



# UNICO NATIONAL

PASSAIC VALLEY CHAPTER  
P.O. BOX 341  
LITTLE FALLS, NJ 07424  
PassaicValleyUNICO@gmail.com  
[www.PassaicValleyUNICO.org](http://www.PassaicValleyUNICO.org)

## Monthly Minutes April 9, 2025 ~ 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday

---

<b><u>Date</u></b>	May 14, 2025 ~ 2 <sup>nd</sup> Wednesday
<b><u>Place</u></b>	Holy Cross Church, Woodland Park, NJ
<b><u>Prayer</u></b>	7 pm John Morano
<b><u>Flag Salute</u></b>	7 pm John Morano
<b><u>Dinner/Meeting</u></b>	7 pm Dinner / 8:00 pm Meeting

### **Members & Guests in Attendance**

Members (55) at meeting	22
Guests at meeting	0
Member % at meeting	40%

### **Executive Board**

<b><u>Attendance at meetings</u></b>		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	😊	😊	😊	😊	x	
1 <sup>st</sup> VP:	J. Benvenuti	😊	😊	😊	N/A	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	
2 <sup>nd</sup> VP	Chuck Russo	😊	😊	😊	N/A	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	
Secretary:	Pelonero	😊	😊	😊	N/A	😊	😊	😊	😊	x	
Treasurer:	Ponchak	😊	😊	😊	N/A	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	
Sgt.At-Arms:	Morano	😊	😊	😊	N/A	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	

### **Delegates at Meetings**

1. Sal Benvenuti	😊	😊	😊	N/A	😊	x	😊	😊	x	
2. Pat Pelonero	x	😊	😊	N/A	😊	😊	😊	😊	x	

### **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	😊	😊	😊	😊	x	



# UNICO NATIONAL

PASSAIC VALLEY CHAPTER  
P.O. BOX 341  
LITTLE FALLS, NJ 07424  
PassaicValleyUNICO@gmail.com  
[www.PassaicValleyUNICO.org](http://www.PassaicValleyUNICO.org)

## Monthly Minutes April 9, 2025 ~ 2<sup>nd</sup> 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	😊	😊	x	
Carmen Criscione	x	😊	😊	N/A	😊	😊	😊	😊	x	
Carmen Gaita	😊	x	x	N/A	x	x	x	x	😊	
John Morano	😊	😊	😊	N/A	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	
Steve Pelonero	😊	😊	😊	N/A	😊	😊	😊	😊	x	
Bruce Ponchak	😊	😊	😊	N/A	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	
Chuck Russo	😊	😊	😊	N/A	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	
Angelo Verrone	😊	😊	x	N/A	😊	x	😊	😊	😊	

### Opening Remarks

- **President Carmen Criscione**
  - Absent. No report
- **1<sup>st</sup> VP Joe Benvenuti**
  - Joe welcomed everyone to the meeting and said that he would be running the meeting tonight since chapter president Carmen Criscione was away.
  - Joe mentioned that the next meeting will be on June 18<sup>th</sup> at Holy Cross Church and it will be the last meeting of the UNICO year, and it will be Pizza and Muscles, and it will be free to all of the members who attend that night. Hew also mentioned to please hand in your UNICO dies as half are due by July 1<sup>st</sup> to UNICO National, or hand them in at the September meeting. It will be \$85 again fir regular members fir the year (July 1<sup>st</sup> through June 30<sup>th</sup>). It is \$15 for our lifetime members who are 75 years or older and have been with UNICO for 25 years. Our youth member dues (25 years of age and younger) are \$12 for the year.
- **2<sup>nd</sup> VP Chuck Russo**
  - Chuck thanked everyone for coming to the meeting



# UNICO NATIONAL

PASSAIC VALLEY CHAPTER  
P.O. BOX 341  
LITTLE FALLS, NJ 07424  
PassaicValleyUNICO@gmail.com  
[www.PassaicValleyUNICO.org](http://www.PassaicValleyUNICO.org)

*Monthly Minutes*  
*April 9, 2025 ~ 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday*

---

## **Secretary Minutes**

Secretary: Steve Pelonero PNP

- Steve was absent and traveling abroad so Joe Benvenuti mentioned that Steve emailed out the minutes to all of the members.
- Motion to accept was made by
  - 1<sup>st</sup> Fred DeMarco
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> Roni Corrado
  - 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:
  - 1<sup>st</sup> Carmen Gaita
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> Joe Agresti
- All were in favor.

