October 2024
Year 22
Issue 225

Passaic Valley UNICO

Our October 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 All-

I wish to thank all individuals that attended the first meeting of our season. It was a great meeting, and many individuals were there early to break bread. It was very nice.

We had two new members join our chapter. That is great. A lot younger than our average age. Hopefully this will be a positive trend.

Our next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 9th, at Casa Arturo's Restaurant in Little Falls.

Monday, Oct 7th, is our Italian Flag Rasing in Little Falls. We hope that you can make it to celebrate out heritage.

A few of our board members attended our NJ District IV meeting at the Barnyard. It was well attended and as always, chapters are doing a great job keeping the UNICO name active.

Just a reminder that at our October meeting, we will be having tickets for sale for the December District IV Christmas Party at the Brownstone. Last year we utilized this event as our chapter Christmas get together. We will do the same again this year.

Don't forget that dues are due for those who have still not yet paid them.

Will see you all in October.

God Bless Carmen Criscione - Chapter President



October Birthdays

1 Frank Capalbo 2 Christina Castillo 9 Carmen Gaita 18 Carmen Criscione 20 Mark BiFalco

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 nonperishable 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

October is "Italian Heritage Month" ~ Celebrate your history

October 7, 2024 ~ Monday ~ Our Italian Flag Raising ~ LF Town Hall ~ 6 pm

October 9, 2024 ~ 2^{nd} Wednesday ~ Chapter monthly meeting – Casa Arturo ~ BYO ~ 6:30 dinner ~ 8 pm meeting ~ \$40.00

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

November 13, $2024 \sim 2^{nd}$ 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

< November will be the last reminder as we also need to pay UNICO National > < November's meeting will be the final date that dues will be collected >

\$12 = Youth \$15 = Lifetime \$85 = Regular member

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#### 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

"<u>Service Above Self</u>"

I - Integrity

C - Charity

O – Opportunity



### **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

## <u>Travelers</u> <mark>Guide</mark> to Italy

Clicking here will bring you to information about Spello Italy

### **ComUNICO**

You can now read the <a href="Com-UNICO">Com-UNICO</a> 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               |                  |
| 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 | 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               |

# Italian Heritage Photo From the 2024 UNICO Heritage Calendar ~ October Cobble Stone Street in Spello, Italy



This photo was taken by a Passaic Valley UNICO member when Bruce and Steve were there

Spello is a hidden gem in the heart of Umbria.

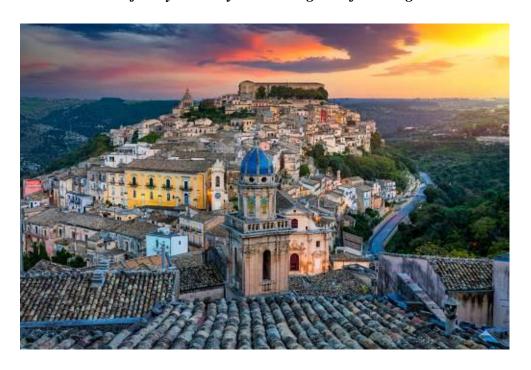
It is a region known for its green landscapes, medieval towns and artistic heritage.

Spello boasts a rich history that dates back to the Roman era.

There, you can admire the ancient walls, the majestic gates, the ruins of the amphitheater and a spa.

# Our Italian Heritage in Ragusa, Sicily

Our chapter President Carmen Criscione and also chapter member Pete Longo Their family's history and heritage are from Ragusa



Ragusa is a city and comune in southern Italy.

It is the capital of the province of Ragusa, on the island of Sicily, with 73,288 inhabitants in 2016. It is built on a wide limestone hill between two deep valleys, Cava San Leonardo and Cava Santa Domenica. Together with seven other cities in the Val di Noto, 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 history of a game called Bocce

**Bocce**, rooted in the Latin word "**bottica**," a direct ancestor of the Italian term "**bocce**." The correct Italian pronunciation is with an emphasis on the letter "o" ~ "bOcce" Not with the emphasis on the letter a ~ Not "bAcce"







Bocce, a game with ancient origins, was first documented in an Egyptian tomb painting around 5200 B.C.

It spread throughout the Mediterranean and Europe, and
became popular among soldiers, citizens, and emperors in ancient Rome.

The game evolved over time, with different regions developing their own variations.

Bocce made its way to America through Italian immigrants and to this day, remains a popular pastime.



