

January 2022  
Year 19  
Issue 194

# Passaic Valley UNICO

## Our March 2022 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***

*Ciao Passaic Valley UNICO Chapter Members, Friends and Families*

*Happy Spring.... It is Coming!*

*We do not have much going on this month of March other than the UNICO National Mid-Year Board Meeting where the budget and other issues are voted on. It is a Friday and Saturday meeting and dinner where you can always meet other members from UNICO.*

*Plans for our 50th Anniversary Gala are in the works. Hope you are all planning to attend on April 26. Try to get out and obtain some ads for our journal.*

*The District Pasta Dinner on April 22 is still selling tickets. Good Food, Great Friends and a Good Cause.*

*Our next meeting is March 9, at Holy Cross Church. See you all there.*

*Be Proactive, Stay Safe and Healthy!*

*Regards,*

*Eileen Wood, Chapter President*

*Passaic Valley UNICO*



## March Birthdays

03-07 Joseph Barone  
 03-15 Angela Jones  
 03-24 Alyssa Minnella  
 03-26 Joseph Ciarfella  
 03-27 William Ermolowich  
 03-30 Anthony Ribaud  
 03-31 Dr. Kyle Eoepchino

## 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 1, 2022** ~ Tuesday ~ NJ District IV Meeting ~ Chandelier, 340 Franklin Ave, Belleville ~ 7pm Dinner/Meeting

**March 9, 2022** ~ 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday ~ Our chapter monthly meeting ~ More information will follow

**March 9,10,11,12** ~ Wednesday through Saturday ~ UNICO National Mid-Year Board Meeting ~ In Myrtle Beach, SC ~ Pre-registration required

**April 26, 2022** ~ Tuesday ~ Our 50<sup>th</sup> Chapter Anniversary and Men of the Year Dinner ~ At Nanina's in the Park, 540 Mill Street, Belleville

**June 26, 2022** ~ Monday ~ Our Annual Golf Outing Fundraiser ~ At the Meadows in Lincoln Park

**July 27, 28, 29, 30** ~ Wednesday through Saturday ~ UNICO National 99<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention ~ In New Orleans ~ Pre-registration required

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 that is all the way to the right

## 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”**



### March Traditions Held in Italy

The Rome Marathon is held late in March, it is a 42km (26 miles)

Carnivale is celebrated (depending on the date of Easter) most of the time early in March with costumes, parades and masquerade parties

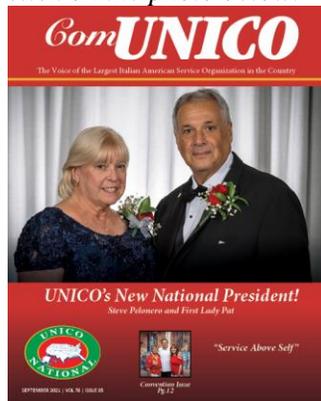
Festa della Donna, or International Women’s Day, is celebrated on March 8<sup>th</sup> all over Italy. Men usually bring yellow flowers to the women in their lives on this day

March 15<sup>th</sup> is the Ides of March: the day of Caesar’s death

Feast Day of San Giuseppe (St. Joseph’s Day) is held on March 19. It is also known as Father’s Day in Italy

### ComUNICO

You can now read the Com-UNICO magazine online, just click on the photo below.



## Who’s Who

### Our 2021-2022 Executive Board

President .....	Eileen Wood
1st Vice President .....	Pat Ligouri
2nd Vice President .....	Dominick Bucci
Treasurer .....	Bruce Ponchak
Secretary .....	Chuck Russo
Sgt. At-Arms .....	Jim Minnella
Corresponding Secretary .....	John Morano

### Our 2021-2022 Board of Directors

Carmen Gaita	Past Chapter President	2018 & 2019
Bruce Ponchak	Past Chapter President	2016 & 2017
John Barbieri	Past Chapter President	2014 & 2015
Robert Appaluccio	Past Chapter President	2012 & 2013
Steve Pelonero	Past Chapter President	2010 & 2011
Carmen Criscione	Past Chapter President	2008 & 2009

### Our 2021-2022 Chapter Delegates

President Eileen Wood ... 58 Members (President +3)  
 Delegate: James Minnella  
 Delegate: Dominick Bucci  
 Alternate Delegate: Joyce O’Hara  
 Alternate Delegate:  
 Delegates represent our chapter vote at regional and national meetings.

