



UNICO NATIONAL

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

Monthly Minutes September 9, 2020 ~ 2nd Wednesday

Date September 9, 2020
Place Mesa 46, Woodland Park
Prayer Jim Minnella: Chapter Sgt.At-Arms
Flag Salute Jim Minnella: Chapter Sgt.At-Arms
Dinner 7:04 pm
Meeting 8:02 pm

Members & Guests in Attendance

Members for dinner 22
Members just meeting x
Total 22
Percentage (of 55 members) 40%

Executive Board

<u>Attendance at meetings</u>	9/20	10/20	11/20	12/20	1/21	2/21	3/21	4/21	5/21	6/21
President: Eileen Wood	😊									
1 st VP: Pat Ligouri	😊									
2 nd VP: Dominick Bucci	😊									
Secretary: Steve Pelonero	😊									
Treasurer: Bruce Ponchak	😊									
Sgt.At-Arms: Jim Minnella	😊									

Delegates at meetings

1. Jean Chomko 😊
2. Joyce O'Hara 😊
3. Need one more x

Board of Directors at meetings (6 past Chapter Presidents)

Carmen Gaita 😊
Bruce Ponchak 😊
John Barbieri 😊
Bob Appaluccio 😊
Steve Pelonero 😊
Carmen Criscione 😊
Sal Benvenuti 😊



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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	x									
Bob Appaluccio	😊									
John Barbieri	😊									
Sal Benvenuti	😊									
Carmen Criscione	😊									
John Morano	😊									
Steve Pelonero	😊									
Bruce Ponchak	😊									
Chuck Russo	😊									
Angelo Verrone	x									

Opening Remarks

- **President Eileen Wood:**
 - Eileen welcomed and thanked everyone for attending her first meeting of the UNICO year
 - Eileen noted that the entire executive board and board of directors were present
- **1st VP Pat Ligouri:**
 - Pat welcomed everyone back to the meeting
- **2nd VP Dominick Bucci:**
 - Welcomed everyone and thanked Jim Minnella for stepping up to be our chapter Sgt.At-Arms

Secretary Minutes

Secretary: Steve Pelonero

- Steve reported that the minutes were emailed to all chapter members as well as being on our chapter website
- Motion to accept
 - 1st Chuck Russo
 - 2nd Carmen Gaita
 All were in favor



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Treasurer Report

Treasurer: Bruce Ponchak

Bruce reported that the minutes were emailed to all chapter members

- Motion to accept
1st Pat Ligouri
2nd Joyce O'Hara
All were in favor

Chapter Budget

- Bruce reported that the executive board and board of directors met to balance our yearly chapter budget. He noted that it showed a lack of fundraising. The dues were our only income.
- Bruce also apologized for not getting the first few dues checks deposited and that he was now all up to date with the bank
 - Motion to accept
1st Pat Ligouri
2nd Christina Castillo

Bills and Communications

- A Thank You was received from the UNICO National Foundation for our donation of \$200 to be a 2021 Calendar Sponsor
- A request for a donation was received from Special Olympics which was tabled due to a lack of funds in our treasury due to the lack of fundraising

Fundraising Committees

- **Holiday Cheer: Bob Appaluccio**
 - Bob thanks the budget committee for again including monies for the Holiday Cheer baskets which we hope to again give to at least 3 needy local families in the amount of \$500 each
- **Food Pantry: Roni Corrado**
 - In Roni Corrado's absence Eileen noted that food donations can always be brought directly to the local pantries
- **Overseas Soldier Program: Roni Corrado**
 - In Roni Corrado's absence, Evelyn Tosi reported that her grandson is still overseas but is due back so no packages should be sent at this time



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- **Golf Outing: Joe Barone**
 - In Joe Barone's absence, Eileen reported that Joe is working on still having an outing. More information will be available hopefully for the next meeting of sooner. Eileen noted that we could still use sponsors regardless, even if just for our website
- **Community Service Day: Chuck Russo**
 - Chuck reported that due to Covid, the April drive had to be cancelled but that there is one reserved at ShopRite for Saturday October 17. Chuck though best that he should step down due to feeling that we should not expose ourselves.
 - On that note Pat Ligouri said that if he could get at least 8 members who would be willing to spend a few hours each that he would chair it this year. Pat said he would get together an email to be sent to everyone for commitments
 - Sal Benvenuti said that for those that do work it, he would donate the new UNICO facemask to everyone. He needs a list of names however of the workers

Non-Fundraising Committees

- **Scholarship Dinner: Joe Agresti PNP and Chuck Russo**
 - Chuck thanked the committee members for their help in narrowing down to the final 4 recipients
 - Chuck also noted that two Brian Piccolo choices came in at the last minute
 - Chuck reported on the status of our recipients and that all were invited to come to our meetings
 - Chuck said that applications for a free year of membership should/will be sent in to UNICO National to complete our roster with 6 more members
- **Italian Heritage: Angelo Verrone**
 - No report
- **Italian Studies: Joe Agresti PNP**
 - Joe reported that he met with the Coccia Institute at Montclair State University and that our contact, Mary Ann Re had left the organization
- **Good and Welfare: Sal Nocella**
 - No report



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- **Membership: John Barbieri**
 - John's reported that we are at 55 members ... with a lot of birthdays over the past months
- **Newsletter & Website: Steve Pelonero**
 - Eileen Wood remarked that our website was not up to date. Steve showed that the www.PassaicValleyUNICO.org section was up to date The log-in member section needed to be updated

District and National Events

- **District News**
 - Steve Pelonero reported that the Recent NJ District IV meeting was held and hosted by the Montclair Chapter. In attendance were Eileen Wood, John Morano and Steve Pelonero. Steve also reported that most chapters are also struggling to come up with fundraising ideas.
- **National News**
 - Sal Benvenuti reported that UNICO National was contemplating a Zoom Donation Day for those chapters that have in their budgets the money that would have normally been donated at the convention. More information will follow when a day is chosen.
 - On that note it was brought up at the chapter budget meeting that we donate to one charity \$1,000, rather than the \$200 to five difference. The reason being if this year we give \$1,000 to the Cancer Research Foundation we would get another patch for our banner. A motion to approve was made by Bob Appaluccio and 2ndd by Steven Pelonero. All were in favor
 - Sal reported that National is also still looking into a venue for the Eastern Region meeting where the Coccia Award and the Marconi Award are usually held

Old Business

- Sal Benvenuti did note that the UNICO chapter shirts were ordered



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New Business

- Chuck Russo had a plaque for out going chapter president Carmen Gaita, but that Carmen had to leave early and will be given it at the next meeting that he attends
- Steve Pelonero brought up an idea to replicate what the District does and also some other chapters where they have what they call an Eat and Meet. The objective would be to discuss business while there is no food being served or eaten. This would facilitate in having the meeting end sooner than it has been. Just as a suggestion and advertised as such two weeks prior to the meeting so everyone is aware. Very rarely do members come just for the meeting and if a member wishes not to eat then the host restaurant can be made aware that they are not eating. After discussion it appeared that it would be worth a try. At this meeting, 3 members who said that would attend never did show up.

Adjournment

Motion was made to adjourn @ 9:08 pm

- 1st Jeannie Chomko
 - 2nd Jim Minnella
- All were in favor

Respectfully Taken by

Steve Pelonero, Chapter Secretary