

UNICO CHAPTER MAY NEWSLETTER

I. Monthly Chapter Dinner Meeting

The monthly chapter dinner meeting will be held on **THURSDAY, JUNE 19, 2003**, at Café Italia, 8603 N. Oak Trafficway, KCMO. Telephone number is 816-468-5800. Cocktails 6:00 p.m., dinner and meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Cost of dinner: \$15.00, cash bar. Mary DiLorenzo, telephone 816-453-1124, will be calling you to confirm your attendance. We look forward to seeing all of you on the 19th.

II. Official Induction of New Chapter members will be at the June 19th Chapter meeting:

Ron Adams	Thomas J. Parrino
Gerald B. Lee, M.D.	The Honorable Paul LeVota
Eric Parrinello	

III. May

Visit of UNICO National President John Alati and First Lady Linda-Gail, Friday, May 30 – Sunday, June 1, 2003. The visit was an outstanding success. Highlights of the weekend were a visit to the Liberty Memorial on Friday with a personal tour by Carl DiCapo; Missouri District I meeting on Saturday, May 31st at the Adams Mark Hotel with good representation from all four Missouri UNICO chapters; Royals baseball game following the district meeting; the joint UNICO chapter and scholarship dinner on Saturday evening at the Kansas City Club; Sunday Mass at St. Andrew the Apostle Church celebrated by Father Mancuso, with a special medley of Italian songs by the grade school children following Mass, and brunch for all who attended Mass.

A special thanks to all of you who helped to make the presidential couple's visit such a great success, especially Joe Nastasi, Scholarship Chairman, and Jim Murray for his tireless assistance! A special thanks to the Greater Kansas City and South Kansas City Chapters for assisting with the planning and also with financial support, and to the St. Louis chapter for participating in the May 31st events. Special recognition is given to Mr. Tom Parrino who donated \$8,000 to further enhance the Italian studies/language program at St. Andrew the Apostle School. Tom was honored at the dinner where he presented the \$8,000 check to Father Mancuso.

John Alati said to me, **"The trip to Kansas City was one of the most pleasurable weekends of his tenure as UNICO National President, and the start of what will**

be a strong relationship.” See attached copy of scholarship dinner program for those of you who could not attend.

IV. **June**

Installation of Officers and Directors will be held at our June 19th monthly chapter dinner meeting. All current officers and directors were re-elected for a second term beginning July 1, 2003 – June 30, 2004, as follows:

President: Ross Marine

1st Vice President: Joe Nastasi

2nd Vice President: John David DiCapo

3rd Vice President: Tony Marengo

Secretary: Steve Lampone

Corresponding Secretary: Jim Murray

Treasurer: Tom Rago

Assistant Treasurer: Phil Balano

Sgt. Of Arms: Charlie Malaponte

Telephone Officer: Mary DiLorenzo

V. **Upcoming Events**

UNICO National Convention, San Antonio, Texas, August 13-17, 2003. See attached registration form. As you are all aware, Carl DiCapo and Tony Severino will be receiving two top UNICO National awards at the convention. We will discuss more details at the June 19th meeting.

2003 Ethnic Enrichment Festival, August 15-17, Swope Park, KCMO.

Steve Lampone and Joe Galetti have agreed to serve as Co-Chairmen of the Ethnic enrichment Festival UNICO Kansas City Chapter booth. With a number of chapter members attending the national convention at the same time, Steve and Joe will need your help. We will discuss further details at the June 19th meeting. Last year, as in prior years, the fund raising effort of having a booth at the festival has been a success. I ask for your help and assistance this year to make it another successful event.

2003 LaGioia Della Vita Festa Jim Murray is in the process of putting together a committee to assist with the organization and coordination of the Festa on Sunday, October 12, 2003, at the Uptown Theater. Time is getting short and Jim needs your help. Mark Prece, Sr, Chief Chef, American Italian Pasta Company, has agreed to assist us again this year. Thanks, Mark! This is our major fund raising event to support our scholarship program. The “I Am An American” awardee for 2003 will be Dr. Anthony “Tony” Leonard Tocco, head men’s soccer coach and professor and head of the Accounting Department at Rockhurst University. More details at the June 19th meeting.

VI. **Membership recruitment and retention** The life-blood and success of any service organization is recruitment of new members and retention of current members. This past year the chapter has been successful in recruiting 11 new members, raising our membership from 61 as of 07/01/02 to 72 on 06/01/03. We, as a chapter, need to ensure that all members (new and old) feel engaged and a part of chapter activities,