## **Bills and Communications: John Morano**

- John mentioned that he received checks for the golf outing and gave them to Bruce. The checks are starting to come in now for the Golf Outing

## **Chapter Budget**

- N/A

## **Chapter Elections: Nominating chair to be appointed by Chapter President**

- Joe Benvenuti reported that the slate for our 2025/2026 year will stay the same as it is. He asked if there were nominations from the floor. There were none. So, Christina, acting as secretary in the absence of Steve Pelonero, cast one vote for the slate to remain the same for UNICO 2025-2026 year. All were in favor. At the June 18<sup>th</sup> meeting, the officers will be sworn in, not at the Scholarship Dinner.



# UNICO NATIONAL

PASSAIC VALLEY CHAPTER  
P.O. BOX 341  
LITTLE FALLS, NJ 07424  
PassaicValleyUNICO@gmail.com  
[www.PassaicValleyUNICO.org](http://www.PassaicValleyUNICO.org)

*Monthly Minutes*  
*April 9, 2025 ~ 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday*

---

## **Fundraising Committees**

- **Community Service Day: Chuck Russo**
  - Chuck mentioned how this was the best community service day we have had in 15 years! The weather was questionable. It was a cloudy day but no rain, it wasn't hot, or cold so it was a perfect day to have it. We supplied our 7 food pantries with a lot more food than we have ever done in the past. He thanked everyone who showed up to help that day! Those members who were there helped pack food, load food into the cars, and collect food at the doors as well. Some people stayed all day from beginning of the day to the end when it was over. Chuck was extremely grateful to all the members for their support in this event. Chuck thanked the Calvary aka the new young UNICO members who came at 1pm and helped for the rest of the afternoon. This year each food pantry got 2 deliveries/car loads for the day which hasn't been done in years past. St. Agnes church came back 3 times for the day. Chuck mentioned as far as money collected every year the chapter tries to top what was collected the previous year and this year, we collected \$1,255 in cash that's the best we have ever done! Then Carmen Gaita donated an extra \$50 from his Superbowl winnings to make the total collected \$1,305. Chuck then took the money we collected as we don't keep the cash. He went to ShopRite and converted the \$ into Shoprite gift cards to give out to the 7 food pantries. ShopRite gives a 5% discount, so Chuck distributed \$1,367.75 worth of gift cards split for each of the 7 food pantries. Chuck mentioned how people are so generous in donating money when they see what we are collecting for. Angelo's friend, famous rapper RUN DMC, gave \$250 Chuck is always amazed at the generosity of people. Chuck received Thank You cards and notes from St George, Holy Angels, and St. Agnes. Chuck was super happy with how everything turned out and on that note Chuck announced the new Community Service day chair for next year will be Claudine Stefanelli who agreed to take it over.
- **Food Pantry: Carmen Gaita, Patricia Pelonero**
  - Carmen reported that there was no report but that food and gift cards were given out to the local pantries from the food drive.



# UNICO NATIONAL

PASSAIC VALLEY CHAPTER  
P.O. BOX 341  
LITTLE FALLS, NJ 07424  
PassaicValleyUNICO@gmail.com  
[www.PassaicValleyUNICO.org](http://www.PassaicValleyUNICO.org)

*Monthly Minutes*  
*April 9, 2025 ~ 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday*

---

- **Golf Outing: Joe Barone**

- Joe Barone talked about the Monday, June 23 rd golf outing at Crystal Springs Course in Hamburg. 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 hole 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. Low team gross, closest to the pin also prizes will be awarded for that as well. As always sponsors and golfers are needed. Joe said that fliers and sponsor forms are available. Please start asking. All 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. Joe mentioned that Joe Agresti got a prize donated for 3 people a 3-hour sporting clay course with a tour and certified instructor. The prize also includes lunch, ammunition rentals its 1 hour away in Andover NJ at Hudson farm. The value of the prize is \$1,500 to \$1,800. Joe is still in need of giveaways for the golfers like pens, pads, and key chains needs 50 or 60 of them. Hole Sponsors and golfers are running a little slow this year. Need help from the club to promote the outing. Joe isn't worried we always do well and the help of the club is greatly appreciated. John Barberi mentioned how the sponsors make up the golf outing and are a big part of the outing. John said to please ask local restaurants that you eat at to consider donating \$100 to be a hole sponsor. The money raised from golf outing some of it goes to our local scholarship.

