

## PASSAIC VALLEY UNICO MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, May 11, 2022

**Place:** St Agnes Church Hall, Little Falls, NJ

**Type:** Italian Buffet

**Prayer and Flag Salute:** Dominick Bucci

***Meeting called to order at 7:55PM by President Eileen Wood***

**In Attendance:** Members – 24; Guests - 1

<u>CHAPTER OFFICERS</u>	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May
President Eileen Wood	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
1 <sup>st</sup> VP Pat Ligouri	o	x	x	x	o	x	o	o	o
2 <sup>nd</sup> VP Dominick Bucci	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Secretary, Chuck Russo	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Treasurer Bruce Ponchak	x	x	o	o	x	x	x	x	x
Sgt At Arms James Minnella	o	x	o	x	o	o	o	o	o

### **OFFICERS' COMMENTS/REPORTS**

- **President** Eileen Wood  
Eileen welcomed prospective new member Peter Iunzano who attended the meeting with Phil Barone
- **1<sup>st</sup> VP** Pat Ligouri - Not present
- **2<sup>nd</sup> VP** Dominick Bucci – No report
- **Secretary** Chuck Russo  
With no additions or corrections to the April minutes which had been distributed via email, the minutes were accepted. Motion by Joe Agresti; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Carmen G.
- **Treasurer** Bruce Ponchak  
Treasurer's report was distributed by email. Bruce added that the balance at the end of April was \$16,959 but that did not include a deposit of over

\$5000 from the 50th Anniversary dinner. Motion to accept treasurer's report made by Joe B, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Sal B. Report accepted.

- **Sgt at Arms** Jim Minnella – not present

**\*\*\*\*\*8PM – 50/50 Raffle drawing as advertised- Drawn by President Wood. Winning ticket – Pat Corrado of Cedar Grove - \$1150.00**

### **BILLS AND COMMUNICATIONS**

Eileen reported we have received a thank you from Gina Marie the hairdresser from Totowa to whom we had donated for her fight against cancer. Also thank you's from LF 1<sup>st</sup> Reformed, LF United Methodist, and St James for our food drive donations. We also sent our Ad to Verona for their upcoming chapter anniversary.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- **GOLF OUTING** Joe Barone

Joe discussed the details of the outing to be held on June 6<sup>th</sup> and detailed the times, agenda, and what golfers will receive as well as the prizes for the various contests and scores. The format will be Scramble Play. The tournament will be followed by a beefsteak dinner at the Brownstone. As of now we need 2 more "hole monitors". Eileen volunteered to be one. As of now we only have about 20 committed golfers and about 20 sponsors. Joe requested any gifts members may want to donate to the outing.

- **FOOD PANTRY** Roni Corrado

This month we will be donating to the Little Sisters of the Poor. Roni explained the mission and the dire needs of the Little Sisters and their operation at St. Joseph's Home in Totowa. \$255 collected tonight for the Little Sisters.

- **COMMUNITY SERVICE** Chuck Russo

Chuck advised the food drive in April was a huge success. And thanked the members who were there helping and making it so successful. We supplied that day the 8 food pantries that we support ; we also collected \$843 cash and one \$10 gift card for a grand total of \$853. Chuck would like to see that money go to purchase ShopRite gift cards and then be distributed to those

same pantries (\$100 each). After some discussion, a motion was made by John Barbieri, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Bob A. Motion passes.

**SCHOLARSHIP** Chuck Russo

Chuck apologized for the 2<sup>nd</sup> change of date for the dinner...now to be held on Tuesday, June 21. Anyone with ticket money (\$45 pp) tonight should give same to the committee. Chuck again stressed the significance of the scholarship dinner and urged all to attend. Dinner start time is 7PM, however President Wood has stated she will use money from her discretionary fund to pay for the traditional President's cocktail hour for members and significant others starting at 6PM. John Morano is working on having a representative from Little Falls attend the dinner to present the chapter with a certificate recognizing us and our 50 years. The other towns may follow suite.

Scholarship and Brian Piccolo recipients have been selected by the committee. They are – Scholarship - Bianca Copello, Thomas Gaita, Lindsey Mezzina (Tony Nappi's granddaughter), and Sophia Payne. Piccolo Award – Dominic Meola and Brianna LaRosa.

