

January 2023
Year 20
Issue 204

Passaic Valley UNICO

Our January 2023 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

BUON ANNO 2023!

Welcome 2023 – Like to wish everyone a Safe and Healthy New Year.

Starting with New Year's Day (January 1st) we start talking about the New Year's resolutions we have made.

Over the past year our Chapter as accomplished many goals and community events.

Thank you for being a part of our Passaic Valley UNICO chapter and I am confident that we will continue to serve our local communities throughout the new year.

As we start planning our chapter activities and upcoming fundraisers, we need to all be team players and help our dedicated chairpersons.

On behalf of the Executive Board and myself, thank you for a successful past year and upcoming new 2023 year ahead!

Distinti Saluti!

Dominick J. Bucci

Passaic Valley UNICO – Chapter President



January Birthdays

There are no birthdays this month to celebrate

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

January 1 ~ *New Year’s Day*

January 11 ~ 2nd Wednesday ~ **Monthly Chapter Meeting** ~ Place and time will be on our chapter website @ www.PassaicValleyUNICO.org in the “Important Dates” section

January 14 ~ Saturday ~ **Convention Fundraiser** ~ Al Di La in East Rutherford



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 ~ 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”





Some New Year Traditions

Italian tradition dictates that seven dried fruit and nuts be eaten for good luck on New Year's Eve: almonds, hazelnuts, peanuts, walnuts, dates, raisins and dried figs. Some also eat pomegranate, where its innumerable seeds suggesting fertility and wealth since ancient Roman times

Eat lentils and grapes on New Year's Day. Tradition has it that it brings good luck

- Other traditions include:
 Wear red undergarments
 Throw old things from the window
 Kiss under a mistletoe

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 district, regional, and national meetings)

Our 2022-2023 Chapter Membership

44 members

Our 2022-2023 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 / Roni Corrado
Wine Raffle	Steve Pelonero / Chuck Russo

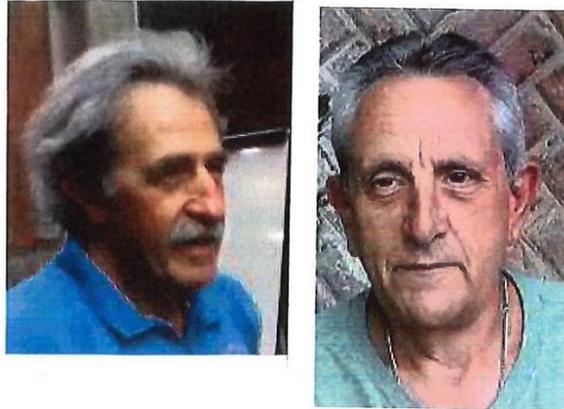
Non-Fundraising Committee Heads

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

Monthly Member Spotlight of our Italian Heritage

Chapter President Dominick Bucci

Dominick (right) and his cousin Nicola ~ Huge family resemblance!



*Nicola is from Sulmona Abruzzo Italy
Sulmona is the "Capital of Confetti"*

During the last week in July, Abruzzo holds a Medieval Festival in the town plaza



In 1706 the city was nearly razed by an earthquake. While much of the medieval city was destroyed by the earthquake, some remarkable buildings survive such as the Church of Santa Maria della Tomba, the Palazzo Annunziata, the Aqueduct and the Gothic portal on Corso Ovidio.

Much of the city was then rebuilt in the prevailing elegant Baroque style of the 18th century.

Sulmona experienced an economic boom in the late 19th century, becoming a railway hub given its strategic geographic position between Rome and the Adriatic coast.

The anarchist and labour organizer Carlo Tresca was born there in 1879 and was active in the Italian Railroad Workers' Federation until emigrating to the US in 1904 to escape a prison term.

Sulmona's strategic position also made it a target for air raids during World War II. The railway station, the industrial sections and parts of the old town were damaged, but today they have been mostly restored.

*Our 2023 Christmas Dinner Party
Held at The Ties in Little Falls, December 14th*



*Francesca
With Dinner Chair John Morano*



*Francesca
Performing her Italian Dance presentation*



*Our Chapter singers: Christina Castillo, Joyce O'Hara and John Barberie
With a singalong with all of our chapter members*

Our UNICO National Heritage Calendar Cover and January 2023 Photos

*The top photo appears on the cover of the 2023 UNICO National Heritage Calendar
It is the Norman Castle in Erice, Sicily ~ Taken by Steve Pelonero's brother Anthony*



*This next photo was taken by a Greater Westfield NJ Chapter member
It is of Matera in the region of Basilicata*



Committee & Comments



Food Pantry

Chair: Roni Corrado

January's food collection will go to Little Falls United Methodist Church.

They are in DIRE NEED of shelf milk, such as Parmalat.

(However, the pantry manager has said that Parmalat is too expensive, and to purchase house brands; they are comparable.)

The pantry is also in need of peanut butter and jelly, pudding cups, canned soups, pasta sauce, canned chicken, and Spam.

Donations can be brought to the January meeting, We will deliver to the pantry.

From our Members

Joe Benvenuti, Chapter 2nd VP

I would like to wish all our members a very a very Merry Christmas and a blessed Happy Healthy New Year

Steve Pelonero, PNP, Chapter Secretary

A Merry and Blessed Christmas and a Healthy and Happy New Year

Holiday Cheer

Chair: Roni Corrado

Thank you for another successful year

Overseas Soldier Program

Chair: Roni Corrado

No report at this time

Thank you

Wine Raffle Update

Chair: Steve Pelonero PNP

Congratulations to winner Frank and Nina C

A thank you to everyone who supported it



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 ~ 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



Thank you: Our 2022-2023 Sponsors



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Sal Benvenuti
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Jay Sisti
Passaic Valley Chapter Member



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Ralph Contini
UNICO National
Executive VP



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