March 2025

Year 22

Issue 230

Passaic Valley UNICO

Our March 2025 Monthly Newsletter



Passaic Valley UNICO PO Box 341 Little Falls, NJ 07424

Serving

Little Falls Totowa Woodland Park

Page Highlights:

About UNICO	11
Be a Sponsor	11
Birthday's	2
Board of Directors	3
Calendar Heritage Photo	5
Chapter Delegates	3
ComUNICO Link	3
Committees	3
Committee Comments	8
Community Service Day	8
Cornhole Tournament	8, 9
Executive Board	3
Food Pantry	2, 8
Fundraising Committees	3
Golf Outing	8, 10
Italy in March	3
Map of Italy	7
New Member Photo	4
Photo's & Photo Links	2,4,5,6
President's Message	1
Publicity	8
Remember When	6
Second VP Message	8
Sponsors ~ Corn Hole	13
Sponsors ~ Golf	13-16
UNICO Charities	3, 11
UNICO Core Values	2
Upcoming Events	2

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- Here we go again - Spring Fever is coming. Already receiving emails for golf outings etc. As the days pass, we should be moving into some warmer weather.

If you are a golfer, please plan on attending our golf outing in June. The committee is in high gear and working hard to make this one of the best outings possible.

Please reach out to friends and businesses for sponsorships. The board thanks everyone for their initiative and hard work for making this one of our best fundraisers.

Corn Hole – Let's do it - April 6th. It was a GREAT event last year. Will lightning strike twice? It's all up to us. Please help support this event by passing the word to pick up a team or two.

John Barbieri has the info on-line to make the registration process easy. Any questions, you can always give him a call.

The 50/50 Money Raffle is on its way. All proceeds will benefit great causes. Push those ticket sales. The drawing will be held at Casa Arturo's Restaurant, Wednesday April 9th, at our regular chapter meeting. Thank you.

A little history of "<u>Ides of March</u>", Saturday, March 15th ... The day on the Roman Calendar is marked IDUS. It is roughly the midpoint of the month of Martius, corresponding to March 15th on the Gregorian Calendar. In 44BC, it became notorious as the date of the assignation of Julius Cesar, which made the "Ides of March" a turning point in Roman History.

<<< Continued on Page 8 >>>



March Birthdays

7 Joe Barone 27 Bill Ermolowich 31 Dr. Kyle Eopechino

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

March 2, 2025 ~ Bowl-a-thon Fundraiser for Cancer Research ~ 10 am ~ Sunday at the Parkway Lanes – Rt. 46 ~ Elmwood Park

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

March 12, $2025 \sim 2^{nd}$ Wednesday \sim Our chapter's monthly meeting \sim Holy Cross Church \sim 7 pm dinner \sim 8 pm meeting

April 6, 2025 ~ Sunday ~ Cornhole Tournament ~ Flier is in this newsletter

April 9, 2025 ~ Chapter Meeting ~ 2^{nd} Wednesday ~ Casa Arturo's ~ Main Street Little Falls ~ 6:30 pm dinner ~ 8 pm meeting

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

July 30, 31, August 1, 2 ~ UNICO National Convention in Fort Lauderdale, FL

Monday ~ March 17th, 2025



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

Italy in March What to Do

Where to Go
Click anywhere
in this secton

to open the link

ComUNICO

You can now read the <u>Com-UNICO</u> magazine on the internet Just click or go here >>>

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	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
<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

Welcome our chapter's newest members



Let's welcome our chapters 5 newest members From the left: Our chapter president Carmen Criscione ... Michael Carrubba, Ken Kribs, Feed DeMarco, Michael Russo, Thomas Breitwieser

Italian Heritage Photo From the 2025 UNICO Heritage Calendar ~ March

Castello di Verrazzano in Tuscany



This photo was taken while traveling with Bruce Ponchak and Steve Pelonero, and family Bruce and Steve are both Pasaic Valley UNICO Chapter members

The photo is of the garden fountain on the grounds of the Verrazzano Castle Winery Below, on the other side of the wall in the background roam wild boar in the woods

Fine wines and grappa are served in their daily tastings

Remember When?

Here are some memories, in video form, of our chapter < Just click on the year >

Oue 2008-2009 Year

<u>Our 2013-2014 Year</u>

Our 2015-2016 Year

Here's How To Make It

< Jut Click on the Video Links Below >

Dried Sausage and Soppressata

Hot "HOT" Cut up Italian Long Hot Peppers





Enjoy Our Memories

Map of Italy Where is your Heritage from?



