



UNICO NATIONAL

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

Monthly Minutes October 14, 2020 ~ 2nd Wednesday

Date October 14, 2020
Place Virtual Zoom
Prayer Steve Pelonero, Secretary, National Executive VP
Flag Salute Eileen Wood, Chapter President
Dinner n/a
Meeting 7:00 pm

Members & Guests in Attendance

Members for dinner	n/a (virtual zoom meeting)
Members at meeting	23
Guests at meeting	1 NJ District IV Governor Steven Calantone
Total	24
Percentage (of 55 members)	43%

Executive Board

Attendance at meetings	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	x

Board of Directors at meetings (6 past Chapter Presidents)

Carmen Gaita	😊	😊
Bruce Ponchak	😊	😊
John Barbieri	😊	😊
Bob Appaluccio	😊	x
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	x								
Bob Appaluccio	😊	x								
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 this Zoom meeting. Eileen asked everyone to try to come up with some fundraising ideas other than our annual golf outing. To give more we need to make more
- **1st VP Pat Ligouri:**
 - Pat welcomed and said hello to everyone as well
 -
- **2nd VP Dominick Bucci:**
 - Welcomed everyone and noted that this month of October is Italian Heritage Month. He gave a report on the meanings of the colors, green, white, and red, on the Italian Flag

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 Joe Barone
 - 2nd John Barbieri
 All were in favor



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Treasurer Report

Treasurer: Bruce Ponchak

Bruce reported that the minutes were emailed to all chapter members

- Sal Benvenuti question the difference in dollars from our last meeting. Bruce noted that we told Mesa 46 that we would have 25 members there and only 22 showed up. Therefore we had to pay for the other 3 that we guaranteed
- Motion to accept
 - 1st Sal Benvenuti
 - 2nd Sal NocellaAll were in favor

Chapter Budget

- No report

Bills and Communications

- John Morano reported that our chapter received a new patch for our chapter banner. The “Cancer Research patch” for our \$1,000 donation to that respective Foundation fund. He would somehow get it to Jim Minnella who has possession of our banner so that it can be brought to a tailor for the sewing on process
- John also noted that the invoice / bill for our chapter gaming license came in. He would get it to Bruce so that it could be paid for



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Fundraising Committees

- **Holiday Cheer: Bob Appaluccio**
 - Roni Corrado asked that if anyone knows of a family who is in need and to be considered by the committee as a recipient for this year's Holiday cheer to contact Bob Appaluccio
- **Food Pantry: Roni Corrado**
 - Billy E. suggested that seeing as we are having zoom meetings and saving on dinners, his suggestion was to see if a member would like to donate the cost of the monthly dinner towards the food pantry program. Roni asked how much. Steve Pelonero said that he thought gift cards from ShopRite were the best choice for a food pantry donation, Roni said that she can deliver all to one pantry or divide it up among all of them. Sal B suggested that it be left up to the committee on who and how to handle donating them seeing as there were 24 members at this meeting and most offered an opinion. To make it easier on Roni, Sal said to leave it up to the committee. Roni said she would get her address out there to our members so that if a member would like to send her a check, cash or gift card, she then could call a pantry to see who is actually open and most in need
- **Overseas Soldier Program: Roni Corrado**
 - No report
- **Golf Outing: Joe Barone**
 - No report. Joe did note that usually in January the details start to take precedence
- **Community Service Day: Chuck Russo**
 - Pat Liguori said that ShopRite gave the ok for this Saturday to hold a Food Pantry drive. From 8 am to noon. Please show up to help at 7:30 to help with set-up, etc.
 - Sal Benvenuti mentioned that he would donate UNICO face masks but they never came in due to the demand with this pandemic. They will still be given out when they do become available

Non-Fundraising Committees

- **Scholarship Dinner: Joe Agresti PNP and Chuck Russo (now Carmen Gaita)**
 - Chuck Russo is stepping down as Scholarship and Brian Piccolo chair. Carmen Gaita has stepped up to take it over. If anyone would like to be on the committee, please contact Carmen
 - Chuck did note that two Brian Piccolo Awardees were chosen, along with three \$1,000 scholarships to PVHS students. This is the first year that no dinner was held where we usually present them
 - No report on our Study Abroad Grants



