August 2023

Year 21

Issue 215

Passaic Valley UNICO

Our December 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

I hope that everyone enjoyed their Thanksgiving with friends and family.

December has some great evens that we have planned as well as community events. There is a tree lighting in Little Falls, Our Christmas Dinner with our Special Need Friends is the most satisfying thing that we do every year. There is also the Holiday Cheer Donations to some needy families in our service communities.

I hope and wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Healthy New Year

Buon Natale

Your Chapter President Dominick Bucci and Executive Board & Board of Directors





December Birthdays "Happy Birthday"

12-5 Jean Chomko

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 nonperishable donation will help restock them.

Please contact our Food Pantry Chairs, Carmen Gait or Patricia Pelonero on how you can help or with your donation

Upcoming Events – Local and National

December 1, 2023 ~ Friday ~ Little Falls Christmas Tree Lighting ~ Our UNICO table will be there at 5:30 pm for a 7 pm lighting ~ Memorial Park (Wilmore Road) ~ Come and visit our Passaic Valley UNICO Table

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

Decembre 5, 2023 ~ Tuesday ~ Please note that the Special Needs Dinner will take the place of our December Chapter Meeting.

December 8, 2023 ~ Friday ~ UNICO National Office Holiday Party ~ 4 pm – 8 pm.

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

January 10, 2024 $\sim 2^{nd}$ Wednesday \sim Monthly Chapter Meeting \sim Casa Arturo $\sim 35.00 $\sim BYOB \sim RSVP$ will be sent out.

February 13, 2024 ~ Tuesday ~ Not to conflict with Valentines Day, which is February 14, this Tuesday, Feb. 13th, Tuesday, is our monthly chapter meeting at Holy Cross Church ~ 7 pm dinner ~ 8 pm meeting.

March 8, 1972 ~ This is the day that our chapter was originally chartered as Little Falls UNICO ~ The name was later changed to Passaic Valley UNICO.

March 13, $2024 \sim 2^{nd}$ Wednesday ~ Monthly Chapter Meeting ~ More information will follow.

April 7, 2024 ~ Our first Cornhole Tournament ~ Flier is on Page 4.

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 Above Self</u>"



UNICO Charities Foundation Charities

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

National Charities

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

Christmas in Italy

[] Christmas trees and giftgiving have long been staples of Italian Christmas, il Natale.

[] The special thing about Christmas in Italy are the shared and joyful traditions of families and communities. [] For most Italians, the celebration of the Christmas season begins on Christmas Eve, or shortly before, and runs until the Epiphany—the traditional Twelfthtide. [] Italians celebrate New Year's Eve (San Silvestro) and New Year's Day (Capodanno), like the rest of the West, and they celebrate the day of the Epiphany

ComUNICO

the **Befana**

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

or Epifania, on January 6, personified by the figure of

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	
Sgt. At-Arms	
Corresponding Secretary	

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 Gaita 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	Joe Benvenuti
<i>Heritage</i>	Angelo Verrone
	Steve Pelonero PNP
Nominating Chair	Open - To be appointed
Publicity	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 Rarbieri



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 ~ December 2023 Gondola in the Grand Canal in Venice



Venice is known as the "City of Canals". Venice consists of 118 islands. There are 177 canals in Venice of which this S-shaped Grand Canal is the largest. It divides the city into two. The average depth of the canals are roughly 4.9 to 6.5 feet deep. The Grand Canal has an average depth of 16.4 feet. You cannot swim in the canals in the historic center of Venice. You can face a crime if you do.

This photo was taken by a UNICO member from the North Shore, Long Island Chapter

Where is your Italian Heritage From



Committee & Comments

Armed Service Care Packages

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

Chapter Sponsors

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

Christmas Tree Lighting in Little Falls

You are all invited to the Little Falls Christmas Tree Lighting on Wilmore Road (Tank Park). Our UNICO table will be there at 5:30 pm to serve many treats. The lighting takes place at 7 pm ~ Please stop by and say hello.

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.

