



UNICO NATIONAL

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

Monthly Minutes June 18, 2025 ~ 3rd Wednesday

<u>Date</u>	June 18, 2025 ~ 3 rd Wednesday
<u>Place</u>	Holy Cross Church, Woodland Park, NJ
<u>Prayer</u>	7 pm John Morano
<u>Flag Salute</u>	7 pm John Morano
<u>Dinner/Meeting</u>	7 pm Dinner / 7:50 pm Meeting

Members & Guests in Attendance

Members (55) at meeting	28
Guests at meeting	0
Member % at meeting	50%

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	😊	😊	😊	😊	x	😊
1 st VP:	J. Benvenuti	😊	😊	😊	N/A	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊
2 nd 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	😊	x
Bruce Ponchak	😊	😊	😊	N/A	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊
John Barbieri	😊	x	😊	N/A	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊
Steve Pelonero	😊	😊	😊	N/A	😊	😊	😊	😊	x	😊



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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	😊	😊	x	😊
Carmen Criscione	x	😊	😊	N/A	😊	😊	😊	😊	x	😊
Carmen Gaita	😊	x	x	N/A	x	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	😊	😊	😊	x

Opening Remarks

- **President Carmen Criscione**
 - Carmen welcomed everyone to this last meeting of the UNICO year. The chapter starts up again in September. Carmen wished everyone a safe summer.
- **1st VP Joe Benvenuti**
 - Joe wished everyone a great summer. Two months off and he asked members to think of some new fund-raising ideas.
- **2nd VP Chuck Russo**
 - Chuck said that he would comment when he gives his reports.



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Secretary Minutes

Secretary: Steve Pelonero PNP

- Steve reported that the minutes were sent to all of the members and that they are also on the chapter website
- Motion to accept was made by
 - 1st Pat Pelonero
 - 2nd Sal Benvenuti
 - All were in favor

Treasurer Report

Treasurer: Bruce Ponchak

- Bruce apologized for not sending the minutes out this month. He reported on the balance of \$23,143 which includes golf monies and scholarship monies. Bruce also paid for the gaming license for another year. He explained that he always used the members section of the website which is now down. Joe Agresti noted that he could use and start an excel spreadsheet
- Motion to accept by:
 - 1st Gerry Gaeta
 - 2nd Joe Agresti
- All were in favor.

Bills and Communications: John Morano

- N/A

Chapter Budget

- N/A



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Chapter Elections: Nominating chair to be appointed by Chapter President

- A vote was cast at the May meeting, by acting secretary Christina Castilo, to keep the current chapter executive board

Fundraising Committees

- **Community Service Day: Chuck Russo / Claudine Stefanelli**
Chuck thanked everyone but noted that Claudine will now be chairing this committee
- **Fifty-Fifty: Claudine Stefanello**
Claudine was asked by Chapter President if she was willing to do the 50/50 again ... She said yes
- **Food Pantry: Carmen Gaita, Patricia Pelonero**
 - Pat reported that she had contacted all of the pantries to let them know that UNICO Nation has a grant that they should be / could be filling it out themselves to see if they are eligible to receive a large amount of grant money. Pat also thanked those that brought in food of which she would deliver the items. Pat also noted that some of the pantries are in need of plastic bags for the recipients to take their items back with them. Claudine said that she has access to bags.
- **Golf Outing: Joe Barone**
Joe reported that the outing is all set for Monday, June 23rd at Crystal Springs. An 7:30 am breakfast, a 9 am tee time. 70 golfers, 55 sponsors and temperature sunny and in the 90's
- **Holiday Cheer: Joe Benvenuti, Sal Benvenuti, Carmen Gaita**
No report
- **Overseas Soldier Program: Evelyn Tosi / Roni Corrado**
Evelyn reported that her grandson will soon be going to Kuwait



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- **Scholarship: Chuck Russo / Mike Russo**

Chuck again thanked everyone for their support over the years and noted that member Michael Russo will be taking over as Chair of the Scholarship Committee. Chuck reported that 70 people attended the dinner. \$8000 was spent on awards and plaques, which was also subsidized by the pool and member donations. Of the seven recipients, 4 students did fill out member applications. Chuck also reported that he attended the PVHS Award Ceremony where he presented the Brian Piccolo Awardees with their plaques

- **Study Abroad: Cav. Joe Agresti PNP**

Joe reported that our Study Abroad recipient came to the District meeting and that she intends to come with her MSU Professor to the September meeting

Non-Fundraising Committees

- **Flag Raising: Steve Pelonero PNP**

No report

- **Good & Welfare: Joe Benvenuti**

- Joe thanked Evelyn Tosi for the dessert that she made for this meeting. Joe also acknowledged Evelyn and reminded everyone that her husband was the charter and first president of this chapter back in April of 1972
- Joe Agresti read a proclamation that was presented to chapter member Chuck Russo for years of service to the chapter as scholarship chair, past chapter president, past NJ District IV DG, Food Pantry Chair and the many other duties that he had. Chuck thanked him and everyone for helping him, and also for their service to UNICO which is, and will always be a passion in his and hopefully in every member's hearts.

