



# UNICO NATIONAL

PASSAIC VALLEY CHAPTER  
 P.O. BOX 341  
 LITTLE FALLS, NJ 07424  
 PassaicValleyUNICO@gmail.com  
[www.PassaicValleyUNICO.org](http://www.PassaicValleyUNICO.org)

## Monthly Minutes March 10, 2021 ~ 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday

**Date** March 10, 2021  
**Place** Zoom and Live at Holy Cross church in Woodland Park  
**Prayer** Dominick Bucci, Chapter 2<sup>nd</sup> VP  
**Flag Salute** Dominick Bucci, Chapter 2<sup>nd</sup> VP  
**Dinner** n/a  
**Meeting** 7:30 pm

### Members & Guests in Attendance

Members at meeting	24
Guests at meeting	0
Total (Roster is at 48)	24
Percentage at meeting	50%

### 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 <sup>st</sup> VP: Pat Ligouri	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	x	😊			
2 <sup>nd</sup> VP: Dominick Bucci	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊			
Secretary: Steve Pelonero	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊			
Treasurer: Bruce Ponchak	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	x			
Sgt.At-Arms: Jim Minnella	😊	😊	😊	x	x	x	x			

### Delegates at meetings

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

### Board of Directors at meetings (6 past Chapter Presidents)

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



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

### Opening Remarks

- **President Eileen Wood:**
  - Eileen welcomed and thanked everyone for attending our first live & zoom meeting.
- **1<sup>st</sup> VP Pat Ligouri:**
  - No report.
- **2<sup>nd</sup> VP Dominick Bucci:**
  - No report.

### 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 by:
  - 1<sup>st</sup> Joyce O'Hara
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> Sal Benvenuti
 All were in favor.



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## **Treasurer Report**

Treasurer: Bruce Ponchak

Bruce emailed the minutes to all chapter members but was not in attendance to report

- Motion to accept by:
  - 1<sup>st</sup> Carmen Gaita
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> Joe Benvenuti
- All were in favor.

## **Chapter Budget**

- No report.

## **Bills and Communications**

- John Morano reported that we received three items in the mail:
  - A thank you from Sal Benvenuti for the fruit basket he received for his surgery.
  - A thank you from St. James Church for the \$225 in food gift cards.
  - A bill for \$162.00 for our Annual Post Office Box Fee

## **Fundraising Committees**

- **Holiday Cheer: Bob Appaluccio**
  - No report.
- **Food Pantry: Roni Corrado**
  - Roni Corrado reported that we recently gave to Holy Angels Food pantry \$325.00 in gift cards. They were happy to receive them.
  - Roni reported that in April we will, hopefully with our more chapter member donations, go to St. Agnes Church Food Pantry.
  - Roni thanked everyone for their generosity.
- **Overseas Soldier Program: Roni Corrado**
  - Henry Youngster reported no one that he was aware is over seas.



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- **Golf Outing: Joe Barone**
  - Joe Barone that the golf outing is set for June 14 at the Meadows in Lincoln Park. Multiple courses were looked at and theirs was the best price.
  - Joe reported that as usual getting the sponsors is the key factor in making any outing a success. Members please help.
  - Joe asked John Barbieri if he could make the signs and fliers again.
  - Joe asked Steve Pelonero if he could send him a membership roster because it was too confusing for him to get it from our chapter member section. Steve said that he would.
  - Steve Pelonero reported that he had purchased new lightweight sign holders, with clips to go on all of the existing hole signs that display our sponsors at the golf course.
- **Community Service Day: Pat Liguori**
  - No report.

## **Non-Fundraising Committees**

- **Scholarship: Carmen Gaita**
  - Carmen reported that three UNICO chapter members have applied for our \$1,000 scholarship.
  - Carmen reported again that this committee is running a raffle @ \$10.00 a ticket to be drawn on May 21<sup>st</sup>. It is a 50/50.
  - Carmen asked everyone to contact himself or Joe Benvenuti for tickets.
  - The dinner possibly will be at the Barnyard in Totowa pending the pandemic conditions and guidelines that are in place near the time that the dinner would be held.
- **Italian Heritage: Angelo Verrone**
  - Angelo mentioned that with all of our events that are soon to be taking place that his idea would not work. Maybe another time.
  - Steve Pelonero reported that the Little Falls Counsel approached him personally and said they thought of us seeing that October is Italian Heritage month. They are willing to have us pick a day in October for a Flag Raising ceremony. Steve said to the chapter that he would chair it and that he would send an email out to every member with the hopes that some will volunteer to be on the committee: help set up and break down, work a coffee table. Steve said that he might have a contact to get pastries donated, unless someone else can step up as well to be a part of this .... Steve also remarked that it would be VERY NICE if A LOT of our members attended this event so that it was just not a few people there. We need to make our organization seen and we need to show that we are proud to be Italians. Look for an upcoming email.



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- **Italian Studies: Joe Agresti PNP**
  - No report
- **Good and Welfare: Sal Nocella**
  - Sal Nocella reported that a condolence / sympathy card was sent to Pat Corrado for the passing of his brother.
  - A fruit basket was sent to Sal Benvenuti for his surgery.
  - Mark BiFalco's wife, Caroline, had passed and a basket was sent to his family in her memory.
- **Membership: John Barbieri**
  - John reported that of our 48 members. John wished a happy birthday to all of our March birthday members.
- **Newsletter & Website: Steve Pelonero**
  - Steve reported that all was up to date on both the website and newsletter.
  - All minutes and newsletters are on the website as well.
  - Our website is at 86,300 as of March 10, which is up 44 visits from the February meeting (86,256).

## **District and National Events**

- **District News**
  - Steve Pelonero reported that our NJ District also had a meeting this same night and that Joe Agresti and himself logged in and represented our chapter.
- **National News**
  - Sal Benvenuti reported taxes are to be filed by end of June. Our chapter is on the end of the UNICO year status. Sal noted that he does our chapter taxes.
  - Sal talked about the 2021 National Convention where Steve will be sworn in. The final contract is not yet signed so it is not yet to be sent out by National to all of the members. Tentatively it will be held on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, July 26, 27 and 28. Meetings will be held every morning on those dates. The Ice breaker will follow the Monday meeting at evening. Tuesday is an open night. The Gala Event will be Wednesday evening following Steve's swearing in as National President at the Wednesday morning meeting. The convention site is the Sheraton Parsippany (formerly known as the Tara). Fliers from National will be sent out as soon as the contract is signed.



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## **Old Business**

- No old business

## **New Business**

- Steve Pelonero reported that Little Falls is doing a Memorial Day Celebration, no full agenda or information is readily available. It will be at Wilmore Park to open up the convert series. All organizations are invited to set up a booth to present information about their organization. Steve thought it was a good idea for a membership table to be set up in the hopes that we can get interest in someone (or more) to join. We need to make ourselves visible at events such as this as the other organizations do.

## **Adjournment**

Motion was made to adjourn @ 8:15 pm

- 1<sup>st</sup> John Barbieri
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> Bill Ermolowich
- All were in favor.

## **Respectfully Taken by**

Steve Pelonero, Chapter Secretary