August 2023 Year 21

Issue 214

Passaic Valley UNICO

Our November 2023 Monthly Newsletter



Passaic Valley UNICO PO Box 341 Little Falls, NJ 07424

Serving

Little Falls Totowa Woodland Park

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Chapter Website www.PassaicValleyUNICO.org Chapter Website www.UNICOmembers.com

Facebook Page www.Facebook.com/PassaicValleyUNICO
Instagram Page www.Instagram.com/PassaicValleyUNICO

District Website www.UNICONJIV.yolasite.com

National Website www.UNICO.org

Chapter Email PassaicValleyUNICO@gmail.com

A Message from our Chapter President

Here we are in November, a time for family holiday events as well as with some upcoming UNICO events such as our November 8th Chapter meeting at Casa Arturo. There we will have the tickets that must be paid that night for the District Christmas Party event at The Brownstone on December 5th. \$60.00 per person to attend!!

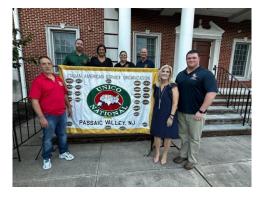
A thank you to Carmen Gaita and Pat Pelonero for chairing our Food Pantry. Our Holiday Cheer Donations and Gift Cards would be gratefully accepted as well at our November meeting (for that please see Carmen Gaita, Joe Benvenuti, or Sal Benvenuti). Let's not forget those less fortunate families in our community.

On behalf of myself, the Executive Board and our Chapter Board of Directors we wish you and your families a Happy Thanksgiving.

In Italian, Thanksgiving is "Giorno del Ringraziamento" Dominick J. Bucci ~ Passaic Valley UNICO President

rinick at our Italian Flag Raising, with Sanator Co

Chapter President Dominick at our Italian Flag Raising, with Senator Corrado and Mayor James Damiano, along with the Little Falls Town Council





November Birthdays "Happy Birthday"

11-1 Gerry Gaeta 11-15 Alexander Martin 11-15 John Barbieri 11-22 Sal Benvenuti

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 Chairs, Carmen Gait or Patricia Pelonero on how you can help.

Upcoming Events – Local and National

<u>November 5 + 6</u> ~ Sunday and Monday ~ <u>UNICO National Eastern Region Meeting</u> ~ More information is on the UNICO National website ~ www.UNICO.org

<u>November 8, 2023</u> $\sim 2^{nd}$ Wednesday \sim <u>Chapter Monthly Meeting</u> \sim Casa Arturo in Little Falls ~ 7 pm $\sim BYO \sim 35.00 per person

November 24, 2023 ~ Thursday ~ Thanksgiving Day

<u>December 5, 2023</u> ~ Tuesday ~ <u>Special Needs Christmas Dinner</u> ~ At the Brownstone ~ \$60.00 per person ~ Advance ticket sale required

<u>December 9</u> ~ Saturday ~ <u>District Bus ride to NYC</u> ~ Bryant Park and then Puglia's for dinner ~ Must pre-pay \$110.00 ~ It is possible sold out but please check with Joe Agresti if you are interested.

April 7, 2024 ~ Our first Cornhole Tournament ~ Flier is on Page 5



Below are our UNICO's CORE VALUES

If you know of someone who has them and 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

"<u>Service A</u>bove Self"



UNICO Charities Foundation Charities

- ... Cancer Research
- ... Coolev's Anemia
- ... Food Bank
- ... Italian Studies
- ... Mental Health
- ... Scholarship
- ... St. Jude's Hospital

National Charities

- ... Anti Bias
- ... Armed Forces
- ... Columbus Day
- ... Heritage Calendar

Did You Know?

While the American Thanksgiving is always celebrated on the fourth Thursday of November, it's not a national holiday in Italy, which means... adults have to go to work and schools are open.

Italians celebrating the holiday often move the meal to the Friday or Saturday following the official day of Thanksgiving. That way, it's a more relaxed occasion and guests are more likely to be able to attend.

Watching the Macy's Thanksgiving day parade has been an American tradition since 1924. It's not an Italian tradition, but if they want to watch it, they need to use a VPN and stream it through an American network.

