March 2023 Year 21 Issue 218

## **Passaic Valley UNICO** Our March 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

MARCH – NAMED FOR THE ROMAN GOD OF WAR, MARS. THIS WAS THE TIME OF YEAR TO RESUME MILITAR CAMPAIGNS THAT HAD BEEN INTERRUPTED BY WINTER!

As we start the Month of March, we start feeling the days of Spring ahead.

Happy St, Patrick's Day on the 17th of March as well as the beginning of Lent.

Our chapter was originally chartered as Little Falls UNICO on March 8, 1972.

#### SAVE THE DATES:

Please do not forget to check all of the dates on next page of this newsletter as well as on our chapter website at <u>www.PassaicValleyUNICO.org</u>

Most important, not to exclude our Cornhole Tournament and Golf Outing is our NJ District IV Pasta Dinner Fundraiser for our Special Need Friends. Just \$20.00 a person. Tickets are now available. That flier, as well as others are also in this newsletter and on our chapter website.

Cordialmente, Cordiali Saluti – "Yours Faithfully"

Dominick J. Bucci – Chapter President

#### Passaic Valley UNICO Monthly Newsletter

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#### March Birthdays "Happy Birthday"

07 Joe Barone 27 Bill Ermolowich 31 Dr. Kyle Eopech

### 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

*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<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday ~ Monthly Chapter Meeting ~ Casa Arturo ~ BYO ~ \$35.00 ~ 7 pm Dinner ~ 8 pm Meeting

*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.

April 19, 2024 ~ Friday ~ Our NJ District IV Special Needs Pasta Dinner Fundraiser ~ At the Wayne PAL ~ \$20 ~ BYO ~ Prizes, Tricky Trays, Music, Food and Fun

*June 9, 2024* ~ *Sunday* ~ *Our Annual Brian Piccolo, Scholarship and Officer installation Dinner.* 

June 17, 2024 ~ Monday ~ Our 39th Annual Golf Outing ~ The Meadows in Lincoln park with a Beefsteak to follow at the Brownstone.

**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"

### Passaic Valley UNICO Monthly Newsletter

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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 Italy travel guide for March: Click here for the link on the internet >>>

<u>Italy in March: how to</u> <u>plan the perfect trip to</u> <u>Italy in the spring</u>

### ComUNICO

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

## Who's Who

## Our 2023-2024 Executive Board

President	Dominick Bucci
Ist 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 ... 49 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	
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	Joe Benvenuti
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

## If anyone would like to participate in "Bunny Breakfast" Please let Chapter President Dominick know







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## APRIL 19, 2024 - 6:30 to 10:30 PM

ADULTS-\$20.00 - KIDS 12 & UNDER-\$10.00 "Tricky Tray Baskets" ALL PROCEEDS TO BENEFIT OUR "SPECIAL NEEDS FRIENDS"

## LOCATION: WAYNE PAL BUILDING 1 PAL DRIVE, WAYNE, NJ

PLEASE COME AND SUPPORT THIS WORTHY CAUSE FOR TICKETS OR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT: Anthony DeGennaro - 201-264-8984 Joe Agresti - 201-874-0546 Steve Calantone - 862-668-8682 Dave D'Arco - 973-417-0731



COME JOIN US FOR A GREAT NIGHT OF FOOD, FRIENDS, MUSIC & FUN





## Italian Heritage Photo From the 2024 UNICO Heritage Calendar ~ March A Valley in Spello, Italy



Visited by Steven Pelonero and his wife Pat, and Bruce Ponchak and his wife Ann, with their daughter Jennifer.

Spello is an ancient town and comune in Italy in the province of Perugia in eastern-central Umbria. The densely inhabited town, built with stone, it still remains its medieval aspect. The town is enclosed in a circuit of medieval walls built on Roman foundations which include three Antique gates.

The town incorporated the remains of ana amphitheater.