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

- Cav/PNP Joe Agresti reported that MSU student was announced: Angela Savana. Joe also noted that our recipient and her professor will be at the scholarship dinner. Then at the September meeting our recipient will be giving the members a presentation about her time and studies in Italy.



# UNICO NATIONAL

PASSAIC VALLEY CHAPTER  
P.O. BOX 341  
LITTLE FALLS, NJ 07424  
PassaicValleyUNICO@gmail.com  
[www.PassaicValleyUNICO.org](http://www.PassaicValleyUNICO.org)

*Monthly Minutes*  
*April 9, 2025 ~ 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday*

---

- **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 8<sup>th</sup>. There will again be a Presidential Cocktail hour at 5pm each member and their spouse or significant other will get a poker chip from the bar and that it entitles you to one free drink from bottom shelf on the chapter. The cost of the dinner is \$50. Chuck got a lot of money and checks tonight from the members for the dinner, so he thanked them for that. He would like all the \$ collected before the June 8<sup>th</sup> scholarship dinner as its just easier so cash and check doesn't have to be collected that night. This year there are 3 memorial scholarships and 2 permanent scholarships. Chuck mentioned he ran into a little bit of a glitch with having conflicts from the High School with band, all county, senior awards, so that's why Chuck the past 4 years has been doing in on Sundays and it has been working out nicely. However, this year he fins out its during prom weekend and some recipients won't be able to make it or haven't responded at all that they will be coming to receive there award. Chuck announced the new Scholarship chairperson for next year will be his son Michael Russo. Also mentioned how next year maybe the scholarship dinner may need to moved to April or May instead of June if it works better for the recipients so something for the new committee and chairman to think about. Chuck is thankful for the new guys stepping up to help and get involved.

## **Non-Fundraising Committees**

- **Good & Welfare: Joe Benvenuti**

- Joe reported that everyone is healthy and there was nothing to report

- **Italian Heritage: Angelo Verrone**

- Angelo reported that PVHS Italian Club members came to help at our Food Pantry Drive at ShopRite. They did an excellent job. It was great to see them there that day.

- **Membership: John Barbieri**

- John reported that we are at "55" members. Bruce noted that there were four birthdays in May and that they will be in the May newsletter that Steve does.



# UNICO NATIONAL

PASSAIC VALLEY CHAPTER  
P.O. BOX 341  
LITTLE FALLS, NJ 07424  
PassaicValleyUNICO@gmail.com  
[www.PassaicValleyUNICO.org](http://www.PassaicValleyUNICO.org)

*Monthly Minutes*  
*April 9, 2025 ~ 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday*

---

- **Newsletter & Website: Steve Pelonero PNP**

- No report

- **Public Relations: Christina Castillo and Roni Corrado**

- Christina reported that the Passaic Valley Today Newspaper and the Italian Tribune ran a photo of our new member Alex Deluccia. The UNICO national pasta dinner article and photo were submitted for submission to the Italian Tribune and PV today papers. Hopefully they will be in the papers within the next couple weeks. Our Lady of the Holy Angels Church bulletin published an article with Christina and Mike V who runs the food pantry at Holy Angels thanking UNICO for there donation of food from the Community Service day.

## **District and National Events**

- **National News**

- No report given

- **District News**

- Joe Agresti reported on the Annual Pasta dinner fundraiser, was a success. We had 340/350 in attendance that night. Joe didn't have a financial report to give currently. There were 2 serving/food lines this year and it worked out much better. The sponsors that night were Nanina's in the Park, Barilla pasta, and DeCecco, and Shoprite all donate food for that night. Last year with some of the income made from pasta dinner there was a breakfast held. Joe said they are looking to get new children special needs kids as most of the kids at the developmental center came and are in there 30s or 40s so looking to get younger kids. Will most likely do a breakfast again this year if everything works out. Joed Benvenuti mentioned pasta dinner went so much better than last year with the 2 food lines and having the tricky tray set up in another room. Joe B thanked Joe Agresti for a job well done.
- Joe Benvenuti mentioned trying to get in a Chapter achievement award and District Governo award as well. Carmen Criscione already filled out form for District Governor award. It's worth it for us to do it since our Chapter does a lot.





