

February 2021  
Year 18  
Issue 184

# Passaic Valley UNICO

## Our February 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, FAMILY AND FRIENDS

*My best wishes for a Very Happy and Healthy 2021 New Year to you all!*

*The winter has finally come, by the time you all read this we will have had some decent amount of snow to deal with.*

*Unfortunately, there is not much we have coming up in the next few months to discuss. But I do want to thank you all for your generous contributions to the Food Banks. We should continue this donating trend to help support our local Food Pantries in the coming months.*

*The vaccine is finally here, and I hope you were able to obtain an appointment to get your shot and that you are not having any after-effects from it.*

*On a positive note, our golf committee chair is diligently working on the logistics for our annual golf outing which supports our Scholarship Program. More to follow in our next newsletter and also on our chapter website @ [www.PassaicValleyUNICO.org](http://www.PassaicValleyUNICO.org)*

*Hope to see you all at our next zoom meeting. Details to follow.*

*With that, I am closing out and wishing you all a Very Happy Valentine's Day!*

*Eileen Wood, Chapter President*



**February Birthdays**

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Chuck Russo
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Jay Sisti
- 8<sup>th</sup> Eileen Wood
- 12<sup>th</sup> Joyce O'Hara
- 15<sup>th</sup> Jim Cestone
- 22<sup>nd</sup> John Morano

**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**

February 10 ... 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday ... Zoom Chapter Meeting ... More information to follow

June ... Our tentative month for our Annual Golf Outing ... More information will follow

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**More days to know about in February:**

- |                            |                          |
|----------------------------|--------------------------|
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> Tuesday    | Ground Hog Day           |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> Wednesday  | Feed the Birds Day       |
| 7 <sup>th</sup> Sunday     | Super Bowl 55            |
| 12 <sup>th</sup> Friday    | Lincoln's Birthday       |
| 14 <sup>th</sup> Sunday    | Valentines Day           |
| 15 <sup>th</sup> Monday    | President's Day          |
| 16 <sup>th</sup> Tuesday   | Mardi Gras – Fat Tuesday |
| 17 <sup>th</sup> Wednesday | Ash Wednesday            |
| 22 <sup>nd</sup> Monday    | Washington's Birthday    |



**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”**





**February Trivia**

Over time, the length of February kept changing. At one point, it had as little as 23 days.

If you were born in February, your birthstone is an amethyst and your flower is a primrose.

The name of February comes from the Latin word "februum" which means purification which was like an early Roman spring cleaning festival.

February is the only month where it's possible to go the entire time without having a full moon.

**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 Italian Heritage ~ February in Italy*

*February is frigid in most parts of Italy, but is not without its festivities. There's Valentine's Day and Carnevale, and many Italian schools observe a winter break called Settimana Bianca - White Week — a time for skiing and sledding.*

*Carnivale: The best known Carnival celebrations in Italy take place in Venice and Viareggio, a seaside town in Tuscany. Near Rome, the town of Ronciglione is known for its carnival and riderless horse race, which have origins that date back to the 16th century.*



*Welcome February ~ Benvenuto febbraio*

## Committee & Comments

### *Chapter Scholarship*

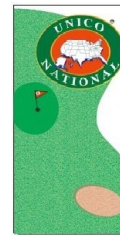
*If any member has a family member that is graduating high school, please contact our chapter scholarship chair, Carmen Gaita @ 973-256-2224. He will see if they are eligible for one of our chapter awards*

*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*



**Passaic Valley Chapter  
Annual Golf Outing  
Sponsor**

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

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

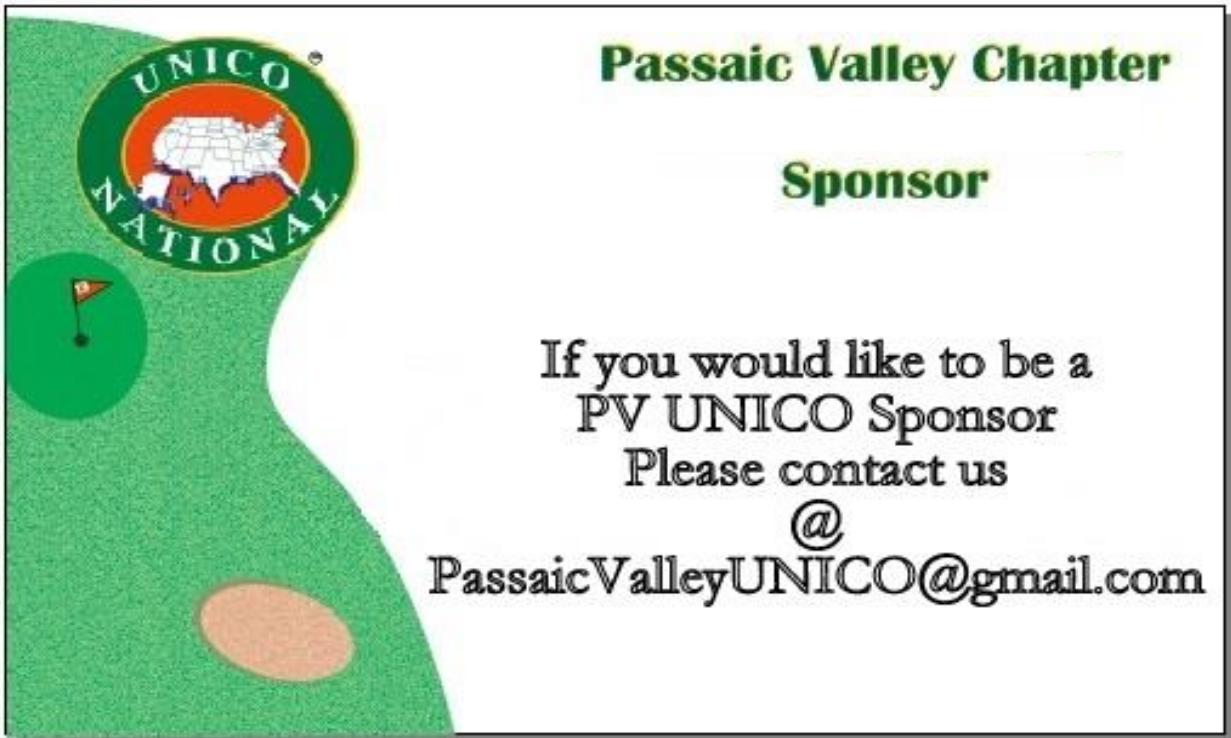
*For just \$100.00 for the year,  
it gets them in this newsletter and  
on our chapter website  
for our entire UNICO year.*

*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)*



## *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 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)*

