



UNICO NATIONAL

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

Monthly Minutes January 11, 2023 ~ 2nd Wednesday

<u>Date</u>	January 11, 2023
<u>Place</u>	Holy Cross Church, Woodland Park
<u>Prayer</u>	7 :00 pm ~ By Sgt. At Arms John Morano
<u>Flag Salute</u>	7 :01 pm ~ By Sgt. At Arms John Morano
<u>Dinner/Meeting</u>	7:02 / 8:00 pm

Members & Guests in Attendance

Members (44) at meeting	23
Guests at meeting	Geri Samuel (National Membership Chair), Gary D’Uva (NJ IV Governor) Pat Pelonero (ComUNICO Editor), Fran Maglio, Laura D’Uva
Total	28
Percentage at meeting	64%

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	😊	😊	😊	xmas	😊					
1 st VP: Criscione	😊	😊	😊	xmas	😊					
2 nd VP: J. Benvenuti	😊	😊	😊	xmas	😊					
Secretary: Pelonero	😊	😊	😊	xmas	😊					
Treasurer: Ponchak	😊	x	😊	xmas	😊					
Sgt.At-Arms: Morano	😊	😊	😊	xmas	😊					

Delegates at Meetings

1. Jean Chomko	😊	😊	😊	xmas	😊
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Board of Directors at meetings (6 past Chapter Presidents)

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



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Past Chapter Presidents in attendance at meetings

	9/20	10/20	11/20	12/20	1/23	2/23	3/23	4/23	5/23	6/23
Joe Agresti PNP	😊	😊	😊	xmas	😊					
John Barbieri	😊	x	😊	xmas	😊					
Sal Benvenuti	😊	😊	😊	xmas	😊					
Carmen Criscione	😊	😊	😊	xmas	😊					
Carmen Gaita	😊	😊	😊	xmas	😊					
John Morano	😊	😊	😊	xmas	😊					
Steve Pelonero	😊	😊	😊	xmas	😊					
Bruce Ponchak	😊	x	😊	xmas	😊					
Chuck Russo	😊	😊	😊	xmas	😊					
Angelo Verrone	😊	x	😊	xmas	x					
Eileen Wood	😊	x	😊	xmas	x					

Opening Remarks

- **President Dominick Bucci**
 - Dominick welcomed everyone to our 2023 meeting.
 - He welcomed the guests at the meeting: Geri Samuel, National Membership Chair; Gary D’Uva our NJ District IV Governor and his wife Laura (District Secretary). He thanked Steve Pelonero for doing the newsletter very month. He congratulated Frank Capalbo on the Wine Raffle win. He thanked John Morano for chairing the December Chapter Christmas Dinner.
- **1st VP Carmen Criscione**
 - Carmen wished everyone a Happy and Healthy New Year. Be positive.
- **2nd VP Joe Benvenuti**
 - Joe 2nd’d Carmen’s remarks



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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. He noted that a motion had to be made on the November minutes seeing that there was no agenda at the December Christmas Dinner
 - Motion to accept by:
 - 1st Carmen Gaita
 - 2nd Roni Corrado
- There was no discussion. All were in favor

Treasurer Report

Treasurer: Bruce Ponchak

Bruce emailed the November and December reports all the chapter members.

- Motion to accept by:
 - 1st Frank Capalbo
 - 2nd Joe Benvenuti
- Sal Benvenuti questioned the deposit from Amore. Bruce answered.

Chapter Budget

- N/A

Bills and Communications

- A thank you was received from Frank and Nina Capalbo thanking us for hosting the wine raffle. Thank you letters were received from: the churches and the recipients of our donations

Fundraising Committees

- **Community Service Day: Chuck Russo**
 - Chuck reported that Give-a-Way Bags are still an option for our Food Pantry Drive at ShopRite
- **Food Pantry: Roni Corrado**
 - Roni reported that the January Food Pantry donations were given to the Little Falls United Methodist Church. February donations will be given to the Veterans.
- **Golf Outing: Joe Barone**
 - Joe reported that the tentative date for our next golf outing will be June 19. More information at our net meeting.



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- **Holiday Cheer: Roni Corrado / Joe Benvenuti / Sal Benvenuti**
 - Roni reported that \$500 were given to each of the five recipient families. Most were single parents with a terrible scenario. One of them had cancer.
 - **Overseas Soldier Program: Roni Corrado**
 - Evelyn Tosi reported that her one grandson, Justin, was home and that her other, James, will be going overseas very soon.
 - **Wine Raffle: Steve Pelonero PNP**
 - Steve reported that of the 1,000 tickets printed, 300 of them were sold. All of the wine was donated and there quite a few cash donations. The chapter made, for its treasury general fund, a profit of \$1,565.00.

