



UNICO NATIONAL

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

Monthly Minutes April 10, 2024 ~ 2nd Wednesday

<u>Date</u>	April 10, 2024
<u>Place</u>	Casa Arturo. Little Falls, NJ
<u>Prayer</u>	7:00 pm John Morano
<u>Flag Salute</u>	7:01 pm John Morano
<u>Dinner/Meeting</u>	7:02 pm Dinner / 7:30 meeting *

- It was voted on, going forward at all meetings, to get together at 7 pm but start the meeting at 7:30 pm during dinner and in between the serving of courses

Members & Guests in Attendance

Members (49) at meeting	25
Guests at meeting	0
Member % at meeting	49%

Executive Board

<u>Attendance at meetings</u>		9/'23	10/'23	11/'23	12/'23	1/'24	2/'24	3/'24	4/'24	5/'24	6/'24
President:	Bucci	😊	😊	😊	n/a	😊	😊	😊	X		
1 st VP:	Criscione	😊	😊	😊	n/a	😊	😊	😊	😊		
2 nd VP:	J. Benvenuti	x	😊	x	n/a	😊	😊	😊	😊		
Secretary:	Pelonero	😊	😊	😊	n/a	😊	😊	😊	😊		
Treasurer:	Ponchak	😊	😊	😊	n/a	😊	😊	😊	😊		
Sgt.At-Arms:	Morano	😊	😊	😊	n/a	😊	😊	😊	😊		

Delegates at Meetings

1. Sal Benvenuti	😊	😊	😊	n/a	😊	😊	😊	😊
2. Jean Chomko	😊	😊	😊	n/a	😊	😊	😊	😊
3. Pat Pelonero	😊	😊	😊	n/a	😊	😊	😊	😊

Board of Directors at meetings (6 past Chapter Presidents)

Eileen Wood	x	x	x	n/a	x	x	x	X
Carmen Gaita	😊	😊	😊	n/a	😊	😊	😊	😊
Bruce Ponchak	😊	😊	😊	n/a	😊	😊	😊	😊
John Barbieri	x	😊	😊	n/a	😊	😊	😊	😊
Steve Pelonero	😊	😊	😊	n/a	😊	😊	😊	😊



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Past Chapter Presidents in attendance at meetings

	9/'23	10/'23	11/'23	12/'23	1/'24	2/'24	3/'24	4/'24	5/'24	6/'24
Joe Agresti PNP	😊	😊	😊	n/a	😊	😊	😊	😊		
John Barbieri	x	😊	😊	n/a	😊	😊	😊	😊		
Sal Benvenuti	😊	😊	😊	n/a	😊	😊	😊	😊		
Carmen Criscione	😊	😊	😊	n/a	😊	😊	😊	😊		
Carmen Gaita	😊	😊	😊	n/a	😊	😊	😊	😊		
John Morano	😊	😊	😊	n/a	😊	😊	😊	😊		
Steve Pelonero	😊	😊	😊	n/a	😊	😊	😊	😊		
Bruce Ponchak	😊	😊	😊	n/a	😊	😊	😊	😊		
Chuck Russo	x	😊	😊	n/a	😊	😊	😊	😊		
Angelo Verrone	x	😊	😊	n/a	x	😊	😊	😊		
Eileen Wood	x	x	x	n/a	x	x	x	X		

Opening Remarks

- **President Dominick Bucci**
 - N/A
- **1st VP Carmen Criscione**
 - Carmen, in Chapter President Dominick's absence, explained in brief that Dominick is in the hospital with testing. Prayers for Dominick.
 - Carmen welcomed back Roni Corrado and Jay Sisti who both had surgery performed.
 - Carmen explained and reminded everyone that at the March meeting it was voted on by membership to still meet at 7 pm for dinner, but that the meeting agenda will start at 7:30 during breaks of the serving of the dinner.
 - The May meeting will again be at Casa Arturo, the 2nd Wednesday of the month, May 8th.
- **2nd VP Joe Benvenuti**
 - Joe welcomed everyone to the meeting and noted that Linda Nocella, wife of recently deceased member Salvatore, that she made for us some chocolate covered Easter eggs. Joe asked all of the members in attendance to please take them. It was also noted that we send Linda a thank you card.



