

September 2024
Year 22
Issue 224

Passaic Valley UNICO

Our September 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

As your new incoming President , I would like to express my sincere congratulations and thanks to all the good our chapter has done throughout the years. On behalf of myself and our newly enhanced executive committee, we thank you for making this past year successful. As our summer comes to an end, it is now time to start becoming energetic for our new year.

Recently we had our 2024-2025 Budget Meeting and we put together numbers that we all believe will work greatly. This will be discussed at our first meeting. As you know our National Convention was recently held and was very successful. Information will be communicated by our chapter delegates.

Our September meeting will be on Wednesday, 9-11-24 at Casa Arturo's Restaurant, Little Falls. If you are attending dinner, please be there at 6:15pm. If you are just attending the meeting, please be there for an 8:00 pm start.

Dues notices have been and will be sent out just as reminders. Thank you for being a member of our chapter.

Respectfully

Carmen Criscione ~ Chapter President



September Birthdays

26 Roni Corrado

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

September 11, 2024 ~ 2nd Wednesday ~ Chapter monthly meeting – 6:15 dinner ~ 8 pm meeting ~ Our NJ District IV Governor has been invited to attend.

September 19, 2024 ~ NJ District IV Meeting ~ At the Barnyard in Totowa

September 22, 2024 ~ Sunday ~ 42nd Annual John Basilone Memorial Parade ~ in Raritan NJ ~ All are welcome to march with banner ~ 11:30 am set up, 1:00 parade ~ An RSVP is required if you plan on marching ~ email AprilnBob@aol.com

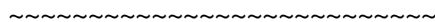
October 16, 2024 ~ 2nd Wednesday ~ Chapter monthly meeting – More information will follow.

October 29, 2024 ~ Tuesday ~ Meet the National President ~ Venetian in Garfield ~ More information will follow.

November 8 & 9 ~ Eastern Region National Meeting ~ Mystic CT

November 13, 2024 ~ 2nd Wednesday ~ 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

November will be the last reminder as we also need to pay UNICO National

\$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

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

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 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 Roni Corrado

Non-Fundraising Committee Heads

- Community Service Day (April)..... Charles Russo
- Good and Welfare Joe Benvenuti
- Heritage Angelo Verrone
- Membership (plus member section of website John Barbieri
- 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

*Our Chapter and District
At the 101st Annual National Convention
Westin Princeton NJ Forestal Resort*



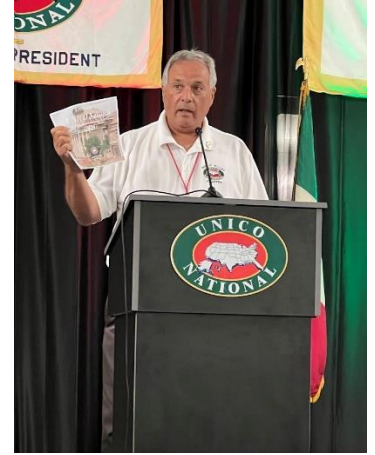
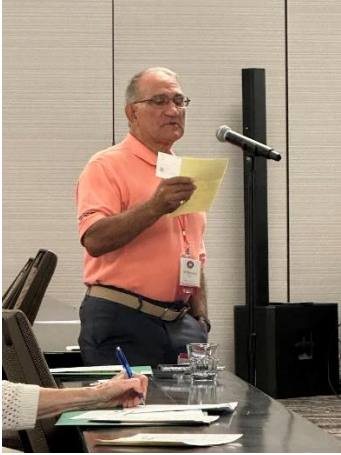
Joe Agresti PNP, Sal Benvenuti, Debbie Benvenuti Pat Pelonero, Steve Pelonero PNP



5 of our 10 chapters represented at the Convention : Belleville, Montclair, Passaic Valley, Sparta, Wayne



More Photos From The 101st UNICO Convention in Princeton, NJ



Fron top left to right: Sal presenting check to a foundation charity, Joe presenting talk about guidelines, Steve asking for donations to support our heritage with the UNICO Calendar, Pat announcing her retirement as editor of ComUNICO, Debbie selling Foundation raffle tickets, Pat presenting check to a foundation charity, Joe presenting the award as Outstanding Governor to our NJ IV DG Anthony DeGennaro, Ice breaker Spice Girl women of UNICO (Linda, Debbie, Pat, Michele), Sal and Pat taking notes during general sessions

Italian Heritage Photo
From the 2024 UNICO Heritage Calendar ~ September

The Tyrrhenian Sea Coastline of Cefalu, Sicily



This photo was taken by a Saddle Brook chapter member.

