



# UNICO NATIONAL

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

MONTHLY MINUTES  
September 12, 2018

**Date** September 12, 2018  
**Place** Amore Ristorante, Woodland Park  
**Time** 7:00 pm Dinner ~ 8:00 pm Meeting  
**Opened** 6:56 pm President Carmen Gaita  
**Prayer** 7:00 pm Sgt. At-Arms Dominick Bucci  
**Flag Salute** 7:02 pm Sgt. At-Arms Dominick Bucci

## Guests & Members

Guests: Tentative new member James Minnella from Little Falls  
Members 30+1

<u>In attendance at meeting</u>	9/18	10/18	11/18	12/18	1/19	2/19	3/19	4/19	5/19	6/18
President: Carmen Gaita	☺									
1 <sup>st</sup> VP: Eileen Wood	☺									
2 <sup>nd</sup> VP: Pat Ligouri	☺									
Secretary: Steve Pelonero	☺									
Treasurer: Bruce Ponchak	☺									
SgtAtArms: Dominick Bucci	☺									

## Delegates at meeting

Jean Chomko	☺
Joyce O'Hara	☺
Eileen Wood	☺

## Board of Directors (6 past Chapter Presidents)

John Barbieri	☺
Bob Appaluccio	----
Steve Pelonero	☺
Carmen Criscione	☺
Sal Benvenuti	☺
Angelo Verrone	☺



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## Past Chapter Presidents in attendance at meeting

	<u>9/18</u>	<u>10/18</u>	<u>11/18</u>	<u>12/18</u>	<u>1/19</u>	<u>2/19</u>	<u>3/19</u>	<u>4/19</u>	<u>5/19</u>	<u>6/18</u>
Joe Agresti PNP	☺									
Bob Appaluccio										
John Barbieri	☺									
Sal Benvenuti	☺									
Carmen Criscione	☺									
John Morano	☺									
Steve Pelonero	☺									
Bruce Ponchak	☺									
Chuck Russo	☺									
Angelo Verrone	☺									

## Opening Remarks

- Carmen Gaita welcomed guest and tentative new member James Minnella from Little Falls
- Carmen asked for a moment of silenced for recently deceased members Tony Nappi and Jean Giancola
- Carmen acknowledged past and current UNICO National officers at the meeting: Joe Agresti PNP, John Morano Past National Sgt. At-Arms, and Steven Pelonero current UNICO National 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President
- Carmen noted that the October and November meetings will again be at Amore Ristorante
- 1<sup>st</sup> VP Report: Eileen Wood: Welcomed everyone
- 2<sup>nd</sup> VP Report: Patrick Ligouri: Welcomed everyone

## Secretary Minutes

Motion to accept:

1<sup>st</sup> Frank Capalbo

2<sup>nd</sup> Joe Benvenuti

No discussion, all in favor

## Treasurer Report

Motion to accept

1<sup>st</sup> Joe Agresti PNP

2<sup>nd</sup> John Barbieri

No discussion, all in favor



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## Budget for 2018-2019

Bruce Ponchak, Treasurer, had printouts of the 2018-2019 proposed chapter budget. It was discussed and a vote to pass it will be taken at the October 10<sup>th</sup> meeting at Amore Ristorante

## Good and Welfare: Sal Nocella

- Sal noted that we lost another member, Jean Giancola, due to her passing away. A UNICO service was held at her wake. A donation was made to the American Cancer Society
- We also had a UNICO service at Tony Nappi's wake. A donation was made to the Little Sisters of the Poor

## Bills & Communications

- Steve Pelonero received his daily email from his town of Little Falls announcing that on Sept. 23<sup>rd</sup> (Sunday) is the Little Falls Annual Fall Festival. He noted that he responded to get more information (cost if any) and to see if a UNICO table could be set up with UNICO information. Not knowing if there is a cost, a motion was made to allocated \$50.00 for a table. Motion made by John Morano and 2<sup>nd</sup>d by Joe Benvenuti. All were in favor
- Sal Nocella reported that a thank you was received from Tony Nappi's wife for us remembering Tony
- Sal Nocella reported that a thank you was also received from the Little Sisters of the Poor on behalf of Tony Nappi
- Carmen Gaita reported that five (5) thank you letters were received from the UNICO National Foundation to reflect that we donated to the five different charities of \$100.00 each
- Carmen Gaita reported that we received the Annual Bocce Tournament registration forms from NJ District XI. Carmen noted that were no teams budgeted in our chapter for this year but that a few of our members have teams of their own. Steve Pelonero noted that it is an open event where all are invited to attend, watch, and/or play and help support in another districts fundraising event which runs approximated from 9 am till about 4 pm
- Bloomfield UNICO is hosting a Fundraising Raffle for the 2019 Convention in Nashville. Carmen asked that if any member wanted a ticket to see him. The book of five tickets was sold immediately

## Standing Committees

- Scholarship: Joe Agresti:
  - Joe noted that according to the proposed budget we have \$5,500.00 and that according to that we can give three (3) high school and two (2) study abroad. A different venue is being looked at seeing that there were so many people at this past June Awards Dinner. It was taken under advisement for more discussion to create another standing Scholarship in the name of "The Anthony Nappi Scholarship". More information to follow
- Brian Piccolo: Chuck Russo:
  - No report