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Secretary Minutes

Secretary: Steve Pelonero PNP

- Steve noted that the minutes were sent to everyone in an email from our March meeting.
- He also noted that they are also on our chapter website.
- Motion to accept was made by:
 - 1st Joyce O'Hara
 - 2nd Sal Benvenuti
- All were in favor.

Treasurer Report

Treasurer: Bruce Ponchak

- Bruce reported that he had sent out the treasurer's report to all members in an email.
- Bruce reported on the bank balances
- Bruce noted that in addition our checking balance that we also still had a \$ CD
- Motion to accept by:
 - 1st Carmen Gaita
 - 2nd Sal Benvenuti
- All were in favor.

Bills and Communications: John Morano

- It was reported that the MSU Coccia Institute sent us a Thank You letter for supporting their Italian Studies Chair.
- A thank you letter was received from Bill Connell, from Seton Hall, for the sympathy card that was sent to his family for the passing of his father.
- A letter was received from UNICO National reminding us (and every chapter) that UNICO's Community Service Day is April 27th.
- Also received from the UNICO Foundation was their yearly raffle tickets. It was noted that the \$100 to purchase a book of 6 tickets was in our budget. It was also noted that we have won in the past.

Chapter Budget

- (N/A)



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Chapter Elections: Nominating chair to be appointed

- The slate of officers for our chapter for the 2024-2025 year was presented by 1st Chapter VP Carmen Criscione. The nominating committee put forward as President, Carmen Criscione; for 1st VP, Joe Benvenuti; for 2nd VP, Chuck Russo; for Treasurer, Bruce Ponchak; for Secretary, Steve Pelonero; for Sgt.At-Arms, John Morano. Nominations from the floor for any of these positions can be made at the May meeting. Our chapter is always looking for members to get involved.

Fundraising Committees

- **Community Service Day: Chuck Russo**
 - Chuck reported that rain or shine, the Food Pantry Drive will go on. Saturday April 27th, from 7:30 am till approximately 3:30 / 4 pm. Looking for members to stand at the entry and exit doors to pass out non-perishable item lists. Chuck did say that there was a list of those who did already volunteer to help. This is the 14th year of having this drive which helps 7 to 8 pantries in our area. In addition to the non-perishables, money has been also donated. Angelo Verrone said that PVHS may have some of their students come and help out as well. Christina Castillo noted that this was advertised on PVTV.
- **Corn Hole: John Barbieri**
 - John reported that there were 87 players, lots of great food. UNICO National President Ralph Contini showed up. The Totowa PA building worked out great. John thanked the committee members. There was a net profit of \$2,657.96.
- **Food Pantry: Carmen Gaita, Patricia Pelonero**
 - Pat Pelonero reported that gift cards and food were brought to Holy Angels and St. Agness. St. Agness said that donations to them were down and that more people are asking for help. Pat asked if anyone can bring non-perishables to the next meeting, it would be greatly appreciated by the needy.



