



UNICO NATIONAL

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

Monthly Minutes May 10, 2023 ~ 2nd Wednesday

Date May 10, 2023
Place Holy Cross Church ~ Catered by Francesco's
Prayer John Morano, Sgt.At-Arms
Flag Salute John Morano, Sgt.At-Arms
Dinner/Meeting 7:00 pm Dinner / Meeting followed the dinner.

Members & Guests in Attendance

Members (48) at meeting 25
 Guests at meeting 2 (see last page for guest names)
 Member % at meeting 61%

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	x	😊	😊	😊	😊	
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	x	x	x	x	
Carmen Gaita	😊	😊	😊	xmas	😊	x	x	😊	😊	
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	😊	x	x	😊	😊	
John Morano	😊	😊	😊	xmas	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	
Steve Pelonero	😊	😊	😊	xmas	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	
Bruce Ponchak	😊	x	😊	xmas	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	
Chuck Russo	😊	😊	😊	xmas	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	
Angelo Verrone	😊	x	😊	xmas	x	x	😊	😊	😊	
Eileen Wood	😊	x	😊	xmas	x	x	x	x	x	

Opening Remarks

- **President Dominick Bucci**
 - Dominick welcomed everyone to the meeting.
 - Dominick noted that he updated his community bulletin board, and that it was on the table right behind him.
 - Dominick reported that our June meeting will be at Holy Cross Church.
- **1st VP Carmen Criscione**
 - Carmen welcomed everyone and thanked Chuck Russo for his Community Service Day event.
- **2nd VP Joe Benvenuti**
 - Joe welcomed everyone and noted that this meeting dinner cost is \$15.00. Joe also noted that a get-well card was sent to chapter member Anthony Orlando.



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Secretary Minutes

Secretary: Steve Pelonero PNP

- Steve reported that the minutes are on our chapter website at www.PassaicValleyUNICO.org in the minutes section. They were also sent to all of our chapter members in an email.
- Motion to accept was made by:
1st Sal Benvenuti
2nd Angelo Verrone
There was no discussion. All were in favor.
- It was noted by Steve that two membership applications were given to Keith Kazmark from Woodland Park.

Treasurer Report

Treasurer: Bruce Ponchak

- Bruce reported that he had sent out the treasurer's report to all members in an email.
- Motion to accept by:
1st Cav. Joe Agresti PNP
2nd Carmen Gaita
- Discussion: Cav. Joe Agresti PNP suggested that we look into changing banks for a better interest rate that are out there in the amount of 7%. All were in agreement, and it was said that it would be looked into.

Bills and Communications: John Morano

- John Morano noted that a thank you letter was received from the Coccia Foundation for our donation in the name of Elda Coccia.
- John Morano noted that was thank you letter was received from chapter member Bill Ermolowich for the passing of his father.

Chapter Budget

- (N/A)

Chapter Elections

- In lieu of there being no Nominating Committee, Secretary Seve Pelonero PNP was asked to give the chapter election report. At the May meeting, it was announced that the chapter executive committee and chapter board of directors were putting forward the following: Dominic Bucci for his 2nd term as



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Chapter President; Carmen Criscione for 1st VP; Joe Benvenuti for 2nd VP; Bruce Ponchak for Treasurer; Steve Pelonero PNP for Secretary; John Morano for Sgt.At-Arms. Secretary Steve then case one for all.

- It was noted that our chapter, having 48 members, is eligible for two-chapter delegates, in addition to the chapter president. At the June meeting the delegates will be chosen and announced.

Good and Welfare: Sal Nocella

- Evelyn Tosi noted that chapter member Emilia Klosek had a hip replacement. It was said that a get-well card be sent to her.
- It was noted that chapter member Tony Orlando is doing well.

Fundraising Committees

- **Community Service Day: Chuck Russo**

- Chuck Russo reported that our Community Service Day at ShopRite in Little Falls was a huge success. It was the collection ever. In addition to non-perishables, we also collected \$911 in cash, which was divided into, and will be given as gift cards, to the eight pantries that we serve. Chuck reported that St. George Church already sent us a thank you letter of which Chuck read to everyone in attendance at the meeting. Chuck said that we had cloth shopping bags with our UNICO Chapter logo imprinted on them, along with many plastic bags that we stuffed with the donated items so that they could be given to the pantries. Chuck thanked chapter member John Barbieri for his work in printing on the bags as well as postcards which were used as a marketing tool for us at the drive. Chuck suggested that we budget line a marketing fund as it does cost a lot for ink, paper, etc.