Holiday Cheer ~ Joe Benvenuti, Sal Benvenuti, Carmen Gaita

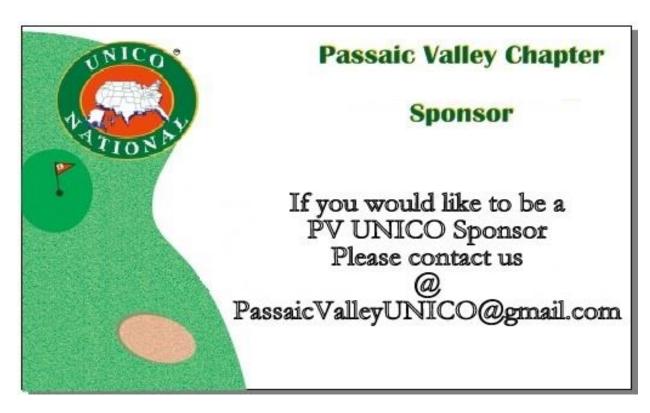
Collections are now being taken for the Christmas Cheer Baskets for our town's needy families. Please give any donations to one of our three committee chairs, or to any executive board officer. Cash or a check should be made out to Passaic Valley UNICO (memo Holiday Cheer). Thank you for your support.

UNICO Word Search

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APPALUCCIO CHARITY CORRADO HERITAGE INTEGRITY ITALIAN LITTLEFALLS MCGILL NEIGHBORLINESS NOCELLA OPPORTUNITY

SERVICE TOTOWA UNICO UNITY WOODLANDPARK



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".

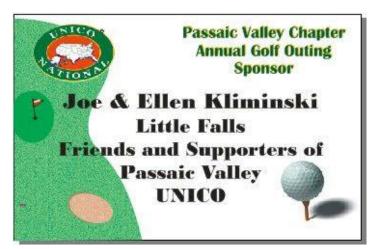
Each year, the UNICO Foundation and the UNICO National Chapters across the country donate approximately \$1 million to various charities. Scholarships continue to be the primary focus of UNICO, as roughly one-third of all monies raised goes to deserving students from all the chapter locations throughout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

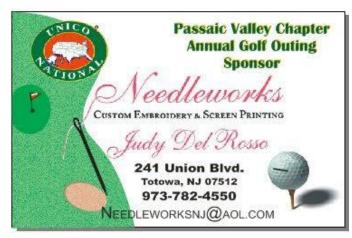
UNICO National has funded major research in Cooley's Anemia and Mental Health. Through its association with the Jimmy Valvano Foundation, it has funded over 10, \$50,000 grants to help find a cure for Cancer. These worthy areas continue to receive generous support from the chapters and its members for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

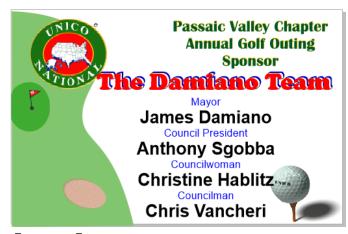
If you would like to attend one of our meetings to see if you might be interested in joining UNICO, please contact us through any member, or through our email. We would be honored to have you as a member of our Passaic Valley UNICO Chapter.

"78"

