April 2024 Year 21 Issue 219

# **Passaic Valley UNICO** Our April 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

April – From the Latin word Aperio "to open" (bud) because plants begin to grow during this month!

As we start the Month of April, we have some great activities and fundraiser event finally slated:

On Sunday April 7th is our "Corn Hole Tournament" also, on April 19<sup>th</sup>, is our District Pasta Dinner, and then there is our Food Drive on the 27th at Shop Rite!

Let's not forget the following month of June: Our Annual Golf Outing and Scholarship Dinner.

We need to start planning a Fall fundraiser for our chapter and family members: Possibly a Pasta Dinner or Beefsteak, Chicken Event, Breakfast in Bed (Wear Pajamas of course). Are there any other ideas?

Dominick J. Bucci – Chapter President

### Passaic Valley UNICO Monthly Newsletter

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### April Birthdays "Happy Birthday"

03 Steve Pelonero PNP 21 Domenica Campen 27 Bruce Ponchak

## **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

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

**April 10, 2024** ~  $2^{nd}$  Wednesday ~ Monthly Chapter Meeting ~ Casa Arturo ~ 7 pm Dinner ~ 7:30 Meeting during and in between dinner servings

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

*May* 8, 2024 ~  $2^{nd}$  Wednesday ~ Monthly Chapter Meeting ~ Casa Arturo ~ 7 pm Dinner ~ 7:30 Meeting during and in between dinner servings

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

**June 12, 2024** ~  $2^{nd}$  Wednesday ~ Our tradition year end Chapter Pizza Meeting ~ Holy Cross Church ~ 7 pm dinner ~ 8 pm meeting

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



### **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 April: What you need to know Click here for the link on the internet

### **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 ... 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
2	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

# Our Woodland Park Bunny Breakfast Helpers

Our UNICO Chapter members, John Barbieri, Claudine Stefanelli and Carmen Criscone helped again this year at the Woodland park Bunny Breakfast helping serve and welcome the many guests that attended





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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 ~ April A street in Venice, Italy



In addition to the many canals in Venice, The streets are full of history and culture. They are lined with beautiful buildings and adorned with artwork and sculptures that reflect the city's rich heritage. From the grandeur of St. Mark's Square to the canal cafes and markets, there is no shortage of places to explore and discover in Venice.

## Where is your Italian Heritage From



## **Committee & Comments**

#### Chapter Sponsors

How many do you know and support ? ~ See pages 11-19

#### 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 ~ We 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 will be the final reminder to purchase tickets for our pasta dinner which 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 ~ All you can eat ~ Just \$20 Our District IV Annual Christmas Dinner will be in December with the date still to be announced. Tickets will be available at our April 10<sup>th</sup> meeting at Casa Arturo

#### 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.

#### Golf ~ Joe Barone

Please tell your friends, neighbors, acquaintances and relatives that a fun day of golfing is coming up soon. The 39th annual PV UNICO golf outing fund raiser will be held on Monday, June 17, 2024, at the Meadows Golf Club, Lincoln Park, N.J. Check in with a continental breakfast at 8:00 AM and a golf shotgun tee time start at 9:00 AM. We also have a WIN A CAR contest. To wrap up the day, we have a Beefsteak dinner at the Brownstone in Paterson from 3:00 to 7:00. Cost for breakfast, golf and the beefsteak is \$175.00. Cost for the beefsteak only is \$75.00. Please contact any member of the 2024 PV UNICO golf committee for more information.

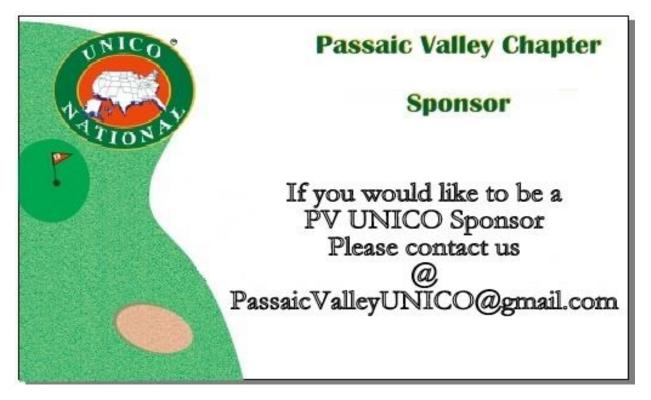
#### Scholarship ~ Chuck Russo

#### 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

#### Vice President Joe Benvenuti

Hope everyone has/had a blessed Easter Sunday with family and friends. Please, if you can help with the upcoming Corn Hole fundraiser as we need as much help that we can get to pull this off. The committee, headed by John Barbieri, has put lot of time and effort to make this a successful event. Also please sell golf hole sponsors as that is what makes the outing a success. Thank you to all members for your support. ~ Joe Benvenuti



## **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"*.

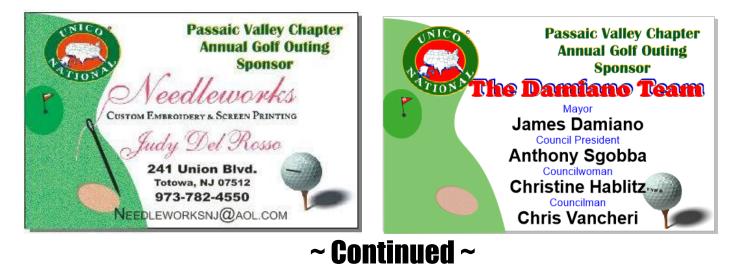
Each year, the UNICO Foundation and the UNICO National Chapters across the country donate approximately \$1 million to various charities. Scholarships continue to be the primary focus of UNICO, as roughly one-third of all monies raised goes to deserving students from all the chapter locations throughout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



















Marian J. Rabel

973-785-0794



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

## Keep going for our 2024-2025 Sponsor Pages

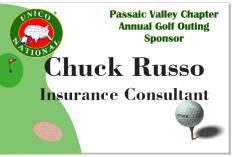
# 2024-2025 Sponsors

(July 1, 2024 ~ June 30, 2025)



## All of our Sponsors ~ \$100









# **Ener-G-Electric** Sandy Soto