

Passaic Valley UNICO

Our February 2023 Monthly Newsletter



Passaic Valley UNICO
PO Box 341
Little Falls, NJ 07424

Serving
Little Falls Totowa Woodland Park

Page Highlights:

About UNICO	9
Be a Sponsor	9
Birthday's	2
Board of Directors	3
ComUNICO Link	3
Committees	3
Committee Comments	8
Community Service	8
Corn Hole Tournament	4
Food Pantry	2, 8
Heritage Photo	5
Holiday Cheer	8
Italy Fun Facts	3
Map of Italy	7
Member Comments	8
Member Spotlight	6
Overseas Soldiers	8
Photo Links	2
President's Message	1
Scholarship	8
Sponsors 2022-2023	11-14
Thank You	10
UNICO Charities	9
UNICO Core Values	2
Upcoming Events	2

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 Members

February 23 is here!

First thing that comes to mind is Valentine's Day – also we celebrate Washington's and Lincoln birthdays in the US. Italy celebrates Carnivale Festivals in Venice and towns along with patron saints during the month of February.

So far, we have some upcoming events scheduled and look forward for our members as well as family to participate in:

February 08, 2023 – Monthly Meeting at Casa Arturo's in Little Falls \$35.00 per person

March 05, 2023 – Joint Fundraiser "Cornhole Competition" in Montville

March 7, 2023 - District Meeting in Montclair (Location TBD)

April 21, 2023 – District Pasta Dinner at Wayne PAL \$20.00 per person

April __, 2023 – Community Food Drive at Shop Rite, Little Falls (date to be determined)

June __, 2023 – Golf Outing Fundraiser (Location and Date TBD)

June __, 2023 – Scholarship Dinner (Location and Date TBD)

June 4, 2023 – Community Picnic Event at Holy Cross Church (12 Noon to 3PM)

And a welcome to our newest chapter member, Patricia Pelonero. She will be sworn in at our February meeting by her husband, Steven Pelonero, PNP.

Please consider any suggestions for the board to discuss at our meeting: Requests, Ideas, Suggestions, Praises and yes, even Complaints!

Buona Continuazione!

Dominick J. Bucci

Passaic Valley UNICO – Chapter President



February Birthdays

- 02-02 Chuck Russo
- 02-02 Jay Sisti
- 02-08 Eileen Wood
- 02-12 Joyce O'Hara
- 02-12 Angela Socio
- 02-15 Jim Cestone
- 02-22 John Morano

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

February 8 ~ 2nd Wednesday ~ Monthly Chapter Meeting ~ Casa Arturo's in Little Falls (Main Street) ~ \$35.00 ~ 7 PM ~ BYO.

February 14 ~ Tuesday ~ Valentine's Day.

March 5 – Sunday – Cornhole Fundraiser – Flier is in this newsletter.

March 12 ~ Sunday ~ Daylight Savings Time Begins.

March 24, 25, 26 ~ Friday, Saturday, Sunday ~ Mid-Year Board of Directors Meeting ~ Alexandra VA.

April 9 ~ Sunday ~ Easter Sunday.

April 17 ~ Monday ~ Tax returns are due.

June ~ Golf Outing ~ More information to follow.

