



# 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 May 12, 2021 ~ 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday

**Date** May 12, 2021 ~ Wednesday  
**Place** Holy Cross church in Woodland Park.  
**Prayer** Jim Minnella, Sgt.At-Arms  
**Flag Salute** Jim Minnella, Sgt. At-Arms  
**Dinner** 7:00 pm Catered by Amore of Woodland Park  
**Meeting** 8:00 pm

### Members & Guests in Attendance

Members at meeting	28
Guests at meeting	0
Total (Roster is at 48)	28
Percentage at meeting	57%

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	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	X	😊	
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	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊

### 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	😊	😊	😊



# 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 May 12, 2021 ~ 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday

### 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	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊		X
Carmen Criscione	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	X	😊	😊	😊	😊
John Morano	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊
Steve Pelonero	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊
Bruce Ponchak	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	X	😊	😊	😊
Chuck Russo	😊	😊	😊	X	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊
Angelo Verrone	X	😊	😊	😊	X	😊	😊	X	😊	😊

### Opening Remarks

- **President Eileen Wood:**
  - Eileen welcomed everyone to our first all live meeting since the pandemic started.
  - She noted that there was a lot to cover at this meeting.
- **1<sup>st</sup> VP Pat Ligouri:**
  - No report.
- **2<sup>nd</sup> VP Dominick Bucci:**
  - Dominick welcomed everyone.

### 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> Jim Minnella
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> Joe Agresti PNP
 All were in favor.



# 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*  
*May 12, 2021 ~ 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday*

---

## **Treasurer Report**

Treasurer: Bruce Ponchak

Bruce emailed the minutes to all chapter members.

- Motion to accept by:
    - 1<sup>st</sup> Joe Agresti PNP
    - 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:
  - Thank you letters from United Methodist Church, Holy Angels Church, St. James Church, First Reformed Church: all for our Food Pantry donations.
  - Steve Pelonero, secretary noted that he would be sending out dues notice reminders: \$80 for a regular member, \$15 for a life member, \$12 for a youth member (under the age of 25 with a birthdate before July 1st of 2021)

## **Fundraising Committees**

- **Holiday Cheer: Bob Appaluccio**
  - No report.
- **Food Pantry: Roni Corrado**
  - No report
- **Overseas Soldier Program: Roni Corrado**
  - Eileen Wood reported that her daughters' nephew is off to Afghanistan. A collection would be grateful to send to the soldiers.



# 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*  
*May 12, 2021 ~ 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday*

---

- **Golf Outing: Joe Barone**
  - Joe Barone that the golf outing is set for June 14 at the Meadows in Lincoln Park.
  - Joe reported that as usual getting the sponsors is the key factor in making any outing a success. Members please help.
  - Continental Breakfast and two drink tickets per player
  - Dinner at the Brownstone
  - 10 am Shotgun Best Ball format
  - Could always use sponsors and golfers.
- **Community Service Day: Pat Liguori**
  - Pat thanked everyone again for their help collecting and delivering the pantry items.
  - We supplied 7 pantries.
  - In addition to everything that was collected, we also received \$650 in cash which will be given towards our monthly food pantry donation to a different pantry each month.

## **Non-Fundraising Committees**

- **Scholarship: Carmen Gaita**
  - Carmen Gaita reported that the raffle for another scholarship will be pulled on May 21<sup>st</sup> at Joe Benvenuti's house at 7:00 pm. Approximately \$1900 to the winner.
  - Carmen reported that there were personal donations made by Chuck Russo (\$1500) and Tony Orlando (\$500). Also with donations were Joe Agresti PNP, John Morano, and Tony Orlando. There was an anonymous donation made of \$1000.
  - Tickets hopefully will be prepaid for the dinner on Wednesday, June 16<sup>th</sup>, at the Barnyard in Totowa. Ticket prices are \$30 per person. All are urged to attend to help celebrate what we have done all year.
  - Carmen also reported that we would be giving out seven (7) scholarship and two (2) Brian Piccolo awards.
  - Our officer installation will also be taking place that evening.
- **Italian Heritage: Angelo Verrone**
  - No report
- **Italian Studies: Joe Agresti PNP**
  - Joe reported that Montclair State University Italian Class still has no recipients for this year's Study Abroad because of the covid restrictions.



# 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*  
*May 12, 2021 ~ 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday*

---

- **Good and Welfare: Sal Nocella**

- No issues = No report

- **Membership: John Barbieri**

- John reported that of our 48 members. John wished a happy birthday to our May birthday members: Dominick Bucci, Phil Polizzotto, Sal Nocella.
- Steve reported that Memorial Day Friday, May 28, that Little Falls invited our chapter to have a table at the Wilmore Park celebration to display UNICO information (at no charge). It is a way for our membership to hopefully expand with interested and service minded people. Steve said that he would be there along with Bill and Mark from 6-9 pm. Anyone interested in membership is encouraged to stop by.

