

July 2024  
Year 22  
Issue 222

# Passaic Valley UNICO

## Our July 2024 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

*Hello Fellow Chapter Members*

*I thank you for giving me the honor of being your newly elected president. On behalf of myself and our newly enhanced executive committee, I want to thank everyone for making this past year extremely successful.*

*It was good as always to see everyone involved to make our chapter go in a positive direction.*

*Dominick Bucci has done a remarkable job in the past few years. I thank him and I wish to continue to use both his guidance and other established members to address challenges that we may see.*

*The executive committee will be meeting sometime in July to discuss and layout our future agenda. Meetings at this time will again be the second Wednesday of the month at established restaurants and church halls that the board has agreed upon.*

*Our executive committee and I look forward to kicking off our new year. With your continued support and participation, and the spirit of what UNICO is all about; we can't help but be successful.*

*In closing, I must repeat the words of a great number one hit song from the 60's - "See You In September"*

**CIAO**

*Carmen Criscione- Chapter President*



## July Birthdays

09 Jessica Gaeta  
10 Daniel Dransfield  
20 Evelyn Tosi  
23 Michaela Ragusso  
31 Joe Benvenuti

## 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.UNICONJIV.yolasite.com](http://www.UNICONJIV.yolasite.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 Chairs, Carmen Gaita, or Patricia Pelonero on how you can help.

## Upcoming Events – Local and National

**July and August** ~ Our chapter does not meet these two months ~ Please visit our chapter website for more information @ [www.PassaicValleyUNICO.org](http://www.PassaicValleyUNICO.org)

**July 28, 29, 30, 31** ~ Sunday through Wednesday ~ **The UNICO National Convention.** This year it is in Princeton NJ ~ All the information is on the UNICO National Website @ [www.UNICO.org](http://www.UNICO.org).