June ~ Scholarship Presentation ~ More information to follow.

~~~~~

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"





Italy Fun Facts

Italy is one of Western Europe's youngest countries

Rome is over 2,000 years old

Tourists throw €1,000,000 into the Trevi Fountain each year

Italy is the fifth most visited country in the world

Italians invented pizza in Naples

Italians have eaten pasta since the 4th century B.C.

There are over 1,500 lakes in Italy

The Italians have over 2,500 types of cheese

Italy has over 3,000 museums

The longest river in Italy is the Po

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

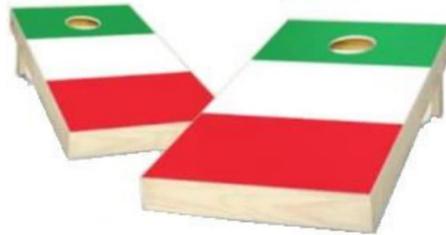
Food Pantry Roni Corrado
 Golf Outing Joe Barone
 Holiday Cheer Roni Corrado / Joe Benvenuti / Sal Benvenuti
 Overseas Armed Service Care Packages Pat / Roni Corrado
 Wine Raffle Steve Pelonero / Chuck Russo

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

Cornhole Competition

Co-Sponsored By The
Montville and Passaic Valley
UNICO Chapters



Indoor Winter Fun

Team Members and Buffet \$40.00 PP
Spectators and Buffet \$25.00 PP

Reservations: No later than March 1st
Must pay in advance (no payment at door)

Limited To 16 Teams (2 players per team)
Double Elimination

Event Date: Sunday, March 5, 2023
Time: 11:00 AM

Place: The Montville Senior Center
356 Main Rd., Montville, NJ 07045

Contact: Gene Maddalena gene@jerseysignllc.com or 973-277-5475 (Montville)
Contact: Steve Pelonero stevepelonero@gmail.com or 973-271-9314 (Passaic Valley)

Payable to: Passaic Valley UNICO
Mail to: Passaic Valley UNICO
PO Box 341
Little Falls, NJ 07424

Italian Heritage Photo from the 2023 UNICO Heritage Calendar Statues in Florence

Taken by Passaic Valley chapter member Steven Pelonero, this photo appears in the 2023 UNICO National Heritage and Photo Calendar for the month of February

Back in the year 2008, when Steve and his wife Patricia, and member Bruce Ponchak and his wife Ann and daughter Jenny, all went on a tour of Rome, Pisa, Florence, Venice, Assisi and back to Rome again

Florence is a city in Central Italy and was the center of medieval European trade. Its political history included rules by the Medici family. The city is noted for its culture, Renaissance art, architecture, monuments, museums and art galleries. Due to Florence's artistic and architectural heritage, Forbes ranked it as the most beautiful city in the world in 2010. It is also ranked one of the top 15 fashion capitals of the world



Monthly Member Spotlight of our Italian Heritage

Charles Russo

His family history is from Avelino, in the Campania Region of Italy

Avellino is a town and comune, capital of the province of Avellino in the Campania region of southern Italy. It is situated in a plain surrounded by mountains 29 miles east of Naples.



The new city was surrounded by massive walls and had an orthogonal hippodamian urban layout.

The 1980, the Irpinia earthquake represented a turning point for the town and for the entire province of Avellino. Large amounts of money flowed in for infrastructure investment, and the extra money generated innovation and economic expansion.

