November 2024

Year 22

Issue 226

Passaic Valley UNICO

Our November 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 Everyone

It's amazing how time is flying as the holidays are moving in very fast. We have already had two meetings with much action and the 3rd is on its way.

November's meeting will be held at Holy Cross Church in Woodland Park. This will be more of a relaxed atmosphere with pizza catering @ 7:00PM and the general meeting commencing @ 8pm. Please make every effort to attend and please reach out to John Barbieri with your confirmation for the 7 pm get together prior to the meeting.

The December meeting will be waived as we did last year as it was recommended that we all attend the District IV Christmas Party for our special friends. Tickets will be \$60.00 and available for purchase at the November meeting. The event will be held at the Brownstone on Tuesday December 3rd. If you are putting together a table for sitting with groups, please let Joe Agresti know as soon as you can. This event fills up quickly.

As always, we have put together dollars in our budget and have asked for donations for our annual Holiday Cheer. If you would like to make a donation, please see Joe or Sal Benvenuti or Carmen Gaita at our November meeting. Last year we gave (5) needy families \$500 each in gift cards.

The Three Town Holiday Parade will be the Saturday evening after Thanksgiving, November 30th, 2024. This is a major and spectacular event for children and families throughout our three-town area and is now noted as one of the best holiday events in Northern N.J. Last (Continued on Page 7)



November Birthdays

1 Gerry Gaeta 15 John Barbieri 22 Sal 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

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

November 8, 9, 10, 2024 ~ UNICO National Eastern Region ~ At the Mystic CT Marriott ~ There is an online registration ~ www.UNICO.org

November 13, $2024 \sim 2^{nd}$ Wednesday \sim Chapter monthly meeting – Holy Cross Church – Woodland Park \sim 7 pm Dinner \sim 8 pm Meeting

November 20, 2024 ~ Cigar Fundraiser for the 2025 Convention ~ At the Brickhouse in Wyckoff

November 28, 2024 ~ Thanksgiving ~ Thank you for your Service to UNICO

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

December 7, 2024 ~ NJ District IV Bus Ride ~ Mulberry Street, Dinner and Tour of the New Italian American Museum

June 23, 2025 ~ Monday ~ Our Annual Golf Outing Fundraiser ~ See page 7 of this newsletter for more information

Please remember that chapter dues are now due

< November ~ This will be the last reminder as we also need to pay UNICO National > < November 13^{th} 's meeting will be the final date that dues will be collected > $$12 = Youth \sim $15 = Lifetime \sim $85 = Regular member$

Happy pumpkin pie greetings at Thursday by gre

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

"Service Above Self"

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

Italian Words

Thank you

Grazie

Please

Per favore

Your name?

Il tuo nome?

My name is

Mi chiamo?

How much does this cost?

Quanto costa questo?

What time is it?

Che oro sono?

I am lost

Sono perso

Good morning

Buongiorno

Good evening

Buona serra

Good night

Buona notte

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
<i>Treasurer</i>	Bruce Ponchak
Secretary	Steve Pelonero
Sgt. At-Arms	
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)

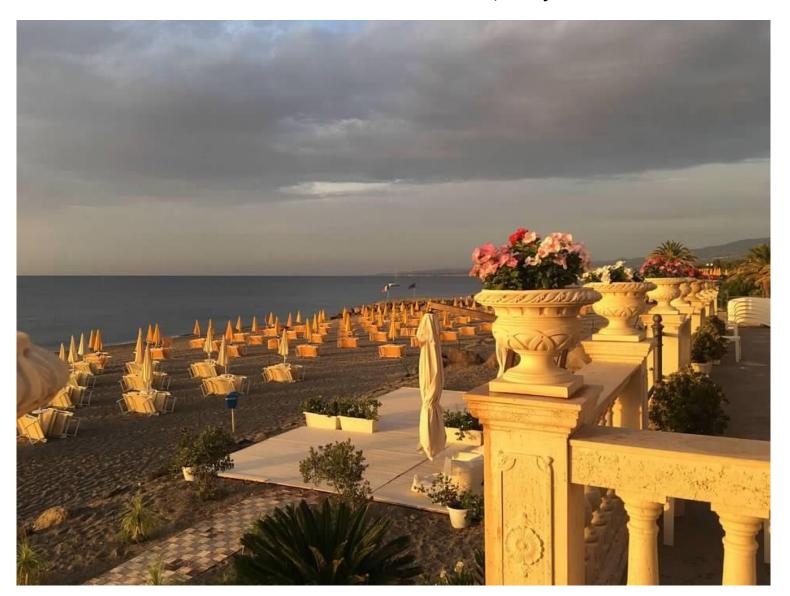
Our 2024-2025 Fundraising Committee Heads

