



UNICO NATIONAL

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

Monthly Minutes November 9 ~ 2nd Wednesday

Date November 9, 2022
Place Viva La Pizza, Woodland Park
Prayer 7:00 pm ~ By Sgt. At Arms John Morano
Flag Salute 7:01 pm ~ By Sgt. At Arms John Morano
Dinner/Meeting 7:05 pm ~ Eat and Meet Format

Members & Guests in Attendance

Members at meeting 23
Guests at meeting x
Total 23
Percentage at meeting 39%

Executive Board

| <u>Attendance at meetings</u> | 9/22 | 10/22 | 11/22 | 12/22 | 1/23 | 2/23 | 3/23 | 4/23 | 5/23 | 6/23 |
|--------------------------------------|-------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| President: Bucci | 😊 | 😊 | 😊 | | | | | | | |
| 1 st VP: Criscione | 😊 | 😊 | 😊 | | | | | | | |
| 2 nd 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 | 😊 | 😊 | 😊 | | | | | | | |
| Carmen Gaita | 😊 | 😊 | 😊 | | | | | | | |
| John Morano | 😊 | 😊 | 😊 | | | | | | | |
| Steve Pelonero | 😊 | 😊 | 😊 | | | | | | | |
| Bruce Ponchak | 😊 | x | 😊 | | | | | | | |
| Chuck Russo | 😊 | 😊 | 😊 | | | | | | | |
| Angelo Verrone | 😊 | x | 😊 | | | | | | | |
| Eileen Wood | 😊 | x | 😊 | | | | | | | |

Opening Remarks

- **President Dominick Bucci**
 - Dominick thanked everyone for coming to the meeting. He congratulated member Cav. Joe Agresti PNP (in attendance) for his receiving the Ambasciatore Award from the Italian American Museum. He welcomed back from sick leave, member John Barbieri (in attendance). He noted that Woodland Park now has a Bocce Court that is open to the public. He noted that NJ District VII has a Go Fund Me page that will help the Rutherford Bocce court to be rebuilt. He noted that tonight's dinner meeting will be \$30 per person, which includes the tip.
- **1st VP Carmen Criscione**
 - Carmen welcomed everyone and noted that Viva La Pizza was proud to have us there to support him as they have supported us with sponsorships for many years. He noted that the Saturday after Thanksgiving is the Christmas Parade from Totowa, through Woodland Park, and into Little Falls. He noted that the best seat in the house is in Dowling Park (walking distance from his house) and that we were more than welcome to watch the parade from there.
- **2nd VP Joe Benvenuti**
 - Joe welcomed everyone to the meeting and wish everyone a Happy Thanksgiving. Joe noted that member Peter Longo could not attend and that he sends his regards to everyone



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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:
 - 1st Chuck Russo
 - 2nd Joe Barone
- There 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:
 - 1st Joe Benvenuti
 - 2nd Carmen Gaita
- There was no discussion. All were in favor

Chapter Budget

- No report ~ Budget was approved at the October 2022 meeting

Bills and Communications

- No report

Fundraising Committees

- **Community Service Day: Chuck Russo**
 - Chuck reported that the next Community Service Day is booked, again at ShopRite in Little Falls for our Food Pantry Drive. It will be Saturday, April 29. Discussion was made again about the cost of bags to be handed out, but it is still a possibility of getting them. Chuck and Steve Pelonero noted that Steve's neighbors are currently four college students attending Caldwell College, and that they were interested in helping us in any type of fundraiser. Another update at the next meeting
- **Food Pantry: Roni Corrado**
 - Roni reported that the First Reformed Church in Little Falls is next to be gifted. There will be no collection in December seeing as it is our Holiday Cheer month



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- **Golf Outing: Joe Barone**
 - Joe reported that it is too early to give a report, Joe did note that the golfer count is dropping but also noted that the sponsors are growing. Tentative date is the 3rd week in June
 - **Holiday Cheer: Roni Corrado / Joe Benvenuti / Sal Benvenuti**
 - Roni reported that there are currently 4 families that the committee is looking at, with possibly two more based on how much money is available. It was noted that the budget carries \$1,500 for three families (\$500.00 each, one from each town of Little Falls, Totowa and Woodland Park) and any funds collected after that can be disbursed accordingly
 - **Overseas Soldier Program: Roni Corrado**
 - Roni reported that Evelyn Tosi's son is overseas in Israel and is safe. Nothing is asked for at this time
 - **Wine Raffle: Steve Pelonero PNP**
 - Steve reported that before this meeting started there was approximately \$700 in sold raffle tickets. He did collect a lot all night and another tally will be made. Regrettably Steve cannot be at the Drawing at the Ties on December 7, but Chuck Russo, Sal Benvenuti and John Morano said that they would fill in. This is currently the only fund raiser for our general fund that we do, and the support is always appreciated. The 40 bottles donated are covering the prize and any leftovers can possibly be given as door prizes at the Christmas Dinner

