

May 2025

Year 22

Issue 232

Passaic Valley UNICO

Our May 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/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

May is finally here, and it comes with a burst of fresh energy, blooms and of course a little bit of mischief. From the cheerful chirping of birds to the joy of warmer days.

There is so much to appreciate this month.

We had a very good April as a chapter: As we all know the Corn Hole Event was cancelled due to multiple reasons. The 50/50 Money Raffle went off with positive end results: Kudos to all.

Thank you all for the support. Our chapter's Community Service Day was EPIC. Thank you all for the support and passion in making this one of our best charitable events on a yearly basis.

The District Pasta Dinner was a hit as always and those that attended had a great evening.

With all this being in the past, we can now concentrate on another great fundraiser of the year: our annual chapter golf outing scheduled for June 23rd. This is our final fundraiser of the year whereas we also have our June meeting and then we do not meet till September.

Let's all get together and support this event as the funds are earmarked for scholarships to deserving young graduating students to help further their academic education.

Your Board of Directors truly appreciates the time and efforts made throughout the year- Lets end this chapter year on a high note.

Our next scheduled Chapter Meeting will be at Holy Cross Church in Woodland Park on Wed May 14, 2025 - Please make every effort to attend.

Thank you and God Bless

Carmen Criscione Chapter President



May Birthdays

5 Phil Polizzotto
11 Matthew Scialla
18 Michael Carbonelli
20 Christina Lee Morano

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

May 11, 2025 ~ Sunday ~ Happy Mother's Day

May 14, 2025 ~ 2nd Wednesday ~ Monthly Chapter Meeting ~ Holy Cross Church ~ BYO ~ 7 pm dinner / 8 pm meeting

