

October 2022  
Year 20  
Issue 201

# Passaic Valley UNICO

## Our October 2022 Monthly Newsletter



**Passaic Valley UNICO**  
**PO Box 341**  
**Little Falls, NJ 07424**

*Serving*  
*Little Falls Totowa Woodland Park*

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Chapter Website	<a href="http://www.PassaicValleyUNICO.org">www.PassaicValleyUNICO.org</a>
Chapter Website	<a href="http://www.UNICOMembers.com">www.UNICOMembers.com</a>
Facebook Page	<a href="https://www.Facebook.com/PassaicValleyUNICO">www.Facebook.com/PassaicValleyUNICO</a>
Instagram Page	<a href="https://www.Instagram.com/PassaicValleyUNICO">www.Instagram.com/PassaicValleyUNICO</a>
District Website	<a href="http://www.UNICONJIV.yolasite.com">www.UNICONJIV.yolasite.com</a>
National Website	<a href="http://www.UNICO.org">www.UNICO.org</a>
Chapter Email	<a href="mailto:PassaicValleyUNICO@gmail.com">PassaicValleyUNICO@gmail.com</a>

## ***A Message from our Chapter President***

*Ciao everyone*

*Seasons change and Fall is upon us this 2022 where we celebrate our Italian Heritage Month and also 100 years of UNICO National (October 10<sup>th</sup>, 1922).*

*We experienced a great September Membership meeting with our Studies Abroad student from M.S.U. "Gabriella Socio" presentation. She also joined our chapter.*

*October Italian Flag Raising at the Little Falls Municipal Building is scheduled for the 3<sup>rd</sup> at 6 pm. There is a Seaside Italian Festival on October 9<sup>th</sup> and a parade there will feature the UNICO float as well as in NYC Parade on the 10<sup>th</sup>.*

*As we approach the month ahead, our chapter has outlined many new fundraisers and Community events. Our Holiday Gift Cards for need families and Christmas Social Dinner are being planned.*

*At our last meeting, I requested that a form be filled out that requested new fundraising ideas as well as a line for volunteering at one of our events ~ Only two have been submitted. There will be more forms at the October 12<sup>th</sup> meeting (the location still has not yet been set so please keep checking our website and emails.*

*Cordiali Saluti*  
*Dominick Bucci*  
*Passaic Valley Chapter President*



**October Birthdays**

- 10-1 Frank Capalbo
- 10-2 Christina Castillo
- 10-9 Carmen Gaita
- 10-18 Carmen Criscione
- 10-20 Mark BiFalco

**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](http://www.PassaicValleyUNICO.org)

[www.UNICO.org](http://www.UNICO.org)

[www.UNICO-NJdistrictIV.4mg.com](http://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 Chair, Roni Corrado, on how you can help.

**Upcoming Events – Local and National**

October 3 ~ Monday ~ 6 pm ~ Little Falls Italian Flag Raising ~ Please make every effort to attend ~ Please show support for our Heritage

October 9 ~ Sunday ~ Seaside Columbus Day Parade

October 10 ~ Monday ~ NYC Columbus Day Parade

October 12 ~ 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday ~ Our monthly meeting ~ More information will follow

October 25 ~ Tuesday ~ Meet the National President

November 2 ~ Tuesday ~ National Cigar Night Fundraiser ~ Brick House

November 6 & 7 ~ Sunday and Monday ~ Eastern Region Meeting at Shawnee on the Delaware

November 8 ~ Tuesday ~ NJ IV District Meeting ~ Hosted by Cedar Grove UNICO ~ Time and Place will follow

December 7 ~ Drawing date for our 40 Bottle Wine Raffle ~ CANCELLED due to a technical issue

~~~~~  
 Dues are Due by our November 9<sup>th</sup> Meeting