Non-Fundraising Committees

- **Good and Welfare: Sal Nocella**
 - John Barbieri is back after surgery. He was welcomed at the meeting and John thanked everyone for their cards and calls
- **Italian Heritage: Angelo Verrone**
 - Angelo reported and noted that at the past few meetings he has asked for members to give him some heritage information on their family history. The idea was to bring more heritage into our chapter meetings. To this date, no one has come through



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- **Italian Studies: Cav. Joe Agresti PNP**

- Joe reported that at the ERDG meeting November 6th, that he talked to recipient William Connell about the Study Abroad Grant to Seton Hall that we have not done in a while. Joe remarked that if the money is not there from the proceeds from the Golf Outing that he would resign as the Italian Studies Chair. Sal Benvenuti pointed out that it is in the budget for whatever we make at the golf outing that is what we give toward scholarship, regardless if they are all high school or all Study Abroad, or if a mix of both

- **Membership: John Barbieri**

- John reported that there are currently 59 members but 18 still have not yet paid their dues. He and the Executive Board will be meeting Monday, November 28th to finalize the final dues payment to UNICO National. John also mentioned three birthdays in November and the average age of the chapter is 71

- **Newsletter & Website: Steve Pelonero**

- Newsletter has been going our and email copies were sent to the mayors of our three towns
- Website is now at 88,638 hits ~ Up from last month at 86,496 ~ 142 new visits

- **Scholarship: Chuck Russo**

- Chuck reported that he will contact the high school guidance counselors in December along with the private high schools. At that time the application for scholarships will be handed to them.
- Chuck was also thinking about raising some money with possibly a Superbowl pool of some sort. Discussion followed about the legality of gambling

District and National Events

- **District News**

- Next NJ IV District Meeting is November 15th, Tuesday, at Amore in Woodland Park. It is hosted by Cedar Grove with a per person charge of \$45. BYO. Please contact Dominick if you plan on attending
- Our district will also have their Annual Special Needs Christmas Dinner at the Brownstone on December 6. \$60 per person. Gain PLEASE contact President Dominick if you plan on attending

- **National News**

- The UNICO National Office Christmas Part is set for Friday, December 2nd, from Noon until 4 pm. Please call the office @ 973-808-0035 if you plan on attending.



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- UNICO National Officers created a Google Calendar and sent the link to all chapter and District officers so that they can enter their events on it. This will enable other chapters to see what you are planning

Old Business

- None brought up

New Business

- **Christmas Dinner: John Morano**
Jon reported that our December Meeting / Christmas Dinner is set for the Ties in Little Falls for the 2nd Wednesday, December 14. Cost per person is \$40.00. A raffle was held at the October meeting, as well as at this November meeting which covers the cost of entertainment. Antipasto Platter, choice of Chicken Parm or Tilapia, Beer and Wine on the table, and dessert. Must let John know if you are attending. Friends and family are always welcome to celebrate as well

Meeting Attendance

- 23 Members ~ See last page of these minutes for details

Adjournment

Motion was made to adjourn at 8:51 pm

- 1st Joe Benvenuti
 - 2nd Bill Ermolowich
- All were in favor.