➤ **CHAPTER 50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY GALA** Joe Agresti

Joe thanked the committee for their work and members who attended and solicited/purchased journal ads. He advised how successful the gala was, especially the ad journal. With paid tickets (144) and the ads, the total profit for the evening was over \$5200. Joe repeated his request to take \$1000 of the profit and direct it toward our study abroad program, a part of the chapter scholarship. Since this was approved at the prior meeting, \$4200 will go into the general fund.

➤ **ITALIAN HERITAGE** Angelo Verrone

Angelo updated us on his idea of a chapter day trip on possibly September 20th with a ride to NY Botanical Gardens followed by a stop on Arthur Avenue Bronx for lunch. Angelo has gotten some bus company estimates and is awaiting others, but he estimates cost including a tour of the Botanical Gardens, the bus, and a tip to be approx. \$50/pp. Participants will be on their own for lunch or other activities on Arthur Avenue. This will be open to members as well as guests who may be interested. Angelo hopes to have everything finalized by the June chapter meeting. He asked for a show of

hands to get an idea of potential chapter participation; that resulted in an overall positive response.

➤ **GOOD AND WELFARE** Sal Nocella

Sal reported that he has sent a donation of \$50 to St Jude's in memory of Jim Minnella's mother, this is now in lieu of the traditional basket or ShopRite card. President Wood suggested we send something to Pat Liguori's wife Ashley for her recent medical problems. Sal will take care of that.

➤ **MEMBERSHIP** John Barbieri

John reported that as of now we still have 58 members.

John read off the May birthdays and alluded to the average age of the chapter members.

Joe Agresti suggested we take some kind of ad to appear on the placemats of a local restaurant....approx. \$460 for 40,000 placements for 6 months, to get some advertising/local recognition. Discussion followed about various other diners, church bulletins, other chapters or organizations booklets/journals, local papers, etc. John will work on putting together a possible ad and take into consideration size of ad, wording, possible locations, etc and present it to membership.

**DISTRICT/NATIONAL**

Eileen was requested by Steve P to bring up a few things in his absence.

First, our chapter hosting a district meeting in July which would be the District scholarship dinner. Discussion regarding places, prices, and the need for this dinner in July for the district needs followed. Eileen will contact district leadership to obtain details.

We had donated to National's Ukraine assistance.

District VII will be having their annual Carnavale at the Brownstone and has requested that we advertise in their journal

**OLD BUSINESS**

None

**NEW BUSINESS**

Eileen would like someone to volunteer to have news/pictures of our chapter included in Communico, local papers etc. Chuck advised we used to have a "publicity" person. This will be investigated for the future. Eileen was upset that she did not appear in many photos from the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary gala.

### CHAPTER ELECTIONS

Nominating committee chair John Morano presented the slate of officers which he had proposed at last month's meeting.

That Slate of candidates for chapter officers for 2022-23 are:

President – Dominick Bucci, 1<sup>st</sup> VP - Carmen Criscione, 2<sup>nd</sup> VP – Joe Benvenuti, Secretary – Steve Pelonero, Treasurer – Bruce Ponchak, Sgt at Arms – John Morano. Since there were no nominations from the floor, Secretary Russo cast one vote for each of the officers as presented by the nominating committee.

Discussion regarding chapter delegates followed. As of now only Dominick B and Jean C have committed to attend the national convention. We are in need of 2 other delegates not just for the convention but also to attend district meetings.

### ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn by Carmen G; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Joe B.

Meeting adjourned at 9:05PM

MINUTES RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED BY:

*Secretary Chuck Russo*

Meeting Attendance - May Twenty-three (24) members and one guest were in attendance.

Joe	Agresti	Joe	McGill
Bob	Appaluccio	John	Morano
John	Barbieri	Sal	Nocella
Joe	Barone	Joyce	O'Hara
Phil	Barone	Bruce	Ponchak
Joe	Benvenuti	Chuck	Russo
Sal	Bcnvenuti	Jay	Sisti
Dominick	Bucci	Angelo	Verrone
Frank	Capalbo	Eileen	Wood
Christina	Castillo	Henry	Youngster
Jean	Chomko		
Roni	Corrado		
Carmen	Criscione		
Carmen	Gaita		

Guest – Peter Iunzano