

January ~ 2017  
Year 14  
Issue 136

# Passaic Valley UNICO

## Our January 2017 Monthly Newsletter



Passaic Valley UNICO  
PO Box 341  
Little Falls, NJ 07424

*Serving*  
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### **Page Highlights:**

About UNICO	4
Birthday's	2
ComUNICO Link	3
Did You Know	3
Food Pantry	2
Photo Album Links	2
Photos in October	4
President's Message	1
Sponsors 2016-2017	5,6,7
Upcoming Events	2
Who's Who	3

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

Hello UNICAN's,

*I hope everyone had a very Merry Christmas and was able to celebrate with their family and friends. It's hard to believe that we have come to the end of another year. However the New Year starts fresh with optimism and hope for the coming year. Our chapter has a lot on its schedule for 2017 – our Comedy Night, Golf Outing, Community Service Day, Pancake Breakfast, Casino Bus Ride, Scholarship Dinner and more. In addition, our National Convention will be in Scottsdale, Arizona in July.*

*Congratulations to Steve Pelonero on announcing his candidacy for 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President of UNICO National. He has served UNICO on many levels and will make an outstanding candidate.*

*A reminder that our "after" Christmas Party is on January 11<sup>th</sup> at Casa Bella Restaurant in Denville. UNICO National President Dominick Nicastro and his wife, Aline, will be joining us for the evening. I hope everyone can make it.*

*In closing, I want to wish everyone and their families a Happy and Healthy New Year.*

*Bruce Ponchak*



## January Birthdays

Sorry, no birthdays this month

## 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.4mg.com](http://www.UNICO-NJdistrictIV.4mg.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

**January 11, 2017** ... 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday ... **Chapter Christmas Dinner** ... Must RSVP to Eileen ... **Casa Bella – Denville NJ** ... \$30.00 per person

**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:**

**New Year's Eve in Italy:**

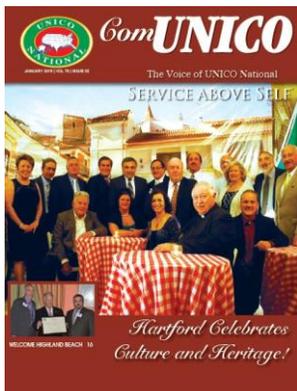
The Italian Translation:  
La Festa di San Silvestro

A traditional New Year's Eve Dinner in Italy: The star of the dinner is lentils, symbolizing money and good fortune for the coming year. Traditionally, the dinner in many parts of Italy also includes a cotechino, a large spiced sausage, or a zampone, stuffed pig's trotter. The pork symbolizes the richness of life in the coming year

The New Year is also celebrated with spumante or prosecco, Italian sparkling wines

**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

## Our December Meeting

A special treat for those that were in attendance at the December 14<sup>th</sup> meeting was “just made that night for us” fresh mozzarella by Sal Nocella. At Holy Cross church, where most of our chapter meetings are held, Sal (left) came up with many platters of his specialty. Pictured next to Sal from the left are Bob Appaluccio, Bruce Ponchak (chapter president), and Joe McGill (chapter treasurer)



**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.

# January ~ Gennaio

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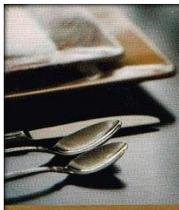
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**UNICO National**  
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**The Passaic Valley Chapter**

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

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Thomas Triolo

Long Time Member of Passaic Valley UNICO

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 Every month from July 2016 through June of 2017  
 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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[www.Facebook.com/PassaicValleyUNICO](http://www.Facebook.com/PassaicValleyUNICO)*

*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)*

