August 2024

Year 22

Issue 223

Passaic Valley UNICO

Our August 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 www.PassaicValleyUNICO.org Chapter Website www.UNICOmembers.com

Facebook Page www.Facebook.com/PassaicValleyUNICO
Instagram Page www.Instagram.com/PassaicValleyUNICO

District Website www.UNICONJIV.yolasite.com

National Website www.UNICO.org

Chapter Email PassaicValleyUNICO@gmail.com

A Message from our Chapter President

Hello Chapter Members - Hope summer is going well for all.

Just a few short words to keep you in the loop.

The newly formed Chapter Executive Board met for the first time this past week with some great ideas for the upcoming year.

We had discussions regarding meeting formats, membership recruitment and future activities.

Will be getting together with the Board of Directors to put together a working budget which will be acceptable going forward.

Have a great rest of summer and will see you all at our first meeting in September. Time and place will be given shortly.

Ciao

Carmen Criscione- Chapter President

~~ Note: See Carmen's Family Heritage on Page 5 ~~



August Birthdays

06 – Claudine Stefanelli

09 ~ Joe Agresti PNP

09 ~ Tony Orlando

15 ~ Pete Longo

17 ~ Marisa Panicucci

24 ~ Carmen Allora

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

www.UNICO.org

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

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.

September 11, 2024 $\sim 2^{nd}$ Wednesday \sim Chapter monthly meeting – More information will follow

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

Please remember that chapter dues are now due

Reminder envelopes were mailed out

\$12 = Youth

\$15 = Lifetime

 $$85 = Regular\ member$

See you in September

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

<mark>Travelers Guide</mark> 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 <u>Com-UNICO</u> magazine on the internet Just click or go here >>> 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	
Corresponding Secretary	

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 Carmen Criscione ... 59 Members (President +3)

Delegate: Sal Benvenuti Delegate: Patricia Pelonero

Delegate: open

(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	
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

Italian Heritage Photo From the 2024 UNICO Heritage Calendar ~ August

The town of Salogni Piedmonte, Provincia Alessandria



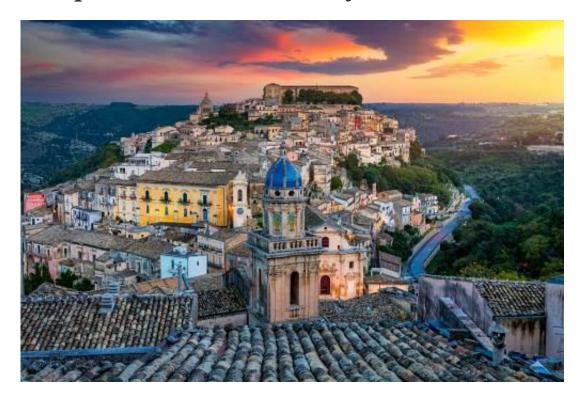
This photo was taken by a Granby CT chapter member. It is his families hometown where some still live.

The village of Salogni belongs to the municipality of Fabbrica Curone.

It is in the province of Alessandria, Piemonte region.

There are in Salogni 116 buildings, but only 114 are used. 103 buildings are for residential use, 11 buildings are for commercial or productive purposes.

Our Chapter President's Family Hometown Heritage



Carmens family has roots from Ragusa in Sicily.
Ragusa is a city in southern Italy on the island of Sicily.
With 73,288 inhabitants in 2016, it is built on a wide limestone hill.
It is part of a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

In 1693, Ragusa was devastated by a huge earthquake, which killed some 5,000 inhabitants.

After the catastrophe, the city was largely rebuilt, and many Baroque buildings from that time remain in the city.

In 1838, an asphalt deposit was discovered, which is still being worked.

Ragusa is now a dynamic and wealthy city and home to numerous companies.

The city has two distinct areas, the lower and older town of Ragusa Ibla, and the higher Ragusa Superiore (Upper Town). The two halves are separated by the Valle dei Ponti, a deep ravine crossed by four bridges, the most noteworthy of which is the eighteenth-century Ponte dei Cappuccini.

The map below shows where Ragusa is located.



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.

Golf Outing ~ Joe Barone

RE: 39 TH ANNUAL PASSAIC VALLEY UNICO GOLF OUTING JUNE 17, 2024

~~~ THANKS TO THE EFFORTS OF THE PASSAIC VALLEY GOLF COMMITTEE AND THE SUPPORT OF OUR MEMBERSHIP, WE ARE PLEASED TO REPORT THAT THE 2024 GOLF OUTING HELD AT MEADOWS GOLF CLUB IN LINCOLN PARK FOLLOWED BY A BEEFSTEAK DINNER AT BROWNSTONE RESTAURANT IN PATERSON WAS A SUCCESS AS SHOWN BELOW.

- ~~~ATTENDANCE: 72 GOLFERS \$ 13,085
- ~~~SPONSORS: 65 SPONSORS \$ 7,680
- ~~~ADDITIONAL: 4 DINERS \$ 300

IN SUMMARY, THE OUTING GENERATED "NET PROCEEDS OF \$11,240.00" FOR PASSAIC VALLEY UNICO SCHOLARSHIPS, CHARITABLE ENDEAVORS AN OTHER WORTHWHILE ACTIVITIES. THE WEATHERMAN CO-OPERATED AND EVERYONE SEEMED TO HAVE AN ENJOYABLE TIME. WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR AND SINCERELY APPRECIATE THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF OUR SPONSORS, GOLF COMMITTEE MEMBERS, GOLFERS, HOLE MONITORS, CHAPTER MEMBERS, AND ALL THE OTHERS WHO SUPPORTED OUR OUTING.

