



# UNICO NATIONAL

PASSAIC VALLEY CHAPTER  
P.O. BOX 341  
LITTLE FALLS, NJ 07424  
PassaicValleyUNICO@gmail.com  
[www.PassaicValleyUNICO.org](http://www.PassaicValleyUNICO.org)

## Monthly Minutes October 12 ~ 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday

**Date**            October 12, 2022  
**Place**            The Ties ~ Little Falls  
**Prayer**            7 :00 pm ~ John Morano  
**Flag Salute**    7 :01 pm ~ John Morano  
**Dinner**            7:02 pm  
**Meeting**          7:05 pm / 8:00 pm

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

Members at meeting        20  
Guests at meeting            4  
Total                              24  
Percentage at meeting      41%

### **Executive Board**

<b><u>Attendance at meetings</u></b>	<b>9/22</b>	<b>10/22</b>	<b>11/22</b>	<b>12/22</b>	<b>1/23</b>	<b>2/23</b>	<b>3/23</b>	<b>4/23</b>	<b>5/23</b>	<b>6/23</b>
President:    Bucci	😊	😊								
1 <sup>st</sup> VP:        Criscione	😊	😊								
2 <sup>nd</sup> VP:        J. Benvenuti	😊	😊								
Secretary:    Pelonero	😊	😊								
Treasurer:    Ponchak	😊	x								
Sgt.At-Arms: Morano	😊	😊								

### **Delegates at Meetings**

1. Jean Chomko            😊      😊

### **Board of Directors at meetings (6 past Chapter Presidents)**

Eileen Wood	😊	x
Carmen Gaita	😊	😊
Bruce Ponchak	😊	x
John Barbieri	😊	x
Steve Pelonero	😊	😊



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## Past Chapter Presidents in attendance at meetings

	9/20	10/20	11/20	12/20	1/21	2/21	3/21	4/21	5/21	6/21
Joe Agresti PNP	😊	😊								
John Barbieri	😊	x								
Sal Benvenuti	😊	😊								
Carmen Criscione	😊	😊								
John Morano	😊	😊								
Steve Pelonero	😊	😊								
Bruce Ponchak	😊	x								
Chuck Russo	😊	😊								
Angelo Verrone	😊	x								
Eileen Wood	😊	x								

## Opening Remarks

- **President Dominick Bucci**
  - President Dominick welcomed 4 guests for the evening: NJ District IV DG Gary D’Uva and his wife (DG Secretary) Laura, Elaine Barone (Joe Barone’s wife), and Patricia Pelonero (ComUNICO Editor and Seve Pelonero PNP’s wife)
  - Dominick mentioned the Meet the UNICO National President Dinner. It is \$85 at the Venetian in Garfield
  - Dominick showed a sample design placemat that our chapter talked about giving to a restaurant that would / could be displayed with our name / chapter. Discussion followed to look further into it
  - Dominick mentioned possibly doing a Fish and Chip Dinner, but a chairperson would be needed
  - Dominick mentioned that we did an Italian Flag Raising at the Little Falls Town Hall. About 20 people were in attendance
  - He asked members to come up with fundraising and even Heritage event ideas
- **1<sup>st</sup> VP Carmen Criscione**
  - Carmen noted a possible a change to our meeting agenda with reports to take place during the breaks in the serving of the dinner. It would shorten the time of the meeting with the social time to be during the breaks and even more time afterwards for everyone to get together
  - Gerry Gaeta commented that he likes the discussion and the social time before the 8:00 meeting
  - Joe Agresti noted that the venue places need to be told that the dinner has to be ready to be served promptly at 7 so that our meeting can start at 8
  - Roni Corrado liked the idea of blending in the dinner with the meeting agenda



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- Christina Castillo noted that when she was secretary during Steve Pelonero's term as chapter president, that he sometimes did what he called an Eat and Meet Dinner Meeting
  - DG Secretary Laura D'Uva commented that District IV also does their meeting during the breaks in the action and noted that the meetings always start at 7 pm with social time in between courses
  - Carmen Criscione said that this was just a suggestion to get the feeling of the members and that the Executive Board would meet again to consider all comments and make their suggestion for a chapter vote to at least to try it once or twice
- **2<sup>nd</sup> VP Joe Benvenuti**
    - Joe Benvenuti noted that chapter member Sal Benvenuti was honored by the Passaic County Board of Commissioners for his dedication to his heritage, town, service and family

## **Secretary Minutes**

Secretary: Steve Pelonero

- Steve reported that the minutes were emailed to all chapter members as well as being on our chapter website and on the side table of the meeting
- Motion to accept by:
  - 1<sup>st</sup> Gerry Gaeta
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> Carmen GaitaThere was no discussion  
All were in favor

## **Treasurer Report**

Treasurer: Bruce Ponchak

Bruce emailed the minutes to all the chapter members.

- Motion to accept by:
  - 1<sup>st</sup> Christina Castillo
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> Joe BenvenutiThere was no discussion. All were in favor

## **Chapter Budget**

- Bruce emailed the Budget for out 2022-2023 year to all members. Steve Pelonero, secretary noted that copies of the budget were on the side table.
  - Motion to accept by:
    - 1<sup>st</sup> Joe Benvenuti
    - 2<sup>nd</sup> Roni CorradoThere was no discussion. All were in favor



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## **Bills and Communications**