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	
Newsletter	Steve Pelonero PNP
Nominating Chair	Open - To be appointed
Publicity	
Scholarship / Brian Piccolo	
Study Abroad College Grants	
Website	Steven Pelonero PNP

Italian Heritage Photo From the 2024 UNICO Heritage Calendar ~ November The beach in Giardini Naxos, Sicily



This photo was taken by a Grater Binghamton UNICO chapter member

Giardini Naxos is a popular Sicilian seaside resort and historic site.

It is situated just south of Taormina on the north-eastern coast of Sicily.

Giardini Naxos is a fairly typical resort town with a focus very much on the area around the beach.

It has attractively painted buildings and an abundance of flowers and palm trees along the main street. It has a good selection of cafes and restaurants and accommodation.

Sicilian Heritage of a Chapter Member ~ Pete Longo Enna and Santa Croce





Enna, Sicily

Santa Croce, Sicily

Pete's father's heritage is from Enna, Sicily ~ His mother's heritage is from Santa Croce, Sicily Pete's maternal grandmother maiden name was Siciliano

Enna is located in the center of southern Sicily ~ It rests 3,054 feet above sea level.

Sitting on top of a mountain, it has beautiful scenic views.

The town has a castle (Castello di Lombardia), a cathedral (Duomo di Enna), and an archaeology museum among many other interesting places to visit and see.

If you are reading this on your computer, you can click $< \frac{here}{} >$ for more fun links about ENNA

Santa Croce is located bear the sea, in the Province of Ragusa.

The surrounding area is known for its cultivation of flowers - especially gladiolas, carnations, tulips and roses, along with fruit orchards, vegetable fields, citrus and olive groves.

St. Joseph's feast day, March 19, is a major event in Santa Croce Camerina, with banquets of elaborate foods prepared in honor of their protector saint.

If you are reading this on your computer, you can click < here > for more about Santa Croce





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

Turkey Talk ~ Our golf outing next year will be on June 23, 2025, at Crystal Springs Golf Club in Hamburg, New Jersey. There will be great golf, many prizes and lots of great people. The cost will be \$175. Although it is early, kindly mention this upcoming event to your friends, family and acquaintances at any upcoming holiday get togethers. ~ PV UNICO golf committee ~ Best regards ~ Joe Barone

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

1st VP Message ~ Joe Benvenuti

I want to welcome all to our November meeting at Holy Cross Church. We will be collecting any donations for our Christmas Cheer baskets for needy families for Christmas. In the past we have given out 5 baskets valued at \$500.00 each. We have \$1500 in the budget, but we are also looking for any possible donations from the chapter to help get us to the 5 baskets as in the past. These are families with kids that would not have a very good Christmas without our help so please help us make this a success

Thank you ~ Joe Benvenuti 1st VP

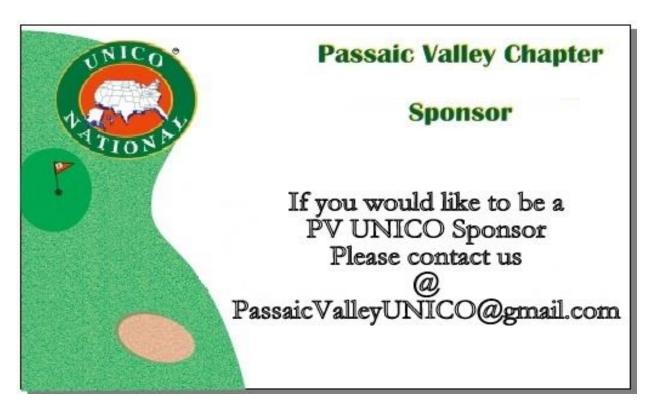
Presidents Message ~ (Continued from page 1)

..... year's event of over 200 entries of fire trucks, floats, cars, marching bands etc., have put **New Jersey** on the map. My house is on the parade route, so if you wish to come and watch it close up, you are invited, just bring a chair.

