



UNICO NATIONAL

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

Monthly Minutes April 9, 2025 ~ 2nd Wednesday

<u>Date</u>	April 9, 2025 ~ 2 nd Wednesday
<u>Place</u>	Casa Arturo Restaurant, Little Falls, NJ
<u>Prayer</u>	6:30 pm John Morano
<u>Flag Salute</u>	6:30 pm John Morano
<u>Dinner/Meeting</u>	6:30 pm Dinner / 8:00 pm Meeting

Members & Guests in Attendance

Members (55) at meeting	21
Guests at meeting	0
Member % at meeting	38%

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	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	😊	x	😊	😊		
Carmen Criscione	x	😊	😊	N/A	😊	😊	😊	😊		
Carmen Gaita	😊	x	x	N/A	x	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.
- **1st VP Joe Benvenuti**
 - Joe welcomed everyone to the meeting
 - Joe wished everyone a safe Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday
- **2nd VP Chuck Russo**
 - Chuck noted that he was pleased that the new members have been attending the meetings and are getting involved in some of the committees
 - Chuck also thanked Christine and Roni, our public relations committee, for getting our photos in the local magazines. It is excellent publicity



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Secretary Minutes

Secretary: Steve Pelonero PNP

- Steve noted that the minutes were sent to everyone in an email from our March meeting
- He also noted that they are on our chapter website.
- Motion to accept was made by:
 - 1st Pat Pelonero
 - 2nd Tom Breitweiser
- 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.
Motion to accept by:
 - 1st Sal Benvenuti
 - 2nd Pat Pelonero
- 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

- Chapter President reported that the slare for our 2025/2026 year is the same as it is now. Carmen also noted that at the May meeting, nominations from the floor will be taken and then a vote will be cast



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Fundraising Committees

- **Community Service Day: Chuck Russo**
 - Chuck reminded everyone that the Community Service Day is set for Saturday, April 26th at ShopRite Little Falls. He said that so far there are 18 people who signed up to help/work. There will be a schedule of time slots. Chuck asked that photos be taken. Start time is 7:30 am. We will pass out the suggested shopping list and collect until approximately 3 pm/ 4 pm. Chuck asked that if someone could make extra shipping lists it would be appreciated. Chuck thanked one of our more recent members, Ken Kribs, for stepping up to help.
- **Corn Hole: John Barbieri**
 - John reported that despite all of the work that went into preparing the event, had to be regretfully cancelled due to lack of team participants. Only 14 people (7 teams) signed up and that 19 teams would be needed to break even. John reported that no money was lost as all the venues were OK with cancelling and the deposits that were made were returned to us. John was not sure why the event was not popular. Chapter president Carmen thanked John for chairing the event.
- **Fifty/Fifty: Claudine Stefanelli**
 - Claudine reported that all of the tickets were sold. \$1,935 to the winner, and the same dollar amount is going to the chapter. Claudine said that she was pleased that the raffle went very well. She asked that John Morano pull the winning ticket. Joe Agresti was the winner and was present to collect.
- **Food Pantry: Carmen Gaita, Patricia Pelonero**
 - Pat reported that she has been keeping in touch with the local pantries and they are happy that we do this for them. They are however in need for all holidays and especially for bags. Pat also noted again that the United Methodist Church in Little Falls did fill out a UNICO National Food Grant Application, as well as the other pantries were told about the grant application, and that at the Mid-Year Board meeting in Chicago, it was announced that the Methodist Church was awarded a Food Grant of \$1,000. All of the pantries were advised and told about the grants that National gives.



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- **Golf Outing: Joe Barone**
 - In Joe Barone's absence, Joe Benvenuti talked about the Monday, June 23rd golf outing at Crystal Springs Course. Golf and dinner for \$175.00. Dinner only is \$50. There is a 7:30 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 Crystal Springs Golf Course for a 3-night stay with golf at their course. As always sponsors and golfers are needed. Joe said that fliers and sponsor forms are available. 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). It was noted that at last years, outing that we had 72 golfers.
- **Holiday Cheer: Joe Benvenuti, Sal Benvenuti, Carmen Gaita**
 - No report
- **Overseas Soldier Program: To be appointed**
 - No report
- **Scholarship: Chuck Russo**
 - Chuck reported that the Scholarship Committee met and chose 7 recipients. They are all grandchildren of members of our chapter. Each recipient will receive \$1,000 and the Brian Piccolo recipients will be receiving \$100.00 each. Chuck noted that for \$200, you can have a Chapter Memorial Scholarship given at this year's awards dinner in the name of a person of your choice. Chuck noted that \$3,800 was also raised from extra chapter events. The dinner will again be at the Barnyard in Totowa on Sunday, June 8th. There will again be a Presidential Cocktail hour. The cost of the dinner is \$50. Chuck reported that with Joe Agresti winning the 50/50 raffle, that Joe is donating \$500 to the scholarship fund and that Joe also donated \$200 for a Memorial Scholarship. Chuck asked that a commitment to attend the dinner be made at the May chapter meeting.
- **Italian Studies: Cav. Joe Agresti PNP**
 - Cav/PNP Joe Agresti reported that MSU student was announced: Angela Savana. Joe also noted that our chapter was invited to attend MSU to meet the students and that if anyone wanted to attend with him, to let him know. The date for MSU is Wednesday, April 16th at 6:30 P< at the Feliciana School of Business in the lounge on the 3rd floor



