ~ 2nd Wednesday

Total	Members	24	16	22	n/a	29	26	28			
Total	Guests	1	0	6	n/a	2	0	0			
Total at	Meeting	24	16	27	n/a	30	26	28			
Meeting	Location	CA	CA	HC	n/a	EV	HC	HC			
Percent	at meeting	42%	27%	36%	n/a	51%	47%	51%			

Guests											
DeGennaro	DG Anthony	1	.	.	n/a	.	.	.			
Calantone	Steve 2nd VP	.	.	1	n/a	.	.	.			
Calantone	Jules	.	.	1	n/a	.	.	.			
Brietwieser	Thomas	.	.	1	n/a	.	.	.			
Garamone	Matthew	.	.	1	n/a	.	.	.			
Kribs	Ken	.	.	1	n/a	.	.	.			
Manzi	Christopher	.	.	1	n/a	.	.	.			
Scialla	Rachel	.	.	.	n/a	1	.	.			
Scialla	Neil	.	.	.	n/a	1	.	.			

x