



UNICO NATIONAL

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

Monthly Minutes November 8, 2023 ~ 2nd Wednesday

Date November 8, 2023
Place Casa Arturo in Little Falls
Prayer John Morano, Sgt.At-Arms
Flag Salute John Morano, Sgt.At-Arms
Dinner/Meeting 7:00 pm Dinner / 8 pm meeting

Members & Guests in Attendance

Members (56) at meeting 23
Guests at meeting 1 NJ District IV DG Anthony DeGennaro
Member % at meeting 41%

Executive Board

<u>Attendance at meetings</u>		9/23	10/23	11/23	12/23	1/24	2/24	3/24	4/24	5/24	6/24
President:	Bucci	😊	😊	😊							
1 st VP:	Criscione	😊	😊	😊							
2 nd VP:	J. Benvenuti	x	😊	x							
Secretary:	Pelonero	😊	😊	😊							
Treasurer:	Ponchak	😊	😊	😊							
Sgt.At-Arms:	Morano	😊	😊	😊							

Delegates at Meetings

1. Sal Benvenuti	😊	😊	😊
2. Jean Chomko	😊	😊	😊
3. Pat Pelonero	😊	😊	😊

Board of Directors at meetings (6 past Chapter Presidents)

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



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Past Chapter Presidents in attendance at meetings

	9/23	10/23	11/23	12/23	1/24	2/24	3/24	4/24	5/24	6/24
Joe Agresti PNP	😊	😊	😊							
John Barbieri	x	😊	😊							
Sal Benvenuti	😊	😊	😊							
Carmen Criscione	😊	😊	😊							
Carmen Gaita	😊	😊	😊							
John Morano	😊	😊	😊							
Steve Pelonero	😊	😊	😊							
Bruce Ponchak	😊	😊	😊							
Chuck Russo	x	😊	😊							
Angelo Verrone	x	😊	😊							
Eileen Wood	x	x	x							

Opening Remarks

- **President Dominick Bucci**
 - President Dominick welcomed everyone
 - Dominick welcomed and introduced our NJ District IV Governor, Anthony DeGennaro from the Wayne Chapter
 - Dominick wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving
- **1st VP Carmen Criscione**
 - Carmen asked to please keep the noise and talking down as people are trying to speak
 - Carmen also welcomed DG Anthony
 - Carmen reminded everyone that the Special Needs Christmas Dinner will also be our December meeting
 - Carmen noted that our three towns (Little Falls, Totowa, Woodland Park) will be having their annual lighted vehicle parade on the Saturday following Thanksgiving. It starts at PVHS at 5 pm and goes through Woodland Park and then through Totowa. It is an excellent evening to start the Christmas Spirit.
- **2nd VP Joe Benvenuti**
N/A



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Secretary Minutes

Secretary: Steve Pelonero PNP

- Steve noted that the minutes were sent to everyone in an email from our October meeting.
- Also noted that they are on our chapter website
- Motion to accept was made by:
 - 1st Joe Agresti
 - 2nd Frank Capalbo
- All were in favor.

Treasurer Report

Treasurer: Bruce Ponchak

- Bruce reported that he had sent out the treasurer's report to all members in an email.
- Bruce reported on the bank balances
- Motion to accept by:
 - 1st Joe Barone
 - 2nd Joyce O'Hara
- All were in favor.

Bills and Communications: John Morano

- John Morano said that all correspondence was given to President Dominick
- Dominick report that we received Thank you letters were received from Roni Corrado and also PNP Sal Mangano (Saddle Brook chapter) and that Shop Rite cards were available for donations to the Food pantry and Christmas Cheer
- Secretary Steve Pelonero reported that the Township of Little Falls sent an email noting that they are coming out with a calendar where all organizations can now have their events listed in it. The deadline for submitting is December 1st. Steve noted that he forwarded the email to our chapter committee chairs that currently have events planned. i.e.: Cornhole, Food Drive, Golf.

Chapter Budget

- (N/A)

Chapter Elections: Nominating chair to be appointed

- N/A



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Good & Welfare: Joe Benvenuti

- In Joe's absence, Steve Pelonero reported that Sympathy Cards were sent to Roni Corrado and also to PNP Sal Mangano from Saddle Brook Chapter for the loss of his wife Criss. Joe Benvenuti also noted that he will be sending a Sympathy Card to Joe McGill's niece
- In Joe's absence John Morano asked for a moment of silence for our recently departed members: Pat Corrado and Joe McGill
- Carmen Gaita reported that the service for Joe McGill will be on Sunday, November 12th, from 2-5 pm. The UNICO service for our departed members was agreed upon to be held at 3 pm
- Joe Benvenuti asked to be reported that prayers could still be used for Sal Nocella who is back in the hospital.
- Joe B spoke to member Tony Orlando, and that he is doing fine. Tony said to say hello to everyone.