- **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 86,513 as of May 12 (meeting day), which is up 143 visits from the April meeting.

## **District and National Events**

- **District News**

- Joe Agresti reported that our NJ District IV is still looking into doing their Christmas Dinner for our Special Friends in July ... "Christmas in July" ... More information if this will come to fruition will be at a later date.

- **National News**

- Discussion was made that the UNICO National Foundation sent us, as well as all of the chapters in UNICO, a book of raffle tickets. Joe Agresti made a motion that we buy the book of 6 tickets for \$100. John Barbieri 2<sup>nd</sup>'d the motion. All were in favor.
- Eileen reported that a new UNICO Chapter will be sworn in, on May 24<sup>th</sup>, the UNICO Low Country of South Carolina, and according to conversation on a recent chapter president Zoom meeting attended by our chapter president, which was hosted by UNICO Nationals 2<sup>nd</sup> VP Ralph Contini, that it was suggested that, if possible, that existing chapters should try to send them a cash donation to start their treasury going. A motion was made by Gerry Gaeta to send \$100. A 2<sup>nd</sup> was made by Bill Ermolowich. All were in favor.



# 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  
May 12, 2021 ~ 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday*

---

## National News (continued)

- After electing our Chapter delegates (we currently get president +2), the chapter voted in to represent us at the convention, Jim Minnella and Dominick Bucci. Joyce O'Hara and John Morano were elected as our Alternate Delegates. A motion was made for our chapter to subsidize the delegates with \$350 each which covers the dinner and registration. Chapter president would have the registration paid in addition to an extra \$150. All were in favor.
- October 26, 2021 is the date for the "Meet the UNICO National President at the Venetian in Garfield. More information to follow.
- UNICO's NJ District XI is holding a Cigar/Bocce/Food/ BYO event as a fundraiser for our next UNICO National President. \$50 a person with a tournament style 4-person team. John Morano made a motion that our chapter come up with \$200 to sponsor a team. Jim Minnella 2<sup>nd</sup> d the motion. All were in favor.
- Dues billing (1/2 of our members) is due on July 1.
- Election form needs to filled out with our officers and chapter information.
- Joe Agresti reported that the Ad Journal page (full page Gold) for this years convention has been submitted by our chapter.

## Old Business

- John Morano noted that it was verbally voted on to save \$5,000 for the 2021 Convention and that also allocated was over \$3000 that was raised at the Russian Hall Social.
- Steve reported that he was looking into an Italian Flag Raising in October. More information follow when the time gets closer

## New Business

- Eileen Wood, chapter president, reported that we need to elect and vote on our 2021/2022 chapter officers. Wirth discussion and no opposition to the slate, Steve Pelonero chapter secretary, passed a vote to elect Eileen Wood as president, Pat Liguori as 1<sup>st</sup> VP, Dominick Bucci as 2<sup>nd</sup> VP, Jim Minnella as Sgt. At-Arms, Bruce Ponchak as Treasurer. No one as of yet has stepped up to be our chapter Secretary. All were in favor. Steve Pelonero did note that he would help anyone who did run for secretary and that he would gladly take it over again when his presidency is over as UNICO National President.
- Dominick Bucci reported that the Holy Cross Church is again interested in co-sponsoring with our chapter another pasta night on Oct 16. Bob Appaluccio made a motion to go forward with it. Carmen Gaita 2<sup>nd</sup> d the motion. All were in favor.



# 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*  
*May 12,2021 ~ 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday*

## Members in Attendance (28)

Joe	Agresti
Bob	Appaluccio
John	Barbieri
Phil	Barone
Joe	Barone
Joe	Benvenuti
Dominick	Bucci
Christina	Castillo
Jean	Chomko
Carmen	Criscione
Bill	Ermolowich
Jerry	Gaeta
Carmen	Gaita
Emelia	Klosik

Pat	Liguori
Joe	McGill
Jim	Minnella
John	Morano
Sal	Nocella
Joyce	O'Hara
Steve	Pelonero
Bruce	Ponchak
Chuck	Russo
Jay	Sisti
Evelyn	Tosi
Angelo	Verrone
Eileen	Wood
Henry	Youngster

## Adjournment

Motion was made to adjourn @ 9:00 pm

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

## Respectfully Taken by

Steve Pelonero, Chapter Secretary