Please don't forget that the final dues payment to our chapter is due at our November meeting. Please stay as a member of our chapter and continue to be a part of the largest Italia-American Service Above Self Organization in the USA. Let's preserve our Italian Heritage.

In closing, Thanksgiving will be coming upon us quickly and on behalf of the Executive Board we wish to offer special prayers to all our members and their families for a safe holiday season. Please remember those families in need of our support by contributing to our local food pantries.

God Bless ~ Happy Holidays Respectfully - Carmen Criscione- Chapter President



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)



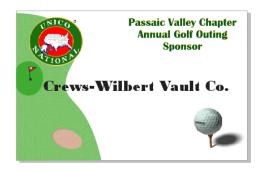






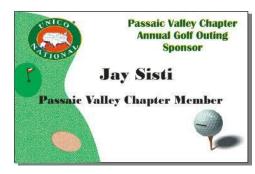






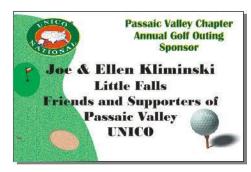


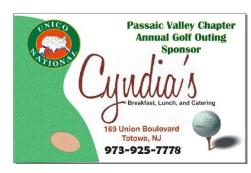


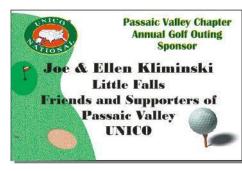






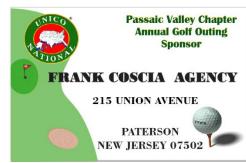












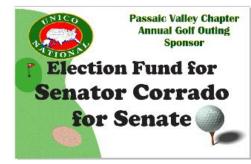




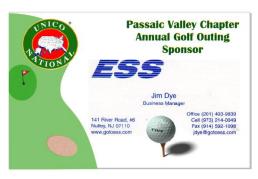




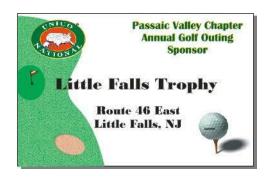


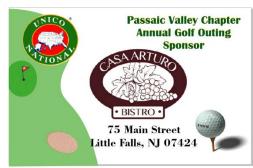


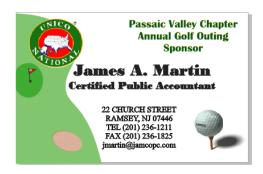








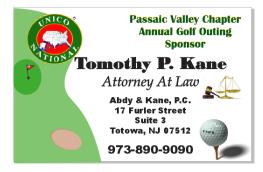








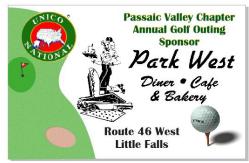




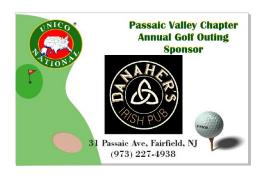




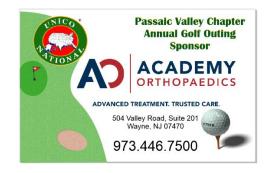


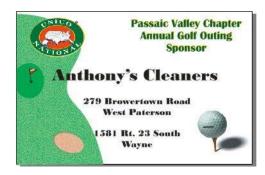


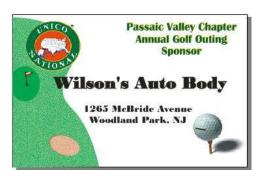










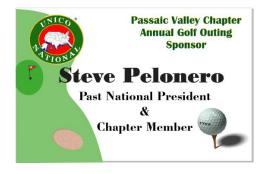
















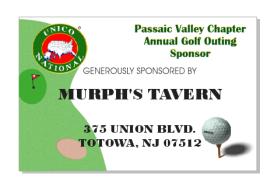


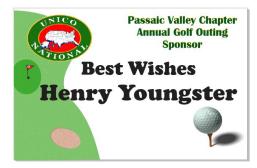




















You too can be a proud sponsor of our Passaic Valley UNICO Chapter. It is never too late.

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