ComUNICO

You can now read the Com-UNICO magazine on the internet Just click or go here >>> www.unico.org/comUNICO

Who's Who

Our 2023-2024 Executive Board

President	Dominick Bucci
1st Vice President	Carmen Criscione
2nd Vice President	Joe Benvenuti
Treasurer	Bruce Ponchak
Secretary	Steve Pelonero
Sgt. At-Arms	John Morano
Corresponding Secretary	John Morano

Our 2023-2024 Board of Directors

Steve Pelonero	Past Chapter President	2010 & 2011
John Barbieri	Past Chapter President	2014 & 2015
Bruce Ponchak	Past Chapter President	2016 & 2017
Carmen Gaita	Past Chapter President	2018 & 2019
Eileen Wood	Past Chapter President	2020 & 2021

Our 2023-2024 Chapter Delegates

President Dominick Bucci ... 58 Members (President +3)

Delegate: Jean Chomko Delegate: Sal Benvenuti Delegate: Patricia Pelonero

(Delegates represent our chapter and are urged to attend our district, regional, and national meetings, especially if a vote is called for)

Our 2023-2024 Fundraising Committee Heads

Cornhole Tournament	John Barbieri
Food Pantry	Carmen Gait and Patricia Pelonero
Golf Outing	Joe Barone
Holiday Cheer	Carmen Gaita, Joe Benvenuti, Sal Benvenuti
Overseas Armed Service Care Packages	Open - To be appointed

Non-Fundraising Committee Heads

Community Service Day (April)	Charles Russo
Good and Welfare	Sal Nocella
Heritage	Angelo Verrone
	Steve Pelonero PNP
Nominating Chair	Open - To be appointed
	Christina Castillo & Roni Corrado
Scholarship / Brian Piccolo	Charles Russo
Study Abroad College Grants	Cav. Joseph Agresti PNP
Website	Steven Pelonero PNP
Website Member Section	John Barbieri

It happened in October Our Italian Flag Raising in Little Falls ~ October 2nd





Please Welcome our newest chapter member At our October Meeting ~ Marisa Panicucci





Sunday, April 7, 2024

The Passaic Valley Chapter of UNICO is sponsoring our FIRST Cornhole Tournament at the Totowa PAL, 150 Chamberlain Ave, Totowa

Registration includes plenty of Italian Style food 11:00 am Sign-in and Registration 11:30 am Start Time

Prizes for 1st & 2nd place winners

All Guests will be charged \$25 which includes all food.

\$40 per person, 2 person teams

Participants minimum age, 18 Yr. old

Pre-Register by Feb. 25, 2024 and save \$5.00 per person



You can also participate in four different Cornhole versions for an additional donation

Proceeds will go toward

Local High School and College Scholarships Local Food Banks Holiday Donations Needy Families

This is sure to be a FUN event for ALL!

Email your questions to: Cornhole@Unicomembers.com

Italian Heritage Photo From the 2023 UNICO Heritage Calendar The Month of November ~ A Produce Stand in Italy



Among the many different fruits and vegetables, peaches are one of the most popular fruits grown in Italy.

Named after the province they originated from, Pesca di Verona, they come in three varieties:

Polpa Bianca (white-fleshed peaches), Polpa Gialla (yellow-fleshed peaches),

and Nettarina a Polpa Gialla (yellow-fleshed nectarine)

This photo was taken in Italy by a UNICO member from the Binghamton, NY chapter

Where is your Italian Heritage From



Committee & Comments

Armed Service Cre Packages

Our chapter is in need of a chair for this committee. Please see chapter President Dominick if you are interested.

Chapter Dues Notice

This month of November is the last month that you pay your chapter dues. The deadline to pay them is at the November 8th meeting. There are only 7 members left that we hope get them in. We hope that you will stay on board with us and help us in giving back as a group of members who embrace the Service Above Self motto. See you in November.

Chapter Sponsors

How many do you know and support? ~ See pages 10-17.

Food Pantry ~ Carmen Gaita and Patricia Pelonero

Donations for our local food pantries can always be brought to any chapter meeting (non-perishable items, money or food gift cards). Thank you always for your support.