May 26 ~ Monday ~ Memorial Day

June 8, 2025 ~ Sunday ~ Our Annual Scholarship and Brian Piccolo Dinner

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

~~~~~

[Click here for the history of Mother's Day](#)



## 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**

**I – Integrity**

**C – Charity**

**O – Opportunity**

**“Service Above Self”**



## 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

## Culture

## and

## Traditions

### Mother's Day in Italy

< Click above for the link >

## ComUNICO

You can now read the  
Com-UNICO magazine on the  
internet

Just click or go here >>>

[www.unico.org/comUNICO](http://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 ..... John Morano  
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 ... 55 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  
Raffle ~ 50/50 ..... Claudine Stefanelli

### Non-Fundraising Committee Heads

Community Service Day (April) ..... Charles Russo  
Good and Welfare ..... Joe Benvenuti  
Heritage ..... Angelo Verrone  
Membership ..... 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 2025 UNICO Heritage Calendar ~ May*



*This photo was taken, in Italy, by a UNICO Member (Binghamton NY Chapter)*

*Vietri sul Mare, Amalfi Coast Italy*

*Vietri sul Mare is a comune (municipality) in the province of Salerno, in the Italian region of Campania. It is situated just west of Salerno*

*The Amalfi Coast is a stretch of coastline in Southern Italy*







## Committee & Comments

### Chapter Executive 1<sup>ST</sup> VP ~ Joe Benvenuti

*Welcome to May and hopefully some better weather. We have a busy few months coming up and hope we all can help finish the year strong. May 14<sup>th</sup> will be our next meeting at Holy Cross Church, and we hope to see everyone there. We will swear in our officers for next year and any nominations from the floor will be voted on. We have our last fund raiser, which is very important for us to do good. It is our 40<sup>th</sup> Annual Golf Outing, Monday June 23<sup>rd</sup>. The flier is on page 7 of this newsletter. Please help us get hole sponsors as well as golfers to make this a very successful event. Thank you*

### Community Service Day ~ Chuck Russo

*Our annual food drive will be held on Saturday, April 26<sup>th</sup> at the Little Falls ShopRite. A number of chapter members had already signed up to participate on that day. 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 of the day, is extremely valuable to the cause.*

*Set up of our 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.*

*Copies of our "Shopping List" will be handed to shoppers as they arrive. This is a rain or shine event ... there is no rain date. ~ Thank you, Chuck*

### Food Pantries ~ Carmen Gaita and Patricia Pelonero

*Please try to bring to the May 14<sup>th</sup> meeting at Holy Cross Church in Woodland Park. Any non-perishable will be helpful to another person or family. ~ Thank you*

### Overseas Soldiers ~ Roni Corado

*No soldiers in our UNICO Chapter Family are in need at this time*

### Publicity ~ Roni Corrado & Christina Castillo

*Roni ~ The chapter thanks the Italian Tribune for their continued support in publishing our events and endeavors*

### Scholarship ~ Joe Chuck Russo

*The Scholarship/Awards Dinner to honor this year's recipients and to serve as the social culmination of the chapter's year will be held on Sunday, June 8<sup>th</sup> at 6PM at the Barnyard in Totowa. The scholarship committee feels it is important that as many members as possible, along with their significant others, attend, not only to honor this special group of recipients, but also, as per tradition, to enjoy the company of other members as we wrap up our UNICO year.*

*The chapter will again be hosting the traditional "President's Cocktail Hour" beginning at 5PM. This is open to chapter members and one "significant other" only, for one drink.*

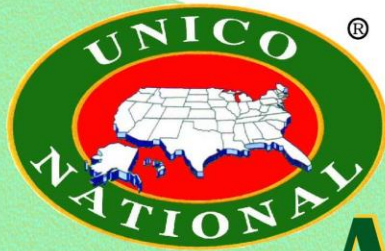
*For those members who plan to attend the dinner, please bring payment of \$50 per person to the May chapter meeting. It truly facilitates the finances for the committee and is greatly appreciated. If, for whatever reason, you will not be at the chapter meeting, please let me know of your intention to attend the dinner as it will soon be time to advise the Barnyard of our numbers. You can also let us know if you have a dinner seating preference. We will try to honor those requests.*

*Thank you, Chuck*

### WEBSITE NOTE:

*Our chapter's website, in the Member Section" is currently down. It will be brought up with an update at the May meeting.*





501c3  
organization

# Passaic Valley Chapter 40<sup>th</sup> Annual Golf Outing

**Monday June 23, 2025**  
**Crystal Springs Golf Club**

1 Wild Turkey Way, Hamburg, NJ 07419

Modified Shotgun Start at 9:00am

- 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  
(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

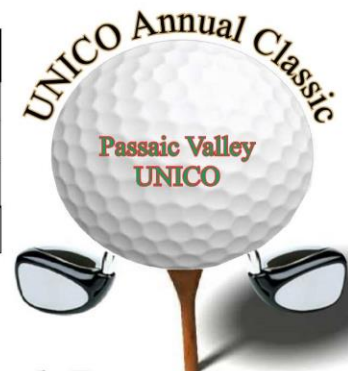
Go to: [www.unicomembers.com/golf](http://www.unicomembers.com/golf)

**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**

*21<sup>st</sup> century ~ Anti-Bias ~ Cancer Research & Prevention*

*Cooley's Anemia ~ Italian Studies ~ Mental Health*

*Scholarships ~ Torracco 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

Passaic Valley UNICO

**Bella Notte**  
AUTHENTIC ITALIAN CUISINE  
RESTAURANT & PIZZERIA  
973-812-8939  
62 EAST MAIN STREET  
LITTLE FALLS, NJ 07424

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Passaic Valley UNICO

**THE BROWNSTONE**  
351 West Broadway  
Paterson

SPONSOR

Passaic Valley UNICO

**CASA ARTURO**  
BISTRO  
75 Main St, Little Falls  
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SPONSOR

Passaic Valley UNICO

**Gary & Meg's**  
Chicken & Rib's  
Wayne

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**Gencarelli's Pizza**  
