February 2025 Year 22 Issue 229

Passaic Valley UNICO

Our February 2025 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/PassaicValleyU

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.

Here we are entering February. Another year has passed, and our chapter keeps moving in a positive direction. We are like "fine wine" – we get better with age. As you all know January was a bitter cold month- hopefully going forward we gain a few degrees.

Thanks to the support of our Chapter members – we as a group this past holiday season gave out (5) five, hundred-dollar gift cards to needy families within the Passaic Valley area. Additionally (2) \$200.00 in gift cards were given to two families who lost their homes because of a fire in Woodland Park. Thank you all for your support. This is what UNICO is all about.

Thanks to Chuck Russo's initiative, our super bowl pool was extremely successful. I wish to thank all of the members and their friends who participated, thus supporting our organization.

Our 50/50 money raffle has started, and we will be pulling the winner April 9th. This fundraiser chaired by Claudine Stefanelli will help put additional dollars in our budget which helps for our causes going forward. Please, if you have not yet picked up tickets to sell, contact Claudine and she will get them to you. Tickets will be \$10.00 each.

John Barbieri and his crew are diligently working to put together another Corn Hole tournament. The hall is booked/finalized, and John will have more info at our February meeting regarding this event.

As you all know the Golf Outing is scheduled for June 23rd at Crystal Springs Golf course. Joe Barone and his committee have been on top of the fundraiser from the beginning. Always a great show. Sponsors are needed, this is where we make our dollars.

(Continued on Page 7)



February Birthdays

2 Chuck Russo

2 Jay Sisti

12 Joyce O'Hara

15 Jim Cestone

19 Peter Lynch

21 Fred DeMarco

22 Alexander "Lex" DeLuccia

22 John Morano

24 Tom Brietwieser

27 Jack Orlando

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. Or please just bring your items to any chapter meeting

Upcoming Events - Local and National

February 12, 2025 ~ 2nd Wednesday ~ Chapter Monthly Meeting ~ Holy Cross Church in Woodland Park ~ 6:15 pm Dinner ~ 8:00 pm Meeting

March 7-8, 2025 ~ UNICO National Mid-Year Board Meeting in Chicago

April 25, 2025 ~ Friday ~ NJ District IV Pasta Dinner Fundraiser for our Special Need Friends ~ Must buy tickets for entry ~ More information will follow

April 26, 2025 ~ The Saturday after Easter ~ Our Annual Food Drive at ShopRite

June 23, 2025 ~ Monday ~ Our 40th Annual Golf Outing Fundraiser ~ See page 8 of this newsletter for more information

Valentine's Day 2025 February 14



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

The History of Valentines Day

The only way to read this
is on your computer
Click here to open the link

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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	
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
<i>Raffle</i> ~ 50/50	Claudine Stefanelli

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

From Our January Meeting New members sworn in





Damian Kribs and Thomas Brietwieser

Brian Piccolo 2024 Award Recipient



Damian Kribs

Montclair University Study Abroad Grant Recipient



Matthew Scialla

Italian Heritage Photo From the 2025 UNICO Heritage Calendar ~ February

Sorrento, Italy



This photo was taken by a Montville UNICO chapter members, while in Sorento, Italy.

It is a town overlooking the Bay of Naples in Southern Italy. A popular tourist destination.

The town is widely known for its small ceramics, lacework and marquetry (woodwork) shops.

The Sorrentine Peninsula has views of Naples, Vesuvius and the Isle of Capri.

The Amalfi Drive, connecting Sorrento and Amalfi, is a narrow road along the high cliffs above the Tyrrhenian Sea.

Map of Italy Where is your Heritage from?



Committee & Comments

Chapter President ~ Carmen Criscione

(Continued from page 1) ~~ I would like to wish everyone a happy Valentine's Day celebrated annually on February 13th. It originated as a Christian Feast Day honoring a martyr named Valentine, and through later folk traditions it has also become a significant cultural, religious and commercial celebration of ROMANCE and LOVE in many regions of the world.

In closing -our next chapter meeting is scheduled for Wed Feb 12th - it will be at Holy Cross Church- Browertown Rd in Woodland Park. Please make every effort to attend.

As always, on behalf of the Executive Board, we wish to thank you for your on-going and continued support. This is what makes our chapter great.

Respectfully ~ Carmen Criscione- Chapter President

Community Service Day ~ Chuck Russo

Circle your calendar for our annual Food Drive at the ShopRite in Little Falls on Saturday, April 26th, the Saturday after Easter. Details and sign-up sheets at upcoming chapter meetings ~ Thank you, Chuck

Food Pantries ~ Carmen Gaita and Patricia Pelonero

Please try to bring to the February 12th meeting at Holy Cross Church jars of Peanut Butter and Jelly

Golf Outing ~ Joe Barone

Please see the flier on page 8 of this newsletter ~ Thank you everyone

Publicity ~ Roni Corrado & Christina Castillo

Christina reports that Holy Angels Church thanked UNICO in their Church Bulletin for our donations to the Phil Arena Food Pantry

VP Message ~ 1st VP Joe Benvenuti

Welcome to February, It's been a very cold January here in NJ but lot of parts of the country had snow which has not happened in a century or more. Let's hope we can warm things up with Valentine's day February 14th.