## Where is your Italian Heritage From

## Chapter Member: Carmen Criscione His family originates from Ragusa, Sicily



More photos can be seen of Ragusa if you are digitally reading this newsletter. Just click here >>> <u>Ragusa Ibla, Sicily - Ragusa, Sicily - Wikipedia</u>

More of the history of Ragusa can be read by clicking here >>> <u>Ragusa, Sicily - Wikipedia</u>



## Welcome to our newest chapter member: Michael Carbonelli



Michael (left) was sworn in at our February 21<sup>st</sup> meeting By our chapter president Dominick Bucci

## **Committee & Comments**

### **Chapter Sponsors**

How many do you know and support ? ~ See pages 14-21

### Community Service Day ~ Chuck Russo

April 27<sup>th</sup>, 2024 ~ Saturday ~ ShopRite ~ Rain or Shine ~ Food Pantry Drive If you are able to help at this year's food drive, please let me know and/or be prepared to put your name on the volunteer list at the March chapter meeting. I would like to have a schedule finalized by the April meeting. Thank you to the chapter members who have already signed up and committed to giving up their time to help make this a successful event. Chuck

### **District Pasta Dinner**

This dinner is to raise funds for our Special Need Friends ~ Just to clarify, the date is Friday, April 19<sup>th</sup> ... At the Wayne PAL Building ~ Our District IV Annual Christmas Dinner will be in December with the date still to be announced ~ Just \$20 ~ All you can eat

### 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.

### Scholarship ~ Chuck Russo

June 9, 2024 ~ Sunday ~ The Barnyard in Totowa ~ More information will follow

Please keep in mind our chapter tradition of donating \$200 to have a scholarship "named" in honor of a loved one. Due to the potential number of scholarships to be awarded this year, any donation would be of great financial assistance as well as giving members the opportunity to pay tribute to someone. Thus far two members have pledged money for memorial scholarships.

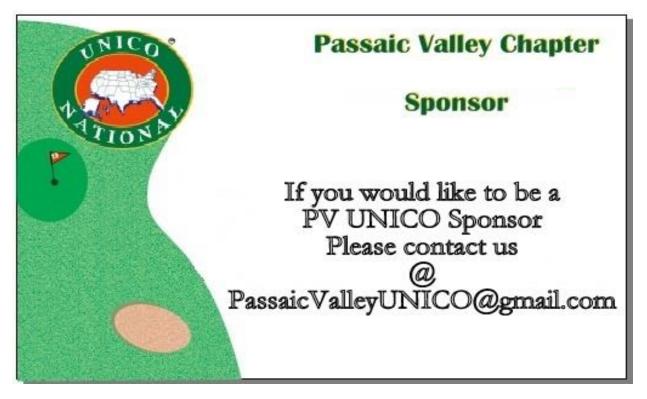
Chuck

## **UNICO** Word Search

## Italian Soups



MINESTRONE	TORTLLINI	CHICKPEA
FAGIOLI	WEDDING	CHICKEN
LASAGNA	VEGETABLE	LENTIL
ΡΟΤΑΤΟ	BEAN	



## **Our UNICO Charities**

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

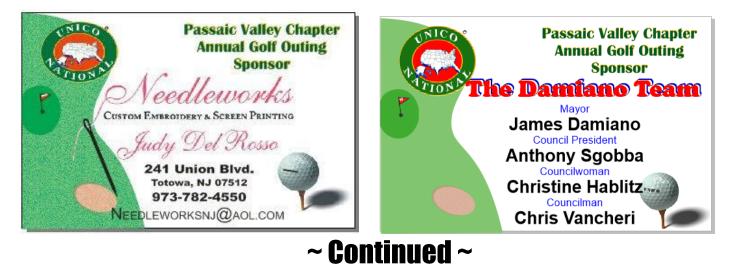
Each year, the UNICO Foundation and the UNICO National Chapters across the country donate approximately \$1 million to various charities. Scholarships continue to be the primary focus of UNICO, as roughly one-third of all monies raised goes to deserving students from all the chapter locations throughout 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 19<sup>th</sup>. Please see the golf flier on page 5 of this newsletter for more information