- **Italian Heritage: Angelo Verrone**

- No report



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- **Membership: Steve Pelonero PNP**

- As John Barbieri stepped down as membership chair, Steve Pelonero stepped up to fill in. Steve reported that we are at “55” members. Steve noted that there were four birthdays in June of which he announced their names. Steve also reported that 4 of the recent scholarship recipients filled out member applications which brings us to 59 members

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

- Steve reported that the (and everyone) newsletter is on our chapter website. He also noted that if someone has information about their family heritage and if they would like to see it in a future newsletter, to reach out to him, and he will come up with a nice page of their heritage.
- The website is now at 19,403 visits

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

Christina reported that 2 more of our articles were printed in the Italian Tribune and also in the Passaic Valley Today Newspaper. Everything that we both submit have always been printed with the photos.

District and National Events

- **National News**

- Joe reported that he is working on the ad journal which raises funds to offset the cost of the conventions. Joe noted that this year the convention is in Fort Lauderdale, in 2026 he will be chairing it in Orlando for Granby CT member Brian Guarco, and in 2027 Steve Pelonero is chairing it in Nashville for Wayne chapter member Steven Calantone.
- Sal Benvenuti reported and read the proposed Amendments. Our chapter then voted on how they wanted the Delegates to Vote.

- **District News**

- Joe Agresti reported on the December 2nd Christmas Dinner at Brownstone for our Special Need Friends. It will be \$65 per person from 6:30 pm – 10:30 pm. Joe reported that two groups have been invited, but the committee is also looking for a younger aged special need organization to be part of it.



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- Joe also spoke about the NJ District IV Bus ride on December 6th, at \$115.00 per person. The first 50 people that pay will be guaranteed a seat on the bus and some have already paid. This year the bus will take us to Rockefeller Center, then to Mulberry Street to eat at Puglia's. Most of the time there will be a few minutes also for those who wanted to check out the stores on Mulberry Street.

Old Business

- None

New Business

- No new business other than Chapter President wished everyone a safe summer off and he is looking forward to our next and first meeting of the UNICO year in September (more information will follow)

Adjournment

- Motion to adjourn was made at 8:56 pm by:
 - 1st Gerry Gaeta
 - 2nd Tom BreitwieserAll were in favor.

Respectfully Taken by

Steven Pelonero PNP / 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	22	27	
1	Agresti	Joseph	1	1	1	n/a	1	1	1	1	1	1	9
2	Barbieri	John	1	.	1	n/a	1	1	1	1	1	1	8
3	Barone	Joseph	1	.	1	n/a	1	1	1	.	1	1	7
4	Barone	Nicholas	.	.	.	n/a	.	.	.	.	.	.	0
5	Benvenuti	Joseph	1	1	1	n/a	1	1	1	1	1	1	9
6	Benvenuti	Salvatore	1	1	1	n/a	1	.	1	1	.	1	7
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	.	1	6
10	Campan	Domenica	1	.	.	n/a	.	.	.	.	.	.	1
11	Capalbo	Frank	1	1	1	n/a	1	.	1	.	.	1	6
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	1	5
14	Castillo	Christina	1	1	1	n/a	1	1	1	1	1	1	9
15	Castillo	Sara	.	.	.	n/a	.	.	.	.	.	.	0
16	Cervino	Peter	.	.	.	n/a	.	.	1	1	.	1	3
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	1	6
20	Criscione	Carmen	.	1	1	n/a	1	1	1	1	.	1	7
21	DeLuccia	Alexander	1	.	.	n/a	.	.	1	.	.	1	3
22	DeMarco	Fred	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	1	1	1	.	1	1	5
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	.	1	4
27	Gaita	Jessica	.	.	.	n/a	.	.	.	.	.	.	0
28	Gaita Jr	Carmen	1	.	.	n/a	.	.	.	.	1	.	2
29	Klosik	Emilia	.	.	.	n/a	.	1	.	.	1	1	3
30	Kribs	Damian	.	.	.	n/a	1	.	.	.	.	.	1
31	Kribs	Ken	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	1	1	1	1	1	1	6
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	1	9
36	Nicora	Peggy Ann	.	.	.	n/a	0
37	OHara	Joyce	1	1	.	n/a	1	1	1	1	1	1	8
38	Orlando	Anthony	.	.	.	n/a	1	1



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39	Orlando	Jack	.	.	.	n/a	0
40	Pelonero	Patricia	.	1	1	n/a	1	1	1	1	.	1	7
41	Pelonero	Steven	1	1	1	n/a	1	1	1	1	.	1	8
42	Polizzotto	Philip	.	.	.	n/a	.	.	.	.	.	.	0
43	Ponchak	Bruce	1	1	1	n/a	1	1	1	1	1	1	9
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	1	9
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	1	8
50	Stefanelli	Alexandra	.	.	.	n/a	.	.	.	.	.	.	0
51	Stefanelli	Claudine	.	.	1	n/a	1	1	.	1	1	1	6
52	Strippoli	Alyssa	.	.	.	n/a	.	.	.	.	.	.	0
53	Tosi	Evelyn	1	.	1	n/a	1	1	1	.	1	1	7
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	27
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	27
Meeting	Location	CA	CA	HC	n/a	EV	HC	HC	CA	HC	HC
Percent	at meeting	42%	27%	36%	n/a	51%	47%	51%	38%	40%	49%

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