# UNICO NATIONAL

PASSAIC VALLEY CHAPTER  
P.O. BOX 341  
LITTLE FALLS, NJ 07424  
PassaicValleyUNICO@gmail.com  
[www.PassaicValleyUNICO.org](http://www.PassaicValleyUNICO.org)

*Monthly Minutes*  
*April 9, 2025 ~ 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday*

---

## **Old Business**

- No old business brought up

## **New Business**

- No report

## **Adjournment**

- Motion to adjourn was made at 8:41 pm by:
    - 1<sup>st</sup> Joyce O'Hara
    - 2<sup>nd</sup> Carmen Gaita
- All were in favor.

## **Respectfully Taken by**

Christina Castillo

## **Meeting Attendance**

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





# UNICO NATIONAL

PASSAIC VALLEY CHAPTER  
P.O. BOX 341  
LITTLE FALLS, NJ 07424  
PassaicValleyUNICO@gmail.com  
[www.PassaicValleyUNICO.org](http://www.PassaicValleyUNICO.org)

## Monthly Minutes April 9, 2025 ~ 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday

			Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Total
	Total	Members	24	16	22	n/a	29	26	28	21	22	0	
1	Agresti	Joseph	1	1	1	n/a	1	1	1	1	1		8
2	Barbieri	John	1	.	1	n/a	1	1	1	1	1		7
3	Barone	Joseph	1	.	1	n/a	1	1	1	.	1		6
4	Barone	Nicholas	.	.	.	n/a	.	.	.	.	.		0
5	Benvenuti	Joseph	1	1	1	n/a	1	1	1	1	1		8
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	1		6
13	Carrubba	Michael	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	1	1	1	.	1		4
14	Castillo	Christina	1	1	1	n/a	1	1	1	1	1		8
15	Castillo	Sara	.	.	.	n/a	.	.	.	.	.		0
16	Cervino	Peter	.	.	.	n/a	.	.	1	1	.		2
17	Cestone	James	.	1	1	n/a	1	1	.	1	1		6
18	Chomko	Jean	1	1	1	n/a	1	1	1	1	.		7
19	Corrado	Roni	1	.	1	n/a	.	1	1	.	1		5
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	.	1		4
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		2
29	Klosik	Emilia	.	.	.	n/a	.	1	.	.	1		2
30	Kribs	Damian	.	.	.	n/a	1	.	.	.	.		1
31	Kribs	Ken	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	1	1	1	1	1		5
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	1		8
36	Nicora	Peggy Ann	.	.	.	n/a	.	.	.	.	.		0
37	OHara	Joyce	1	1	.	n/a	1	1	1	1	1		7
38	Orlando	Anthony	.	.	.	n/a	.	.	.	.	.		0



# UNICO NATIONAL

PASSAIC VALLEY CHAPTER  
P.O. BOX 341  
LITTLE FALLS, NJ 07424  
PassaicValleyUNICO@gmail.com  
[www.PassaicValleyUNICO.org](http://www.PassaicValleyUNICO.org)

## Monthly Minutes April 9, 2025 ~ 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday

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	1	8
44	Ragusso	Michaela	.	.	.	n/a	.	.	.	.	.	0
45	Russo	Alyssa	.	.	.	n/a	.	.	.	.	.	0
46	Russo	Chuck	1	1	1	n/a	1	1	1	1	1	8
47	Russo	Michael	1	.	1	n/a	1	1	1	.	1	6
48	Scialla	Matthew	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	1	.	.	.	.	1
49	Sisti	Gisella	1	1	1	n/a	1	1	1	.	1	7
50	Stefanelli	Alexandra	.	.	.	n/a	.	.	.	.	.	0
51	Stefanelli	Claudine	.	.	1	n/a	1	1	.	1	1	5
52	Strippoli	Alyssa	.	.	.	n/a	.	.	.	.	.	0
53	Tosi	Evelyn	1	.	1	n/a	1	1	1	.	1	6
54	Verrone	Angelo	1	1	.	n/a	1	.	1	1	1	6
55	Youngster	Henry	1	.	.	n/a	.	1	1	.	.	3

Total	Members	24	16	22	n/a	29	26	28	21	22	0
Total	Guests	1	0	6	n/a	2	0	0	0	0	
Total at	Meeting	24	16	27	n/a	30	26	28	21	22	
Meeting	Location	CA	CA	HC	n/a	EV	HC	HC	CA	HC	
Percent	at meeting	42%	27%	36%	n/a	51%	47%	51%	38%	40%	

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