Frank Capalbo had surgery, and all went well from what I hear, keep Frank in your prayers. Keep LA in your prayers as well the people there have been devastated with all the fires there and the destruction is unbelievable.

We are in our busy season for our UNICO club, Shout out to Chuck Russo on a fantastic job selling the 2 football pools. Thanks to all who bought boxes and helped sell boxes and best of luck.

Claudine is selling 50/50 tickets so let's help her sell as many tickets as we can its an easy sell and a nice prize if we can sell all the tickets and a good fundraiser for the club as well.

We have our Corn Hole tournament in April as well as our 40th annual golf fundraiser in June, we will need everyone's help to make both of these successful.

Thank you all for your support ~~~ JoeB



Annual Golf Outing 501c3 organization **Monday June 23, 2025 Crystal Springs Golf Club**

> 1 Wild Turkey Way, Hamburg, NJ 07419 Modified Shotgun Start at 9:00am

> > **Passaic Valley** UNICO

- Highland Starter Breakfast at 8:00am
- On Course Beverages at Halfway House

- American Cookout Meal in the Big Sky Pavilion - 2:00pm to 6:00pm O Annual Cl

(includes beer, soda, coffee and tea)

Contests, Prizes & Raffle's		
Money Raffle	Closest to the Pin	
Straightest Drive	Low Team Gross	
Win a CAR "Hole in One"		
Win 3 Day Golf &	Stay "Hole in One"	

PRIZES ON EVERY PAR 3

Online Registration

\$175 per person - Check or Cash Payment \$60 per person Dinner Only

\$179 per person - Credit Card Payment Pre-Registration is REQUIRED by June 18, 2025

Go to: www.unicomembers.com/golf

Golf Hole / Event Sponsorship - \$100 to \$500

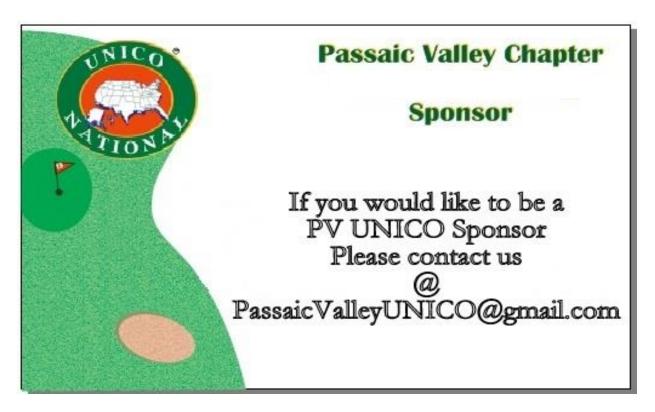
Ad displayed on the course, on our Website, and in our Monthly Newsletter for the Year!

Contact: Joseph Barone

JCHRZBAR@gmail.com or 973-986-7042

All proceeds will go to our local scholarship and charitable endeavors

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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





















Our 2024 Golf Sponsors

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



Thank you to "All" of our Sponsors (62)





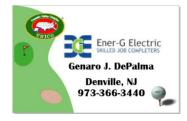












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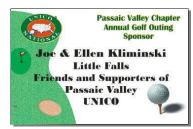
Our 2024 Golf Sponsors

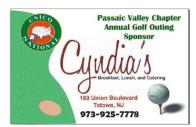


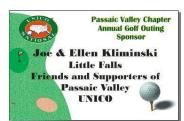


















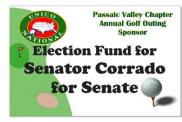


















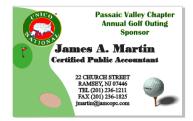


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Our 2024 Golf Sponsors

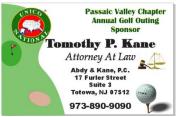








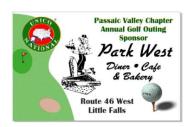








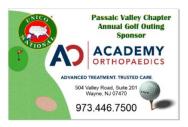


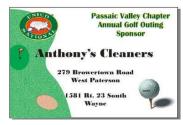


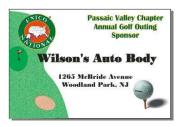


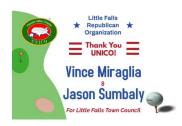














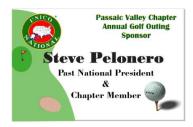




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Our 2024 Golf Sponsors





























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