- **Food Pantry: Roni Corrado**

- Roni thanked everyone for their Food pantry support all year long. She noted that pantries are also in need of cleaning supplies. Roni reported that there was to be no collection for May seeing as how we just did the Community Service Day Food Pantry Drive. “We all make a difference”.

- **Golf Outing: Joe Barone**

- Joe Barone reported that our 38th Annual Golf Outing will be at The Meadows Golf Course in Lincoln Park. \$150 per player. Check-in is at 8 am. Tee time is 9 am. Course contests will be run. Continental breakfast before starting. Dinner afterwards, at Franks Pizzeria Restaurant in Lincoln Park, Players can now pay online (\$153.00 online price) through our website. Dinner is only \$50. Sponsors can also submit their names through the website. We are still and always in need of golfers. Joe noted that there was to be a golf committee meeting after this monthly meeting. And as always, “hope for no rain”.



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- **Overseas Soldier Program: Roni Corrado**
 - No report. No news is good news.

Non-Fundraising Committees

- **Italian Heritage: Angelo Verrone**
 - Angelo reported that in the June newsletter, there will not only be a photo from the UNICO National Heritage and Photo Calendar. But there will be a nice write-up on a town that one of our chapter members' heritage and history is from. He again asked that if a member wants their town in Italy/Sicily to be shown in our chapter newsletter to please contact Steve Pelonero so that a nice write up can be included in it.
- **Italian Studies: Cav. Joe Agresti PNP**
 - Cav. Joe Agresti again reported that our Study Abroad recipient is a student at MSU and with the Coccia Program. Michael Cerbo will be doing a semester in Sicily and is interested in majoring in Italian History. Michael said that he can attend our September chapter meeting.
- **Membership: John Barbieri**
 - John reported that membership is currently at 48 members.
 - John gave birthday greetings to our May members: Dominick Bucci, Phil Polizzotto, and Sal Nocella.
 - The average age of our chapter is 73.
 - Steve Pelonero noted that we were to swear in a new member, Domenica Campen, but she could not make the meeting as she was caring for her parents this meeting night.
- **Newsletter & Website: Steve Pelonero PNP**
 - Steve reported that all of our monthly newsletters are on our chapter website and are always emailed to the members as they are released.
 - Our chapter website has 89,469 visits, up from 89,352 visits from the April meeting. That is up from last month's meeting by 297.
- **Public Relations: Christina Castillo and Roni Corrado**
 - N/A



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- **Scholarship: Chuck Russo**

- Chuck Russo reported that there will be six (6) scholarships presented. This was all made possible with the Super Bowl Fundraiser, with the chapter Memorial Scholarships and also with the funds raised at our Annual Golf Outing. In addition, we will be presenting two (2) Brian Piccolo Awards. Chuck urged that members attend as this is the culmination of all of our hard work throughout the year. Chuck asked if you could prepay so that we know how many will be attending. He also asked if there is a seating request to, please let him know.
- Website chair, Steve Pelonero, asked Chuck to send him the names and towns of each recipient so that they can be uploaded to our chapter website.

District and National Events

- **National News**

- Chapter President Dominick reminded everyone that there are \$20 UNICO Foundation Raffle Tickets still available. It was noted that it was in our chapter budget to purchase a book for \$100.00.

- **District News**

- Chapter President Dominick announced that the next NJ District IV Meeting was to be on Tuesday, June 13th. The host chapter and place are still to be announced.
- Joe Agresti reported that the NJ District IV Pasta Dinner for our Special Need Friends brought in \$8,000. With that, we will be hosting our district Annual Christmas dinner at the Brownstone for our Special Need Friends and their sponsors. Cost for the District Christmas Dinner is \$60.00

Old Business

- Other than chapter elections there was no old business.

New Business

- Chapter Elections
 - Secretary Steve noted that the chapter put forth their nomination choices at the April meeting. He then asked at this May meeting if there was anyone who wanted to run for a particular office. See as there were none, Secretary Steve Pelonero then cast one vote for our 2023-2024 year. The following positions for our 2023-2024 year are: Chapter President, Dominick Bucci; 1st VP, Carmen Criscione; 2nd VP, Joe Benvenuti; Treasurer, Bruce Ponchak; Secretary, Steve Pelonero PNP, Sergeant at Arms, John Morano.
 - Delegates will be voted on at the June meeting.