101 Newark Pompton Turnpike, Little Falls, NJ  
(973) 830-2703

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**LEGAL LEAF**  
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1244 McBride Ave.  
Woodland Park  
973-339-9477  
[www.LegalLeafNJ.com](http://www.LegalLeafNJ.com)

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Clifton, NJ

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**ShopRite**  
Little Falls

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**ShopRite**  
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**Viva LA PIZZA**  
We Deliver!  
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1005 McBride Ave., Woodland Park, NJ 07424  
(Park West Shopping Center)

SPONSOR

# Our 2024 Golf Sponsors

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



**Passaic Valley Chapter  
Annual Golf Outing  
Sponsor**

1244 McBride Ave.  
Woodland Park



**www.LegalLeafNJ.com**



973-339-9477

Thank you to “All” of our Sponsors (62)

**Passaic Valley Chapter  
Annual Golf Outing  
Sponsor**

**LEGAL LEAF  
New Jersey**

1244 McBride Ave.  
Woodland Park  
973-339-9477

[www.LegalLeafNJ.com](http://www.LegalLeafNJ.com)

**Passaic Valley Chapter  
Annual Golf Outing  
Sponsor**

**Chuck Russo**  
Insurance Consultant

**Passaic Valley Chapter  
Annual Golf Outing  
Sponsor**

**Bagels Unlimited**  
**Gregory Evangelou**

163 East Main Street  
Little Falls, NJ  
973-785-2211

**Passaic Valley Chapter  
Annual Golf Outing  
Sponsor**

**North Jersey  
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Center**

Gregory Romano  
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Annual Golf Outing  
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**Gaita Memorial Home**  
Little Falls, NJ

**Passaic Valley Chapter  
Annual Golf Outing  
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**Crews-Wilbert Vault Co.**

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Annual Golf Outing  
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SKILLED JOB COMPLETERS

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Denville, NJ  
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# Our 2024 Golf Sponsors

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Annual Golf Outing  
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**Murray Contracting**  
Murray Paving & Concrete, LLC  
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Passaic Valley Chapter  
Annual Golf Outing  
Sponsor

**Jay Sisti**  
Passaic Valley Chapter Member

Passaic Valley Chapter  
Annual Golf Outing  
Sponsor

**ALLIANCE**  
HAND & PHYSICAL THERAPY  
www.alliancetherapy.com

Wayne, NJ  
973-782-5528

Passaic Valley Chapter  
Annual Golf Outing  
Sponsor

**ABSOLUTE**  
Packaging & Supply Inc.  
456 East 22nd St., Paterson, NJ 07514  
973-278-0202 Fax 973-278-0044

www.THISBAGISNOTATOY.com

Passaic Valley Chapter  
Annual Golf Outing  
Sponsor

**Joe & Ellen Kliminski**  
Little Falls  
Friends and Supporters of  
Passaic Valley  
UNICO

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Annual Golf Outing  
Sponsor

**Cyndia's**  
Breakfast, Lunch, and Catering  
169 Union Boulevard  
Totowa, NJ  
973-925-7778

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Annual Golf Outing  
Sponsor

**Joe & Ellen Kliminski**  
Little Falls  
Friends and Supporters of  
Passaic Valley  
UNICO

Passaic Valley Chapter  
Annual Golf Outing  
Sponsor

**Sal Benvenuti**  
Passaic Valley Chapter Member  
Tax Consultant  
& Mediator

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Annual Golf Outing  
Sponsor

**Chris & Ann Di Mattio**  
PNP / Members of  
Scranton UNICO

Passaic Valley Chapter  
Annual Golf Outing  
Sponsor

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Cedar Grove, NJ  
07009  
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Passaic Valley Chapter  
Annual Golf Outing  
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**Gregory S. Liss, DDS**  
Advanced Dentistry for Health, Comfort and Appearance  
94 Main Street  
Little Falls, NJ 07424  
973-256-5001

Passaic Valley Chapter  
Annual Golf Outing  
Sponsor

**Columbia Bank**  
Nick Stack  
Branch Manager • Financial Services Officer  
NMLS #1582575  
1027 Pompton Avenue  
Cedar Grove, NJ 07009  
Email: nstack@columbiabankonline.com  
Phone: (973) 857-6290  
Fax: (973) 857-6291

Passaic Valley Chapter  
Annual Golf Outing  
Sponsor

**Totowa Tire Service**  
589 Union Blvd, Totowa  
(973) 942-0159

Passaic Valley Chapter  
Annual Golf Outing  
Sponsor

**Riverview Florist & Greenhouse**  
142 Totowa Rd, Totowa  
(973) 956-9159

Passaic Valley Chapter  
Annual Golf Outing  
Sponsor

**Election Fund for  
Senator Corrado  
for Senate**

Passaic Valley Chapter  
Annual Golf Outing  
Sponsor

**Little Falls ShopRite**  
Little Falls, NJ

Passaic Valley Chapter  
Annual Golf Outing  
Sponsor

**ESS**  
Jim Dye  
Business Manager  
141 River Road, #6  
Nutley, NJ 07110  
www.gotess.com  
Office: (201) 403-9839  
Cell: (973) 214-0049  
Fax: (973) 282-1008  
jdye@gotess.com

Passaic Valley Chapter  
Annual Golf Outing  
Sponsor

**Statewide Reports**  
Comprehensive Credit  
Reporting Services  
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Supporting All 21 New Jersey Counties

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Sponsor

**Little Falls Trophy**  
Route 46 East  
Little Falls, NJ

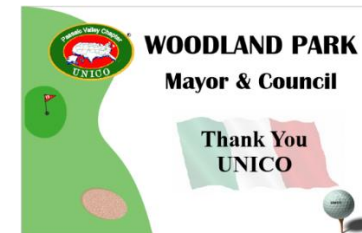
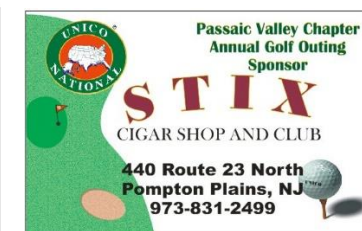
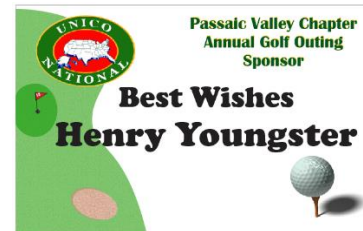
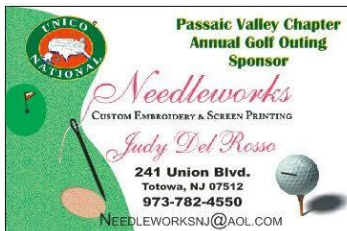
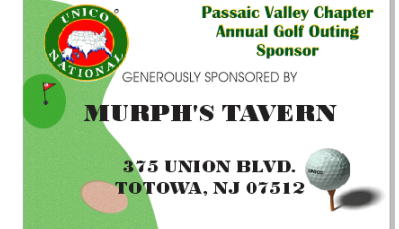
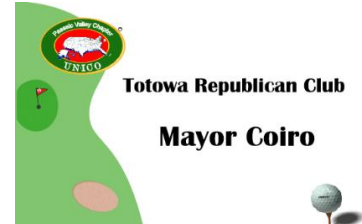
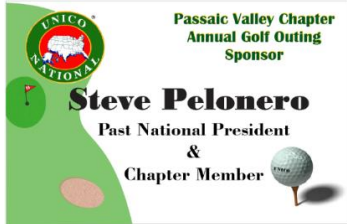
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# Our 2024 Golf Sponsors



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