

December 2022
Year 20
Issue 203

Passaic Valley UNICO

Our December 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	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

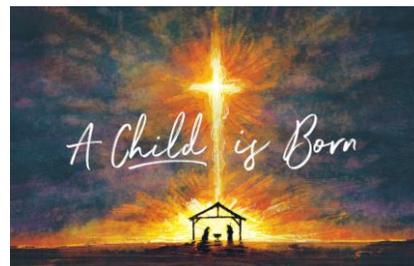
Ciao Everyone – Happy Holiday Greetings to All!

Our District special needs Christmas Party on December 6th at the Brownstone is a special event for these underprivileged both young and older adults and their families.

Holiday donations for our Three town service community families still need contributions. Gift Cards would help support this worthy cause this time of year "Service Above Self".

See you at our Family Christmas Party on December 14th at the Ties in Little Falls for our Holiday get together!

*Buon Natale
Dominick J. Bucci – Chapter President
Passaic Valley UNICO*



*Note from the editor:
Don't forget to send to Steve (newsletter editor) in an email
where your Italian family ancestry is from*



December Birthdays

12-05 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 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

December 2 ~ Friday ~ Open House Christmas Party ~ At the UNICO National Office ~ Noon till 4 pm ~ Please call with your intentions of attending ~ 973-808-0035

December 6 ~ Tuesday ~ Christmas Dinner for our Special Need Friends \$60 per person at the Brownstone ~ Must let chapter president Dominick know if you are attending

December 7 ~ Drawing date for our 40 Bottle Wine Raffle ~ 7 pm ~ Did you buy your ticket (s) ~ Contact Steve Pelonero

December 10 ~ NJ District IV Christmas Bus Ride ~ Mulberry Street NYC Dinner and Bryant Park ~ Contact Dave D’Arco from the Passaic Clifton Chapter if you want to attend ~ \$110 per person