Cefalu is a city and comune in the Italian Metropolitan City of Palermo.

It is located on the Tyrrhenian Coast of Sicily.

With a population of just under 14,000, it is one of the major tourist attractions in the region.



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 Soldier Program ~ Roni Corrado

Our last food packages were sent to Major Lacey mid-June and they were appreciated by all. In July, I had occasion to meet his wife and twin toddler daughters, and she reiterated this same sentiment.

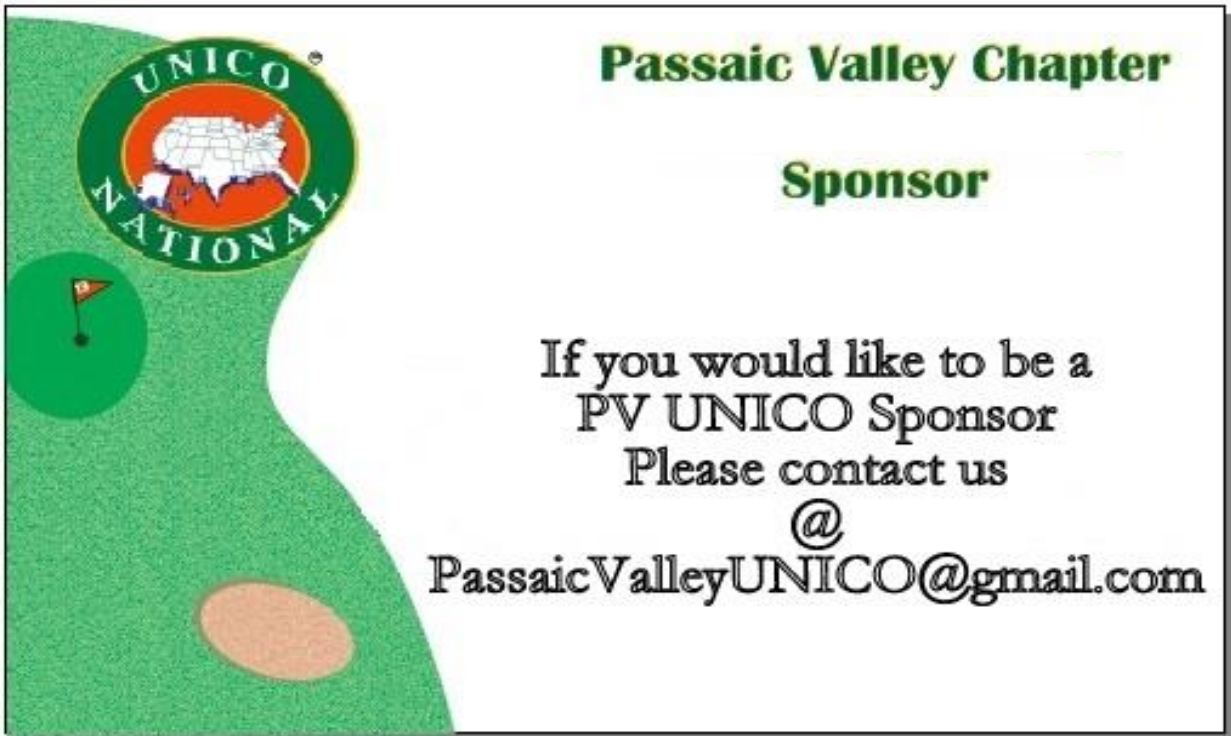
Publicity ~ Roni Corrado & Christina Castillo

Christina ~ The Passaic Valley Today Weekly published our article on the Scholarship Awards Dinner.

Roni ~~~~ I sent a text of thanks to the Italian Tribune for publishing all of the articles and pics that our chapter submitted to them this past year. We certainly appreciate their coverage.

***A Safe Labor Day Weekend to Everyone
Monday, September 2nd***





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 ~ 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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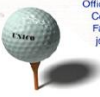
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Mayor & Council

Thank You
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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