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- **Golf Outing: Joe Barone**
 - Joe Barone reported that the gold outing will be at the Meadows Golf Course in Lincoln Park on Monday, June 17th, with a 8 am registration, a 9 am tee time, and a beefsteak at the Brownstone at 3:30. There are only 6 sponsors so far and to make this a success for next year's scholarship, more sponsors are needed. Joe Barone asked if anyone would be willing to take photos during the event. Joe Agresti said that he has golf towels and tees for the golfers. Joe Barone asked to pray for good weather that day.
- **Holiday Cheer: Joe Benvenuti, Sal Benvenuti, Carmen Gaita**
 - N/A
- **Overseas Soldier Program: To be appointed**
 - Pat Pelonero reported that Evelyn Tosi's grandson is now in Syria. Please send prayers for his and all of our soldiers' safety. Also mentioned that now is a good time to bring snacks to the next meeting: granola bars and nuts just as an example. Also, magazines for the soldiers to read. Roni Corrado will handle getting them sent to Syria.
- **Scholarship: Chuck Russo**
 - Chuck reported that the Scholarship, Brian Piccolo and Officer Installation Dinner will be on Sunday, June 9th, at the Barnyard in Totowa. Here will be 8 Scholarships awarded, 1 Study Abroad and 2 Brian Piccolo. Also in the past, there will be a President Cocktail Hour for members only: 1 drink per member. Chuck will be looking and asking for a commitment from those who will be going at the May meeting. There are currently two permanent named scholarships and three Member Memorial scholarships @ \$200 each. Please see Chuck for more information.

Non-Fundraising Committees

- **Good & Welfare: Joe Benvenuti**
 - It was noted to send Fran Dangler, at the UNICO National Office, a sympathy card for the loss of her husband to cancer
 - Dominick Bucci is in the hospital. Stroke victim
 - Back from surgery are members Roni Corrado and Jay Sisti. Get well cards were sent to both.
 - A get-well card was sent to member Pete Cervino.
 - Sal Benvenuti said that a memorial service will be held for deceased member Joe McGill at the Fort Dix Doyle Memorial Cemetery. If anyone is interested in going, please contact Sal.



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- **Italian Heritage: Angelo Verrone**

- Angelo reported that PVHS was again interested in doing an October Heritage month get together for their Italian Club. The PVHS students said that they would help with our Food Pantry Drive and that they also attended the Corn Hole Tournament. Angelo noted that not top many memners have contacted himself or Steve Pelonero to have their family's region in Italy premiered in our monthly chapter newsletter. It is never too late to let one of them know.

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

- Joe Agresti reported th the MSU Coccia Chair will be having and Award Ceremony on April 15th at 6:30 pm. If anyone from the chapter would like to go, to please let Joe know. As of this meeting. Joe, Chuck Russo, Pat Pelonero and Steve Pelonero said that they would go.

- **Membership: John Barbieri**

- John reported that were are at 49 members.
- There are three members who have birthdays are in April: all are shown in the April Newsletter.
- The average age of our chapter at 73.
- The breakdown of our chapter is:
 - 33 regular paid members ~ 7 lifetime members ~ 9 youth (25 and younger) members.
- A possible new member might join that attended the cornhole tournament.
- John Morano noted that Carmen Gaita has been a member for 42 years, and himself a member for 40 years.

- **Newsletter & Website: Steve Pelonero PNP**

- Steve reported that everything is in order with the newsletter and chapter website.
- The website is now at 91,447 visits, which is up 154 visits from the March meeting.
- All dates of our events, and monthly minutes are also on the website.

- **Public Relations: Christina Castillo and Roni Corrado**

- Christina reported that she submitted to Passaic Valley Today paper information that Steve Pelonero sent to her. It details our chapter website and tidbits of information about UNICO in general.
- Roni reported that the Italian Tribune has been publishing more articles about UNICO and that maybe we could send them photos of our latest new members.
- Pat Pelonero noted that UINICO National President Raph had met with the Tribune and they bother agreed to run more about each other in their publications.



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District and National Events

- **National News**
 - UNICO Nation sent an update to all chapters about Community service Day: April 27th
 - At the UNICO National Mid-Year Board meeting it was voted on to increase National dues by \$5.00. In our chapters case, we will need to take a vote at the May meeting (old business) to see if we increase our dues by \$5.00 as well. Our chapter dues are currently \$80 a year (July 1st through June 30th). If passed, then dues notices will go out noting as such on what the chapter voted on.
- **District News**
 - Our Annual District IV Pasta Dinner, which raises funds for our Special Need Friends Christmas Dinner is on Friday, April 19th. Chater help is needed for set up, clean up, serving, ticket sales, etc
 - Sparta UNICO, in our District, is having their 25th chapter anniversary on April 25th. Some of their members came to our anniversary dinner. It was noted that we are reciprocating by attending

Old Business

- N/A

New Business

- Our chapter May meeting will be at Casa Arturo's on the 2nd Wednesday of May, May 8th
- Our chapter's June meeting will be the 2nd Wednesday of June, June 12th at Holy Cross Church. This is our traditional year end pizza and muscle dinner.
- Christina Castillo reported that PVHS is having a clothing drive Sunday, April 14th, at PVHS from 9 am – 2:30.