December 14 ~ 2nd Wednesday ~ Chapter Meeting & Family Christmas Dinner ~ At the Ties in Little Falls ~ \$40.00 per person ~ Must contact John Morano if attending

~~~~~

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”





Christmas Folklore In Italy

The festive season runs until Epiphany on January 6th. That's when the Three Wise Men arrived in Bethlehem with their gifts for the Baby Jesus

When it comes to exchanging presents, Italians don't have a specific day dedicated to that. While some exchange gifts on Christmas Eve, others prefer to start sharing their holiday spirit up to two weeks ahead of Christmas

Italians celebrate Christmas Eve with a large feast known as La Vigilia on December 24th

Traditionally, Italian Christmas Eve dinner is a meat-free meal. According to an old Catholic tradition, it's meant to purify your body ahead of a religious celebration. So, instead of meat, it's all about seafood

In Italy, it's customary to have a family lunch in the early afternoon on December 25th

ComUNICO

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

Just click or go here >>>

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

Food Pantry	Roni Corrado
Golf Outing	Joe Barone
Holiday Cheer	Roni Corrado / Joe Benvenuti / Sal Benvenuti
Overseas Armed Service Care Packages	Pat Corrado
Wine Raffle	Steve Pelonero / Chuck Russo

Non-Fundraising Committee Heads

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



The photos shown are not the actual prizes to be given
Winning ticket to be drawn at "The Ties at Woodford Hall, 4 Woodhill Ave., Little Falls, NJ 07424

DEC. 7, 2022

**BOTTLES OF RED
BOTTLES OF WHITE**

***WINE RAFFLE
40 BOTTLES***

Just \$5.00 a ticket



Proceeds will benefit our UNICO causes

www.PassaicValleyUNICO.org

www.UNICO.org

**Passaic Valley
UNICO**

**Serving
Little Falls,
Totowa, &
Woodland Park**

Our 2022

**40 bottle of
Wine Raffle**

**Just \$5.00
Per ticket**

**Thank you for
supporting UNICO**

**PASSAIC
VALLEY
UNICO**

PO Box 341
Little Falls, NJ 07424

www.PassaicValleyUNICO.org
Drawing date Dec. 7, 2022

UNICO National's Heritage Calendar Photo for December

*This photo appears in the 2022 UNICO National Heritage Calendar during the month of December
It was taken at the Vatican in Rome by Chapter Member Cav. Joseph Agresti PNP*

*The construction of the Vatican started with a basilica over the Grave of St. Peter in the 4th Century
The Vatican was established in its current form as a sovereign nation in 1929
The Vatican covers 109 acres with a border of 2 miles*



What Part of Italy is your Heritage From



Committee & Comments



Food Pantry

Chair: Roni Corrado

November's donation to the Little Falls First Reformed Church netted: \$125 in Shop Rite gift cards and a trunk load of food.

Thank you all for your continued contributions.

In December we will suspend our monthly collection so members can contribute to the Holiday Cheer initiative.

From our members

Joe Benvenuti, Chapter 2nd VP

Thanks to our members for supporting the Christmas cheer basket for needy families. As always, our members were very generous. This will make some families very happy for sure.

Holiday Cheer

Chair: Roni Corrado

Very happy to tell everyone that the chapter members contributed \$1000.

As a result, between member donations and the club donation, five families from the Passaic Valley towns will receive \$500 in gift cards, divided equally between ShopRite and Kohls.

Thank you for your generosity.

Member Spotlight Page

We will be trying to post every month in our chapter newsletter a different members heritage: The main information needed is where they are from, with photos if available but not necessary Please consider sending some town information, on your family is from, to the newsletter editor

Overseas Soldier Program

Chair: Roni Corrado

Happy to report that member Evelyn Tosi's grandson is safe in Egypt and at this time not in need of our assistance.

Wine Raffle

Chair: Steve Pelonero PNP

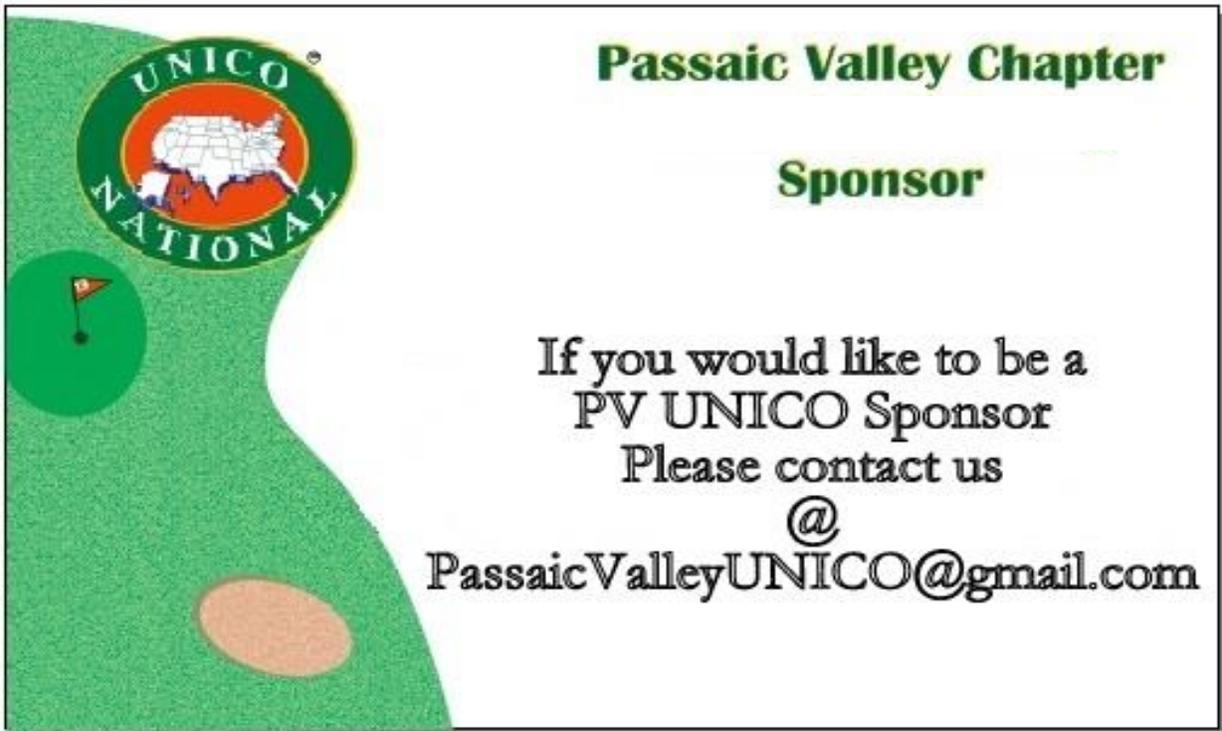
The winning ticket will be pulled on December 7th. Hopefully you will be the winner This fundraiser supports both chapter and national causes ~ Thank you for supporting it

Other Chapter Events

A relayed message from our chapter president: Dominick Bucci

The East Rutherford Bocce Court is being restored and funded by Louis Nicaastro from the Elmwood Park NJ Chapter, NJ VII.

They feel it is a great way to promote our Italian Culture in the community



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.

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*

Our most recent supported is Total Wine, Totowa



Please support all our sponsors that are shown on the next few pages

Thank you: Our 2022-2023 Sponsors



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Sal Benvenuti
Passaic Valley Chapter Member

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Mario R. Rossellini**



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Jay Sisti
Passaic Valley Chapter Member



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UNICO National
Executive VP



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