Non-Fundraising Committees

- **Good and Welfare: Sal Nocella**
 - Sal reported that all is well with no reports of anyone being ill.
 - There were letters received as noted in the Bills and Communications section of these minutes.
- **Italian Heritage: Angelo Verrone**
 - In Angelo's absence, Steve Pelonero reported that there were printed handouts on each table depicting the history of the cover photo in the 2023 UNICO Heritage Calendar: Erice, Sicily
- **Italian Studies: Cav. Joe Agresti PNP**
 - N/A
- **Membership: John Barbieri**
 - John noted that were are at 44 members and that he had not received the latest roster from National. Steve said that he would email it again
 - Geri Samuel, national Membership Chair talked about our and other chapter memberships.
 - Gary D'Uva also commented on the fact that we dropped 15 members.
 - John Barbieri noted that he had reached out to them, but some never returned his calls.
 - Steve Pelonero welcomed his wife, Patricia, to the meeting and reported that she filled out a membership application to join our chapter. Patricia is the ComUNICO magazine editor.
 - Gary D'Uva, NJ IV DG, was shocked that we lost 15 members and stressed that new members be put onto a committee right away to get them involved in our motto of Service Above Self.



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- **Newsletter & Website: Steve Pelonero PNP**
 - Steve reported that the newsletter has been going out monthly and email copies were sent to the members and also to the mayors of our three towns.
 - Website is now at 88,905 hits ~ Up from two month ago at 888638 ~ 267 new visits (2 months).
 - **Scholarship: Chuck Russo**
 - Chuck reported that the applications are going to Passaic Valley High School plus a few others. He asked that if anyone is aware of a student going to any other school besides PVHS to let me know so that we can get them an application for scholarship.
 - If any members have a student or grandchild going to college, there are exceptions to the rules. Please see Chuck for questions.
 - The committee will be meeting to discuss the day, when and where the Scholarship Dinner can be held
 - There is Super Bowl Raffle to support the scholarship program. See Chuck for more information.

District and National Events

- **National News**
 - **Gary D'Uva, our NJ IV District Governor reported on National News:**
 - The March Mid-Year Board meeting is set for March 24 and 25, Friday and Saturday, at the Embassy Suites in Alexandria, VA. He reported that this is an excellent meeting for all members to attend with a chance to hear from all of the national committee chairs.
 - Gary reported that there is a Convention Fundraiser to be held at Al-Di-La in Rutherford
 - There is a NJ Devils Hockey Game Night on January 24
 - The 2023 Convention will be in Fort Myers, FL at the Sanibel Harbor Beach Marriott
 - National Scholarships are open. Go to www.UNICO.org for information
- **District News**
 - Cav. Joe Agresti PNP, reported that the NJ District IV Christmas Dinner for our Special Need friends went well. We had 30 recipients, with 30 sponsors for those recipients. Approximately 160 people attended the dinner.
 - There will be a Pasta Dinner on April 21st to support this dinner for our Special Need Friends. There might be a meatball contest at this pasta dinner. More info to follow.
 - Joe urged chapter members to get involved and help with the setup, etc
 - Joe thanks Roni Corrado for the gifts and prizes at the Special Needs Dinner



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Old Business

- N/A

New Business

Steve Pelonero PNP reported that he would run another fundraiser for the general fund of our chapter. It is a Cornhole Tournament to be held on Sunday March 5th, 2023. Indoor with food. \$40 per player. Two-person teams. Also \$25 just to come and spend the day with food catered by an Italian Restaurant

Adjournment

Motion was made to adjourn at 9:27 pm

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

Respectfully Taken by

Steve Pelonero PNP, Chapter Secretary

< Member meeting attendance is continued on next page >



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Meeting Attendance

		Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Total Attended
Joseph	Agresti	1	1	1		1						4
Carmen	Allora											0
John	Barbieri	1		1	1	1						4
Joseph	Barone		1	1	1	1						4
Phil	Barone											0
Joseph	Benvenuti	1	1	1	1	1						5
Salvatore	Benvenuti	1	1	1	1	1						5
Mark	Bifalco					1						1
Dominick	Bucci		1	1	1	1						4
Frank	Capalbo		1	1	1	1						4
Christina	Castillo	1	1		1	1						4
James	Cestone											0
Jean	Chomko	1	1	1	1	1						5
Patrick	Corrado											0
Roni	Corrado	1	1	1		1						4
Carmen	Criscione	1	1	1	1	1						5
Michael	D'Antuono											0
Brianna	DeLuccia											0
Danielle	Dransfield											0
Kyle	Eoepochino											0
William	Ermolowich	1		1								2
Gerardo	Gaeta	1	1									2
Jessica	Gaeta											0
Carmen	Gaita Jr	1	1	1	1	1						5
Pete	Longo											0
Joseph	McGill		1	1	1	1						4
John	Morano	1	1	1	1	1						5
Salvatore	Nocella	1		1		1						3
Joyce	OHara	1	1	1	1	1						5
Anthony	Orlando	1	1	1								3
Patricia	Pelonero	x	x	x	x	1						1
Steven	Pelonero	1	1	1	1	1						5
Philip	Polizzotto											0
Bruce	Ponchak	1		1	1	1						4
Michaela	Ragusso											0
Anthony	Ribaudo	1										1
Chuck	Russo	1	1	1	1	1						5
Rachel	Shaloo											0
Gisella	Sisti	1	1	1	1	1						5
Angela	Socio	1										1
Gabriella	Socio	1										1
Evelyn	Tosi					1						1
Angelo	Verrone	1		1	1							3
Eileen	Wood	1		1	1							3
Henry	Youngster		1			1						2