Fundraising Committees

- **Community Service Day: Chuck Russo**
 - Chuck reported that our Annual Food pantry drive is tentatively scheduled for April 27th. But that date is not yet set in concrete. More information at the January meeting
- **Corn Hole: John Barbieri**
 - John reported that the Cornhole Tournament date is set for April 7th at the Totowa PAL Building. It is a BYO. \$40 per player (two person teams). It is \$25 just for the food. There will be extra games available for extra money. John noted that he would like to see at least 100 people there. The Cornhole Flier is on our chapter website.
- **Food Pantry: Carmen Gaita, Patricia Pelonero**
 - Carmen and Pat both commented and said that non-perishable items, as well as Turkeys that were not used can be donated. Patricia said that she would be willing to pick up at your house (within reasonable driving) so that we can supply the needs of others.
- **Golf Outing: Joe Barone**
 - Joe reported that is still too early to get a date. The courses usually wait until the first of the year.
- **Holiday Cheer: Joe Benvenuti, Sal Benvenuti, Carmen Gaita**



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- Sal Benvenuti reported that it is in our chapter budget of \$1500.00 but other cash donations are always welcome from the members to help make a great Christmas for families that we suggested to us that could use some help. Carmen Criscione said that he has two families to be considered. Sal Benvenuti reported that Roni Corrado asked, that in memory of her late husband Pat, that donations would greatly be accepted in his name to the Christmas Cheer or Food Pantry Fund. Sal also reported that in the past=, through the generosity of the chapter, that we have given to at least 5 local families.
- **Overseas Soldier Program: To be appointed**
 - Chapter President Dominick reported that there was not report and that he was still look for a volunteer to oversee this Committee.

Non-Fundraising Committees

- **Good & Welfare: Joe Benvenuti**
 - In Joe's absence John Morano asked for a moment of silence for our recently departed members: Pat Corrado and Joe McGill
 - Carmen Gaita reported that the service for Joe McGill will be on Sunday, November 12th, from 2-5 pm. The UNICO service was agreed on to be held at 3 pm
- **Italian Heritage: Angelo Verrone**
 - No report
- **Italian Studies: Cav. Joe Agresti PNP**
 - Joe Agresti reported that our College Study Abroad recipient was still unable to attend the meeting with the hopes of being at the January meeting.
- **Membership: John Barbieri**
 - John reported that were are at 56 members with the average age of our chapter at 71. John wished our November Birthday members (4 of them) a "Happy Birthday".
 - It was noted that this month of November was the deadline to get your chapter dues in. Any member who has not paid this month will be dropped from the chapter and from UNICO National.
 - It was reported at this meeting that there were 6 members who have not paid their dues.



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- **Newsletter & Website: Steve Pelonero PNP**
 - Steve reported that everything is in order with the newsletter and chapter website. The website is at 90,696 visits, which is up 144 visits from October which was 90,552 visits.
 - All dates of our events are also on the website in the “Important Dates Section”
- **Public Relations: Christina Castillo and Roni Corrado**
 - Christina reported that photos were sent in to the papers and that she would let us know when they are used.
 - Steve reminded again of the Little Falls Yearly Calendar where the committee chairs can submit the dates of their events. The email was sent to all of the chairs of the committees.
- **Scholarship: Chuck Russo**
 - Chuck reported that he is in contact with the high schools. He was thinking again of having our Scholarship Dinner again on a Sunday in June. He noted that all applicants, regardless of having a ties to a member in our chapter, must still meet the requirements of the judging guidelines.
 - It was asked if possibly some of the scholarship can be in memory of the deceased members of our chapter.