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- Chapter President Dominick reported that the Borough of Woodland Park as is we would like to participate in the Memorial Day Parade on May 29, Monday. After discussion it was noted that most of our chapter might be away. We should decline for lack of possible attendance.
 - Steve Pelonero said that he would be willing to do the Cornhole Fundraiser again with the Montville Chapter. After much discussion that we should do it ourselves, including the fact that Joe Agresti made a comment that he heard that the fundraiser brought in \$4,000 as opposed to what chairman Steve said brought in \$2,000. Steve said that our chapter was the only party in charge of the monies and that he gave our treasurer his final statement of income and expenses after the event was finalized. Steve did note that Montville did supply a lot of the effort and participation to make this run and that Steve felt comfortable doing it again with them. After insistence that we should take it upon ourselves, Steve stepped down as chairman. John Barbieri said that he would chair it.
 - Joe Agresti asked if we could change the June date of the 2nd Wednesday Meeting to the 3rd Wednesday seeing that he was being honored by the Veterans on that 2nd Wednesday (Flag Day). All were OK with the change of date.
 - Discussion was held on the two amendments that are being brought up at the next Convention in July in Florida. No actual vote was taken to see how our delegates should vote as there were mixed views and feelings on the way to vote. Our delegates will be chosen at the June meeting.

Adjournment

- Before a request was made for a motion to adjourn the meeting, it was noted that the June meeting will be at Holy Cross Church (our traditional year end pizza and mussel meeting) on the 3rd Wednesday of the month. It is also a BYO.
- Motion to adjourn was made at 8:56 pm
 - 1st John Barbieri
 - 2nd Sal NocellaAll were in favor.

Respectfully Taken by

Steven Pelonero PNP, Chapter Secretary

< Member meeting attendance=, as well as guest attendance is continued on the next two pages >



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Meeting Attendance

		Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Total Attended
Agresti	Joseph	1	1	1		1	1	1	1	1		8
Allora	Carmen											0
Barbieri	John	1		1	1	1	1	1	1	1		8
Barone	Joseph		1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		8
Barone	Phil											0
Benvenuti	Joseph	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		9
Benvenuti	Salvatore	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		9
Bifalco	Mark					1	1					2
Bucci	Dominick		1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		8
Campan	Domenica								1			1
Capalbo	Frank		1	1	1	1		1	1	1		7
Castillo	Christina	1	1		1	1	1	1	1	1		8
Cestone	James											0
Chomko	Jean	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		9
Corrado	Patrick											0
Corrado	Roni	1	1	1		1	1	1	1	1		8
Criscione	Carmen	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		9
D'Antuono	Michael											0
DeLuccia	Brianna											0
Dransfield	Danielle											0
Eoepochino	Kyle											0
Ermolowich	William	1		1								2
Gaeta	Gerardo	1	1				1		1			4
Gaeta	Jessica											0
Gaita Jr	Carmen	1	1	1	1	1			1	1		7
Klosek	Emilia						1	1				2
Longo	Pete						1					1
McGill	Joseph		1	1	1	1	1		1	1		7
Morano	John	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		9
Nocella	Salvatore	1		1		1	1	1	1	1		7
O'Hara	Joyce	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		9
Orlando	Anthony	1	1	1								3
Pelonero	Patricia					1	1	1	1	1		5
Pelonero	Steven	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		9
Polizzotto	Phillip											0
Ponchak	Bruce	1		1	1	1	1	1	1	1		8
Raguso	Michaela											0
Ribaudo	Anthony	1										1
Russo	Chuck	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		9
Shaloo	Rachel											0
Sisti	Gisella	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		9
Stefanelli	Claudine							1	1	1		3
Socio	Angela	1										1
Socio	Gabriella	1										1
Tosi	Evelyn					1	1	1		1		4
Verrone	Angelo	1		1	1			1	1	1		6
Wood	Eileen	1		1	1							3
Youngster	Henry		1			1		1		1		4
Total	Members	24	20	23	19	24	24	24	25	25	0	
Total	Guests		4		14	4	3		3	2		
Total at	Meeting	24	24	23	33	28	27	24	28	27	0	
Meeting	Location	Amore	Ties	Viva	Ties	HCC	CA	HCC	CA	HCC		
Percent	at meeting	41%	41%	39%	56%	64%	61%	51%	58%	52%	0%	



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Guests		Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	
Gary	D'Uva		1						1		
Laura	D'Uva		1						1		
Elaine	Barone		1						1	1	
Geri	Samuel		0			1					
Gene	Maddalena					1					
Michele	Maddalena					1					
Fran	Maglio		0						1	1	