



UNICO NATIONAL

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

MONTHLY MINUTES February 13, 2019

Date February 13, 2019
Place Amore Ristorante, Woodland Park
Prayer 6:55 pm Sgt. At-Arms Dominick Bucci
Flag Salute 6:57 pm Sgt. At-Arms Dominick Bucci
Time 7:00 pm Dinner
Meeting 8:00 pm President Carmen Gaita

Members & Guests in Attendance

Members: 24
Guests: 0

Executive Board

<u>Attendance at meetings</u>	<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>
President: Carmen Gaita	☺	☺	☺	☺	☺	☺				
1 st VP: Eileen Wood	☺	☺	☺	☺	☺	☺				
2 nd VP: Pat Ligouri	☺	☺	☺	☺	☺	☺				
Secretary: Steve Pelonero	☺	☺	---	☺	☺	☺				
Treasurer: Bruce Ponchak	☺	☺	☺	---	☺	☺				
SgtAtArms: Dominick Bucci	☺	---	☺	☺	☺	☺				

Delegates at meetings

Jean Chomko	☺	☺	☺	☺	☺	---				
Joyce O'Hara	☺	☺	☺	☺	☺	☺				
Eileen Wood	☺	☺	☺	☺	☺	☺				

Board of Directors at meetings (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 meetings

	<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

- President Carmen Gaita:
 - Carmen welcomed everyone and noted that he had laryngitis
 - He thanked the Pig Roast Committee and said that a report would be given later in the evening. Carmen did note that it was a sold out event
 - Carmen welcomed back Eileen Wood, our chapter 1st VP, from her hip replacement surgery
 - Carmen reported that our NJ District IV DG, Steve Calantone, thanked our chapter for being the first chapter to donate \$200.00 to this upcoming 2019 Christmas Dinner for our Special Needs Friends
 - Our next meeting on the 2nd Wednesday of March, will more than likely be back here at Amore. More to follow when you get the invite to respond from John Barbieri
 - Carmen also noted that our biggest fundraiser is our upcoming June Annual Golf Outing. Chairperson Joe Barone will report on that later in the evening as well as another chapter fundraiser the Dinner for a Year Raffle run by Carmen Criscione
 - Chapter President Carmen made note that our chapter budget meeting will be held next week on February 20th. Those involved will be contacted

- 1st VP Eileen Wood:
 - Just had hip replacement surgery and is glad to be back

- 2nd VP Patrick Liguori:
 - No report



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Secretary Minutes

Secretary: Steve Pelonero

Steve reported that the minutes were emailed out and were also on the chapter website. Steve asked for a motion to accept

1st Mark BiFalco
2nd Frank Capalbo
Discussion: None
All in favor: Yes

Treasurer Report

Treasurer: Bruce Ponchak

Bruce reported that he emailed the treasurers report to everyone and asked for a motion to accept

1st Steve Pelonero
2nd Frank Capalbo
Discussion: None
All in favor: Yes

Good and Welfare: Sal Nocella

- In Sal Nocella's absence, Chapter President Carmen reported that a fruit basket was sent to our chapter 1st VP Eileen Wood. She had hip replacement surgery
- Prayers and get well wishes were asked for PNP Paul Alongi from the Bloomfield Chapter who was in a serious accident. He is now home and doing well

Bills & Communications

- John Barbieri read a thank you letter from our Chapter 1st VP Eileen Wood thanking us for the fruit basket
- John Barbieri reported that a donation request was received from Special Olympics. A motion was made by Tony Orlando that we donate, as we have done in the past, \$200. The motion was 2nd d by Joe McGill. All were in favor