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## Fundraising Committees

- **Community Service: Chuck Russo**
  - Looking into again doing the Food Pantry Drive which is usually held in April. More information to follow
- **Dine with UNICO:**
  - Joe Benvenuti is chairing a Dine with UNICO at Thatcher McGee in Fairfield. Dates are Monday through Thursday, October 22<sup>nd</sup> through October 25<sup>th</sup>. Flier is on website
  -
- **Dinner for Two: Carmen Criscione**
  - Carmen said he will chair this event. He asked members to ask the restaurants that they frequent for gift certificates and that when the drawing date comes, the winner will receive 12 certificates (one for each month: hence "Dinner for a Year"). Tickets will probably be \$5.00 each. A book of 5 tickets will probably be sold for 5 tickets for \$20.00
- **Food Pantry: Roni Corrado**
  - Not present. No report
- **Golf Outing: Joe Barone**
  - No report. Too early
- **Holiday Donations: Bob Appaluccio**
  - Not present. No report
- **Overseas Soldiers: Pat Corrado**
  - Pat was not present, but Evelyn Tosi did report that her grandson, Edmund, was now overseas
- **Pasta Dinner: Dominick Bucci**
  - Dominick report that the dinner, with entertainment, is booked for November 17<sup>th</sup>, 2018, Saturday, at Holy Cross Church. \$17.00 per person. All food and entertainment were donated. It should be a total profit event. Our chapter gets the proceeds from UNICO members. The church will get the profit from the church attendees. Please support this fundraising event. The flier is on our chapter website. This event may sell out fast so it is recommended to book soon



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- **2020 Vision Wine Raffle: Steve Pelonero**
    - Carmen Gaita asked Steve to report on a 2020 Convention Fundraising project. Steve noted that it will help subsidize the convention and possibly be set aside for a dinner for the chapter members that do attend and support UNICO National at the convention. More information will follow
  - **Pig Roast: Joe Agresti PNP**
    - Joe is looking into a Pig Roast Fundraiser possibly for January or February. More information will follow. All members are urged to sign up for this event

## **Non-Fundraising Committees**

- **Heritage Day: Steve Pelonero**
  - Steve reported that no firm date has been set yet, but still working on it
- **Heritage Talk: Angelo Verrone**
  - Angelo's monthly talk was about "What it was like growing up as an Italian". Steve Pelonero also noted that two homemade "How to Family Tradition" videos are now on our website. Please go to [www.PassaicValleyUNICO.org](http://www.PassaicValleyUNICO.org) and click on the "Movie Section"
- **Membership: John Barbieri**
  - John reported that we "had" 50 members. Two are now deceased and two are terminated (dropped out) which brings us down to 46. We are now however picking up one new paid member, James Minnella which brings us back up to 47. And the scholarship recipients from this past June will be added soon to our roster
  - One birthday in September: Roni Corrado
  - Our average age in our chapter is 70
- **Newsletter: Steve Pelonero**
  - Steve reported that we are now in the 17<sup>th</sup> year of newsletters and that they can be found on our website
- **Website: Steve Pelonero**
  - Steve reported that visits to our chapter website are at 83,820 ... Up 296 from June 2018



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- **Christmas Dinner: Joe Agresti PNP**
  - Joe is working on a Wine Tasting & Dinner event at Magnanini's in Wallkill, NY ... [www.magwine.com](http://www.magwine.com) ... Approximate cost will be about \$50-\$55 based on supplying your own transportation. A one-hour tasting followed by a 6-course dinner. Possible dates are December 2<sup>nd</sup> or December 9<sup>th</sup>. More information will follow
- **Christmas Tree Lighting: Joe Agresti PNP**
  - Joe is working on possibly having our attendance made at the towns Christmas Tree lightings with Candy Canes as handouts
- **Easter Egg Hunt: Joe Agresti PNP & Pat Ligouri**
  - Joe and Pat are working on an Easter Egg Hunt for the children of our towns. More information on that to follow

## National News

- Eileen Wood gave the Convention 2018 delegate report. Also representing our chapter as delegates were Jean Chomko and Joyce O'Hara. Other than again having a great time and taking many of the photos that are now on the National website, Eileen did note that all 9 amendments that were voted on, passed. Donations at the convention came in from chapters and districts, in excess of \$84,000
- It was noted that the 2019 National Convention will be at the Gaylord in Nashville, TN. The room rate is \$169.00 a night
- It was noted that the 2020 National Convention will be at the Sanibel Marriott in Fort Myers, FL. The room rate is \$169.00 a night
- Joe Agresti commented on fundraising for conventions: that usually and typically a chapter raises about \$70,000, of which half comes from the ad journal and the balance is from chapter and district fundraising. The more that is raised gives the convention the extras for the members at the convention

## District News

- The 1<sup>st</sup> District Meeting will be on September 20, Thursday, at Portobella's in Oakland. 7:00 pm. Please let chapter president Carmen if you plan on attending as we always need to give a head count to the District Governor and/or the hosting chapter for the establishment



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## **Old Business**

- None

## **New Business**

- John Barbieri mentioned that we do have an “Emergency Fund” and that we possibly think about reaching out and help the displaced families in the recent flood that mostly affected Little Falls
- Sal Benvenuti mentioned that a few members asked him about UNICO shirts, and comments were then made that it would be nice if at our events that we all wore them. Sal said that he would bring a few samples to our next meeting
- Joe Barone asked that possibly, at a future meeting, that all of the patches on our chapter banner be explained and what they stand for and how we got them

## **Adjournment**

Motion was made to adjourn @ 9:20 pm

1<sup>st</sup> Jerry Gaeta

2<sup>nd</sup> Joe Benvenuti

All in favor

## **Respectfully Taken by**

Steve Pelonero, Passaic Valley Chapter Secretary