Agriculture was at the heart of Avellino's economy until the mid-1970s.

Since then, many younger people have moved away from family farms, and sometimes also migrated away from the area in pursuit of higher wages. Nevertheless, tobacco, viticulture and especially the production of hazelnuts remain important to the local economy and, with increased investment in recent years, employ a number of people.

The manufacturing sector plays an important role in Avellino, with two industrial zones on the eastern and western peripheries of the main urban area, at Pianodardine suburb, Montefredane, Prata di Principato Ultra and Pratola Serra. Many small and medium-sized businesses are located in the industrial zones, including notably FMA (Fabbrica Motori Automobilistici, Automobile Engine Factory) who produces the Fiat Pratola Serra modular engines for Fiat, Opel, Jeep, Lancia and Alfa Romeo, and creator of the "multi-jet" (fuel injected) car engine.

In the HBO television series The Sopranos, mob boss Tony Soprano has his family roots in Avellino. Tony's grandfather, Corrado Soprano Sr, a stonemason, emigrated from Avellino to the United States in the early 20th century. In the episode "In Camelot", Corrado's son Junior Soprano claims: "The whole village of Avellino settled in this area" in which the main characters live, in Essex County, New Jersey.

Committee & Comments



Community Service Day ~ Chair: Chuck Russo

This year's Community Service Day (our annual food drive) will be held on Saturday April 29th at the Little Falls ShopRite. There will be a sign-up sheet at the February chapter meeting. Please be prepared to sign up for a time slot of 2 to 3 hours or as long as you can. We will be giving customers our shopping list as well as some kind of "shopping bag" which will then be the customers to keep. Thus, we will need cardboard boxes at our collection points. Please start putting aside boxes now for our use at the food drive. If you are not at the chapter meeting and would like to help, please let Chuck know prior to the March meeting. We will also need volunteers to make copies of the shopping list. More details and sign-up sheet at the chapter meeting.

Food Pantry ~ Chair: Roni Corrado

The month of February's food collection will go to the Veterans Pantry. The Veterans Pantry services 119 veterans and their families that include 70 children. The pantry is in need of: Cereal, oatmeal, pancake mix, peanut butter, jelly, granola bars, pasta, tomato sauce, canned pasta, soups, macaroni and cheese, canned stew, canned chili, coffee, tuna, crackers, paper towels, toilet paper, tissues, deodorant, shampoo, soap, toothpaste. Members should bring their contributions to the February meeting.

Holiday Cheer ~ Chair: Roni Corrado

A sincere thank you to members for making this year's collection a success.

Overseas Soldier Program ~ Chair: Roni Corrado

There are no soldiers overseas that need our assistance at this time.

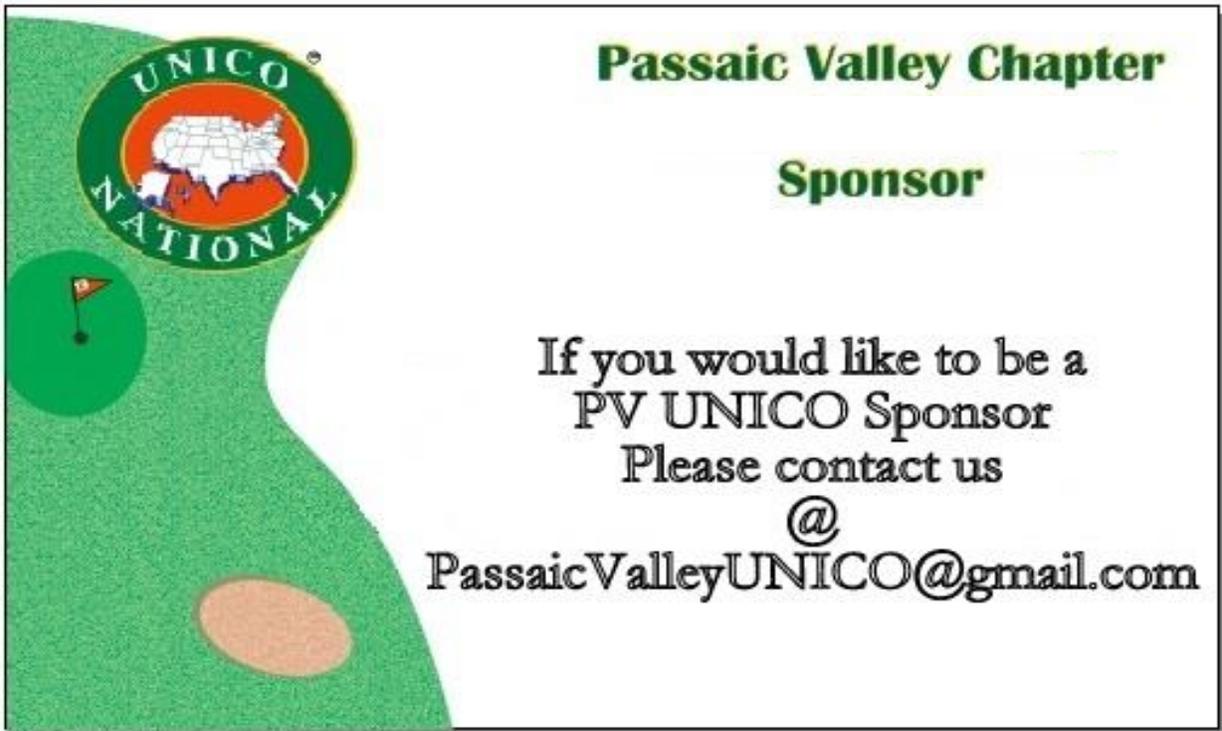
Scholarship ~ Chair: Chuck Russo

