

Tuesday January 20, 2009

Minutes UNICO National NJ District IV Meeting

DG Anthony Latella called the meeting to order at 7:30pm. Meeting held at Ballocco's in Clifton. Thanks to Passaic/Clifton Chapter President, David D'Arco for hosting the first meeting of 2009.

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
1 st Alt. D.G.	Mike Napolitano
2 nd Alt. D.G.	Gene Catania (absent)
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
PN Treasurer: Mel Parisi
Executive Administrator: Sal Benvenuti

Chapter Presidents Roll Call

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

The minutes from our last meeting in October 2008 were approved.

DG Report:

DG Latella spoke about his traditions of the holiday season and welcomed those chapters that were present. He shared there are 480 members in the District and all the chapters are strong and healthy. He noted all the chapters donated to the local needy and he thanked them all.

He then introduced Guest Speaker, VP, Richards Associates who spoke about ways the chapters and individuals can save on liability insurances. His main theme was to ask your agents for discounts, as they are available.

DG Latella then mentioned that each chapter is required to file 12 chapter reports per year. He asked that all reports be submitted. He told the story of how Dr. Vastola started Unico in 1928 with the idea of establishing scholarships for students of Italian Heritage to reach new levels in education. He mentioned that this year we will be giving out 2 scholarships at the District level, one in the name of the next oldest living past District IV DG and the other in the name of Frank Garrutto, donated by his cousin, Sam Garrutto. DG Latella then shared the former Wayne Chapter and PDG, Roy DiPietro, has a gift for the District. He then donated a \$14,000 check to establish a perpetual scholarship from the District utilizing the interest raised from the money for the awards. Roy then expressed his desire to have representation on a District Executive Scholarship Board that will pick the recipient. National Sgt. at Arms, John Morano thanked Roy for his generous gift and shared his idea of using \$500/yr towards the annual scholarship that way there would be a 28 year reward instead of waiting for the interest to accrue and just use that.

Chapter Reports:

- Cedar Grove-President Richard Orsini shared the Chapter hosted their Christmas Party with the Bloomfield Chapter held at Mayfair Farms. Also, the Chapter held its annual Turkey Drive and donated 360 turkey's to St. Lucy's Parish in Newark along with boxes of canned goods. He shared the Chapter donated \$500.00 to the Human Needs Food Pantry and that they had a table of members attend Meet the President and NJDC Christmas Party for girls. The Chapter also started a website, www.cedargroveunico.org. Some upcoming events include Night at the Races on Saturday February 28 at Pegasus at the Meadowlands; price is \$65.00/person and the inception of Super 50/50 where 200 total tickets will be sold at \$100.00/ticket and gives the recipient the opportunity to win \$10,000.00. President Orsini asked for all Chapters in the District to purchase at least 1 ticket.
- Passaic/Clifton-President David D'Arco spoke his Chapter's 60th anniversary Celebration to be held Friday march 27 at IL Tulipano. He asked for all chapters to have representation at this event that will celebrate New Jersey's 2nd oldest Chapter. He stressed how important it is for all Chapters in the District to support each other and that when asking for support also be supportive towards other Chapters. Price for this event is \$100.00/person.
- The Belleville Chapter reported they held Bus Rides to AC in November, December and January. The December Bus Trip supported Andre' DiMino's Convention. They held a membership drive on November 12 and got 9 new members. They delivered 10 food baskets to School 9 and St. Peter's Food Pantry for Thanksgiving. The Christmas holiday, the Chapter donated another 10 food baskets to School 5 and St. Peter's Pantry. One of their members, Vincent Testa passed away. The Chapter attended a Christmas Concert at St. Thomas Church and that the St. Joseph Altar will be held at St. Thomas on March 29, 2009. The Chapter will sponsor a documentary of WWII (Italian American from Chicago). PDG from NJI, Mel Parisi, is now superintendent in Belleville is promoting reaching out to Italian Teachers and get them involved in the Chapter.
- North Haledon-John Harris represented President Gene Catania and shared the chapter took place in its annual toy drive for the holidays Each Chapter Member bought a gift for a child from St. Mary's Church, approximately 40 children were given holiday gifts. The Chapter made a donation to Billy Brauch, a 5-year-old son of a North Haledon Fireman who suffers from Histiocytosis. The Chapter also reached out to the family of Luke Mete another 5 year old boy who is suffering with Cooley's Anemia. The Chapter announced they would be hosting its annual Golf Outing in June, exact date to be given later.
- Bloomfield-Mike Napolitano shared the previous night they held their 3rd annual membership drive and the Chapter is looking to bring in 10 new members. He spoke about the Wrestling Night they will be hosting on Saturday Feb 21 and that \$5000.00 of the raised proceeds will be donated directly to Andre's Convention. Ringside seats are \$25/each; doors open at 6:30 with the first match a 7:35.
- Passaic Valley- Carmen Criscione shared the chapter took care of 3 needy families donating \$600/each to them to brighten their holiday season. January 24 is their Beefsteak to be held at the Meatcutters Hall, price is \$45/person. President Criscione spoke about their annual Dinner for a Year contest involving 10-12 restaurants, \$5/ticket. He also suggested this is a contest the District should run. Their Golf Outing will be May 11 at Picatinny. He also committed to purchasing 1 ticket from the Cedar Grove Super 50/50.

Committee Reports:

- DG Latella noted that Feb 6 there is a Fun Night scheduled at the Villa at Mountain Lakes to subsidize the National Convention. He shared they are trying to get 300 people and the cost per person is \$35.00. Those members who bring a table of 10 will automatically be entered in a drawing for a \$1200.00 reward. There are 2 bands plus a comedian scheduled to perform and many gifts to be one through 50/50 drawings, (\$10/ticket or \$50/book).
- Anti-Bias: Manny Alfano shared the bill to honor October as Italian Heritage Month was passed in both the State House and Assembly. Another bill AJR99 was initiated and the state government

- are now looking to merge the 2 bills. Dr. Alfano asked for us to contact our local representation and pressure them to pass these bills to establish this month.
- Treasury Report: Anthony Ricciardi shared the District has \$3791.83 in its coffers. The Passaic Valley and Montclair chapters are the only 2 chapters to pay their assessments. Anthony stressed the importance of getting these paid. DG Latella will resend the assessments to the Chapter Presidents.
 - ERDG: Anthony Ricciardi invited all that could attend his ERDG meeting to be held on January 25 at the Holiday Inn in Totowa, cost is \$25.00/person. One of the topics on the docket is Re-Districting the Chapters.

Old Business

DG Latella shared the District's participation in the NJDC Christmas Party, the Circle of Friends Bowl-a-Thon, the Meet the President night where 67 members from the District attended, He thanked Sam Garrutto for his donation of \$1000 towards the Frank Garrutto scholarship. He also mentioned the District website and thanked PV Chapter Secretary, Steve Pelonero, for monitoring it; cards were given out with the web address on it. 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. He also noted the District made a \$250.00 donation to the Human Needs Food Pantry.

New Business

PNP Joe Agresti shared the reception for Italian Studies will be held on Wednesday February 18 from 6-8pm, details to follow.

The District will be donating a \$200.00 Program Sponsorship for Andre's Convention.

The next District meeting is Presidents only scheduled for February 17, 2009 at Castalia Trattoria

The meeting was adjourned at 9:45pm.

Respectfully submitted,

John Borgese
NJ District IV Secretary