

PASSAIC VALLEY UNICO MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, September 8, 2021

Place Lorenzos Restaurant, Little Falls
Prayer Dominick Bucci, Sgt At Arms
Flag Salute Dominick Bucci, Sgt At Arms
Dinner 7:00 pm (with Meeting initiated and business conducted during dinner)

In Attendance – Members - 23; Guests – 0

| <u>CHAPTER OFFICERS</u> | <u>Sep</u> |
|-----------------------------------|------------|
| President Eileen Wood | x |
| 1 st VP Pat Ligouri | o |
| 2 nd VP Dominick Bucci | x |
| Secretary, Vacant | o |
| Treasurer Bruce Ponchak | x |
| Sgt At Arms James Minnella | o |

OFFICERS' REMARKS

➤ **PRESIDENT Eileen Wood**

Eileen welcomed everyone to the first UNICO meeting of the year. She hopes going forward the virus doesn't take us back and let's continue to do what we do. Eileen also wished all the August members a very happy birthday.

➤ **1st VP Pat Ligouri**

Not present due to getting called into work due to impending storm. Pat sends his regards to the members.

➤ **2nd VP Dominick Bucci**

Dominick welcomed everyone and mentioned how our UNICO banner was updated with 2 new patches. The first one is the 2019 chapter achievement patch and the other one was for 2021 achievement. He also said that this is a great achievement and its great how our chapter has earned so many patches compared to some of the other UNICO chapters. Dominick mentioned the club along with Holy Cross church will be having a pasta dinner at Holy Cross Church. The event will be held on October 16th. There will be round tables of 6 and rectangle tables of 10. The cost of the event will be \$20 per person. He is looking for donations. In the past John Barbieri donated scratch offs and in 2019 the dinner made a profit of \$1,600 so we are looking to do that again this year. The pasta and pasta sauce will be donated. He is hoping

He is hoping this will be a successful night for the club again. Members of the committee were asked to stay at the end of the chapter meeting for a brief Pasta Dinner meeting.

➤ SECRETARY (currently vacant)

- Steve emailed out the June minutes and they are also on the website.
- Motion to accept by:
- 1st Carmen Gaita
2nd- Joe Benvenuti
Minutes accepted as per email

➤ TREASURER Bruce Ponchak

Treasurer: Bruce Ponchak

Bruce emailed the treasurer's report to all chapter members.

- Motion to accept by:
- 1st Jerry Gaita
- 2nd Sal Benvenuti
Treasurer's report accepted

CHAPTER BUDGET

- Bruce reported that the executive board met and went over the proposed budget for this 2021-2022 year. The Proposed Budget was also emailed to members.
- There is roughly a \$21,000 balance in the current chapter account. The proposed Budget is based on income and expenditures of approximately \$14500. Sal Benvenuti made a motion to accept the proposed budget and Roni Corrado 2nd it. There was no discussion and the Proposed Budget was accepted as presented in Bruce's report/email.

➤ SGT AT ARMS Jim Minnella
Not in attendance – no remarks

BILLS AND COMMUNICATIONS

Eileen reported that we received thank you letters from of our scholarship recipients Daniel Dransfield, Brianna Deluccia, Isabella Brunetti, and Rebecca Brunetti

Thank you notes were received from St. Joseph's Home for the Elderly for the food pantry donations.

Steve and Pat thanked the club for the mass card and donation for Steve's brother passing away

FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE REPORTS

- **HOLIDAY CHEER – Bob Appaluccio**
No Report
- **Food Pantry: Roni Corrado** ○ Roni reported that starting next month we will be making monthly donations to the list of food pantries we support. Roni asked for donations of food and/or money which will be used to purchase ShopRite gift cards for the pantries to use.
She said Holy Angels will be the first church with St. Agnes next and then will follow down the line like we did last year.
- **Overseas Soldier Program: Roni Corrado**
Roni said thankfully there are no current service members
- **Golf Outing: Joe Barone**
 - Joe Barone expressed his words of thanks to everyone who made the golf outing a success. It really paid off
 - The profit for the outing was \$8899.95.
 - There were 44 sponsors, 80 paid dinners at the Brownstone, and 67 paid golfers
 - Joe mentioned he would like to get more golfers for next year's outing
 - He will be preparing Thank You plaques for the sponsors like the club did in previous years
 - He also said to try and promote the golf outing sooner to see if we can get more golfers and or sponsors.
- **Community Service Day: Pat Liguori**
No report