Our scholarship applications are in the hands of Passaic Valley HS and other, private, schools in our area. The committee will be meeting very soon to begin discussing our procedures and the format for this year's awards presentations.

Please let Chuck or the committee know if:

- 1. You are aware of any graduating HS student from Little Falls, Totowa, or Woodland Park who does NOT attend PV. That student is still eligible.*
- 2. You or any chapter member who has a child or grandchild who is graduating HS this year regardless of residence. That student is eligible but still must meet our requirements and complete an application.*
- 3. You are interested in making a personal donation of \$200 or more to have a "memorial scholarship" named for a loved one this year.*

Details on all of the above at the chapter meeting



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



Thank you: Our 2022-2023 Sponsors

 Passaic Valley Chapter
Annual Golf Outing
Sponsor

Christopher Vancheri

Councilman, Little Falls



 Passaic Valley Chapter
Annual Golf Outing
Sponsor

Gregory S. Liss, DDS
Advanced Dentistry for Health, Comfort and Appearance



94 Main Street
Little Falls, NJ 07424
973-256-5001



 Passaic Valley Chapter
Annual Golf Outing
Sponsor

CPR Inc
Commercial Plastic Recycling

Tampa, Florida
Joe Benvenuti
Account Rep



 Passaic Valley Chapter
Annual Golf Outing
Sponsor

Murray Contracting
Murray Paving & Concrete, LLC

South Hackensack, NJ
201-670-0030



 Passaic Valley Chapter
Annual Golf Outing
Sponsor

Park West
*Diner • Cafe
& Bakery*



Route 46 West
Little Falls



 Passaic Valley Chapter
Annual Golf Outing
Sponsor

CORE WELLNESS
Chiropractic | Holistic | Massage

Little Falls
973-837-6677



 Passaic Valley Chapter
Annual Golf Outing
Sponsor

AO ACADEMY
ORTHOPAEDICS

ADVANCED TREATMENT. TRUSTED CARE.

504 Valley Road, Suite 201
Wayne, NJ 07470
973.446.7500



 Passaic Valley Chapter
Annual Golf Outing
Sponsor

Bella Notte
AUTHENTIC ITALIAN CUISINE
RESTAURANT & PIZZERIA



973-812-8939

62 EAST MAIN STREET
LITTLE FALLS, NJ 07424



 Passaic Valley Chapter
Annual Golf Outing
Sponsor

FRANK'S PIZZA



261 Comly Road
Lincoln Park, NJ
973-686-9005



 Passaic Valley Chapter
Annual Golf Outing
Sponsor

Thatcher McGhee's
Irish Pub & Eatery

Pompton Lakes,
Denville & Fairfield



 Passaic Valley Chapter
Annual Golf Outing
Sponsor

Gaita Memorial Home
Little Falls, NJ



 Passaic Valley Chapter
Annual Golf Outing
Sponsor

Sal Benvenuti
Passaic Valley Chapter Member

Tax Consultant
& Mediator



< Continued >

Our 2022-2023 Sponsors



Passaic Valley Chapter
Annual Golf Outing
Sponsor

Little Falls ShopRite
Little Falls, NJ




Passaic Valley Chapter
Annual Golf Outing
Sponsor

Needleworks
CUSTOM EMBROIDERY & SCREEN PRINTING
Judy Del Rosso
241 Union Blvd.
Totowa, NJ 07512
973-782-4550
NEEDLEWORKSNJ@AOL.COM




Passaic Valley Chapter
Annual Golf Outing
Sponsor

Francesco's
Restaurant
Fine Authentic Italian Cuisine
973-925-1100
Woodland Park, NJ




Passaic Valley Chapter
Annual Golf Outing
Sponsor

Schumacher Chevrolet
Little Falls, NJ




Passaic Valley Chapter
Annual Golf Outing
Sponsor

STIX
CIGAR SHOP AND CLUB
