

March 2023  
Year 20  
Issue 206

# Passaic Valley UNICO

## Our March 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	<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

Welcome March!!

*The end of Winter or did we even have a Winter? Let's start the scheduling our chapters warm weather events and fundraisers.*

*Remember that March 12th is Daylight Savings and it is the time to change and to Spring Ahead!*

*Let's welcome our newest members to our organization Pat Pelonero and Claudine Stefanelli!*

*So far, we have some upcoming events scheduled and I look forward for our members as well as family to participate in them. Here are just a few:*

- March 05, 2023 – A joint chapter fundraiser with our Passaic Valley UNICO and Montville UNICO. It is a “Cornhole Competition” at the Senior Center in Montville.*
- March 7, 2023 – NJ District IV Meeting in Montclair at Laboratoria Kitchen \$40.00/Person*
- March 08, 2023 – Monthly Meeting at Holy Cross Church – Catered Menu TBD.*

*All of our Important Dates can be seen on page 2 of this newsletter as well as the event fliers. They are also on our chapter website at [www.PassaicValleyUNICO.org](http://www.PassaicValleyUNICO.org)*

*Until then*

*A presto*

*Dominick J. Bucci*

*Passaic Valley UNICO – Chapter President*



**March Birthdays  
“Happy Birthday”**

- 03-07 Joe Barone
- 03-27 Bill Ermolowich
- 03-30 Anthony Ribauda
- 03-31 Dr. Kyle Eopchino
- 03-31 Rachel Shalloo

**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**

March 5 ~ Sunday ~ Cornhole Fundraiser ~ The flier is in this newsletter.

March 7 ~ Tuesday ~ Our NJ District IV meeting sponsored by the Montclair Chapter ~ Laboratoria Kitchen, 615 Bloomfield Ave, Montclair ~ 7 pm ~ \$40.00/person

March 8 ~ 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday ~ Monthly Chapter Meeting ~ Holy Cross Church ~ Catered food ~ 7:00 pm dinner – 8 pm meeting

March 12 ~ Sunday ~ Daylight Savings Time Begins.

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

April 9 ~ Sunday ~ Easter Sunday.

April 17 ~ Monday ~ Tax returns are due.

April 21 ~ Friday ~ NJ District IV Pasta Dinner Fundraiser for our Special Need Friends ~ Wayne PAL ~ \$20.00 person

April 29 ~ Saturday ~ Community Service Day ~ ShopRite Food Pantry Drive

June 11 ~ Scholarship and Brian Piccolo Presentation ~ At the Barnyard in Totowa ~ More information to follow.

June 19 ~ Monday ~ Annual Golf Outing at the Meadows ~ Dinner at Franks Restaurant in Lincoln Park ~ The flier is in this newsletter.



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 Language

Hello  
Ciao

How much does this cost?  
Quanto costa questo?

Please, where is the  
bathroom?  
Per favore, dov'è il bagno?

Thank you  
Grazie

I would like ...  
Mi piacerebbe ...

I am lost  
Mi sono perso

I am hungry  
Sono affamato

Quiet please  
Silenzio prego

Dinner is ready  
La cena è pronta

Bless this food  
Benedici questo cibo

## 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 ... 45 Members (President +1)

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

45 members

### Our 2022-2023 Fundraising Committee Heads

Cornhole Tournament .....	Steve Pelonero PNP
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

*A UNICO Welcome to our newest chapter member  
Patricia Pelonero*



*Pictured from the left are:*

*Sal Benvenuti, Cav. Joe Agresti PNP, Gene Maddalena from the Montville Chapter, Patricia Steve Pelonero PNP (he swore Pat in as a new member) and Michele Maddalena (Montville chapter President)*

*Also welcome our other new member, Claudine Stefanelli  
She will be sworn in at our March 8<sup>th</sup> meeting.*

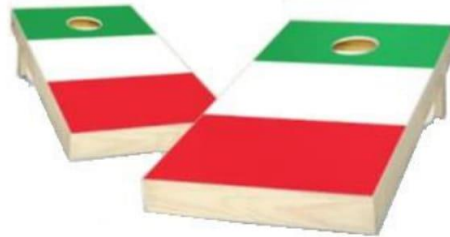


*If you know of anyone who might be interested in joining UNICO  
Please have them reach out to any one of our Chapter members.*



# 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](mailto:gene@jerseysignllc.com) or 973-277-5475 (Montville)  
Contact: Steve Pelonero [stevepelonero@gmail.com](mailto: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