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- **Italian Heritage: Angelo Verrone**
 - No report from Angelo
 - Steve Pelonero noted that there have been many Italian Flag raisings this month of October (Italian Heritage Month). Steve said that he personally had the honor of speaking at the Kearny UNICO Flag Raising on October 10th
- **Italian Studies: Joe Agresti PNP**
 - No report
- **Good and Welfare: Sal Nocella**
 - Joe Agresti was due to go in for Carpel Tunnel procedure
 - Jay Sista fell and broke her wrist
 - John Morano reported that Marlene Nappi (wife of one of our past chapter presidents. John asked to keep her in our prayers
 - Jim Minnella = Covid
- **Membership: John Barbieri**
 - John's reported that we are at 55 members. The average age of our chapter is 70. John wished our October birthday members a happy birthday: Bob Appaluccio, Frank Capalbo, Christina Castillo, Carmen Gaita, Carmen Criscione, Mark BiFalco
 - Steve Pelonero also noted that October 10 is UNICO Nationals Birthday. UNICO was found in 1922 by Dr. Vastolla, when he started it because he was denied as being a member of other organizations because he was Italian. UNICO is now 98 years old
 - Steve Pelonero, as secretary, reported that of our 55 members only 14 more are left to still pay their annual dues. We currently have 10 youth members and 3 have paid so far. Hoping that the other 13 remain as members to help us preserve our, and their Italian heritage during their lifetimes. Steve also noted that reminder letters are being sent out to those who have not yet paid on a monthly basis. The deadline to UNICO National for us to get our chapter dues updated is by the end of December. If members can pay to our chapter well before that, it would be appreciated seeing as how we do not meet in person as often as we have in the past (due to Covid)
- **Newsletter & Website: Steve Pelonero**
 - Steve reported that all was up to date on both the website and newsletter



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District and National Events

- **District News**
 - Steve Calantone, our NJ District IV Governor thanked the chapter for the invitation. He thanked us for staying active and noted that he has attended and seen that all chapters are in the same situation with the pandemic upon all of us. He noted that he would soon be sending out information for our next NJ IV District Meeting
- **National News**
 - Steve Pelonero reported that National and other chapters are also Zooming most of their meetings unless they are outside. Steve noted that we are still hoping for a convention in Florida in 2021

Old Business

- Sal Benvenuti noted that the shirts everyone ordered are still not done due to a temporary closure of the store in Totowa
- Chuck Russo made our traditional presentation to the most recent outgoing chapter president Carmen Gaita. Carmen thanked everyone

New Business

- Eileen Wood reported that she signed in to the UNICO National Zoom Donation event and our chapter donated with a check \$1,000 to the Foundation Cancer Research Program. As John Morano noted in Bills and Communications, the patch was already received by our chapter
- Eileen also reported that we had in the past donated to the 2021 UNICO National Heritage and Photo Calendar (of which every member in UNICO across the USA should have already received it. We are noted as a Booster Sponsor. Eileen also reported that we also pre-paid another \$200 as a Booster Sponsor for the 2022 Calendar



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Attendance at the October 14, 2020 meeting

The photo below represents those who were online at the zoom meeting at the time that the photo was taken at 8:09 pm. More could have been online before or after it was taken





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Actual attendance at the October 14, 2020 meeting

1	John	Barbieri
2	Elaine	Barone
3	Joseph	Barone
4	Joseph	Benvenuti
5	Salvatore	Benvenuti
6	Dominick	Bucci
7	Christina	Castillo
8	Jean	Chomko
9	Roni	Corrado
10	Carmen	Criscione
11	William	Ermolowich
12	Carmen	Gaita Jr
13	Pat	Liguori
14	James	Minnella
15	John	Morano
16	Salvatore	Nocella
17	Joyce	O'Hara
18	Steven	Pelonero
19	Bruce	Ponchak
20	Chuck	Russo
21	Angelo	Verrone
22	Eileen	Wood
23	Henry	Youngster
24	DG Steve	Calantone

Adjournment

Motion was made to adjourn @ 8:12 pm

- 1st Carmen Gaita
- 2nd Joe \Benvenuti

All were in favor

Respectfully Taken by

Steve Pelonero, Chapter Secretary