**December 3, 2024** ~ Tuesday ~ **Our UNICO NJ District IV Christmas Dinner for our Special Need Friends** ~ More information will follow.

~~~~~



## Below are our UNICO's CORE VALUES

If you know of someone who has them and 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”**



## UNICO Charities

### Foundation Charities

... Cancer Research  
 ... Cooley's Anemia  
 ... Food Bank  
 ... Italian Studies  
 ... Mental Health  
 ... Scholarship  
 ... St. Jude's Hospital

### National Charities

... Anti Bias  
 ... Armed Forces  
 ... Columbus Day  
 ... Heritage Calendar

## Travelers Guide to Italy

*Clicking here will bring  
 you to some of the most  
 traveled tourist places in  
 Italy and Sicily*

## 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 2024-2025 Executive Board

President ..... Carmen Criscione  
 1st Vice President ..... Joe Benvenuti  
 2nd Vice President ..... Chuck Russo  
 Treasurer ..... Bruce Ponchak  
 Secretary ..... Steve Pelonero  
 Sgt. At-Arms ..... John Morano  
 Corresponding Secretary ..... John Morano

### Our 2024-2025 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 | Past Chapter President | 2022 & 2023 |

### Our 2024-2025 Chapter Delegates

President Dominick Bucci ... 49 Members (President +2)

Delegate: Sal Benvenuti

Delegate: Patricia Pelonero

(Delegates represent our chapter and are urged to attend our district,  
 regional, and national meetings, especially if a vote is called for)

### Our 2024-2025 Fundraising Committee Heads

Cornhole Tournament ..... John Barbieri  
 Food Pantry ..... Carmen Gaita and Patricia Pelonero  
 Golf Outing ..... Joe Barone  
 Holiday Cheer ..... Carmen Gaita, Joe Benvenuti, Sal Benvenuti  
 Overseas Armed Service Care Packages ..... **Open - To be appointed**

### Non-Fundraising Committee Heads

Community Service Day (April) ..... Charles Russo  
 Good and Welfare ..... Joe Benvenuti  
 Heritage ..... Angelo Verrone  
 Newsletter ..... Steve Pelonero PNP  
 Nominating Chair ..... **Open - To be appointed**  
 Publicity ..... Christina Castillo & Roni Corrado  
 Scholarship / Brian Piccolo ..... Charles Russo  
 Study Abroad College Grants ..... Cav. Joseph Agresti PNP  
 Website ..... Steven Pelonero PNP  
 Website Member Section ..... John Barbieri



## *Our 2024 Scholarship & Brian Piccolo Recipients*



## *Our 2024/2025 Executive Board Officers*



*More Photos can be seen on our chapter website at [www.PassaicValleyUNICO.org](http://www.PassaicValleyUNICO.org)*



## *Golf Outing Photos*



*We thank everyone  
Sponsors ~ Workers ~ and Golfers  
Everyone who made this day a successful outing*



## *Italian Heritage Photo*

### *From the 2024 UNICO Heritage Calendar ~ July*

*Landscape view of San Gimignano, Italy*



*This photo was taken by a Clark Chapter NJ member. It shows a landscape view of San Gimignano.*

*San Gimignano is a medieval town in the heart of Tuscany.  
It is famous for its skyline of towers that rise above the rolling hills.*

*It once was a flourishing trade center and a stop on the pilgrim route of the Via Francigena, San Gimignano.*

*It still preserves its rich heritage of art, architecture, and culture.*

---

## Where is your Heritage From ?





## Committee & Comments

### ***Food Pantry ~ Carmen Gaita and Patricia Pelonero***

*As always, donations for our local food pantries can always be brought to any chapter meeting (non-perishable items, money, or food gift cards). Thank you always for your support.*

### ***Overseas Soldiers ~ Roni Corrado***

*Thanks to all who donated at our June meeting. With the proceeds I was able to ship off 22 pounds of delicious snacks to Major Lacey. Thank you once again and a Happy Summer to All. ~~~ Roni.*

### ***Publicity Committee ~ Roni Corrado / Christine Castillo***

*The Italian Tribune has featured all of our club's events this year in their newspaper. We thank them for their collaboration. ~~~ Roni & Christine*

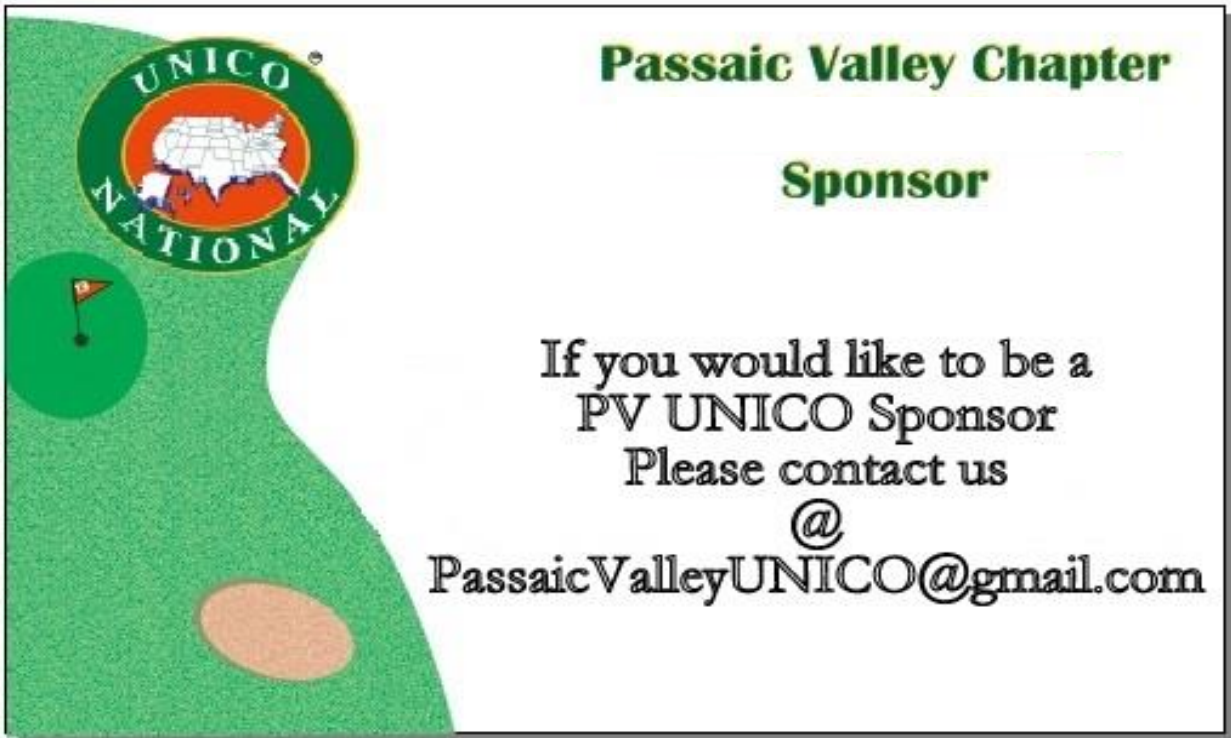
### ***VP Comment ~ Joe Benvenuti***

*I want to wish all a very Happy Summer and a Happy 4<sup>th</sup> of July our countries birthday, Have a great time but be safe with those fireworks. Please remember to pay your dues as this helps us pay our share to National in July as well. Keep UNICO fresh in our mind and remember our motto Service Above Self. Looking forward to a good year coming up in September ~~~ Joe B*

***A Happy & Safe July 4<sup>th</sup> to everyone***







### **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.

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
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
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**Sal Benvenuti**  
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
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Republican  
Organization ★

≡ Thank You  
UNICO! ≡

**Vince Miraglia  
&  
Jason Sumbaly**

*For Little Falls Town Council*




**Dr. Christopher Wright**


New Jersey  
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**BEST WISHES  
from  
Sparta UNICO**






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**Steve Pelonero**

Past National President  
&  
Chapter Member





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**BEST WISHES TO PV UNICO**




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Mayor & Council  
Thank You  
UNICO



You too can be a proud sponsor of our Passaic Valley UNICO Chapter.

It is never too late.

You will be in every newsletter for our 2024-2025 year.

And, if received early enough, you will also have a sign on one of the 18 holes at our Annual Golf Outing