### Fundraising Committee Heads

Christmas Family Gifts .....	Bob Appaluccio
Food Pantry .....	Roni Corrado
Overseas Armed Service Care Packages .....	Pasquale Corrado
Chapter Raffle .....	Carmen Gaita / Joe Benvenuti

### Non-Fundraising Committee Heads

50 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee .....	Cav. PNP Joe Agresti, Joe Benvenuti, Carmen Gaita, Chuck Russo, Angelo Verrone
Community Service Day (April).....	Pat Ligouri
Good and Welfare .....	Sal Nocella
Italian Flag Raising .....	Steve Pelonero
Membership .....	John Barbieri
Newsletter .....	Steve Pelonero
Scholarship / Brian Piccolo .....	Carmen Gaita, Charles Russo
Study Abroad College Grants .....	Cav./ Joseph Agresti PNP
Website .....	Steven Pelonero / John Barbieri

## Committee & Comments

### ***50/50 Raffle***

*You can support our chapter in our efforts to help others  
Please purchase a ticket from our chair members, Carmen Gaita & Joe Benvenuti  
Tickets are available at our chapter meetings (places are announced on a monthly basis)  
“They will make excellent Christmas Stocking Stuffers & Birthday Presents for the Holidays”  
PLEASE  
Bring your money and stubs to the March Meeting  
With your help it can be a successful fundraiser*

### ***Food Pantry***

*In the month of February, the proceeds from our collection went to first Reform Church of Little Falls.  
Pastor Emily was ever so grateful for the \$75 in Shop Rite Gift Cards and  
for the 5 bags chock full of non-perishable foods.  
The proceeds from the March collection will go to the Veterans Pantry of Passaic County.  
Members may bring any non-perishable foods and/or money to the March meeting*

### ***Our April 26<sup>th</sup> 50<sup>th</sup> Chapter Anniversary***

*Please call Cav. Joe Agresti PNP for your tickets and/or to get your ticket money in  
Let's make this a memorable and successful celebratory affair  
Our flier is on the next page of this newsletter*

### ***Overseas Soldier Program***

*We are hearing from Evelyn Tosi that she may have 3 grandsons going overseas  
At the present time, they are all preparing for their deployments  
Evelyn will keep us apprised of their assignments*

### ***Scholarship Program***

*From the Scholarship Chair, Pat Ligouri: This year's Scholarship Dinner has been scheduled. It will be on  
Wednesday June 15<sup>th</sup> at the Grand Room of the Barnyard and Carriage House in Totowa. Price has yet to be  
determined. Please mark your calendars for that date. Details on the dinner along with information on “Memorial  
Scholarships”, eligibility of children/grandchildren of members and of students from our 3 towns who do not  
attend PVHS will be discussed at the March chapter meeting*

## SAVE THE DATE !

### The Passaic Valley Chapter's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dinner Celebration

#### **HONORING OUR CHAPTER MEMBERS;**

UNICO NATIONAL PRESIDENT STEVEN PELONERO and  
UNICO NATIONAL EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SALVATORE BENVENUTI

**Tuesday, April 26. 2022**

**6:30 PM to 10:30 PM**

*Nanina's in the Park*

*540 Mill Street, Belleville, NJ*

THE EVENING FEATURES:

#### **Hospitality**

*White Gloved Homemade Passed Hors d'oeuvres*

*Full Premium Open Bar - All Night*

#### **Buffet Cocktail Hour & Cold Displays**

*Salumeria Station*

*Fresh Fruit Display – Italian Seafood Salad – Tuscan Salad*

#### **Stations and Enhancements**

*Homemade Mac & Cheese Bar – Carving Boards*

*Silver Chafing Stations – Seven Selections*

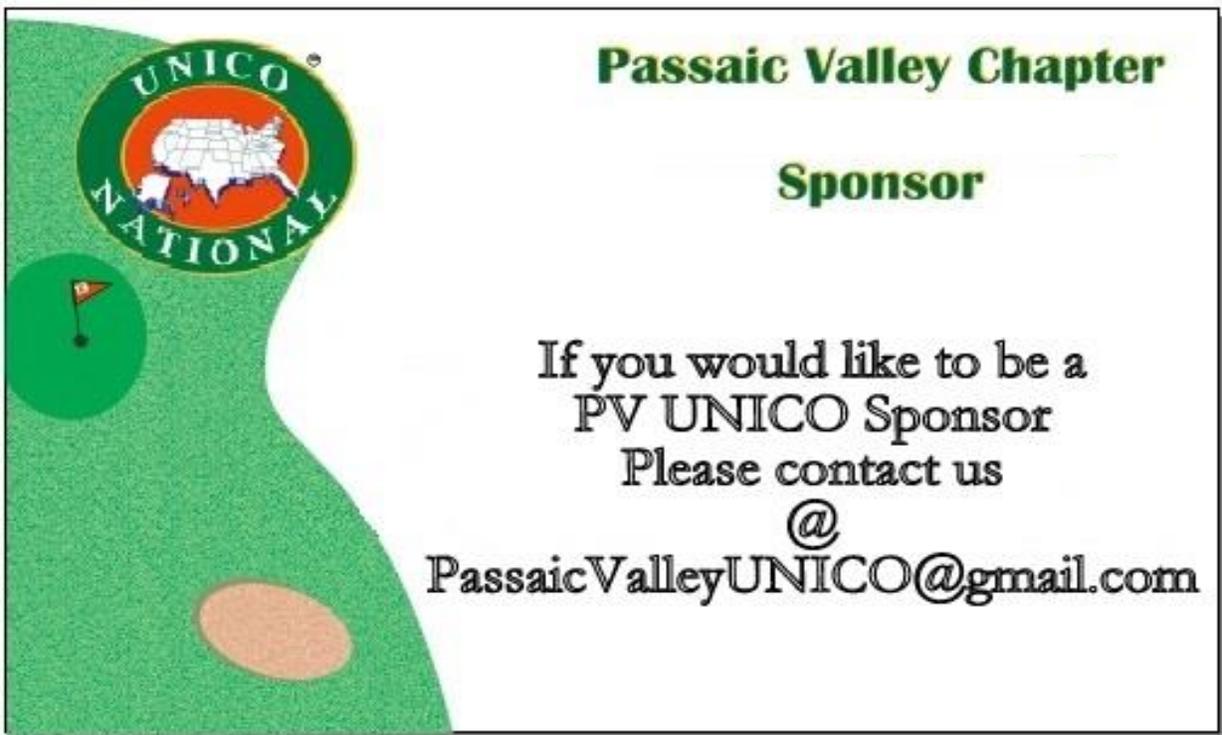
*Dessert – pastries & cake - Coffee Stations – coffee/tea/espresso/cappuccino*

**For Your Dancing & Entertainment Pleasure: Julian & Dominique**

**Donation: \$100.00 Per Person**

For more information contact: Cav. Joseph Agresti at 201-874-0546 or Agresti1@Aol.com





### *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.*

*For those that would like to help us in the years 2021/2022*

*Please reach out to us at*

*[PassaicValleyUNICO@gmail.com](mailto:PassaicValleyUNICO@gmail.com)*

*Or you can ask any chapter member for more information.*

*Just \$100 gets you in every issue of this newsletter and on our chapter website for our UNICO year of 2021-2022*

*You will also be shown at our annual golf outing.*

*[www.PassaicValleyUNICO.org](http://www.PassaicValleyUNICO.org)*



# Our 2021-2022 Sponsors



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**UNICO National Officer  
Vice President**




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Councilman, Little Falls




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Cedar Grove, NJ  
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Joe Benvenuti  
Account Rep




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**Sal Benvenuti**  
Executive Director

**UNICO National**



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**Frank P. Tidona**  
Past National President



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**Viva**  
LA PIZZA

*We Deliver!*  
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(Park West Shopping Center)



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**Holy Canolli Pastry Shop**  
Anything you want, I know a guy !!  
Leave the gun, take the cannoli !!



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**Peter L. Pettinato, VMD**  
UNICO National  
1st Vice President

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Hackensack, NJ  
07601



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**Salon Amici**

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**Congratulations  
Daniel Dransfield**  
from Anna, Cafo & Dom



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**Cestone Electric Company**

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**Little Falls Trophy**

Route 46 East  
Little Falls, NJ



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**FRANK'S PIZZA**

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



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**Election Fund for**  
**Senator Corrado**  
**for Senate**



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**Best Wishes**  
**Henry Youngster**



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**NJ**  
**Orthopaedic Institute, LLC**

504 Valley Road  
Suite 200  
Wayne, NJ



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PassaicValleyUNICO@gmail.com