From or Chapter 2nd VP ~ Joe Benvenuti

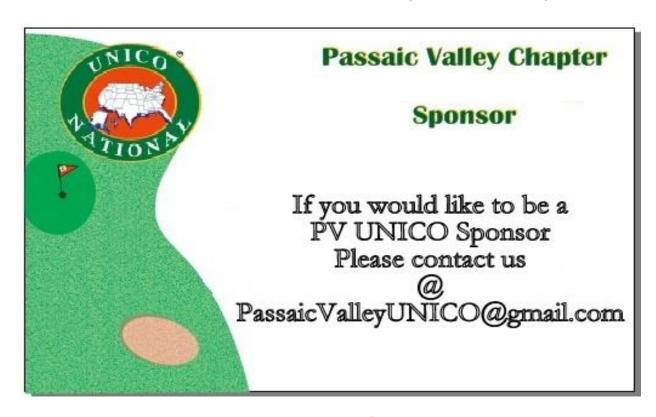
I would like to wish all our members and families a very Happy and Thankful Thanksgiving.

Holiday Cheer ~ Joe Benvenuti, Sal Benvenuti, Carmen Gaita

Collections are now being taken from our chapter members (and others) for the Christmas Cheer Baskets for our town's needy families. Please bring any donations to the November 8th meeting at Casa Arturo. Cash or a check should be made out to Passaic Valley UNICO (memo Holiday Cheer). Thank you all for your support.

Italian Cartoon of the Month





Our UNICO Charities

UNICO National

Armed Services ~ Columbus Day ~ Heritage & Photo Calendar

UNICO Foundation

21st century ~ Anti-Bias ~ Cancer Research & Prevention Cooley's Anemia ~ Italian Studies ~ Mental Health Scholarships ~ Torraco 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".

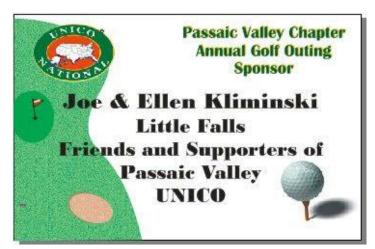
Each year, the UNICO Foundation and the UNICO National Chapters across the country donate approximately \$1 million to various charities. Scholarships continue to be the primary focus of UNICO, as roughly one-third of all monies raised goes to deserving students from all the chapter locations throughout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

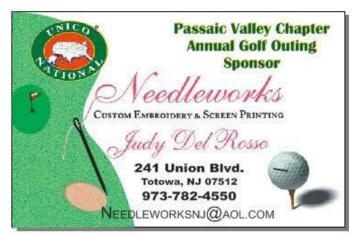
UNICO National has funded major research in Cooley's Anemia and Mental Health. Through its association with the Jimmy Valvano Foundation, it has funded over 10, \$50,000 grants to help find a cure for Cancer. These worthy areas continue to receive generous support from the chapters and its members for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

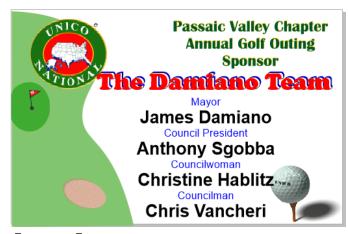
If you would like to attend one of our meetings to see if you might be interested in joining UNICO, please contact us through any member, or through our email. We would be honored to have you as a member of our Passaic Valley UNICO Chapter.

"78"

