April 2025 Year 22 Issue 231

Passaic Valley UNICO Our April 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 Chapter Website Facebook Page Instagram Page District Website National Website Chapter Email

www.PassaicValleyUNICO.org www.UNICOmembers.com www.Facebook.com/PassaicValleyUNICO www.Instagram.com/PassaicValleyUNICO www.UNICONJIV.yolasite.com www.UNICO.org PassaicValleyUNICO@gmail.com

A Message from our Chapter President

Hello Chapter Members

I can't believe it is April already.

March was a busy month for committees preparing for their future events. We have our Corn Hole Tournament scheduled for Sunday April 6^{th} at the Totowa PAL. Please talk up and hopefully pick up a team or two. We have our 50/50 Money drawing at our regular monthly meeting at Arturo's Restaurant on Wed April 9th. The District is having its Pasta Dinner for our Special Needs Friends on April 25th. We then finish the month with our Chapter's Community Service Day event on Sat April 26th at the Little Falls ShopRite. Say no more, for a small chapter we certainly have a lot of activities.

Before you know it, schools will be closing for the summer session, and we will be giving out scholarships to deserving young high school seniors to help continue with their college education.

Wow: love our chapter.

As always, the Executive Board truly thanks you for your continued support.

Our members are the BACKBONE of what we do and accomplish.

Thank you ~ Carmen Chapter ~ Chapter President

Passaic Valley UNICO Monthly Newsletter

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April Birthdays 3 Steve Pelonero PNP 21 Domenica Campen 27 Bruce Ponchak

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. Or please just bring your items to any chapter meeting

Upcoming Events – Local and National

April 6, 2025 ~ Sunday ~ Cornhole Tournament ~ Flier is on page 9 of 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 9, 2025 ~ Our 50/50 Raffle Drawing at Casa Arturo's ~ At the Chapter Meeting

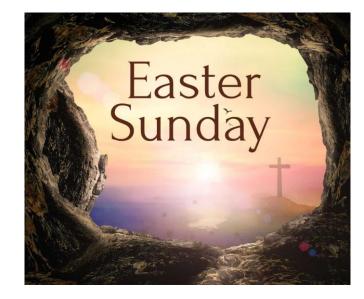
April 20, 2025 ~ Easter Sunday

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 and 10 of this newsletter for more information

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



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

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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

Easter in Italy <u>Traditions</u> <u>Click anywhere</u> 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 >>> <u>www.unico.org/comUNICO</u>

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	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	
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	
Website	Steven Pelonero PNP

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Easter: April 20th Easter Pie Recipe: Pizzagaina ~ Pizza Rustica

<u>Click here for the website version</u> <u>Click here for a printable recipe</u>

Some people describe pizza rustica as an Italian meat-filled quiche. This traditional Easter recipe is way closer to a savory cheesecake filled with a massive amount of goodness. The light, flaky crust holds together an embarrassment of riches —

The light, flaky crust holds together an embarrassment of riches — Sausage, smoked ham, salami, and pepperoni, plus ricotta, mozzarella, and Pecorino Romano cheeses. ~~~ It's definitely not like pizza!



Thank you to Chapter Member Christina for suggesting this idea It is not her recipe but just an idea for those that like to bake

Recipe by: John Mitzewich — aka Chef John John has produced more than 1,500 cooking videos for Allrecipes He's the actor, director, and screenwriter whose hands and voice confidently walk you through techniques.

Italian Heritage Photo From the 2025 UNICO Heritage Calendar ~ April



This photo was taken, in Italy, by a UNICO Member (Rutherford Chapter) while in his home town of Librizzi, Sicily.

Librizzi is a comune (municipality) in the Metropolitan City of Messina in the Italian region Sicily, located about 87 miles east of Palermo and about 31 miles west of Messina, on a hill between the Timeto and Librizzi streams.

Its origins date most likely to the 12th century, when a community rose around the Brichinnai castle.

Our Italian Heritage ~~ All about Calabria



Calabria, southern Italy, is composed of the province of Catanzaro, Cosenza, Crotone, Reggio di Calabria, and Vibo Valentia.

Sometimes referred to as the "toe" of the Italian: "the boot".

Calabria is a peninsula of irregular shape, jutting out in a northeast-southwest direction from the main body of Italy and separating the Tyrrhenian and Ionian seas.

Most of the region is mountainous or hilly.

In ancient times the region was the focus of powerful and prosperous Greek colonization. Eventually it passed to the Byzantines, who called the region Calabria. From the 3rd century BCE to the 7th century CE, the name Calabria had specifically referred to a district in the southeastern extremity of the Italian peninsula.



Learn and read more about Calabria ~ Just click anywhere on this line

Here is your Family From ?



Committee & Comments

Community Service Day ~ Chuck Russo

Our annual food drive will be held on Saturday, April 26th at the Little Falls ShopRite. A number of chapter members have already signed up to participate on that day. The volunteer list will again be available at the April chapter meeting. To be as successful as we have been in the past, we need people stationed at the entrances and exits of the store, as well as some to make "deliveries" to certain food pantries and to perform other chores during the day ... Anyone who can devote more than an hour or two, or stay for most ... or all ... of the day is extremely valuable to the cause.

Set up of tables and signs etc will be at 7:30 am. We will start soliciting shoppers as soon as possible and continue until approximately 4pm ... or until we "run out of steam" or volunteers.

At some point after the April meeting, a schedule of names and times will be emailed to the chapter along with other details and guidelines.

Copies of our "Shopping List" which is handed to shoppers will be available at the chapter meeting. If anyone can make copies of this list, it would be greatly appreciated. It can be a couple of hundred or as few as 25. This is a rain or shine event ... there is no rain date. More at the meeting. ~ Thank you, Chuck

Food Pantries ~ Carmen Gaita and Patricia Pelonero

Please try to bring to the April 9th meeting at Casa Arturo, a non-perishable that might be helpful to another person or family for their Easter Dinner ~ Thank you

Golf Outing ~ Joe Barone

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

<u>Publicity</u> ~ Roni Corrado & Christina Castillo

Roni ~ Our chapter thanks the Italian Tribune for their continued coverage of our events and endeavors

<u>Scholarship</u> ~ Chuck Russo

Scholarship Dinner – Sunday June 8^{th} – the Barnyard Grand Room, 6PM... cost TBD ~ If any member has an "<u>eligible</u>" child or grandchild for a chapter scholarship, please make me aware of same, if not done already.

ALL APPLICATIONS MUST BE IN MY HANDS BY APRIL 10^{TH} ~ Keep in mind our Memorial Scholarships are named for a loved one. Donation of \$200 ~ Details and more information at the chapter meeting. Thank you, Chuck



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



Additional Versions:

Horse Reverse Best out of 20 Around the World 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 **Crystal Springs Golf Club**

Passaic Valley Chapter

40 th

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

> **Passaic Valley** UNICO

- Highland Starter Breakfast at 8:00am

501c3 organization

- On Course Beverages at Halfway House
- American Cookout Meal in the Big Sky Pavilion 2:00pm to 6:00pm SHCO Annual Class (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

<u>UNICO National</u> Armed Services ~ Columbus Day ~ Heritage & Photo Calendar

<u>UNICO Foundation</u> 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)



~ Continued ~

~ Continued ~

Our 2024 Golf Sponsors



~ Continued ~

~ Continued ~

Our 2024 Golf Sponsors



~ Continued ~

~ Continued ~

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