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Standing Committees

- **Scholarship: Joe Agresti, PNP:**
- **Brian Piccolo: Chuck Russo:**

Chuck Russo reported that PVHS has our Scholarship Application. If anyone knows of a student who lives in one of our three supported towns that does not go to PV to contact him and he will make sure that the student gets an application. Chuck also reported that our Scholarship Dinner date will be the 2nd Wednesday of June, the 12th, at the Barnyard in Totowa. Chuck noted that this event is the culmination of all of our fundraising efforts and the “C” and “O” in UNICO (Charity and Opportunity) where we help students, both high school and college Italian Studies further their education with financial aid. He asked that everyone save the date for this new venue with lots of room. The scholarship committee will be meeting soon to discuss menu and price

Chuck also noted and talked about the memorial Scholarships for past deceased members on a year basis for those that have passed in our current year (if any). Anyone can also have a scholarship named for a \$200.00 donation to our chapter scholarship fund

Fundraising Committees

- **Community Service: Chuck Russo**
 - Chuck reported that Community Service Day is April 27th, Saturday. A sign up sheet was passed around and Chuck asked if members could make copies of the “Food List Handout” so that we have enough that day
 - Chuck noted that we have quite a few food pantries in our Passaic Valley area along with a Veterans Pantry in Paterson
 - Eileen Wood asked if it was feasible to have food tote bags made and passed out with our UNICO logo on them. Steven Pelonero said he would look into it and report back
- **Dine with UNICO: Joe Benvenuti, Mark BiFalco, Jean Chomko**
 - In Jean Chomko’s absence, Steve Pelonero reported that she was looking into contacting the Town Tavern in Little Falls for another Dine with UNICO as a fundraiser for the 2020 Convention



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- **Dinner for Two: Carmen Criscione**

- In Carmen's absence, Steve Pelonero reported that we received the permit number for the Dinner for a Year Raffle, and that John Barbieri would now start to have the tickets printed at \$5.00 each ticket. The prize will be at least 12 Dinner Certificates for restaurants. Carmen asked that we start asking our favorite dining facilities for a certificate that can be awarded as a prize. We are now a 501(c)3 which means the restaurants can claim it as a deduction

- **Food Pantry: Roni Corrado**

- Roni noted that as always, food is always in need. Please bring your non-perishables to any meeting

- **Golf Outing: Joe Barone**

- Joe reported that the date is June 10 at Preakness Valley GC (otherwise known as Passaic County). A committee meeting is planned at his house on Wednesday, February 27

- **Overseas Soldiers: Pat Corrado**

- Evelyn Tosi reported that her grandson is leaving soon for Jordan and that he hopefully might be able to attend our March meeting and talk about some of his life experiences overseas

- **Pig Roast: Joe Agresti PNP / Jim Minella**

- In Joe Agresti's absence, Joe Benvenuti reported that it was a sell out event with 143 in attendance. \$2703.00 profit with a \$100.00 from that donation going to "The Tunnel to Tower Foundation". At the event Roni Corrado was honored as our first ever "Member of the Year" and rather than a gift, she opted for a donation to the above said charity. Joe B noted that the American Legion Hall was donated to our event and it was asked if we should make some type of donation to the hall as a thank you. Jim Minella said that he would contact our go to person at the hall to see what is needed. Also, it was suggested that we send a thank you to the DJ who provided us his N/C entertainment. Bob Appaluccio said he would get his contact information. John Barbieri noted that by the time his and a few of the other last tables got to the food table, that the pork ran out and the hamburgers were cold and that is something that we should definitely look into for next year. Jim Minella noted that we only planned on 130 people and we over sold the event by 13. Jim said it will be looked into for next year if we hold it again



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- **2020 Vision Wine Raffle: Steve Pelonero**

- Steve Pelonero reported that the permit for this raffle also was received and that this and the Dinner for a Year drawing will both be held the same night, at the same place, at PJ Rufo's on July 11 at 6:00 pm. Reservations are suggested if you plan on attending and ordering food. John Barbieri said he will also print these tickets, also priced at \$5.00 each. Steve asked members to please consider bringing to the next few meetings a donated bottle of wine until we hit the 40 bottle prize limit. The wine refrigerator will be donated as it was last year