~~~~~  
 Also ~ You can always visit the UNICO National Website Calendar for even more dates of something that may be of interest to you ~ [www.UNICO.org](http://www.UNICO.org) ~ When there just click on the "Calendar" tab

~~~~~  
**Below are our UNICO's CORE VALUES**

If you know of someone who has them or  
 If you know of someone who 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"**





**Italian Heritage  
Month Trivia and  
Ways to Celebrate**

The first Heritage month was celebrated in 1989

Columbus Day is always celebrated on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of October

Italians are one of the largest ethnic groups in the U.S.

There are more than 20 million Americans of Italian descent

Celebrate with an authentic Italian meal

Celebrate with a tradition Italian cocktail

Enjoy a traditional Italian dessert

Listen to an Italian Musician

Wear your Italian pride

Learn about some Italian-American history

**ComUNICO**

You can now read the Com-UNICO magazine on the internet

Just click or go here >>>

[www.unico.org/comUNICO](http://www.unico.org/comUNICO)

**Who's Who**

**Our 2022-2023 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 2022-2023 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 |
| Dominick Bucci | Current Chapter President | 2022        |

**Our 2022-2023 Chapter Delegates**

President Dominick Bucci ... 59 Members (President +3)

Delegate: Jean Chomko

Delegate:

Delegate:

(Delegates represent our chapter votes and are urged to attend our regional and national meetings)

**Fundraising Committee Heads**

|                                            |              |
|--------------------------------------------|--------------|
| Christmas Family Gifts .....               | Roni Corrado |
| Food Pantry .....                          | Roni Corrado |
| Golf Outing .....                          | Joe Barone   |
| Overseas Armed Service Care Packages ..... | Pat Corrado  |

**Non-Fundraising Committee Heads**

|                                    |                         |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Community Service Day (April)..... | Chuck Russo             |
| Good and Welfare .....             | Sal Nocella             |
| Newsletter .....                   | Steve Pelonero          |
| Publicity .....                    | Vacant                  |
| Scholarship / Brian Piccolo .....  | Charles Russo           |
| Study Abroad College Grants .....  | Cav. Joseph Agresti PNP |
| Website .....                      | Steven Pelonero PNP     |
| Website Member Section .....       | John Barbieri           |



# FLAG RAISING CEREMONY

# ITALIAN-AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH



The Mayor, the Township Council and the Passaic Valley UNICO invite everyone to join us for the flag raising ceremony.

October, marks Italian-American Heritage Month by recognizing the contributions and achievements of Italian-Americans.

Over 26 million Americans of Italian descent currently reside in the U.S. — making up America’s seventh largest ethnic group.

The flag raising ceremony will take place at Township Hall on:

## Monday | October 3, 2022 | 6 PM

For more information, email Councilman Chris Vancheri at [cvancheri@lfnj.com](mailto:cvancheri@lfnj.com).



The Township of Little Falls  
225 Main Street • Little Falls, NJ 07424  
973.256.0170 • [www.lfnj.com](http://www.lfnj.com)

Mayor James Damiano  
Council Members: Christine Hablitz,  
Albert Kahwaty, Anthony Sgobba,  
Christopher Vancheri, Tanya Seber



## *Passaic Valley UNICO Honored*

*On Sunday September 18, 2022*

*The Little Falls United Methodist Church honored the Cedar Grove Elks and Passaic Valley UNICO for their generous support of their food pantry.*

*Sal Benvenuti (back row 2<sup>nd</sup> from the left) accepted the certificate on behalf of the PV chapter.*



# Our Italian Heritage for October



*This photo appears in the 2022 UNICO National Heritage & Photo Calendar for the month of October*

*A Gondola in Venice, Italy*

*It was taken by one of our own chapter members, Steve Pelonero PNP*

*The Gondola's primary role today is to carry tourists on rides at fixed rates.*

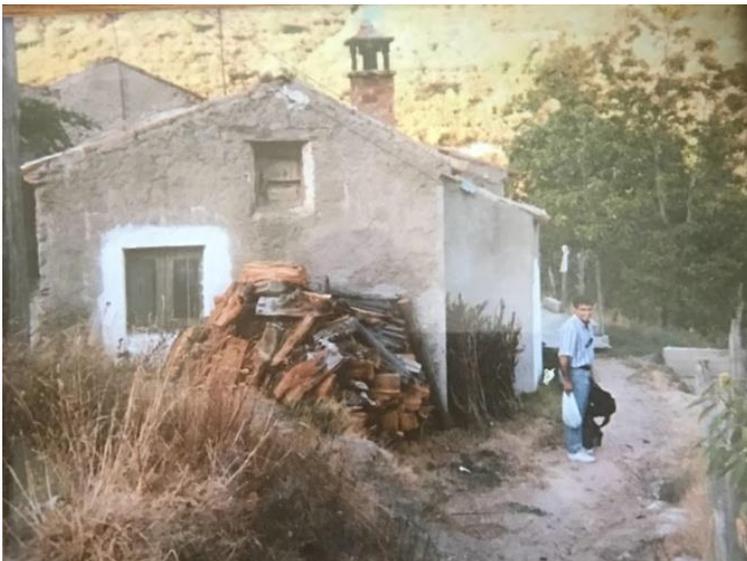
*Today there are approximately 400 licensed gondoliers in Venice with a similar number of boats.*

*That number of Gondoliers is down from the thousands that travelled the canals centuries ago.*

*The Gondolas today they are elegantly crafted and decorated instead of the homemade boats of the distant past*