- The only mail was from our NJ District IV for our chapter Assessment

## **Fundraising Committees**

- **Holiday Cheer: Roni Corrado / Joe Benvenuti / Sal Benvenuti**
  - Roni asked that if anyone would like to donate to the standing committee “Holiday Cheer” that all checks should be made out to Passaic Valley UNICO, with a memo “Holiday Cheer”
- **Food Pantry: Roni Corrado**
  - Roni reported that St. Agnes Panty will be cutting down their days from twice a week to once a week. There is a lack of volunteers and food
  - Roni reported that November’s donations will be going to the First Reformed Church in Little Falls
- **Overseas Soldier Program: Roni Corrado**
  - No update
- **Golf Outing: Joe Barone**
  - No update
- **Community Service Day: Chuck Russo**
  - Chuck reported that seeing as Easter is April 9<sup>th</sup>, and that President Dominick remarked that April 7 is possibly a good date for a Fish and Chip Dinner, that he is thing about our Annual Service Day at ShopRite to be on April 15<sup>th</sup> or 22<sup>nd</sup>. More information will follow
- **Wine Raffle: Steve Pelonero PNP**
  - Steve reported that there were more tickets available if someone wanted or could sell more. He also reported that so far there are 12 bottles of wine of the 40 needed for the raffle. If 40 are not had by the drawing date of December 7<sup>th</sup>, then money from the ticket sales would be taken to purchase the balance. He asked members, who have not yet donated, to possibly donate a bottle, and their sold tickets, to the November meeting at Viva-La-Pizza in Woodland Park



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## Non-Fundraising Committees

- **Scholarship: Chuck Russo**
  - No report yet – Looking for the next update in November or December
- **Italian Heritage: Angelo Verrone**
  - In Angelo's absence, Steve Pelonero reported that in our chapter newsletter there were three photos: One of the photos appear in the National Calendar, month of October, of a Gondola in Venice. One is of Joe Benvenuti, at the house that he grew up in Calabria, Italy. And the other is of Steve Pelonero, when he was 5 years old, at their families Sunday dinner in the basement of his house in Totowa. Dinner was served pretty much every Sunday there, with all of the family (grandparents, aunts and uncles, etc) on two tables made of doors on wood sawhorses
  - Steve also reported on the Italian Flag Raising in Little Falls at the Town Hall. Of our 59 members, only 7 showed up. He asked that if the chapter wanted him to do it again next year that he would hope that there would be better attendance
  - Cav. Joe Agresti PNP said that the Italian American Museum on Mulberry Street, NYC is almost complete and that they do walking tours of the area
- **Italian Studies: Cav. Joe Agresti PNP**
  - Joe reported that there was not report at this time. More information will be available usually after the first of the year
- **Good and Welfare: Sal Nocella**
  - In Sal Noella's absence, President Dominick reported that John Barbieri went in for a triple bypass and that he was doing good
- **Membership: John Barbieri**
  - In John's absence, Steve Pelonero reported that we are at 59 members, and that 20 of them are at this meeting. Seven birthdays this month of October: Frank Capalbo, Christina Castillo, Carmen Gaita, Carmen Criscione, and Mark BiFalco
- **Newsletter & Website: Steve Pelonero**
  - Steve reported that our website is now at 88,496 visits, up from 88,360. 136 hits hits since our last meeting
  - Steve reported also that the newsletter is on our website and was emailed to all of the members, as well as to the three mayors of the towns of Little Falls, Totowa and Woodland Park. President Dominick remarked that Mayor Kazmark, from Woodland Park, liked the newsletter and its content



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- Steve also noted that all of our monthly newsletters are on our chapter website

## **District and National Events**

- **District News**
  - NJ District IV governor Gary D'Uva reported that the Meet the UNICO National President Dinner is October 25 at the Venetian in Garfield. Prepaid tickets can be bought through you chapter
  - There is a Memorial Dinner for Manny Alfano from the Belleville Chapter. Manny was the founder of the IOAVC. The dinner is October 23<sup>rd</sup>. Call PNP Paul Alongi for tickets
  - The Eastern Region Meeting is at Shawnee in PA Nove 6 and 7. There will be workshops. Gary asked if there were any items that can be brought up for discussion. Some members remarked membership and retention
  - Gary mentioned that the NJ District IV Dinner for our Special Need Friends will be at the Brownstone on December 6. Ticket price is \$60.00
  - Gary mentioned that there is a Bus Ride Fundraiser for the 2024 Special Need Dinner on December 10. To Puglia on Mulberry Street. Tickets are paid in advance only at \$110.00
  - Gary noted that our next district IV meeting will be on November 15<sup>th</sup>. More information will follow
- **National News**
  - Meet the UNICO National President Dinner at the Venetian in Garfield \$85.00

## **Old Business**

- Steve Pelonero talked about the 40 Bottle Wine Raffle.

## **New Business**

- Our November meeting will be at Viva La Pizza in Woodland Park ~ Bring a friend ~ More information will follow
- December meeting will be at the Ties in Little Falls. Christmas Dinner Meeting. \$40 per person. Bring friends and family
- Sal Benvenuti asked the chapter if they could take an ad page out for our member Cav. Joe Agresti PNP, who is being honored by the Italian American Museum. Full page at \$125.00. A motion accept was made by Gerry Gaita and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Frank Capalbo. All were in favor.



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## **Meeting Attendance**

Joseph	Agresti
Joseph	Barone
Joseph	Benvenuti
Salvatore	Benvenuti
Dominick	Bucci
Frank	Capalbo
Christina	Castillo
Jean	Chomko
Roni	Corrado
Carmen	Criscione
Gerardo	Gaeta
Carmen	Gaita Jr
Joseph	McGill
John	Morano
Joyce	O'Hara
Anthony	Orlando
Steven	Pelonero
Chuck	Russo
Gisella	Sisti
Henry	Youngster

## **Adjournment**

Motion was made to adjourn at 8:45 pm

- 1<sup>st</sup> Frank Capalbo
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Joe Benvenuti

All were in favor.

## **Respectfully Taken by**

Steve Pelonero PNP, Chapter Secretary