



UNICO NATIONAL

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

Monthly Minutes February 11 ~ 2nd Wednesday

Date March 11, 2026 ~ 2nd Wednesday
Place Biga's, Cedar Grove, NJ
Prayer 7:00 pm John Morano
Flag Salute 7:01 pm John Morano
Dinner 7:02 pm
Meeting 8:00 pm

Members & Guests in Attendance

Members (49) at meeting 20
Guests at meeting x
Percent % at meeting 41 %

Executive Board

<u>Attendance at meetings</u>	<u>9/'25</u>	<u>10/'25</u>	<u>11/'25</u>	<u>12/'25</u>	<u>1/'26</u>	<u>2/'26</u>	<u>3/'26</u>	<u>4/'26</u>	<u>5/'26</u>	<u>6/'26</u>
President: Criscione	1	X	1	NM	1	1	1			
1 st VP: J. Benvenuti	1	1	1	NM	1	1	X			
2 nd VP: Chuck Russo	1	1	1	NM	1	1	X			
Secretary: Pelonero	1	X	X	NM	1	1	X			
Treasurer: Ponchak	1	1	1	NM	1	1	X			
Sgt.At-Arms: Morano	1	1	1	NM	1	1	1			

Delegates at Meetings

1. Sal Benvenuti	1	1	NMT	NM	1	1	1			
2. Pat Pelonero	1	X	X	NM	1	1	1			

Board of Directors at meetings (6 past Chapter Presidents)

Carmen Gaita	1	1	1	NM	X	X	X			
Bruce Ponchak	1	1	1	NM	1	1	X			
John Barbieri	X	1	1	NM	1	1	1			
Steve Pelonero	1	X	X	NM	1	1	X			



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Past Chapter Presidents in attendance at meetings

	<u>9/25</u>	<u>10/25</u>	<u>11/25</u>	<u>12/25</u>	<u>1/26</u>	<u>2/26</u>	<u>3/26</u>	<u>4/26</u>	<u>5/26</u>	<u>6/26</u>
Joe Agresti PNP	1	1	1	NM	1	1	X			
John Barbieri	X	1	1	NM	1	1	1			
Sal Benvenuti	1	1	1	NM	1	1	1			
Carmen Criscione	1	X	1	NM	1	1	1			
Carmen Gaita	1	1	1	NM	X	X	X			
John Morano	1	1	1	NM	1	1	1			
Steve Pelonero	1	X	X	NM	1	1	X			
Bruce Ponchak	1	1	1	NM	1	1	X			
Chuck Russo	1	1	1	NM	1	1	X			
Angelo Verrone	1	X	1	NM	X	1	X			

Opening Remarks

- **President Carmen Criscione**

Carmen welcomed everyone to the meeting ... Carmen noted that not too many members attended it. Carmen also noted that there were no new members to be sworn in.

- **1st VP Joe Benvenuti**

Absent ~ No report

- **2nd VP Chuck Russo**

Absent ~ No report

Secretary Minutes

Secretary: Steve Pelonero PNP

In Steve's absence, Pat Pelonero acted as secretary for the night

Motions to accept were from:

Sal Benvenuti and Jerry Gaeta.

All were in favor



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Treasurer Report

Treasurer: Bruce Ponchak

- Bruce was absent from the meeting
As there was no treasurers report, there was no motion taken

Bills and Communications: John Morano

A thank you letter came in from the Coccia Foundation for our donation
Our annual Post Office Box bill was paid
Our chapter sent in our fee for the 2026 Convention Adjournal Page

Chapter Budget

- N/A

Chapter Elections: Nominating chair to be appointed by Chapter President

- N/A

Fundraising Committees

• Community Service Day: Claudine Stefanelli

Claudine reported that April 18th is our chapter Community Service to be at ShopRite in Little Falls. She noted that it will be held rain or shine. More of an update will be in the April Newsletter.

• Fifty-Fifty: Claudine Stefanelli

- Claudine reported there was no report but that she will do another raffle again



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- **Food Pantry: Carmen Gaita, Patricia Pelonero**

No report

- **Golf Outing: Fred DeMarco**

Fred reported that the Gold outing will be on Monday June 22nd.
Only two sponsors came in so far.

- **Holiday Cheer: Joe Benvenuti, Sal Benvenuti, Carmen Gaita**

No report

- **Overseas Soldier Program: Evelyn Tosi / Roni Corrado**

No report

- **Scholarship: Mike Russo**

- Mike reported that the Scholarship Dinner is set for Sunday. June 14th ... He noted that the dinner may go up a little as prices all over are going up ... More on that at another meeting

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

No report



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Non-Fundraising Committees

- **Flag Raising: Steve Pelonero PNP**
No report
- **Good & Welfare: Joe Benvenuti**
 - Jerry Gaeta is back and attending our meetings. Welcome back Jerry
- **Italian Heritage: Angelo Verrone**
 - In Angelo's absence it was reported that we are donating \$500 to the NYC Italian Museum thanks to a donation from a business in Totowa that was given to us to be used to promote our Italian Heritage
- **Membership: Christina Castillo, Roni Corrado**
 - Christina reported that 67 is our chapter's average age. We have 49 members
- **Newsletter & Website: Steve Pelonero PNP**
 - In Steve's absence there was no report
- **Public Relations: Christina Castillo, Roni Corrado**
 - Christina reported that our new member photo, of Carl Ricca, was in the Passaic Valley Today Paper.



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District and National Events

- **District News**

- March 19th, Thursday night at 7 pm is our NJ District IV meeting at Portobello's in Oakland. \$45 per person. An RSVP is appreciated.

- **National News**

- The UNICO National Mid-Year Board meeting is set in A/C on Sunday and Monday, March 22 and 23. In addition to committee meetings and the general session there is a Marconi Award Dinner. Pre-registration is required.

Old Business

- A motion was made with discussion to have 3 banners made for our three towns.
- 1st by John Barbieri, 2nd by Jerry Gaeta
- All were in favor

New Business

- At the April meeting there will be a vote to nominate our Executive Board members,
- Our chapter is planning on a Chapter only Christmas Dinner for the December meeting
- Sal Benvenuti said that he would look into a beefsteak after a long absence of not having one

Adjournment

- Motion to adjourn was made
 - 1st Pat Pelonero



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- 2nd Joyce O'Hara
- All were in favor.

Respectfully Taken by

Patricia Pelonero

Meeting Attendance

The year's meeting attendance on the following two pages >>

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