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Non-Fundraising Committees

- **Good & Welfare: Joe Benvenuti**
 - Joe reported that he will be sending chapter member Joe Barone a get well card
 - John Morano asked for a moment of silence for another chapter member from Waterbury CT, Pete Ciulo who recently passed away
- **Italian Flag Raising: Steven Pelonero PNP**
 - No report
- **Italian Heritage: Angelo Verrone**
 - Angelo reported that PVHS students were asked to help at our Food Pantry Drive at ShopRite
- **Membership: John Barbieri**
 - John reported that we are at “55” members. Bruce noted that there were three birthdays in April and that they were noted in the April newsletter.
- **Newsletter & Website: Steve Pelonero PNP**
 - Steve reported that everything is in order with the newsletter and chapter website.
 - The website is now at 93,082 visits, which is up from 92,994 in March (88 new hits)
 - 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
 - John Barbieri reported that the Member Section of the chapter website is down due to a new company taking over. He said that it would involve on his part about 2 months of computer design to get it back and running and that would mean more money for the web service. It will be talked about at the next executive board meeting.
- **Public Relations: Christina Castillo and Roni Corrado**
 - Christine reported that the Passaic Valley Today Newspaper and also the Italian Tribune ran a photo of our new members



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District and National Events

- **National News**
 - No report given
- **District News**
 - Joe Agresti reported on the Annual Pasta dinner fundraiser, which supplements and gives the district the money which gives a nice Christmas dinner for our special need friends. The district had asked all of the chapters to have members sign up to help. Our chapter was assigned to serve for just 45 minutes. Joe noted that all of the chapters pitch in. Lots of conversation followed.

Old Business

- No old business brought up

New Business

- No report

Adjournment

- Motion to adjourn was made at 8:57 pm by:
 - 1st Joe Benvenuti
 - 2nd Pat PeloneroAll 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 >>>



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			Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Total
	Total	Members	24	16	22	n/a	29	26	28	21	0	0	
1	Agresti	Joseph	1	1	1	n/a	1	1	1	1			7
2	Barbieri	John	1	.	1	n/a	1	1	1	1			6
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	1			7
6	Benvenuti	Salvatore	1	1	1	n/a	1	.	1	1			6
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	1			5
10	Campan	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	1			5
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	1			7
15	Castillo	Sara	.	.	.	n/a	.	.	.	.			0
16	Cervino	Peter	.	.	.	n/a	.	.	1	1			2
17	Cestone	James	.	1	1	n/a	1	1	.	1			5
18	Chomko	Jean	1	1	1	n/a	1	1	1	1			7
19	Corrado	Roni	1	.	1	n/a	.	1	1	.			4
20	Criscione	Carmen	.	1	1	n/a	1	1	1	1			6
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	Eoepchino	Kyle	.	.	.	n/a	.	.	.	.			0
25	Ermolowich	William	.	.	.	n/a	.	.	.	.			0
26	Gaeta	Gerardo	1	.	.	n/a	1	.	.	1			3
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	1			4
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	1			7
36	Nicora	Peggy Ann	.	.	.	n/a			0
37	OHara	Joyce	1	1	.	n/a	1	1	1	1			6



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38	Orlando	Anthony	.	.	.	n/a			0
39	Orlando	Jack	.	.	.	n/a			0
40	Pelonero	Patricia	.	1	1	n/a	1	1	1	1			6
41	Pelonero	Steven	1	1	1	n/a	1	1	1	1			7
42	Polizzotto	Philip	.	.	.	n/a	.	.	.	.			0
43	Ponchak	Bruce	1	1	1	n/a	1	1	1	1			7
44	Ragusso	Michaela	.	.	.	n/a	.	.	.	.			0
45	Russo	Alyssa	.	.	.	n/a	.	.	.	.			0
46	Russo	Chuck	1	1	1	n/a	1	1	1	1			7
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	.	1			4
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	1			5
55	Youngster	Henry	1	.	.	n/a	.	1	1	.			3

Total	Members	24	16	22	n/a	29	26	28	21	0	0
Total	Guests	1	0	6	n/a	2	0	0	0		
Total at	Meeting	24	16	27	n/a	30	26	28	21		
Meeting	Location	CA	CA	HC	n/a	EV	HC	HC	CA		
Percent	at meeting	42%	27%	36%	n/a	51%	47%	51%	38%		

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