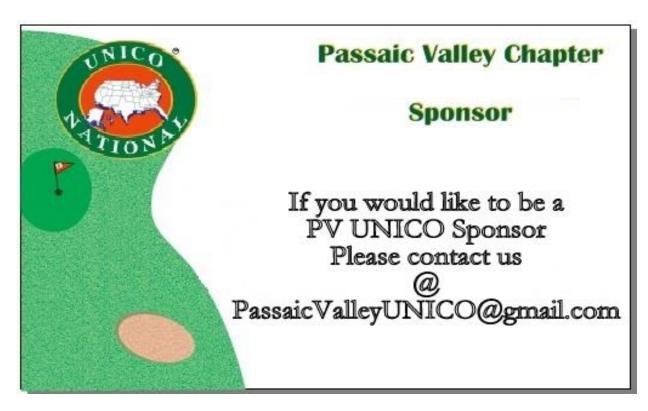
BEST REGARDS,

JOSEPH BARONE, GOLF COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

PS: STAY TUNED FOR INFORMATION ABOUT THE 40 TH PASSAIC VALLEY UNICO GOLF OUTING

#### 1st VP Comment ~ Joe Benvenuti

I would like to wish our delegates that are attending the UNICO National Convention in Princeton NJ the very best. Hope the convention is a great success and a good time is also had. Looking forward to hearing how the convention went in our September meeting. Want to wish all our members a safe great rest of summer and looking forward to seeing everyone in September. ~~~ Ciao, Joe Benvenuti



## **Our UNICO Charities**

#### **UNICO** National

Armed Services ~ Columbus Day ~ Heritage & Photo Calendar

#### UNICO Foundation

21st century ~ Anti-Bias ~ Cancer Research & Prevention Cooley's Anemia ~ Italian Studies ~ Mental Health Scholarships ~ Torraco 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.

# Our 2024 Cornhole Sponsors





















(From July 1, 2024 ~ June 30, 2025)



# All of our Sponsors (62)



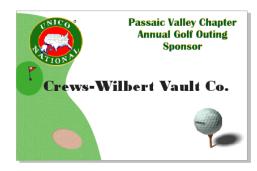






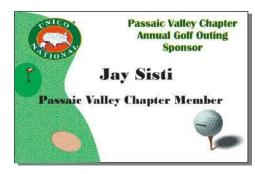






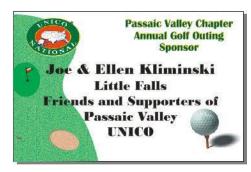


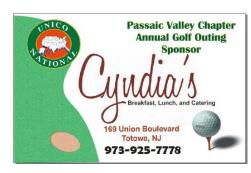


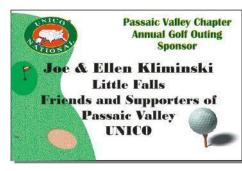






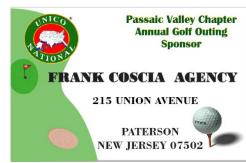












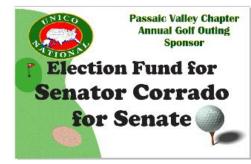




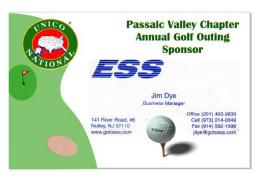






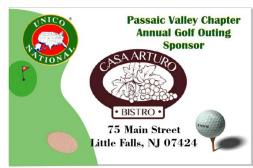


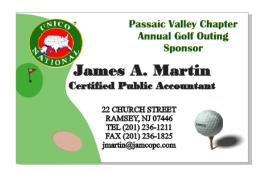








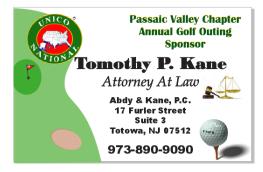








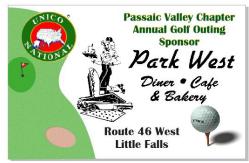




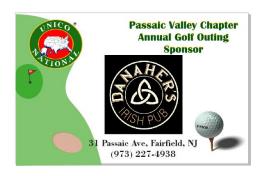




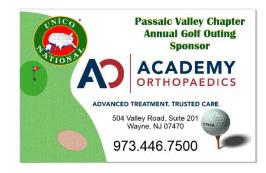




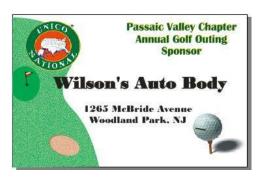










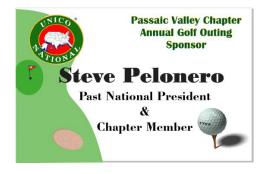
















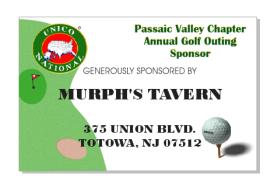






















You too can be a proud sponsor of our Passaic Valley UNICO Chapter. It is never too late.

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