District and National Events

- **National News**
 - DG Anthony DeGennaro reported that he did attend the Eastern Region Meeting (ERM) in Long Branch NJ ... and that the March Mid-Year Board meeting will be in Atlantic City on March 17 and 18 (Sunday and Monday). He then noted that the 2024 National Convention will be in Princeton NJ starting July 28, 2024.
 - Anthony reported that one of the main topics at the ERM was that chapters would like to see more events that relate to our Heritage.
 - Joe Agresti reported that there is a Cigar Night Fundraiser for the 2024 Convention on November 29th at the Brickhouse. \$125 per person.
 - DG Anthony reminded everyone of the New Member Contest: Every new member this year gets their name entered with one winner getting a trip to Italy compliments of Perillo Tours. Every current member who sponsors three new members, also gets their name entered for the same additional prize



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- Joe Agresti reported the Italian American Museum in Little Italy will hopefully have their Grand Opening soon and that they will be, and are currently giving walking tours.
- **District News**
 - Our NJ District IV Governor Anthony DeGennaro gave an update on the District Christmas Dinner on December 5th at the Brownstone, \$60.00 per person, and that Chapter president Dominick was collecting the money at this November chapter meeting along with preferred seating if asked for. DG Anthony also noted that the Saturday Bus ride to Little Italy in NYC was sold out but at the current count, that the Sunday Bus ride still had two open seats.
 - DG Anthony gave a quick synopsis of his Italian upbringing and heritage values. He thanked our chapter for our hospitality and dedication. He noted that he wished every chapter could get younger members as in reality we are all getting older.

Old Business

- N/A

New Business

- Our next meeting will be on January 10th at Casa Arturo. Noted that there will be not December meeting as we are using the December 5th Brown Dinner for our Special Need Friends as the day for us to all get together as a chapter for a great cause.
- It was reported that Little Falls will have a Christmas Tree Light on December 1st, Friday. We were asked if we wanted a table at the lighting. Number members stepped up to help. Fliers, drinks and treats will be there to hand out. Tree lighting is set for 6 pm so if you are interested in supporting the chapter and even if you wanted to celebrate the holiday, please attend ~ *A motion was made to subsidize the event in the amount of \$200. First was made by Sal Benvenuti, 2nd was made by John Barbieri. All were in favor.*

Adjournment

- Motion to adjourn was made at 9:30 pm by:
 - 1st Carmen Criscione
 - 2nd Bruce PonchakAll were in favor.

Respectfully Taken by



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Meeting Attendance

		Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Total Attended
Total	Members	19	23	23	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Agresti	Joseph	1	1	1								3
Allora	Carmen											0
Bacchioni	Christopher											
Barbieri	John		1	1								2
Barone	Elaine		1	1								
Barone	Joseph	1	1	1								3
Barone	Phil											0
Benvenuti	Joseph		1									1
Benvenuti	Salvatore	1	1	1								3
Bifalco	Mark											0
Bucci	Dominick	1	1	1								3
Campagna	Juliana											0
Campen	Domenica											0
Capalbo	Frank	1		1								2
Castillo	Christina	1	1	1								3
Cestone	James		1	1								2
Cervino	Peter											
Chomko	Jean	1	1	1								3
Corrado	Roni											0
Corsetto	Brianna											0
Criscione	Carmen	1	1	1								3
D'Antuono	Michael											0
DeLuccia	Brianna											0
Dransfield	Danielle											0
Eoepochino	Kyle											0
Ermolowich	William											0
Gaeta	Gerardo	1		1								2
Gaeta	Jessica											0
Gaita Jr	Carmen	1	1	1								3
Kazmark	Keith											
Klosek	Emilia											0
Longo	Pete	1		1								2
McInerney	Cielle											0
Meletta	Connor											0
Morano	Christina Lee											0



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Morano	John	1	1	1								3
Nocella	Salvatore											0
OHara	Joyce	1	1	1								3
Orlando	Anthony											0
Panicucci	Marisa	1	1									2
Pelonerio	Patricia	1	1	1								3
Pelonerio	Steven	1	1	1								3
Polizzotto	Philip											0
Ponchak	Bruce	1	1	1								3
Ragusso	Michaela											0
Ribaudo	Anthony											0
Russo	Chuck		1	1								2
Shalloo	Rachel											0
Sisti	Gisella	1	1	1								3
Stefanelli	Claudine		1									1
Socio	Angela											0
Socio	Gabriella											0
Tosi	Evelyn	1	1									2
Verrone	Angelo		1	1								2
Wood	Eileen											0
Youngster	Henry			1								1
Total	Members	19	23	23	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Total	Guests	1	0	1								
Total at	Meeting	20	23	24								
Meeting	Location	Barnyard	Casa	Casa								
Percent	at meeting	34%	40%	41%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	
Guests		Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	
Panicucci	Marisa	1										
DeGennaro	Anthony			1								