

Tuesday October 21, 2008

Minutes UNICO National NJ District IV Meeting

DG Anthony Latella called the meeting to order at 7:15 pm. Meeting held at Bella Napoli . Thanks to Bloomfield Chapter President, Mike Napolitano for hosting the first meeting of our new year.

District IV Officers

District Governor	Anthony Latella
Secretary	John Borgese
Treasurer	Anthony Ricciardi
1 st Deputy D.G.	John Harris
2 nd Deputy D.G.	Sal Ingallina (absent)
1 st Alt. D.G.	Mike Napolitano
2 nd Alt. D.G.	Gene Catania
Sergeant at Arms	Lou Serafini

National Officers Present

National Sgt at Arms: John Morano
PNP: Joe Agresti
Anti-Bias Chair: Manny Alfano
Eastern Region District Governor: Anthony Ricciardi
PNP: Paul Alongi

Chapter Presidents Roll Call

Belleville	Manny Alfano
Bloomfield	Mike Napolitano
Cedar Grove	Richard Orsini
North Haledon	Gene Catania
Passaic/Clifton	David D'Arco represented by Jayson DiMaria
Passaic Valley	Carmen Criscione
Pequannock	Nick Cetani (absent)
Sparta	Gary D'Uva (absent)
Montclair	Judy Vella

The minutes from our last meeting in June were approved.

Special Presentation: ERDG, Anthony Ricciardi, presented NJ District IV DG, Anthony Latella his National District Governor of the Year Award. He was selected at the National Convention in August. DG Latella thanked his chapter Presidents and members for making NJ IV the outstanding District that it is and that the award is a District award.

DG Report:

DG Latella welcomed the Montclair Chapter formally into District IV and spoke about them having 39 members sworn in at their induction ceremony. His focus this year is making the District more efficient. Last years focus was raising money for the District scholarships. He also recognized the Belleville Chapter for having the Basilone Award recipient.

DG Latella then spoke about why he got started in Unico and what it's meant to him. He shared that focusing on recruiting new members is key that retention is equally as important. Get new members involved. He then thanked the Cedar Grove Chapter for recognizing him as National DG of the Year at their September meeting. He thanked Belleville for again throwing an outstanding Columbus Day Parade and he encouraged greater participation from other chapters in the District. He attended a Beefsteak hosted by the Passaic/Clifton Chapter to raise money for the Clifton HS Band. He spoke about the Bocce tournament hosted by NJ District XI for the V Foundation; he thanked Mike Napolitano, John Borgese and Sal Ingallina for participating with him. He shared with the holiday season approaching the importance of

giving back and donated to Deanna London, Director of the Human Needs Food Pantry in Montclair, a \$250.00 check from the District.

Guest Speakers were from ECLC who provide education and services for the learning disabled and the importance of giving one of these young adults a chance to make it in the world.

Chapter Reports:

- Cedar Grove-President Richard Orsini spoke about the Chapters participation in the CG Memorial Day Picnic where they made Zeppole's and the success of the June Awards night, where they awarded 6 \$1000.00 scholarships plus other donations to the Rescue Squad, Fire Department and North End Schools.
- Montclair-President Judy Vella said the chapter is up to 50 members. They marched in the Montclair July 4 Parade. They made a donation to Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish of \$100.00 for the San Sebastian Society. She shared the chapter marched in the NYC Columbus Day Parade and they will be holding their Christmas Party on December 4 at the Valley Regency.
- Passaic/Clifton-Jayson DiMaria represented President David D'Arco shared that the chapter held a Beefsteak where over 300 people attended and the chapter raised over \$10000.00 for the Clifton HS Band. They are planning a Texas Hold'em tournament in February
- Belleville-Manny Alfano said they are planning their Bus Trips for AC as always.
- North Haledon-John Harris represented President Gene Catania and shared their raffle of a Harley Davidson was a huge success and am looking for a great new year..
- Bloomfield-Mike Napolitano shared on September 11, they participated in the 2nd annual Veterans Appreciation Award and honored 2 people. They held a Golf Outing on October 3 and raised between \$4 –5,000.00. They are planning a membership recruiting night for January '09, February '09 will bring their successful Wrestling night where they will donate 1/3 of the proceeds to Andre' DiMino's Presidential fund.
- Passaic Valley- Carmen Criscione shared the chapter has had 2 meetings already. They held a membership Drive at West Paterson Day and a Food Drive where they donated food and money to the Holy Angels-Phil Arena Food Pantry. They entered and attended with 2 teams at the Bocce tournament. October 28 is their Italian Heritage night at Passaic Valley HS. Their annual Beefsteak is planned for January 24, 2009 with tickets available soon. They awarded 6 \$1000.00 scholarships, 1 study abroad award for \$1000.00, and Italian Studies Grant of \$1000.00 and 2 Brian Piccolo Awards. They are also planning for December 7, a Bus Ride to NYC to see the tree and have a dinner.

Committee Reports:

- Past National President, Joe Agresti, shared over \$7,000.00 was raised the NJ District XI Bocce tournament. A new Chapter in West Milford is forming. He spoke about the Eastern Regional Meeting to be held Nov 21-23 in Mystic, CT. He encouraged all that could attend to be at the Meet the President evening on November 3 at the Venetian in Garfield. And how President Strozza is encouraging communication through her monthly e-newsletter. He shared the National Office is a bit short staffed and please be patient.
- Anti-Bias: Manny Alfano shared the Italian Heritage month in NJ has been passed in the assembly but it could be a challenge on the National level. He then spoke about the importance of Christopher Columbus and some of the disparaging remarks and views that some feel about him.
- Treasury Report: Anthony Ricciardi shared the District has \$5033.83 in its coffers.
- ERDG: Anthony Ricciardi invited all that could attend his first ERDG meeting to be held on October 26 at the Holiday Inn in Totowa, cost is \$25.00/person
- PNP Paul Alongi spoke about the upcoming events he is planning for Andre' DiMino and the fundraising involved. He then awarded the trophies from his successful Bowl-A-Thon; North Haledon was the big winner.

Old Business

DG Latella shared that for the first time 2 \$1000.00 scholarships were awarded and this year we will looking to do the same. He thanked Frank Garruto for his donation towards one of the scholarships. Frank then announced he will be donating another \$1000.00 towards the Frank Garruto Memorial Scholarship again.

The District donated \$100.00 to Anti-Bias and \$5230.00 to the V Foundation at the Convention

New Business

The approval of the budget was passed

District Treasurer Ricciardi shared the District Assessments, chapters that have up to 39 members; the cost is \$7.00/member. Chapters with 40 or more members there is flat \$300.00 assessment.

Meet the President is November 3, ticket are available

No Jersey Developmental Center Christmas Party is December 2

District IV has a website, www.unico-njdistrictiv.4mg.com.

Chapters can access and forward schedules of upcoming events. Please contact Steve Pelonero for anything you'd like posted on the site at stevepelonero@verizon.net

The next District meeting is scheduled for January 29, 2009.

The meeting was adjourned at 10pm.

Respectfully submitted,

John Borgese
NJ District IV Secretary