

December ~ 2016  
Year 14  
Issue 135

# Passaic Valley UNICO

## Our December 2016 Monthly Newsletter



Passaic Valley UNICO  
PO Box 341  
Little Falls, NJ 07424

*Serving*  
*Little Falls*  
*Totowa*  
*Woodland Park*

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Website [www.PVUNICO.com](http://www.PVUNICO.com)  
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Website [www.UNICO.org](http://www.UNICO.org)  
Email [PassaicValleyUNICO@gmail.com](mailto:PassaicValleyUNICO@gmail.com)

## ***President's Message***

*Hello UNICAN's,*

*I hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving and now we go into one of the best times of the year. The Christmas season is always a great time to be with family and friends whether it's over dinner or just a few drinks.*

*I know everyone is extremely busy this time of year so we are going to have our Chapter's Christmas Party in January. We will have our regularly scheduled meeting on December 14<sup>th</sup> at Holy Cross Church. Also please remember that the District IV Christmas Party is on Sunday, December 4<sup>th</sup> at the Chandelier in Belleville. If you would like to attend, please contact Joe Agresti.*

*I would like to thank Bob Appaluccio and his Christmas Cheer committee for coordinating this annual project. This program is one of the most satisfying things we do for our communities. We sometimes take what we have for granted and don't realize that others are not so fortunate.*

*In closing I would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy Healthy New Year!*

*Bruce Ponchak*



## December Birthdays

12/5 Jean Chomko

## Photo Albums

All of our chapter events 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.PVUNICO.com](http://www.PVUNICO.com)
- [www.UNICO.org](http://www.UNICO.org)
- [www.UNICO-NJdistrictIV.4mq.com](http://www.UNICO-NJdistrictIV.4mq.com)

## Food Pantry

Please don't forget about our UNICO Phil Arena Food Pantry ... Your non-perishable food donation will restock it

You can bring it directly to the pantry in the basement of Holy Angels Church ... or to any chapter meeting

## Upcoming Events – Local and National

**December 1 ... Thursday ... UNICO National Office Holiday Season Get-Together ... At the National Office in Fairfield ... Noon – 7:00 pm**

**December 4 ... Sunday ... NJ District IV Christmas Dinner for Special Needs ... More information to follow but "Save the Date"**

**December 14 ... 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday ... Monthly Meeting ... Holy Cross Church ... 7:00 pm Dinner – 8:00 pm Meeting**

**January 2017 ... Chapter Christmas Dinner ... More Information to Follow**

**March 17 & 18, 2017 ... Friday & Saturday ... March Mid-Year Board Meeting ... At the Rosen Shingle Creek Resort in Orlando, FL ... Delegates, members, and non-members are to register for the meeting with the National Office ... Book your room direct with the hotel. You will get the UNICO hotel room rate if you book before Feb 21, 2017 ... Call the National office if there any questions**

If you are "not" a member and would like to attend any of our meetings as our guest, please contact any of our Chapter Officers for more information ... Or email us at [PassaicValleyUNICO@gmail.com](mailto:PassaicValleyUNICO@gmail.com)



**U – Unity  
N – Neighborliness  
I – Integrity  
C – Charity  
O – Opportunity**

**"Service Above Self"**



**Did you know this about Christmas in Italy?**

Christmas season lasts for three weeks in Italy, from Dec. 17 to Jan. 6

Children in Italy wait for January 6, the Epiphany, to open their presents

Children's presents in Italy are delivered by Befana, a kind ugly witch who rides on a broomstick

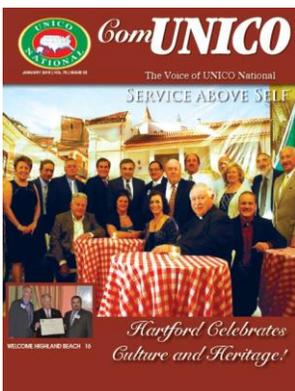
Panettone is the traditional cake in Italy during the holiday season

Christmas Day in Italy is reserved for church, family, and feasting

Mangers and Christmas Carols originated in Italy

**ComUNICO**

You can now read the ComUNICO Magazine online, just by clicking on the cover below



**Who's Who**

**Our 2016-2017 Executive Board**

President .....	Bruce Ponchak
1st Vice President .....	Carmen Gaita Jr.
2nd Vice President .....	Eileen Wood
Treasurer .....	Joseph McGill
Recording Secretary .....	Patrick Ligouri
Sgt. At-Arms .....	Dominick Bucci

**Our 2016-2017 Board of Directors**

John Barbieri	Chapter President	2014 & 2015
Robert Appaluccio	Chapter President	2012 & 2013
Steve Pelonero	Chapter President	2010 & 2011
Carmen Criscione	Chapter President	2008 & 2009
Salvatore Benvenuti	Chapter President	2006 & 2007
Angelo Verrone	Chapter President	2004 & 2005

**Our 2016-2017 Chapter Delegates**

President	Bruce Ponchak
Delegate	Sal Benvenuti
Delegate	Dominick Bucci
Delegate	Eileen Wood
Alternate Delegate	John Barbieri
Alternate Delegate	Jean Chomko
Alternate Delegate	Joe McGill
Alternate Delegate	Joyce O'Hara

**Fundraising Committee Heads**

Applebee's Flapjack & Pancake Breakfast .....	Dominick Bucci
Bus Rides .....	Elaine Barone, Mary Benvenuti, Joyce O'Hara
Golf Outing .....	Joe Barone
Holiday Donations .....	Robert Appaluccio
Modell's .....	Roni Corrado
Overseas Armed Service Care Packages .....	Pat Corrado

**Non-Fundraising Committee Heads**

Community Service Day (April) .....	Chuck Russo
Food Pantry .....	Roni Corrado
Good and Welfare .....	Sal Nocella
Italian Heritage with Our Youth at P.V.H.S. ....	Angelo Verrone
Membership .....	John Barbieri
Newsletter .....	Steve Pelonero
Scholarship / Brian Piccolo .....	Joe Agresti PNP/ Chuck Russo
Study Abroad Collegiate Scholarship .....	Joseph Agresti PNP
Website .....	Steven Pelonero / John Barbieri

# Photos taken @ The Eastern Region Meeting

## In Cape Cod, Chatham, Massachusetts



Left: PNP Joe Agresti with Elisa and Elda Coccia



Right: PNP Joe Agresti Presenting the Joseph Coccia Award



Left: National President Dominick Nicastro with ERDG Steve Pelonero



Right: ERDG Steve Pelonero with UNICO First Lady Alina Nicastro. Steve guessed how many calories in the Pumpkin

**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 of 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.

# December ~ Dicembre

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**UNICO National**  
"Service Above Self"

**The Passaic Valley Chapter**

Jay Sisti ~ Chapter Member  
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# You too can be seen here for an entire UNICO year

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In memory of

*Thomas Triolo*

Long Time Member of Passaic Valley UNICO

April 9, 1942 ~ February 21, 2015

Always Remembered



*Viva*

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 And also on our website at [www.PVUNICO.com](http://www.PVUNICO.com)*

*Ask any member for more information  
 Or contact us with an email / or private message on Facebook*

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*To learn more about UNICO  
 The Largest Italian American Organization in the United States  
 You can also visit [www.UNICO.org](http://www.UNICO.org)*

