

ERDG Meeting October 26, 2008
Holiday Inn-Totowa, NJ

Meeting Called to order at 9:30. NJ Dist IV DG Anthony Latella led all attendee's in Pledge of Allegiance and Unico Prayer.

Roll Call:

CT I – Francine Nido (P)	CT II – Mario Giovanucci (P)	CT III-Rosemary Wall (A)
MA I- William Carauna (A)	MA III – Larry Ardito (A)	NJ I – Lisa Pizzella (P)
NJ III – Damian Andrisano (A)	NJ IV – Anthony Latella (P)	NJ VI- James Fucci (A)
NJ VII- Nicholas Iocca (A)	NJ IX – Joseph Verdone (P)	NJ X – Joseph Almeida (A)
NJ XI- Frank Greco (P)	NY II – Steven Bonventre (A)	PA I- Joe Cerullo (P)
PA II – Chip Calabro (P)	PA IV – Kenneth Vail (P)	

National Officers Present:

Andre' DiMino – EVP	Chris DiMatteo – 1 st VP	Michael Pisano- Secretary
Eugene Santoli – Treasurer	Gerry Heytink – Expansion Dir	Rich D'Arminio – Membership
Barbara Pierano – Development Executive	Sal Benvenuti – Exec Administrator	

PNP's Present:

Joe Agresti Paul Alongi Anthony Gaglioti

There was a correction noted by Rich D'Arminio to the April 08 minutes. He stated the Texas Hold'em Fundraiser was a Greater Ramsey Chapter event not a District Fundraiser. The correction was recorded and the minutes were passed.

Chapter Reports:

NJ IX – DG Joe Verdone submitted written report. The District consists of 7 Chapters with 250 members. He reported of a number of events sponsored by the individual Chapters with dollars raised and recognition be bestowed upon the Chapters. He reported his partnering with Gerry Heytink and Rich D'Arminio in opening up expansion and communication with a possible new Chapter and continued development within existing Chapters. He reported the Elmwood Park Chapter has moved to NJ Dist VII with a final letter of agreement from NJ District IX to prepared to close the deal. DG Verdone's goals for the New Year were to increase membership within District and promote attendance at National Convention on behalf of EVP Andre' DiMino.

PA I – DG Joe Cerullo submitted written report. The District consists of 4 Chapters with 189 members. He shared what individual chapters did since last meeting and shared upcoming schedule for this year.

CT II – DG Mario Giovanucci reported entering 3rd year as DG. The District consists of 7 Chapters with 347 members. He opened up his reports asking, "Why is the District Report in a PDF format?" and requested a consistent method of reporting in the future. He shared what the individual chapter's accomplishments were and the plans for fundraising, membership and retention. He also shared personal observations and ideas for national officers. He submitted written report.

NJ I – DG Lisa Pizzella reported a number of her Chapters were focused on membership expansion and retention of members. Individual Chapters did a tremendous job in donating to scholarships and the Brick Chapter received a \$100,000 grant towards scholarship from Vincent DiLeo.

PA II – Chip Calabro reported the Districts 3 Chapters consist of 522 members. The District held their first District meeting on Sept 25. He shared the accomplishments and goals from each Chapter. He shared the District will be well represented at Meet the Presidents and the Eastern Regional Meeting. He's also working on expansion of a new chapter and reestablishing a chapter in Binghamton, NY. He submitted written report. On behalf of the District he donated \$150.00 to ERDG Anthony Ricciardi.

CT I – New DG Francine Nido reported she sent out letters of introduction to her 5 Chapters and her mission is for the individual Chapters to submit written reports and be held accountable. To date no reports from Chapters have been received. Her goals include to get the District together through reporting and to expand.

PA IV- DG Kenneth Vail reported the 3 Chapters in his District consist of 100 members. He shared the accomplishments and challenges of each of the Chapters.

NJ IX – DG Frank Greco submitted written report from his District meeting on September 18. He shared the District allocated \$100 for ERDG Anthony Ricciardi's travel expenses. He shared the accomplishments of the individual Chapters and the fundraising of each. He reported the District was very well represented at National Convention. The District held it's first Bocce tournament on September 21 and raised over \$6000 for Jimmy V. The District held 25th annual Columbus Day Dinner Dance on 10/13/08.

NJ IV – DG Anthony Latella thanked ERDG Anthony Ricciardi for accepting the National District Governor Award on his behalf at the Natl Convention. He thanked Unico National and all 9 Chapters in District. The District has 489 members and awarded over \$60000 in scholarships last year while also awarding 2 District scholarships. July 24 he welcomed the Montclair Chapter into District IV and thanked Gerry Heytink and Frank DiMaio in welcoming their new members. He shared the District donated \$5000 to Jimmy V and thanked PNP Paul Alongi for his Bowl-A-Thon for this cause. He asked we all support Dr. Manny Alfano in Anti-Bias. The District also donated \$250 to Human Needs Food Pantry. He will be holding 5 District meetings and asked for support of Dec 2 Christmas Party to support the Special Needs Girls from the NJ Developmental Center that Mike Corradino started 30 years ago and PNP Joe Agresti is heading up now. He asked for support of Andre' DiMino and donated \$300 to ERDG Anthony Ricciardi for expenses.

Other Business:

PNP Paul Alongi spoke about Andre's convention of which he is chair. He shared the details and preliminary events scheduled for the Convention scheduled for July 29 –Aug 2, 2009 at the Ritz Carlton in Lake Las Vegas. Room rate is \$165/night, registration is \$125/person and entertainment and food package is \$250/person. He shared a Karaoke night to raise funds for Andre is to be held November 15 in Westwood, \$35/person. Checks made to Unico Foundation '09. He will be hosting Bowl-A-Thon on January 18 and Fun night at the Villa at Mountain Lakes Feb 6 to support Andre's Presidency.

Membership and Retention Direction Richard D'Arminio shared there are 6087 members nationally, goal is to get to 12000 with a more realistic goal is 7500 by the Convention. He wants to put together proven tools that work.

Expansion Director shared November 15 is Night at the Devils where there will be an Unico Expansion Booth for the first time. Stress quickness in responding.

Guest Speaker Sal Benvenuti, the new Executive Administrator at the National Office shared with us his challenges in getting the office re-organized and hiring staff to meet the needs of the new direction of the office. He shared the recent new hires and that National President had new computers and phone system donated. He shared he is available via his personal cell phone at anytime, his number is 973-985-6772. He invited anyone to stop by and see the improvements in the office.

Mr. Benvenuti then opened the floor for questions. PNP Anthony Gaglioti posed numerous questions concerning where the money was coming from for these new hires and the changes that were occurring. He asked if anything needed to be passed through the budget committee and what is the bottomline. This prompted a healthy and energetic discussion amongst the attendee's.

New Development Executive, Barbara Peirano, shared what her new duties involved in her new role. She shared this is not about raising money for the Unico Foundation but raising money through sponsorships

for Unico National to support the Districts, Chapters and Heritage of Italian Americans. Good luck Barbara! She shared that all columns should be forward to the new Com Unico Publisher, Matt Risi.

Good and Welfare

It was requested to Frank Tidona in your prayers after he underwent a medical procedure.

The next meeting will be held in January 2009.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:10pm

Respectfully Submitted,
John Borgese
NJ District IV Secretary