

January 2021  
Year 18  
Issue 183

# Passaic Valley UNICO

## Our January 2021 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](http://www.PassaicValleyUNICO.org)  
Website [www.UNICOMembers.com](http://www.UNICOMembers.com)  
Website [www.Facebook.com/PassaicValleyUNICO](https://www.Facebook.com/PassaicValleyUNICO)  
Website [www.UNICO.org](http://www.UNICO.org)  
Email [PassaicValleyUNICO@gmail.com](mailto:PassaicValleyUNICO@gmail.com)

## A Message from our Chapter President

Ciao PASSAIC VALLEY UNICO CHAPTER MEMBERS, FRIENDS AND FAMILY

FELICE ANNO NUOVO 2021!

Well, here we go into 2021! This is bound to be another year of uncertainty for all of us. I hope you all were able to enjoy the Christmas Holiday with family as best you could.

The new vaccine, three of which have been approved, is on the way for all of us. I hope you all consider getting this vaccine to protect yourselves from this terrible demon. With that said, let's try to get on with the business at hand of the service we offer to everyone. I would like to hear from you all as to any suggestions for fund raisers.

The 2021 Convention is coming soon, and it would be great to finally have Steve inducted as UNICO NATIONAL 2021 PRESIDENT. Let's try to celebrate him with taking out a Journal Ad. It can be done as group members or individually. See Joe Agresti's email with the Journal form he sent to all. We will discuss it further at our next meeting.

Again, FELICE ANNO NUOVO!

REGARDS,

Eileen Wood, Chapter President



**January Birthdays**

01-22 Dominic Giuliano

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

[www.UNICO.org](http://www.UNICO.org)

[www.UNICO-NJdistrictIV.4mg.com](http://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**

**January 13, 2021** ... 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday ... The tentative evening for our chapter meeting ... More information will follow

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

~~~~~



**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"**





**Some Reminders for the new year**

Months and days in Italian are all lowercase letters  
 ex: gennaio - January  
 ex: lunedì - Monday

As FBI, CIA and UNICEF are all capital letters ...  
 UNICO is also spelt with all capital letters

Have Hope  
 See the good  
 Choose to be happy  
 Enjoy today  
 Forgive readily  
 Become the best you

**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

*Our Chapter Members  
And their Families  
During the 2020 Christmas Season*



*These are the families who submitted their Holiday Photos*



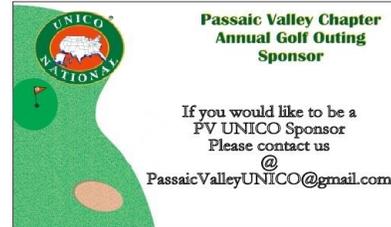
## Committee & Comments

*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)*

### 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 ~ January in Italy

- Italians kick off the Christmas season (and start decorating) on the Day of the Immaculate Conception, December 8*
- Along with the fancy lights, wreaths, trees, and presepi (nativity scenes) are displayed in many churches and piazzas. Crafting these ornate works of art by hand remains an artisanal tradition in many parts of the country*
- To prepare and purify their bodies for Christmas Day, Italians avoid meat on la Vigilia (Christmas Eve). Although the idea is to eat lean, most indulge on multiple courses of fish... sometimes as many as seven*

### Dominick Bucci, our chapter 2<sup>nd</sup> VP

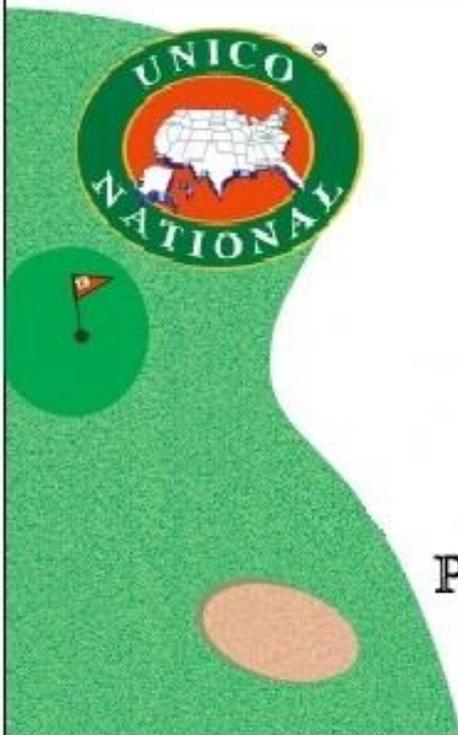
*is wishing everyone a healthy 2021, and is looking forward to when  
Steve Pelonero, our chapter member, becomes our UNICO National President at the 98<sup>th</sup> UNICO Convention*

### Welcome January ~ Benvenuto gennaio



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

*We will advertise your business, or your personal ad ~ Only \$100.00 See page 7*



**Passaic Valley Chapter**

**Sponsor**

If you would like to be a  
PV UNICO Sponsor  
Please contact us  
@  
PassaicValleyUNICO@gmail.com

### **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 past 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)*