501c3  
organization

# Passaic Valley Chapter 38<sup>th</sup> Annual Golf Outing

**Monday June 19, 2023**

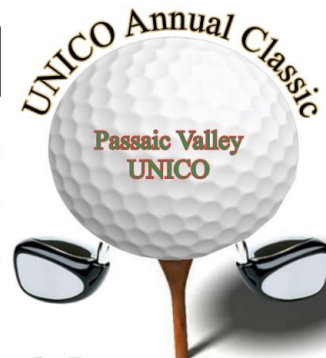
## Meadows Golf Club

76 Twin Bridges Road, Lincoln Park, NJ 07035  
Shotgun Start at 9:00am

- **Breakfast** at 8:00am
- **Italian Style Dinner** at Frank's Restaurant, Lincoln Park, NJ at 2:30pm  
(includes beer, soda, coffee and tea)



Contests, Prizes & Raffle's	
Surprise!!!	Closest to the Pin
Straightest Drive	Par 3 on the Green
Win a CAR "Hole in One"	



### Online Registration

**\$150 per person** - Check or Cash Payment  
\$50 per person Dinner Only

**\$153 per person** - Credit Card Payment  
Pre-Registration is Requested

Go to: [www.unicomembers.com/golf](http://www.unicomembers.com/golf)

### Golf Hole Sponsorship - \$100

Ad displayed on the course, on our Website,  
and in our Monthly Newsletter for the Year!

**Contact: Joseph Barone**

**JCHRZBAR@gmail.com or 973-986-7042**

All proceeds will go to our local scholarship and charitable endeavors

*Italian Heritage Photo*  
*From the 2023 UNICO Heritage Calendar*  
*The Roman Colosseum*

*Taken by Steve Pelonero's sister, Sharon Kessinger ~ (Sharon is a National Member)*

*This photo appears in the 2023 UNICO National  
Heritage and Photo Calendar for the month of February*

*The Colosseum is an oval amphitheater in the center of the city of Rome. It is just east of the Roman Forum. It is the largest and most ancient amphitheater ever built. It is still the largest standing amphitheater in the world.*



# Where is your Italian Heritage From





## Committee & Comments



### ***Community Service Day*** ~ Chair: Chuck Russo

*This year's Community Service Day (our annual food drive) will be held on Saturday April 29<sup>th</sup> at the Little Falls ShopRite. There will be a sign-up sheet again at the March 8th 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 the sign-up sheet at the chapter meeting.*

### ***Cornhole Tournament*** ~ Chair: Steve Pelonero PNP

*Our chapter's cornhole tournament will take place on Sunday, March 5<sup>th</sup>. There is a deadline to pay by March 1<sup>st</sup>. There will be no money collected at the door ~ Pre-pay only ~ Whether you play for \$40 a person (2-person team), or if you just want to come and enjoy the camaraderie and food, it is \$25.00 a person. Please contact committee chair Steve Pelonero ... 973-271-9314 ... Please remember that we need to order the food accordingly based on how many plan on attending, so your call and pe-paying is mandatory. All proceeds are to go in our general chapter funds. Remember: "The more we make, the more we can give".*

### ***Food Pantry*** ~ Chair: Roni Corrado

*March's pantry collection will benefit Little Sisters of the Poor in Totowa. Sister Cecelia tells me they are in need of jars of tomato sauce, soups, cake mixes, Italian breadcrumbs, mayonnaise, mustard, ketchup, jello cups and flavored rice. All donations should be brought to the March meeting, and we will deliver to Sister. Thank you for your continued generosity and support.*

### ***Holiday Cheer*** ~ Chair: Roni Corrado

*Thank you for another successful year.*

### ***Overseas Soldier Program*** ~ Chair: Roni Corrado

*There are no soldiers in our families that are overseas at this time.*



### **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



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**Christopher Vancheri**

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(973) 256-8592





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**Crews-Wilbert Vault Co.**




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**Chuck Russo**  
Wenzel Agency / Atlantic Insurors  
Little Falls, NJ




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**Steve Pelonero**  
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**Frank P. Tidona**  
Past National President



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Contracting



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*The*  
**Baryard and  
Carrage House**

Totowa, NJ




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**Best Regards,  
SKM Petroleum**





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**Best Regards,  
Mario R. Rossellini**




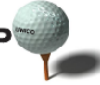
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**Jay Sisti**  
Passaic Valley Chapter Member





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**Ralph Contini**  
UNICO National  
Executive VP




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