August 2023 Year 21 Issue 216

Passaic Valley UNICO Our January 2024 Monthly Newsletter



Passaic Valley UNICO PO Box 341 Little Falls, NJ 07424

Serving Little Falls Totowa Woodland Park

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Chapter Website Chapter Website Facebook Page Instagram Page District Website National Website Chapter Email www.PassaicValleyUNICO.org www.UNICOmembers.com www.Facebook.com/PassaicValleyUNICO www.Instagram.com/PassaicValleyUNICO www.UNICONJIV.yolasite.com www.UNICO.org PassaicValleyUNICO@gmail.com

A Message from our Chapter President

JANUARY – NAMED FOR THE ROMAN GOD "JANUS", PROTECTOR OF THE GATES AND DOORWAYS. JANUS IS DEPECTED WITH TWO FACES, ONE LOOKING INTO THE PAST, THE OTHER INTO THE FUTURE!!

Hope everyone had a Great Holiday with Friends and Family. As we continue my Second Term as President, I would like to have some simple fundraisers resurrected from the past.

 \Box The Wine Raffle 2024?

□ The Restaurant Raffle Certificates, Dinners for a Year!

□ Local Restaurant Dinners refunding the percentage spent back to our Chapter!

□ Have a Pancake Breakfast?

Let's all support our April 7th Cornhole Tournament as well as all the other Committee Events we have scheduled this coming year!

Thanks to all our members and the Executive Board for all their dedication and efforts over the past year. Let's support other Chapters as well as District IV events, all our Community Sponsors and our Committees.

"Buono Anno"

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Dominick J. Bucci – Chapter President

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January Birthdays "Happy Birthday"

01-15 Patricia Pelonero

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 Gaita or Patricia Pelonero on how you can help or with your donation

Upcoming Events – Local and National

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

January 11, 2024 ~ Thursday ~ UNICO NJ District IV Meeting ~ 7 pm Bella Napoli Bloomfield ~ \$40 per person ~ Let our chapter president know if you are attending

February 13, 2024 ~ Tuesday ~ Not to conflict with Valentines Day, which is February 14, our monthly chapter meeting will be Tuesday, Feb. 13^{th} , 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 ~ 2^{nd} Wednesday ~ Monthly Chapter Meeting ~ More information will follow.

March 20, 2024 ~ 3^{rd} Wednesday ~ We are the host chapter at our NJ District IV Meeting ~ 7 pm ~ 40 ~ BYO ~ Casa Arturo in Little Falls

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

December 3, 2024 ~ Tuesday ~ Our UNICO NJ District IV Christmas Dinner for our Special Need Friends ~ More information will follow

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

"Service Above Self"

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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

Your travel guide: via the internet

This only works if you are on the internet and click on any one of the following:

<u>Italian Food</u>

<u>Italian Sports</u>

<u>Rome</u>

Sicily

<u>Venice</u>

Visions of Italy

ComUNICO

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

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-Årms	
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 ... 48 Members (President +2) Delegate: Jean Chomko Alternate Delegate: Sal Benvenuti Alternate 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
•	Joe Barone
	Carmen Gaita, Joe Benvenuti, Sal Benvenuti
•	Open - To be appointed

Non-Fundraising Committee Heads

Community Service Day (April)	Charles Russo
Good and Welfare	
Heritage	Angelo Verrone
Newsletter	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 Barbieri



Our chapter Christmas Dinner ~ Celebrating with our Special Need Friends ~



Jeanie celebrating her birthday with Santa at our Annual NJ District IV Christmas Dinner December 5th



Italian Heritage Photo From the 2024 UNICO Heritage Calendar ~ January The Waters of Capri ~ The Faraglioni Rock Formation



Capri is an island in Italy's Bay of Naples. It is famed for its rugged landscape, upscale hotels and shopping. Also known for its designer fashions to limoncello and handmade leather sandals. One of its best-known natural sites is the Blue Grotto. This photo was taken by a UNICO member from the Clark, NJ Chapter

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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 2nd Vice President ~ Joe Benvenuti

I wanted to wish everyone on Happy Healthy New year and a belated Christmas. I hope everyone was able to get together with family and friends for the Holidays. Be safe for New Years Eve and enjoy the night. I hope to see everyone at the Jan meeting at Casa Arturo and get 2024 year started with the Corn Hole fund raiser ~~ See you all in January ~~ Joe Benvenuti

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.