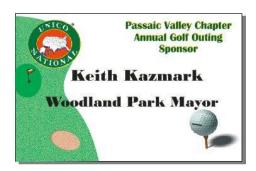


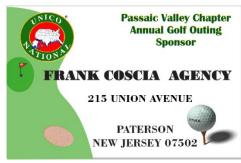


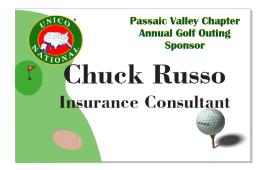




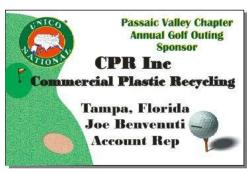


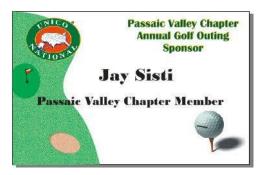




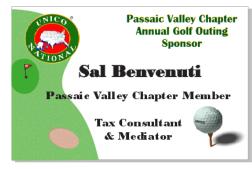




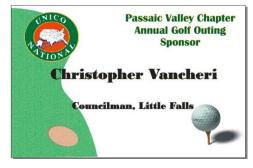


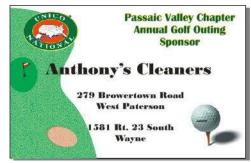


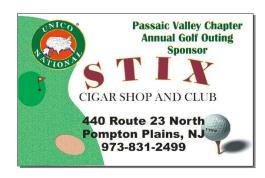




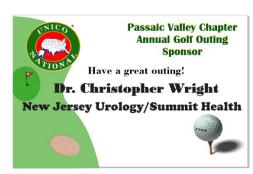


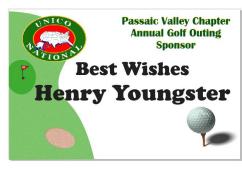










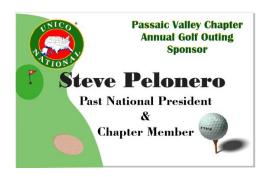


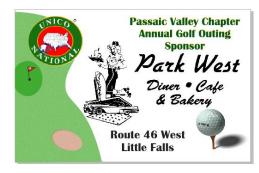




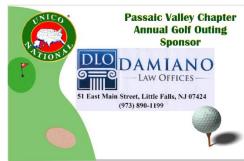






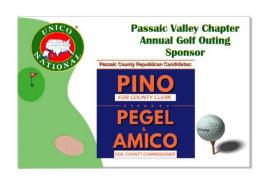




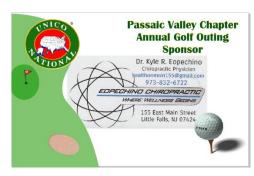




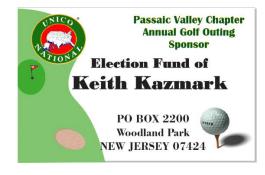


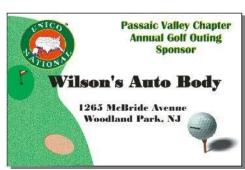








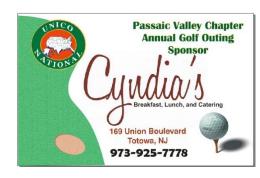










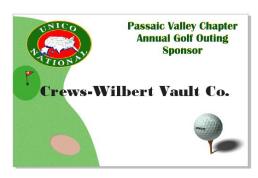
















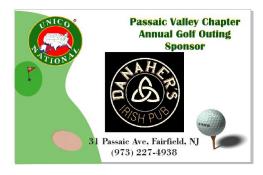






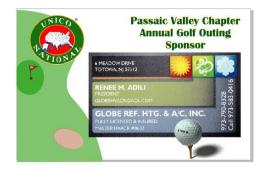


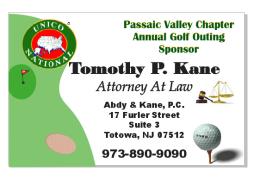










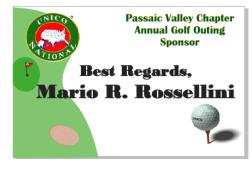




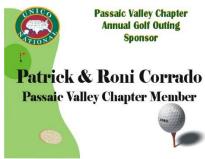












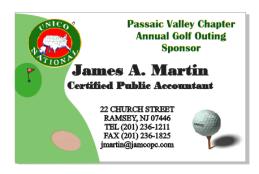


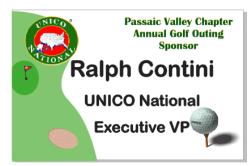




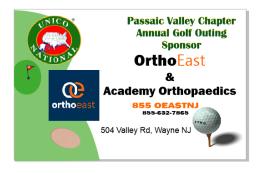






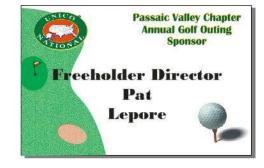








Marian J. Rabel





You too can be a proud sponsor of our Passaic Valley UNICO Chapter ~ It is never too late You will be in every newsletter for our 2023-2024 year.

And, if received early enough, you will also have a sign on one of the 18 holes at our Annual Golf Outing on June 19th.

Please see the golf flier on page 5 of this newsletter for more information