



# UNICO NATIONAL

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

## MONTHLY MINUTES September 11, 2019

**Date** October 9, 2019  
**Place** The Drink Bar & Grille  
**Prayer** 7:01 pm Sgt. At Arms Dominick  
**Flag Salute** 7:03 pm Sgt. At Arms Dominick  
**Dinner** 7:05 pm  
**Meeting** 8:00 pm

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

Members 34: for dinner  
Guests: 3: Prospective members  
Guests: 1: NJ District IV Governor Steve Calantone  
Total: 38

### **Executive Board**

<b><u>Attendance at meetings</u></b>	<b>9/19</b>	<b>10/19</b>	<b>11/19</b>	<b>12/19</b>	<b>1/20</b>	<b>2/20</b>	<b>3/20</b>	<b>4/20</b>	<b>5/20</b>	<b>6/20</b>
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 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	x	😊
Sal Benvenuti	😊	x
Angelo Verrone	😊	😊



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### Past Chapter Presidents in attendance at meetings

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

### Opening Remarks

- **President Carmen Gaita:**
  - Carmen welcomed our NJ IV District Governor Steve Calantone and congratulated him on his receiving the “Distinguished Governor Award” at the National Convention
  - Carmen asked Secretary Steve Pelonero to announce the three guests who filled out and have already paid for their membership. They will be sworn in at the November meeting (date and place to be announced). The new members are: William Ermolowich from Little Falls, Emelia Klosek from Wayne, and Anthony Ribaldo from Verona
  - Carmen thanked John Morano for running the 2020 Dance All Night Convention Fundraiser Dinner. Carmen also thank the members for a great attendance. Carmen noted that John Morano would be giving a report
- **1<sup>st</sup> VP Eileen Wood:**
  - Eileen welcomed everyone and noted that even though it was very crowded at the meeting, it was a good thing to see everyone here
- **2<sup>nd</sup> VP Patrick Ligouri:**
  - No report



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## **Guest Speaker**

District Governor Steve Calantone was asked to say a few words and he thanked our chapter for their contributions to our NJ District IV Christmas Party. Steve also noted that possibly in January a special pasta dinner fundraiser might be held to help raise money for the party for next year. Steve Calantone reported that the Annual NJ District IV Christmas Dinner for our Special Needs Friends will be on Dec 1<sup>st</sup>. More information will follow. Steve Calantone also noted that there will be, for next year, a standardized District Scholarship form that all chapters in our district will be asked to use. It will be put on our district website by Steve Pelonero ,who maintains the district website: [www.UNICO-NJdistrictIV.4mg.com](http://www.UNICO-NJdistrictIV.4mg.com)

## **Secretary Minutes**

Secretary: Steve Pelonero

Steve reported that the minutes were emailed to all the members and to UNICO National for their records. There was a printed copy on every table at the meeting as well as being on our chapter website. A motion was requested to accept them

1<sup>st</sup> Joyce O'Hara  
2<sup>nd</sup> Carmen Criscione  
Discussion: None  
All in favor: Yes

## **Treasurer Report**

Treasurer: Bruce Ponchak

Bruce gave the report noting that \$5,000 of our uncommitted was going to be transferred to a line item for a donation if needed for the 2020 Convention. Angelo Verrone asked if all of our scholarships were paid out: Yes they were. Motion to accept:

1<sup>st</sup> Jerry Gaeta  
2<sup>nd</sup> Joe Agresti  
Discussion: None  
All in favor: Yes

## **Good and Welfare: Sal Nocella**

- No report from Sal
- Steven Pelonero ask that we say prayers for Caroline BiFalco, wife of our member Mark, who is stricken and undergoing chemo for lung cancer



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## **Bills & Communications**

- A thank you was received from St. James Church in Totowa for our getting them a \$700 Ralph Torracco Food Grant. The presentation to Father Mark Mancini of St. James was made by Steve Pelonero

## **Standing Committee & Non-Fundraising Committees**

- **Scholarship: Chuck Russo & Joe Agresti, PNP:**
  - No report

## **Fundraising Committees**

- **Community Service: Chuck Russo**
  - No report
- **Food Pantry: Roni Corrado**
  - Food is always needed and will go this month to Holy Angels Church in Little Falls
- **Golf Outing: Joe Barone**
  - Joe reported that a special golf meeting will be held at the end of this general session meeting to discuss the venue for the day
- **Overseas Soldiers: Pat Corrado**
  - Roni Corrado reported that Evelyn Tosi's grandson is back in the states from being overseas in Jordan. Roni noted that he sent us an American Flag in thanks for all of the goods that we had sent them while stationed there. Also received was a Challenge Coin of which Chuck Russo gave the history of it. A motion was made by Jim Minnella, with a 2<sup>nd</sup> by Joe Benvenuti that the coin be given to Evelyn Tosi to keep. All were in favor
  - Jerry Gaeta Made a motion that we hang the flag at every meeting with a 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mark BiFalco. All were in favor
- **Beefsteak Dinner: Joe Benvenuti**
  - Joe is looking at a Sve the Date for the Beefsteak of February 8<sup>th</sup>. The last Beefsteak we had was in 2014 and Joe thought that it was time to resurrect it. Looking at the Russian Hall. Joe said that his co-chair is Angelo Verrone