Adjournment

- Motion to adjourn was made at 9:18 pm by:
 - 1st John Barbieri
 - 2nd Sal BenvenutiAll were in favor.

Respectfully Taken by

Steve Pelonero PNP / Chapter Secretary

Meeting Attendance

See the next page for this year's meeting attendance



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			Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Total
	Total	Members	19	23	23	0	23	25	24	24	0	0	
1	Agresti	Joseph	1	1	1	n/a	1	1	1	1			7
2	Allora	Carmen				n/a							0
3	Bacchioni	Christopher				n/a							0
4	Barbieri	John		1	1	n/a	1	1	1	1			6
5	Barone	Elaine		1	1	n/a			1	1			4
6	Barone	Joseph	1	1	1	n/a		1	1	1			6
7	Benvenuti	Joseph		1		n/a	1	1	1	1			5
8	Benvenuti	Salvatore	1	1	1	n/a	1	1	1	1			7
9	Bifalco	Mark				n/a							0
10	Bucci	Dominick	1	1	1	n/a	1	1	1				6
11	Campagna	Juliana				n/a							0
12	Campen	Domenica				n/a	1						1
13	Capalbo	Frank	1		1	n/a	1	1	1	1			6
14	Carbonelli	Michael	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	1	1	1	1			4
15	Castillo	Christina	1	1	1	n/a	1	1	1	1			7
16	Cervino	Peter				n/a	1	1		1			3
17	Cestone	James		1	1	n/a			1				3
18	Chomko	Jean	1	1	1	n/a	1	1	1	1			7
19	Corrado	Roni				n/a				1			1
20	Corsetto	Brianna				n/a							0
21	Criscione	Carmen	1	1	1	n/a	1	1	1	1			7
22	Dransfield	Danielle				n/a							0
23	Eopechino	Kyle				n/a							0
24	Ermolowich	William				n/a							0
25	Gaeta	Gerardo	1		1	n/a	1		1	1			5
26	Gaeta	Jessica				n/a							0
27	Gaita Jr	Carmen	1	1	1	n/a	1	1	1	1			7
28	Kazmark	Keith				n/a							0
29	Klosek	Emilia				n/a		1					1
30	Longo	Pete	1		1	n/a							2
31	McInerney	Cielle				n/a							0
32	Meletta	Connor				n/a							0
33	Morano	Christina Lee				n/a	1						1
34	Morano	John	1	1	1	n/a	1	1	1	1			7
35	OHara	Joyce	1	1	1	n/a	1	1	1	1			7
36	Orlando	Anthony				n/a							0
37	Panicucci	Marisa	1	1		n/a							2
38	Pelonero	Patricia	1	1	1	n/a	1	1	1	1			7
39	Pelonero	Steven	1	1	1	n/a	1	1	1	1			7
40	Polizzotto	Philip				n/a							0
41	Ponchak	Bruce	1	1	1	n/a	1	1	1	1			7
42	Ragusso	Michaela				n/a							0
43	Russo	Chuck		1	1	n/a	1	1	1	1			6
44	Sisti	Gisella	1	1	1	n/a	1	1		1			6
45	Stefanelli	Claudine		1		n/a		1	1	1			4
46	Tosi	Evelyn	1	1		n/a	1	1					4
47	Verrone	Angelo		1	1	n/a		1	1	1			5
48	Wood	Eileen				n/a							0
49	Youngster	Henry			1	n/a		1	1				3