NJ District IV ~ NYC Christmas Bus Ride

Do you want to see the photos that were taken by some of the people that attended the bus ride to NYC ? The link is for those people that are reading this newsletter on their computer or phone. The vast array of photos (and videos) from our December 9th NYC Bus Ride to Bryant Park and Puglia Restaurant, (in the Little Italy Section of NYC), can all be seen by clicking on the link at the end of this write-up ... But only if you are reading this newsletter on the computer. New friends, new faces, it was a great day, with great food and

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drink >>> Click Here For Photos & videos <<<
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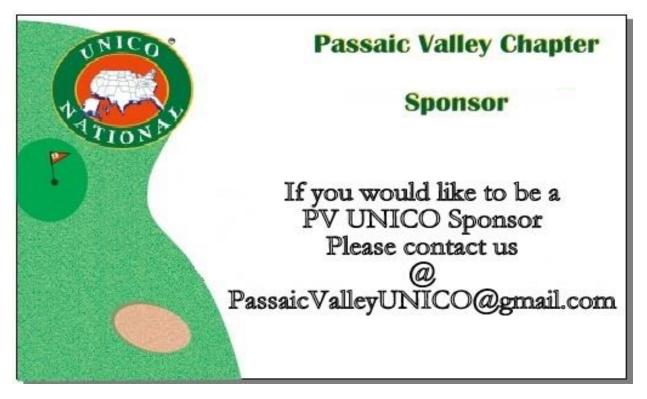
UNICO Word Search

Italian Foods

S J L A S A P P C L L J R A A E Y O E L T S W I S C Z Z T A S H P P B A O X I I F X G J G Z R C E B B Z S A	J K P Y Z Q E G N A C C G A I X A R L F T T O H Q X G B C I S G X F A W A R S X S L M Y T A O J L V W M E M B S W G P U L I U U S A G E L S K Y S X T Y I	Ĥ O G L R E A N V T Y A V Y Y A Y X C K
A K M C A R T E U Y G D	B O N A R A M Y V G L S A U X O Q F E C F	M J C E
CARBONARA OSSOBUCO	LOCATELLI ESPRESSO	MEATBAI TIRAMISU

OSSOBUCO LASAGNA PASTA GELATO LOCATELI ESPRESSO SAUSAGE SAUCE GRAVY

MEATBALLS TIRAMISU RISOTTO POLENTA PIZZA



Our UNICO Charities

<u>UNICO National</u> 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"*.

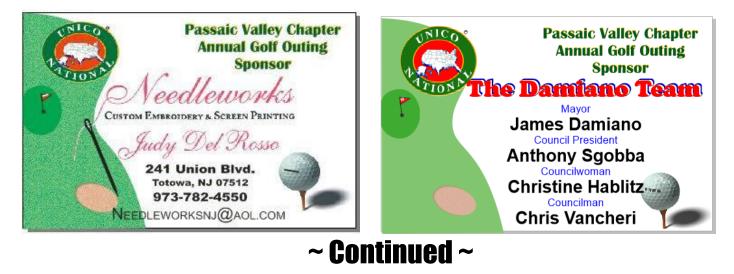
Each year, the UNICO Foundation and the UNICO National Chapters across the country donate approximately \$1 million to various charities. Scholarships continue to be the primary focus of UNICO, as roughly one-third of all monies raised goes to deserving students from all the chapter locations throughout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





















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