

December 2020
Year 18
Issue 182

Passaic Valley UNICO

Our December 2020 Monthly Newsletter



Passaic Valley UNICO
PO Box 341
Little Falls, NJ 07424

Serving
Little Falls
Totowa
Woodland Park

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Website www.PassaicValleyUNICO.org
Website www.UNICOmembers.com
Website www.Facebook.com/PassaicValleyUNICO
Website www.UNICO.org
Email PassaicValleyUNICO@gmail.com

A Message from our Chapter President

Ciao Passaic Valley UNICO Chapter members, friends and family

I hope You all enjoyed this past Thanksgiving Holiday wherever you were able to celebrate. We all have to be thankful that we were safe and look forward to the best Holiday season coming upon us.

We would normally be looking forward to celebrating the most joyous time of the year but again this pandemic has thrown us another curve ball.

Our Christmas cheer committee, headed by Bob Appaluccio, is preparing to present our annual gifts to needy families in our area. We also have Roni Corrado to thank for her neve ending devotion to the food banks. We will have a tally of the gifts at our meeting.

I want to thank all of our members for their generous contributions to the Christmas cheer and food banks.

Our usual Christmas meeting will unfortunately be a zoom meeting.

I am hoping the New Year will be a great one for all of us so we can get on with the business at hand.

My deepest wishes to everyone and their families for a very Merry Christmas and a healthy Happy New Year! Stay Safe and Be Well

BUON NATLE,,,,,,,,

Your Chapter President, Eileen Wood



December Birthdays

12-05 Jean Chomko
12-28 Lauren Lalama

Photo Albums

All our chapter event pictures can be seen on our website ... Additional pictures from our "NJ IV District" and also a lot from our "UNICO National" events can also be seen on their websites.

www.PassaicValleyUNICO.org

www.UNICO.org

www.UNICO-NJdistrictIV.4mg.com

Food Pantry

Please do not forget about our UNICO Phil Arena and our many other Food Pantries ... Your non-perishable donation will help restock them

Please contact our Food Pantry Chair, Roni Corrado, on how you can help

Upcoming Events – Local and National

December 9, 2020 ... 2nd Wednesday ... The tentative evening for our monthly Zoom chapter meeting ... More information will follow

December 15, 2020 ... Our chapter deadline to get our chapter dues in so that we can work on updating our chapter member list and get it in to UNICO National with our final payment as well ... Please pay your dues as early as possible

July 21-24, 2021 ... Wednesday through Saturday ... The 98th Annual UNICO Convention where our PV chapter member, Steve Pelonero, gets sworn in as our next UNICO National President ... "Save the Dates"

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From your chapter secretary: Steve Pelonero

Dues reminder notices are sent out every month but only to the members who we show have not paid them yet. If you get a letter in the mail, and you think that you have paid it, please contact us. We will check our records ... but we might ask for a copy of the cashed check. Thank you for understanding and for your service to and with UNICO




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## Below are our UNICO's CORE VALUES

If you know of someone who has them or  
If you know of someone who would like to help us make a difference  
Please invite them to a meeting and possibly have them  
join our chapter as a new member

**U – Unity**  
**N – Neighborliness**  
**I – Integrity**  
**C – Charity**  
**O – Opportunity**

**"Service Above Self"**

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**Did You Know:  
Christmas Traditions  
in Italy**

After what is thought of as a light dinner on Christmas Eve, Christmas Day is all about feasting in Italy. Nowadays many Italian families celebrate Christmas with gifts from 'BabboNatale,' Italy's Father Christmas. Some families wait until the 'Epifania' or Epiphany on January 6th to exchange gifts

Click <<< [here](#) >>> for a lot more of our Italian Traditions in Italy (and maybe even here) during the Christmas season

**ComUNICO**

You can now read the Com-UNICO magazine online, just by clicking on the cover page below



**Who's Who**

**Our 2020-2021 Executive Board**

|                               |                |
|-------------------------------|----------------|
| President .....               | Eileen Wood    |
| 1st Vice President .....      | Pat Ligouri    |
| 2nd Vice President .....      | Dominick Bucci |
| Treasurer .....               | Bruce Ponchak  |
| Recording Secretary .....     | Steve Pelonero |
| Sgt. At-Arms .....            | Jim Minnella   |
| Corresponding Secretary ..... | John Morano    |