NON-FINDRAISING COMMITTEES

- **Scholarship: Carmen Gaita**
Carmen Gaita wanted to thank everyone for attending the scholarship dinner. He mentioned that 7 high school scholarships were given out this year. No college or study abroad scholarships were given out.
- **Italian Heritage: Angelo Verrone**
Angelo was absent - no report
Eileen reported that the Little Falls Council has asked us to be a part of their Italian Flag Raising. The flag raising will be taking place on October 4th at the municipal building and it starts at 6pm. All members are invited to attend
- **Italian Studies: Joe Agresti PNP**
No report.
- **Good and Welfare: Sal Nocella**
No issues, hence, no report
- **Membership: John Barbieri**
John reported that we are at 55members. John wished a happy birthday to our September birthday members.
Our average age is 72. It is 68 with our youth members.
Mentioned how it would be nice to get some new younger members into the club. If members know anyone interested we should encourage them to join
- **Newsletter & Website: Steve Pelonero**
No Report as Steve was absent

DISTRICT IV AND UNICO NATIONAL

- **District News** ○ Eileen reported that our NJ District IV meeting will be in Sparta if anyone would like to attend, please let Gary Duva know.
Eileen also reported that the Passaic-Clifton Chapter will be having its annual bus ride in December where you will eat at Puglias restaurant and see the Christmas tree all lit up. The cost will be \$105 per person. Please pay check in full in order to secure your spot
The Meet the National President Dinner will be held on October 26th at the Venetian in Garfield. More information at the October chapter meeting. A decision will also be made at that meeting if the chapter will again subsidize members who attend . The usual cost for the event is \$55
- **National News** Eileen reported that UNICO National will be turning 100 years old in 2022

OLD BUSINESS

Eileen brought up the fact that the Passaic Valley Chapter will be 50 years old during this chapter year. As in the past, Eileen stated that this should be celebrated by some kind of special event. She advised that Joe Agresti has volunteered to head a committee which will address our 50th Anniversary and a celebration of the same. If any member would like to be on that committee, he or she should let Joe Agresti know.

An ad journal will also done.

NEW BUSINESS

- Carmen Gaita mentioned he and Joe Benvenuti want to run a 50/50 raffle as a fundraiser for the chapter similar to what he did last year for the Chapter Scholarship. This raffle will be drawn at the May meeting and will help as another fundraiser since as of now there will only be the pasta dinner and golf outing this year. A motion was made by Bob Appaluchio with a second by Sal Benvenuti. All the members were in favor. Details such as the date and place of the drawing will be worked out but Carmen will try to have tickets available ASAP.
- Joe Barone suggested we do something for those chapter members who were affected by the recent flood, maybe sending them a fruit basket or monetary donation. However, because at this point we are not sure of who all was impacted by this flood, it will be tabled until next month's meeting.
- Eileen mentioned that Kearny UNICO is celebrating its 60th anniversary and our chapter donated ½ page ad Journal to that chapter

ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made to adjourn @ 8:35 pm

Motion by John Barbieri

2nd - Sal Benvenuti

All were in favor. Meeting Adjourned

MINUTES RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED BY:
Christina Castillo and Chuck Russo

Meeting Attendance - September

Twenty-three (23) members were in attendance.

| | | | |
|-----------|------------|--------|---------|
| Bob | Appaluccio | Jeanie | Chomko |
| John | Barbieri | John | Morano |
| Joe | Barone | Sal | Nocella |
| Elaine | Barone | Tony | Orlando |
| Sal | Benvenuti | Joyce | O'Hara |
| Joe | Benvenuti | Bruce | Ponchak |
| Dominick | Bucci | Chuck | Russo |
| Christina | Castillo | Jay | Sisti |
| Roni | Corrado | Amelia | Klosik |
| Carmen | Criscione | Evelyn | Tosi |
| Jerry | Gaeta | Eileen | Wood |
| Carmen | Gaita | | |