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### **2020 Convention Fundraisers**

- Steve Pelonero mentioned the Bloomfield Chapter ~ Super Raffle ~ November 7 ~ Paid flight for 2, registration and meal plan for 2, room for 2, for the entire week
- Steve Pelonero mentioned the UNICO National ~ Cigar Night ~ Brick House ~ Open dining away from the Cigar Smoke
- Steve Pelonero mentioned the NJ District IV ~ Bus Ride to Little Italy ~ First pay 1<sup>st</sup> Go ... No holding seats unless they are paid for
- John Morano gave a recap of the Dance all Night Event: John thanked Joyce and Jean for welcoming the guests, Pat and Debbie for selling the 50/50's and tricky trays. John thanked the chapter for a great turn out: about 127 guests total. National Officers filled 2 tables. John noted that with donations we raised for the 2020 convention \$3200.00
- Steve Pelonero thanked John for stepping forward to chair this event

### **Non-Fundraising Committees**

- **Membership: John Barbieri**
  - John reported that there are 51 members
  - Three new members will be sworn in at the next meeting that they attend
- **Newsletter: Steve Pelonero**
  - Steve reported no issues. Also it is on our website
- **Website: Steve Pelonero / John Barbieri**
  - Steve reported that as of October 9, our [www.PassaicValleyUNICO.org](http://www.PassaicValleyUNICO.org) website is at 85,101 visits. Last months September count was at 84,991 ... Up 110 visits
  - John reported that everything is good with his portion of the website

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## National News

- Columbus Parades – Seaside and NYC
- October 29<sup>th</sup> is Meet the National President at the Venetian in Garfield. It was asked that we prepay, checks made out to Passaic Valley UNICO, and we in turn would write one check for all of us.
- John Morano asked for a motion to subsidize by \$10.00. Bob Appaluccio made the 2<sup>nd</sup> motion. All were in favor
- Eastern Region Hershey PA – November 8 & 9
- November 12 – Brick House Fundraiser
- July 2020 – It was asked if the rooms can be booked for the 2020 Convention at the Sanibel Harbor Beach Marriott in Fort Myers. Steve said yes, they can be booked and urged that they be done so early for the convention committee's bargaining power with the hotel. Steve noted that even if the room is booked now, there is a one-week cancellation window before the event if you cannot make it. Steve said that he would send out an email with a link to the hotel and for the room booking site.

## District News

- Dec 1, Sunday, NJ District IV Christmas Dinner for Special Needs. More information to follow when the time draws nearer
- Dec 7, Passaic-Clifton UNICO, Convention Bus Ride to Little Italy NYC. First 55 people that pay are guaranteed a seat on the bus. Free parking in Little Falls. Bus ride to Mulberry Street. Full course dinner, wine, back on the bus to the Rockefeller Center Tree, back home to Little Falls, \$100.00 per person

## Old Business

- Steve Pelonero, as secretary, reported that 11 members still have not paid their dues. By the end of the meeting Bruce and Steve got together and we are now at 9 members. Steve said a last mailing on November 1<sup>st</sup> will go out with another email reminder before the November meeting (date and place will be announced in a future email). The deadline for dues is November.
- Carmen Gaita asked if there were any more questions on our chapter budget. Bruce Ponchak noted that it was the same as presented at the October meeting.
- A motion was made as asked for at the October meeting that we donate \$500 to the Russell Domicoli family for the illness situations that they were hit with.
- The budget motions were made by Joe Agresti and John Barbieri. All were in favor
- Another motion was made that one of the Xmas Baskets go to the Domicoli family. Motions were made by Joe Agresti and Pat Ligouri



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## **New Business**

- Henry Youngster made a motion to increase our budgeted line item to the NJ District IV dinner from \$200 to \$500 which would help defray the rising costs of the event. A 2<sup>nd</sup> to the motion was made by Mark BiFalco. All were in favor

## **Adjournment**

Motion was made to adjourn @ 9:11 pm

1<sup>st</sup> Joe Benvenuti

2<sup>nd</sup> Jerry Gaeta

All were in favor

## **Respectfully Taken by**

Steve Pelonero, Passaic Valley Chapter Secretary