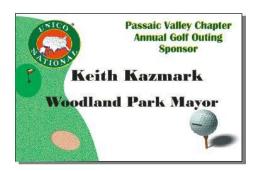


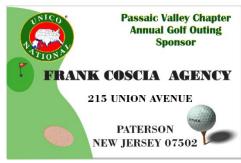


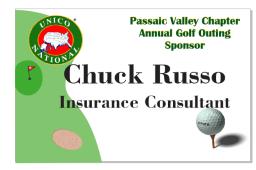




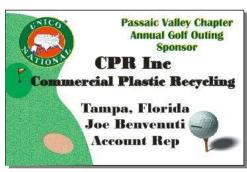


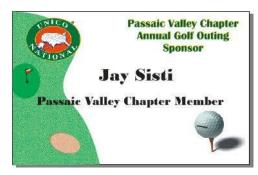


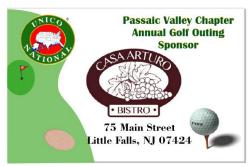


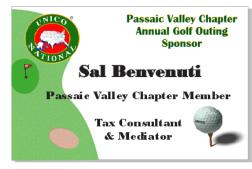




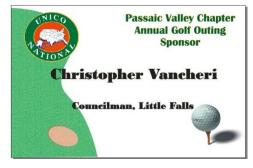


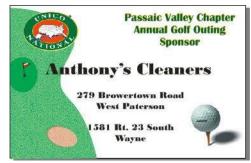


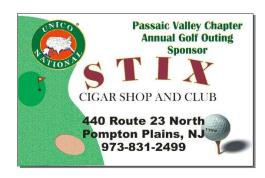




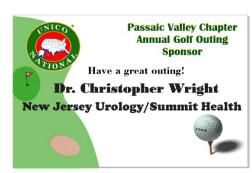


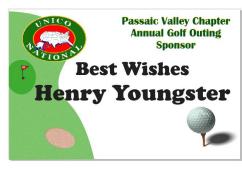










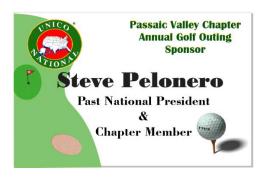


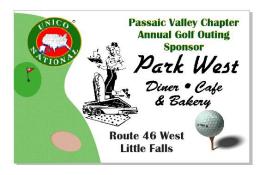


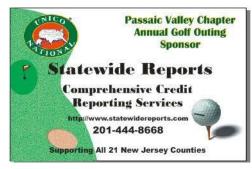


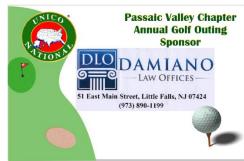






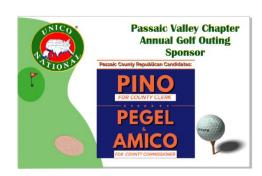




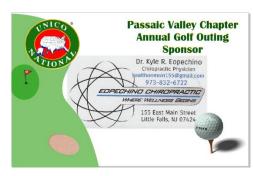




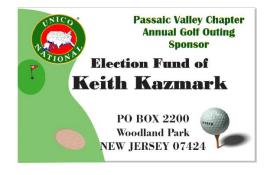


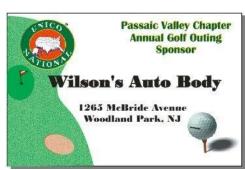






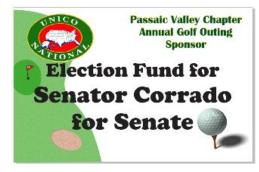


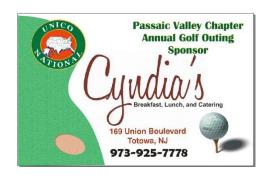










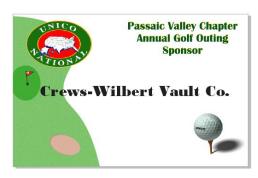
















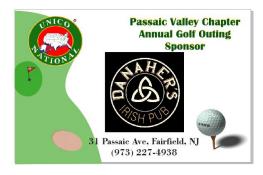






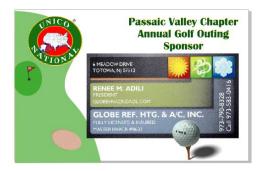


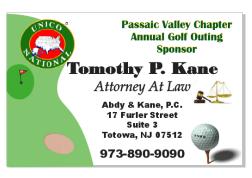








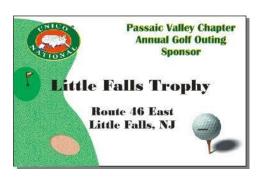


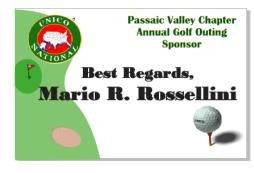


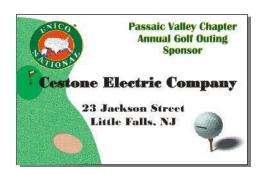


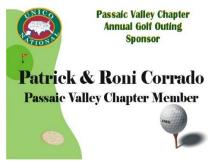












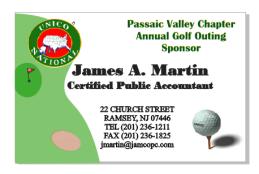


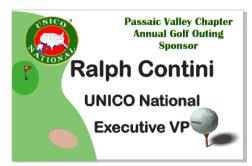




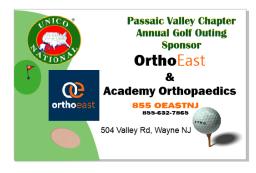






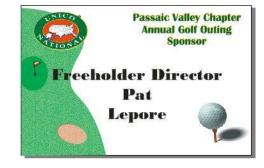








Marian J. Rabel





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