Committee & Comments

<u>Chapter President</u> ~ Carmen Criscione

(Continued from page 1) ~~ Our next Chapter meeting will be held at Holy Cross Church, Wednesday March 12th, at 8:00pm. Looking forward to seeing you. On behalf of the Executive Board, we wish to thank you all for your ongoing commitment and support ~ 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 our upcoming chapter meetings ~ Thank you, Chuck

Cornhole Tournament ~ John Barbieri

Please see the flier on page 9 of this newsletter ~ Thank you everyone

Food Pantries ~ Carmen Gaita and Patricia Pelonero

Please try to bring to the March 12th meeting at Holy Cross Church, a non-perishable that might be helpful to another person or family ~ Thank you

Golf Outing ~ Joe Barone

Please see the flier on page 10 of this newsletter ~ Thank you everyone

Publicity ~ Roni Corrado & Christina Castillo

No reports or updates this month

VP Message ~ 1st VP Joe Benvenuti

Hello members and welcome to March. Happy St. Patrick's day to all, Happy St. Joseph's day as well. We have a very busy schedule coming up with the corn hole fund raiser and the 50/50 tickets and the Golf outing in June. We also have our annual food drive in April, and we will need everyone to help with as many fund raisers as they can . Thank you all for your support ~ JoeB

Sunday, April 6, 2025

The Passaic Valley Chapter of UNICO is sponsoring our FIRST Cornhole Tournament at the Totowa PAL, 150 Chamberlain Ave, Totowa

Registration includes plenty of Italian Style food 11:00 am Sign-in and Registration

11:30 am Start Time

Prizes for 1st & 2nd place winners

All non-players will be charged \$25 which includes all food.



\$40 per person, 2 person teams

Participants minimum age,18 Yr. old

Pre-Register and pay by Feb. 21, 2025 and save \$5.00 per player



You can also participate in four different Cornhole versions for an additional donation

Proceeds will go toward
Local High School and
College Scholarships
Local Food Banks
Holiday Donations
Needy Families

Online Registration and payment at: www.UnicoMembers.com/Cornhole

This is sure to be a FUN event for ALL!

Email your questions to: John@Unicomembers.com

John Barbieri: 201-317-7861 Joe Agresti: 201-874-0546



Annual Golf Outing Monday June 23, 2025

501c3 organization **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

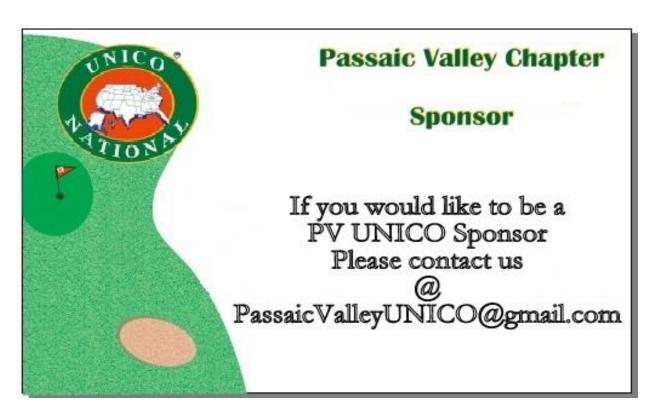
Golf Hole / Event Sponsorship - \$100 to \$500

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



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)















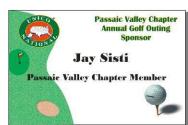


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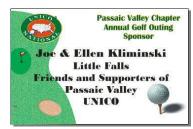
Our 2024 Golf Sponsors

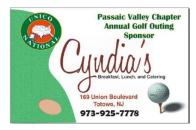








































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Our 2024 Golf Sponsors

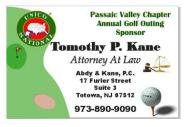
















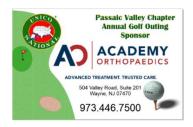


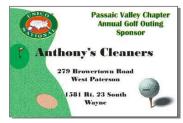


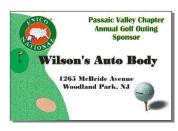


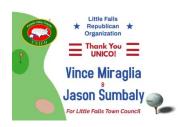














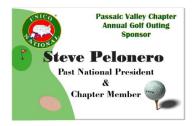




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Our 2024 Golf Sponsors

















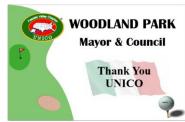












You too can be a proud sponsor of our Passaic Valley UNICO Chapter.

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