Bocce balls are made up of two sets of different colors of 4 each color. Also, there is the pallino, the small white ball.

Each team has four bocce balls.

Teams take turns throwing the balls toward the jack (pallino).

The team with the ball closest to the jack at the end of the round wins.

Players alternate throws with the furthest team ball from the pallino throws again until they are the closest.

Play continues until one team has beaten the other by two or more points.

Bocce can be played on grass or sand.

The court is typically 60 feet long by 12 feet wide.

Typically, the game is played until a team reaches 12, 16, or 21 points.

Many UNICO chapters host Bocce Tournament Fundraisers.

# 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

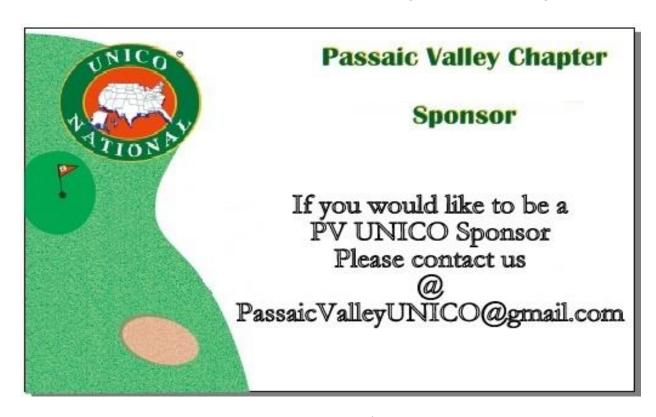
At this time, our overseas soldier, Major Lacey (Evelyn's grandson), is beginning to process home. There will be no snack packages sent to him at this time ~ Thank you for your support

### Publicity ~ Roni Corrado & Christina Castillo

No report this month

# October is





## **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)



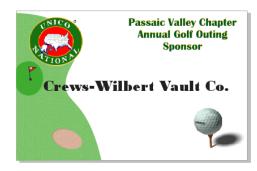












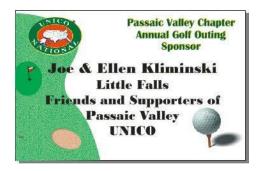




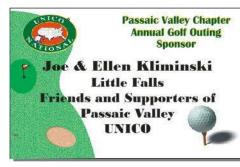


















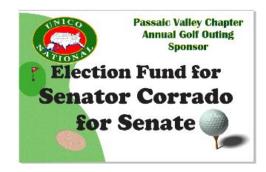






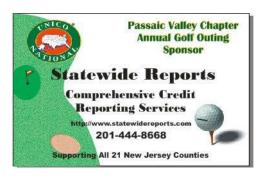


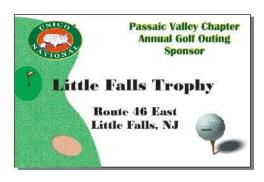


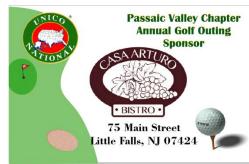










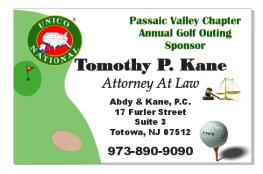








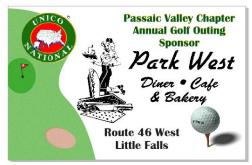




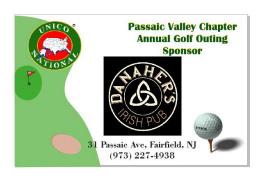




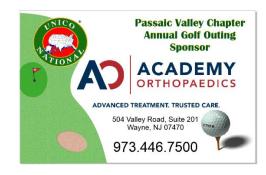




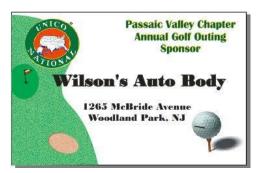




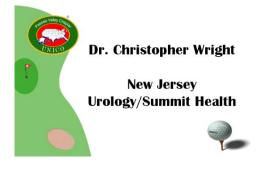






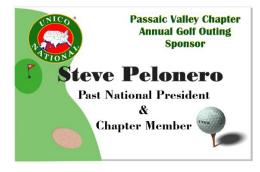


















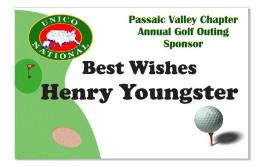




















You too can be a proud sponsor of our Passaic Valley UNICO Chapter. It is never too late.

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