- **2020 Convention Fundraiser: John Morano**

- John reported that with chapter approval and support he wanted to run a convention 2020 fundraiser for our member Steve Pelonero who will be sworn in as National President in July of 2020 at the 98th UNICO National Convention in Florida at the Fort Myers Sanibel Harbour Beach Marriott. John noted that as most may or may not know it cost a lot to host a convention where those in attendance are happy with what is available. John noted that with a cost of \$20.00 for wine, anti-pasta platter and hors d'oeuvres (no dinner to keep the cost down), and a low cost for two live bands with music all night, that we could sell tickets for \$40.00 to make it reasonable for people to attend. John noted that this will be advertised as a national event so that we can then advertise it as a convention fundraiser with the hopes that other local chapters will attend and support the convention. More information will be made available to our chapter, but not nationally until the start of the new UNICO year in August of 2020

Non-Fundraising Committees

- **Easter Egg Hunt: Joe Agresti PNP / Chuck Russo**

- Chuck Russo reported that Woodland Park has an Easter Egg hunt the Saturday before Easter (this year Saturday on April 13th). The cost of 1000 candy filled eggs is \$135.00. Woodland Park usually gets 2000. With a motion by Carmen Gaita and a 2nd by Frank Capalbo to donate \$135.00, all were in favor. Members will be asked to wear UNICO attire to make ourselves seen and also to be there to help if need be

- **Heritage Talk: Angelo Verrone**

- In Angelo's absence, Steve Pelonero gave a brief "Did you Know" with 5 highlights about Italy. There are a lot more tidbits of info which will be shared at every meeting for the rest of the year. Steve also noted that when he comes back from his April trip to his grandparents homeland of Sicily, that he might have a slide show presentation of his photos that he took there



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- **Membership: John Barbieri**
 - John reported that we were at 48 members with many birthdays to be celebrated this month of February
 - **Newsletter: Steve Pelonero**
 - No report
 - **Website: Steve Pelonero / John Barbieri**
 - Steve reported that there were 84,306 visits to our website. In January there were 84,000.
 - John reported that more members were utilizing the members section

National News

- Steve Pelonero reported that the National Mid-Year Board meeting is to be held in Orlando FL on March 1st and 2nd
- Steve reported that the Convention will be held in Nashville TN at a room rate of \$169 a night. Wednesday through Saturday, July 24th, 25, 26 and 27. Even though rooms might be sold out, if someone still wants to go it is advised that you book a room at the new price and if UNICO National does not get more rooms added on at the advertised rate, and if you decide not to go, you have a week before the event to cancel. Steve noted that by booking soon, you will be placed on a wait list
- Steve reported that there is UNICO Hockey Night at the Newark Prudential Center, Thursday, March 21st. 7:00 pm game. Devils vs Bruins. The flier is on the UNICO National website and also in the UNICO National Photo Gallery Section. \$60.00 gets you the game and also a food voucher worth \$20.00
- The UNICO National Foundation sent out fundraising 50/50 raffle tickets with the hopes that many purchase them. Steve noted that our chapter in the past has bought a book (6 tickets) for \$100.00. The chapter voted yes to purchase them
- The 2019 Eastern Region meeting will be held in November at Hershey Park in PA. More information to follow

District News

- Steve Pelonero reported that the next District IV meeting will be in March. No exact date was yet given. Sparta will be the host chapter. More information at a later time



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Old Business

- No old business

New Business

- Dominick Bucci asked if our chapter would consider donating to a family of a terminally ill 13 year old girl, a parishioner of his church, Holy Cross in Woodland Park where we have some of our meetings. A motion was made by Bruce to donate \$200.00 with a 2nd by Roni Corrado. All were in favor

Adjournment

Motion was made to adjourn @ 9:10 pm

1st Joe Benvenuti 2nd Pat Ligouri

All were in favor

Respectfully Taken by

Steve Pelonero, Passaic Valley Chapter Secretary