440 Route 23 North
Pompton Plains, NJ
973-831-2499




Passaic Valley Chapter
Annual Golf Outing
Sponsor

Bagels Unlimited
Gregory Evangelou
163 East Main Street
Little Falls, NJ
973-785-2211




Passaic Valley Chapter
Annual Golf Outing
Sponsor

Cestone Electric Company
23 Jackson Street
Little Falls, NJ




Passaic Valley Chapter
Annual Golf Outing
Sponsor

**Shook's Cedar Grove
Funeral home, Inc.**
486 Pompton Ave.
Cedar Grove, NJ
07009
973-239-1489




Passaic Valley Chapter
Annual Golf Outing
Sponsor

**Best Wishes
Henry Youngster**




Passaic Valley Chapter
Annual Golf Outing
Sponsor



Amore
Ristorante
Italian Cuisine
973-925-5600
(F) 973-925-5599
www.AmoreRistorante.com
140 Rifle Camp Road - Woodland Park, NJ 07424




Passaic Valley Chapter
Annual Golf Outing
Sponsor

Santangelo Funeral Home
Woodland Park, NJ
973-345-2500




Passaic Valley Chapter
Annual Golf Outing
Sponsor

**Billy & Wyatt
Ermolowich**
Friends
of
UNICO



< Continued >

Our 2022-2023 Sponsors



Passaic Valley Chapter
Annual Golf Outing
Sponsor

James A. Martin
Certified Public Accountant
Ramsey, NJ



Passaic Valley Chapter
Annual Golf Outing
Sponsor

Venus Creations
Jewelers



100 Main Street
Little Falls, NJ
(973) 256-8592



Passaic Valley Chapter
Annual Golf Outing
Sponsor

Crews-Wilbert Vault Co.



Passaic Valley Chapter
Annual Golf Outing
Sponsor

Chuck Russo
Wenzel Agency / Atlantic Insurors
Little Falls, NJ



Passaic Valley Chapter
Annual Golf Outing
Sponsor

Steve Pelonero
Passaic Valley Chapter Member



Passaic Valley Chapter
Annual Golf Outing
Sponsor

Patrick & Roni Corrado
Passaic Valley Chapter Member



Passaic Valley Chapter
Annual Golf Outing
Sponsor

**Law Offices of
Abdy & Kane** 

17 Furler Street
Suite 3
Totowa, NJ 07512

973-890-9090



Passaic Valley Chapter
Annual Golf Outing
Sponsor

Joe & Ellen Kliminski
Little Falls
Friends and Supporters of
Passaic Valley
UNICO



Passaic Valley Chapter
Annual Golf Outing
Sponsor

Phillip T. Barone
Realty Executives - Woodland Park

862-849-6776



Passaic Valley Chapter
Annual Golf Outing
Sponsor

Joe & Ellen Kliminski
Little Falls
Friends and Supporters of
Passaic Valley
UNICO



Passaic Valley Chapter
Annual Golf Outing
Sponsor

Frank P. Tidona
Past National President



Passaic Valley Chapter
Annual Golf Outing
Sponsor

MJR Electrical
Contracting



< Continued >

Our 2022-2023 Sponsors



Passaic Valley Chapter
Annual Golf Outing
Sponsor

The
**Baryard and
Carrage House**

Totowa, NJ



Passaic Valley Chapter
Annual Golf Outing
Sponsor

**Best Regards,
SKM Petroleum**



Passaic Valley Chapter
Annual Golf Outing
Sponsor

**Best Regards,
Mario R. Rossellini**



Passaic Valley Chapter
Annual Golf Outing
Sponsor

Jay Sisti

Passaic Valley Chapter Member



Passaic Valley Chapter
Annual Golf Outing
Sponsor

Ralph Contini

UNICO National
Executive VP



Passaic Valley Chapter
Annual Golf Outing
Sponsor

Anthony's Cleaners

279 Browertown Road
West Paterson

1581 Rt. 23 South
Wayne



Passaic Valley Chapter
Annual Golf Outing
Sponsor

Hanson & Ryan Inc.

Insurance Since 1876

973-256-6000



Total Wine
& MORE

Route 46, Totowa, NJ