**Our 2020-2021 Board of Directors**

|                   |                        |             |
|-------------------|------------------------|-------------|
| Carmen Gaita      | Past Chapter President | 2018 & 2019 |
| Bruce Ponchak     | Past Chapter President | 2016 & 2017 |
| John Barbieri     | Past Chapter President | 2014 & 2015 |
| Robert Appaluccio | Past Chapter President | 2012 & 2013 |
| Steve Pelonero    | Past Chapter President | 2010 & 2011 |
| Carmen Criscione  | Past Chapter President | 2008 & 2009 |

**Our 2020-2021 Chapter Delegates**

President Eileen Wood ... 55 Members (President +3)  
 Delegates and alternates: To be voted on at a chapter meeting  
 Delegates represent our chapter vote at regional and national meetings

**Fundraising Committee Heads**

|                                            |                  |
|--------------------------------------------|------------------|
| Christmas Family Gifts .....               | Bob Appaluccio   |
| Food Pantry .....                          | Roni Corrado     |
| Overseas Armed Service Care Packages ..... | Pasquale Corrado |

**Non-Fundraising Committee Heads**

|                                                      |                                 |
|------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Christmas Tree Lighting w/ Candy Cane Giveaway ..... | Joe Agresti PNP                 |
| Community Service Day (April).....                   | Pat Ligouri                     |
| Good and Welfare .....                               | Sal Nocella                     |
| Membership .....                                     | John Barbieri                   |
| Newsletter .....                                     | Steve Pelonero                  |
| Scholarship / Brian Piccolo .....                    | Chuck Russo                     |
| Study Abroad College Grants .....                    | Joseph Agresti PNP              |
| Website .....                                        | Steven Pelonero / John Barbieri |

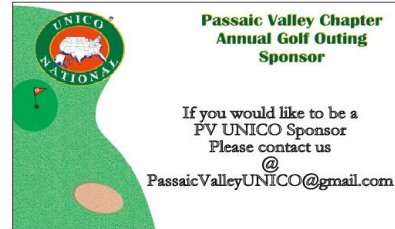
## Committee Comments

*Would you like to be on a committee?  
 Would you like to be a chapter officer?  
 Do you have a Fundraising idea?*

*Please step up and  
 Serve our Chapter, our Community  
 and UNICO National*

*Keep us strong*

*Let more people know what we do*



*Do you know of some who would like to sponsor our UNICO Chapter?*

*For just \$100.00 for the year,  
 it gets them in this newsletter and  
 on our chapter website  
 for our entire UNICO year.*

*Please contact us via our chapter email:  
[PassaicValleyUNICO@gmail.com](mailto:PassaicValleyUNICO@gmail.com)  
 Or use our website to fill out the online form  
[www.PassaicValleyUNICO.org](http://www.PassaicValleyUNICO.org)*

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Chapter Scholarship

If any member has a family member that is graduating high school, please contact our chapter scholarship chair, Carmen Gaita @ 973-256-2224. He will see if they are eligible for one of our chapter awards

Our Italian Heritage ~ December in Italy

- *The average temperature in Italy in December is 13°C, which is 55°F*
- *The first major holiday in Italy in December is the Immaculate Conception on December 8*
- *The most important holiday of the Christmas season is actually the Epiphany, on January 6*
 - *In Italy, the day after Christmas is St. Stephan's Day*
- *Here is a link to see and read more about Italy in December >>> [Click here](#)*