Respectfully Taken by

Steve Pelonero PNP, Chapter Secretary

< Member meeting attendance continued on next page >



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| | | | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Total Attended |
|----|--------------|----------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------------|
| 1 | Joseph | Agresti | 1 | 1 | 1 | | | | | | | | 3 |
| 2 | Carmen | Allora | | | | | | | | | | | 0 |
| 3 | John | Barbieri | 1 | | 1 | | | | | | | | 2 |
| 4 | Anthony | Barone | | | | | | | | | | | 0 |
| 5 | Joseph | Barone | | 1 | 1 | | | | | | | | 2 |
| 6 | Phil | Barone | | | | | | | | | | | 0 |
| 7 | Joseph | Benvenuti | 1 | 1 | 1 | | | | | | | | 3 |
| 8 | Salvatore | Benvenuti | 1 | 1 | 1 | | | | | | | | 3 |
| 9 | Mark | Bifalco | | | | | | | | | | | 0 |
| 10 | Isabella | Brunetti | | | | | | | | | | | 0 |
| | Rebecca | Brunetti | | | | | | | | | | | 0 |
| | Dominick | Bucci | | 1 | 1 | | | | | | | | 2 |
| | Frank | Capalbo | | 1 | 1 | | | | | | | | 2 |
| | Christina | Castillo | 1 | 1 | | | | | | | | | 2 |
| 15 | James | Cestone | | | | | | | | | | | 0 |
| | Giuseppe | Ciarfella | | | | | | | | | | | 0 |
| | Jean | Chomko | 1 | 1 | 1 | | | | | | | | 3 |
| | Patrick | Corrado | | | | | | | | | | | 0 |
| | Roni | Corrado | 1 | 1 | 1 | | | | | | | | 3 |
| 20 | Carmen | Criscione | 1 | 1 | 1 | | | | | | | | 3 |
| | Michael | D'Antuono | | | | | | | | | | | 0 |
| | Brianna | DeLuccia | | | | | | | | | | | 0 |
| | Michael | DeMusso | | | | | | | | | | | 0 |
| | Devyn | Di Pasquale | | | | | | | | | | | 0 |
| 25 | Danielle | Dransfield | | | | | | | | | | | 0 |
| | Kyle | Eoepochino | | | | | | | | | | | 0 |
| | William | Ermolowich | 1 | | 1 | | | | | | | | 2 |
| | Gerardo | Gaeta | 1 | 1 | | | | | | | | | 2 |
| | Jessica | Gaeta | | | | | | | | | | | 0 |
| 30 | Carmen | Gaita Jr | 1 | 1 | 1 | | | | | | | | 3 |
| | Brianna | Getzoff | | | | | | | | | | | 0 |
| | Dominick | Giuliano | | | | | | | | | | | 0 |
| | Nicolas | Iacovo | | | | | | | | | | | 0 |
| | Patrick | Liguori | | | | | | | | | | | 0 |
| 35 | Rick | Lijoi | | | | | | | | | | | 0 |
| | Pete | Longo | | | | | | | | | | | 0 |
| | Joseph | McGill | | 1 | 1 | | | | | | | | 2 |
| | Elizabeth | Mezzina | | | | | | | | | | | 0 |
| | Alyssa | Minnella | | | | | | | | | | | 0 |
| 40 | James | Minnella | | | | | | | | | | | 0 |
| | John | Morano | 1 | 1 | 1 | | | | | | | | 3 |
| | Salvatore | Nocella | 1 | | 1 | | | | | | | | 2 |
| | Joyce | O'Hara | 1 | 1 | 1 | | | | | | | | 3 |
| | Anthony | Orlando | 1 | 1 | 1 | | | | | | | | 3 |
| 45 | Steven | Pelonerio | 1 | 1 | 1 | | | | | | | | 3 |
| | Phillip | Polizzotto | | | | | | | | | | | 0 |
| | Bruce | Ponchak | 1 | | 1 | | | | | | | | 2 |
| | Michaela | Ragusso | | | | | | | | | | | 0 |
| | Anthony | Ribaudo | 1 | | | | | | | | | | 1 |
| 50 | Chuck | Russo | 1 | 1 | 1 | | | | | | | | 3 |
| | Rachel | Shaloo | | | | | | | | | | | 0 |
| | Gisella | Sisti | 1 | 1 | 1 | | | | | | | | 3 |
| | Angela | Socio | 1 | | | | | | | | | | 1 |
| | Gabriella | Socio | 1 | | | | | | | | | | 1 |
| 55 | Evelyn | Tosi | | | | | | | | | | | 0 |
| | Angelo | Verrone | 1 | | 1 | | | | | | | | 2 |
| | Eileen | Wood | 1 | | 1 | | | | | | | | 2 |
| | Henry | Youngster | | 1 | | | | | | | | | 1 |
| 59 | Nicolo | Zummo | | | | | | | | | | | 0 |
| | Total | Members | 24 | 20 | 23 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |



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