~~~~~

## Chapter Member Photos



*La Casa Benvenuti ~ Photo taken 1993  
Calabria, Italy*



*A Pelonero Sunday Dinner ~ 1957  
Traditionally it was always in the basement*

# What Part of Italy is your Heritage From



## Committee & Comments



### ***Chapter Dues***

*Please do not forget about paying your one time a year chapter dues  
Notices will be going out via the USPS only to those who we show as not yet up-to-date*

***Youth Member (25 years of age and under) \$12.00***

***Exempt Life Member \$15.00***

***Regular Member \$80.00***

*Checks need to be made out to Passaic Valley UNICO*

*PO Box 341*

*Little Falls, NJ 07424*

### ***Food Pantry***

*The October food collection will benefit St. Agnes Church in Little Falls.*

*They are in need of any type of canned soup, the following canned vegetables: corn, yams, mixed vegetables, succotash, carrots, and cranberry sauce. Members may bring their donations to the October meeting.*

### ***Holiday Cheer***

*Any members wanting to donate to this fund should bring their check to the November meeting. Please make checks payable to Passaic Valley UNICO ~ Memo Holiday Cheer*

### ***October Monthly Meeting***

*Currently there is no location set for our October meeting*

*Please check our website and a future email for more information and updates*

*[www.PassaicValleyUNICO.org](http://www.PassaicValleyUNICO.org)*

### ***Overseas Soldier Program***

*Our Evelyn Tosi's grandson is in a safe location and no supplies from home are need at this time ~ Thank you*



### **Our UNICO Charities**

#### **UNICO National**

*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 ~ Torracco 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.

*A Special thanks*

*To our Sponsors and Supporters*

*Please support them*

*You too can be added to this page for just \$100.*

*We sincerely appreciate your generosity & help.*

*Our campaign for our 2022-2023 year never ends*

*Please ask any chapter member for more information.*

*Just \$100 gets you in every issue of this newsletter  
and on our chapter website*

*You will also be shown at our annual golf outing*  
[www.PassaicValleyUNICO.org](http://www.PassaicValleyUNICO.org)



# Thank you: Our 2022-2023 Sponsors

 Passaic Valley Chapter  
Annual Golf Outing  
Sponsor

**Christopher Vancheri**

Councilman, Little Falls



 Passaic Valley Chapter  
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**Gregory S. Liss, DDS**  
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Pompton Lakes,  
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**Gaita Memorial Home**  
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**Sal Benvenuti**  
Passaic Valley Chapter Member

Tax Consultant  
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**Little Falls ShopRite**  
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**Best Wishes  
Henry Youngster**



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(F) 973-925-5599  
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Certified Public Accountant  
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**Steve Pelonero**  
Passaic Valley Chapter Member



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**Patrick & Roni Corrado**  
Passaic Valley Chapter Member



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Realty Executives - Woodland Park

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**Frank P. Tidona**  
Past National President



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Contracting



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**Baryard and  
Carrage House**

Totowa, NJ



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**Best Regards,  
SKM Petroleum**



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**Best Regards,  
Mario R. Rossellini**



Passaic Valley Chapter  
Annual Golf Outing  
Sponsor

**Jay Sisti**  
Passaic Valley Chapter Member



Passaic Valley Chapter  
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Sponsor

**Ralph Contini**  
UNICO National  
Executive VP



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Annual Golf Outing  
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**Anthony's Cleaners**  
279 Browertown Road  
West Paterson  
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Wayne



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