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*Welcome December*

*Benvenuto dicembre*

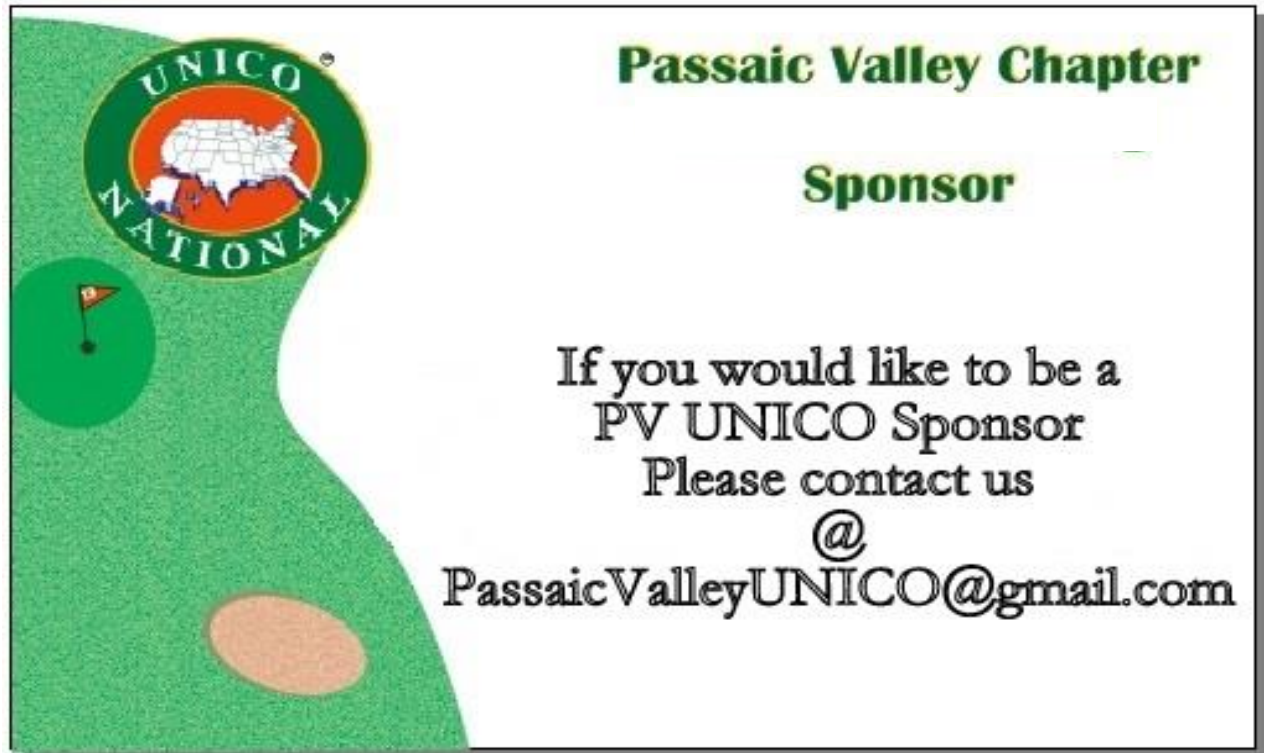




## *It's "Never Too Late"*

*We will advertise your business, or your personal ad ~ Only \$100.00*

*See page 7*



### *Our UNICO Charities*

#### *UNICO National*

*Armed Services ~ Columbus Day ~ Heritage & Photo Calendar*

#### *UNICO Foundation*

*21<sup>st</sup> century ~ Anti-Bias ~ Cancer Research & Prevention*

*Cooley's Anemia ~ Italian Studies ~ Mental Health*

*Scholarships ~ Torracco Food Bank/Shelter*

**About UNICO** ~ UNICO is the largest Italian American Service Organization in the United States  
Unity, Neighborliness, Integrity, Charity, Opportunity

UNICO was founded on October 10, 1922 in Waterbury, Connecticut. A group of 15 men, led by Dr. Anthony P. Vastola, came together to create what has become a very special and very proud organization. It was Dr. Vastola's dream to create an Italian American service organization to engage in charitable works, support higher education, and perform patriotic deeds. Our motto is "Service Above Self".

Each year, the UNICO Foundation and the UNICO National Chapters across the country donate approximately \$1 million to various charities. Scholarships continue to be the primary focus of UNICO, as roughly one-third of all monies raised goes to deserving students from all of the chapter locations throughout the chain.

UNICO National has funded major research in Cooley's Anemia and Mental Health. Through its association with the Jimmy Valvano Foundation it has funded over 10, \$50,000 grants to help find a cure for Cancer. These worthy areas continue to receive generous support from the chapters and its members for these worthy causes.

If you would like to attend one of our meetings to see if you might be interested in joining UNICO, please contact us through any member, or through our email. We would be honored to have you as a member of our Passaic Valley UNICO Chapter.

*A Special thanks*

*To our 2019-2020 Sponsors and Supporters*

*We sincerely appreciated your generosity*

*For those that would like to help us in 2020-2021*

*You can reach us at*

*[PassaicValleyUNICO@gmail.com](mailto:PassaicValleyUNICO@gmail.com)*

*Or you can ask any chapter member for more information*

*Just \$100 gets you in every issue of this newsletter and on our chapter website for our UNICO year  
2020-2021*

*[www.PassaicValleyUNICO.org](http://www.PassaicValleyUNICO.org)*

