

June 2025
Year 22
Issue 233

Passaic Valley UNICO

Our June 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

Welcome to June 2025

We can all see the year flying by - day by day - week by week - month by month. But we all made it to our upcoming June meeting. We will meet again in September and as always, we all need some well-deserved time off.

Short & Sweet - Two important events.

Our end of year Scholarship Awards Evening on Sunday June 8th at the Barnyard Totowa. With faces of our members in attendance, this will surely put smiles on the individuals receiving awards for what they have achieved and where they are progressing going forward. I am truly hoping we have a great member turnout as this is our last get together till September and we get to see the results of our work.

As always - the Scholarship Committee - chaired by Chuck Russo continues to put together a great evening for the graduating award winners. On behalf of the Board, we thank the committee for their ongoing assistance throughout the years.

Our annual Golf Outing at Crystal Springs Golf Club is scheduled for Monday, June 23rd. The revenue generated is for the graduating seniors receiving our UNICO chapter scholarship awards. What can I say - for all the individuals playing: "Hit the ball long and in the fairway". For all of the volunteers that help out, we as a chapter truly appreciate your assistance. We as a Board, thank Joe Barone and his committee for their ongoing work making this fundraiser one to be proud of. Please contact Joe Barone with any sponsorship donation or foursomes.

And finally, our June meeting will be held at Holy Cross Church (Woodland Park) on Wednesday, June 18th (3rd Wednesday). Please make an effort to attend.

People, on behalf of the Chapter Board of Directors, we wish everyone a safe and fun filled summer. Thank You and God Bless.

Carmen Criscione- Chapter President



June Birthdays

6 Nicholas Barone
9 Angelo Verrone
11 Alyssa Strippoli
30 Henry Youngster

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

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

June 11, 2025 ~ 2nd Wednesday ~ NJ District IV Meeting ~ Stephano's Restaurant ~ 565 Route 23 South, Pompton Plains ~ 7 pm

June 18, 2025 ~ 3rd Wednesday ~ Monthly meeting at Holy Cross Church ~ 7 pm dinner / 8 pm meeting ~ This is our last meeting of the UNICO year ... Our traditional Pizza and muscles ... Our Annual Chapter Dues can be paid at this meeting

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

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***Our Chapter Dues, for the  
2025/2026 year, are now due  
(July 1<sup>st</sup> 2025 through June 30<sup>th</sup> 2026)***

***\$80.00 for a regular member***

***\$15.00 for a lifetime member***

***\$12 for a youth member (under the age of 25)***

***You can either bring them to a future meeting  
Or mail them to our Little Falls PO Box 341***

***As soon as everyone gets them in,  
our chapter financial books can be closed***

***Thank you for being a member ~ and for your Service Above Self***

## ***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

**What's  
Happening  
in Italy  
in June**

**Click the above  
or here 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 ~ June*



*This photo was taken by a PV UNICO member, Steve Pelonero*

*Steve and Pat, along with chapter member Bruce Ponchak and his wife Ann and daughter Jenn were all in Venice when this photo was taken*



## Where is your Family From ?





## Committee & Comments

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

*Hello all and welcome to the end of our UNICO year. Let's finish the year strong with great attendance to the scholarship awards dinner at the Barnyard. It's such a nice night to see what our hard work is going to these bright students that are moving on to college. We also have the last fund raiser in our Golf outing, and we need everyone's help to make this a success. We need golfers as well as sponsors. The sponsors are very important in making this a great event for our club so please try to get sponsors for the club. The June meeting will be June 18<sup>th</sup> at Holy Cross Church, and we hope to see you all there before the summer break. Everyone have a great summer and be safe.*  
JoeB

### Food Pantries ~ Carmen Gaita and Patricia Pelonero

*Please try to bring to the June 18th meeting at Holy Cross Church in Woodland Park. Any non-perishable will be truly 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

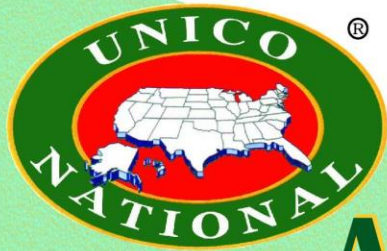
*Roni ~ The chapter thanks both the Passaic Valley Today and Italian Tribune newspapers for their continued support in publishing our events and endeavors.*

### Scholarship ~ Chuck Russo

*For our yearend Scholarship Dinner ~ Last call if you intend to be at the Scholarship Dinner on June 8<sup>th</sup> at the Barnyard in Totowa. Please let the scholarship committee know ASAP if you plan to attend but have not yet indicated so. If you are attending but have not yet made payment for your tickets, please do so as soon as you can so the committee has minimum accounting to do that night. Thank you and please contact me if you have any questions. ~~~ Chuck*

### WEBSITE NOTE:

OUR CHAPTER WEBSITE ~ The Member Section is currently down ~ We are sorry for the inconvenience



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

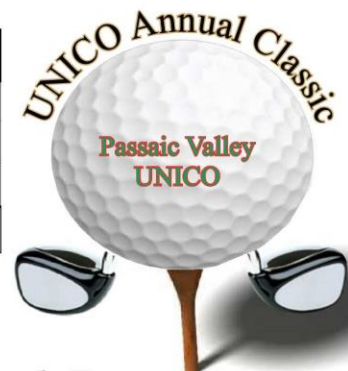
Go to: [www.unicomembers.com/golf](http://www.unicomembers.com/golf)

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

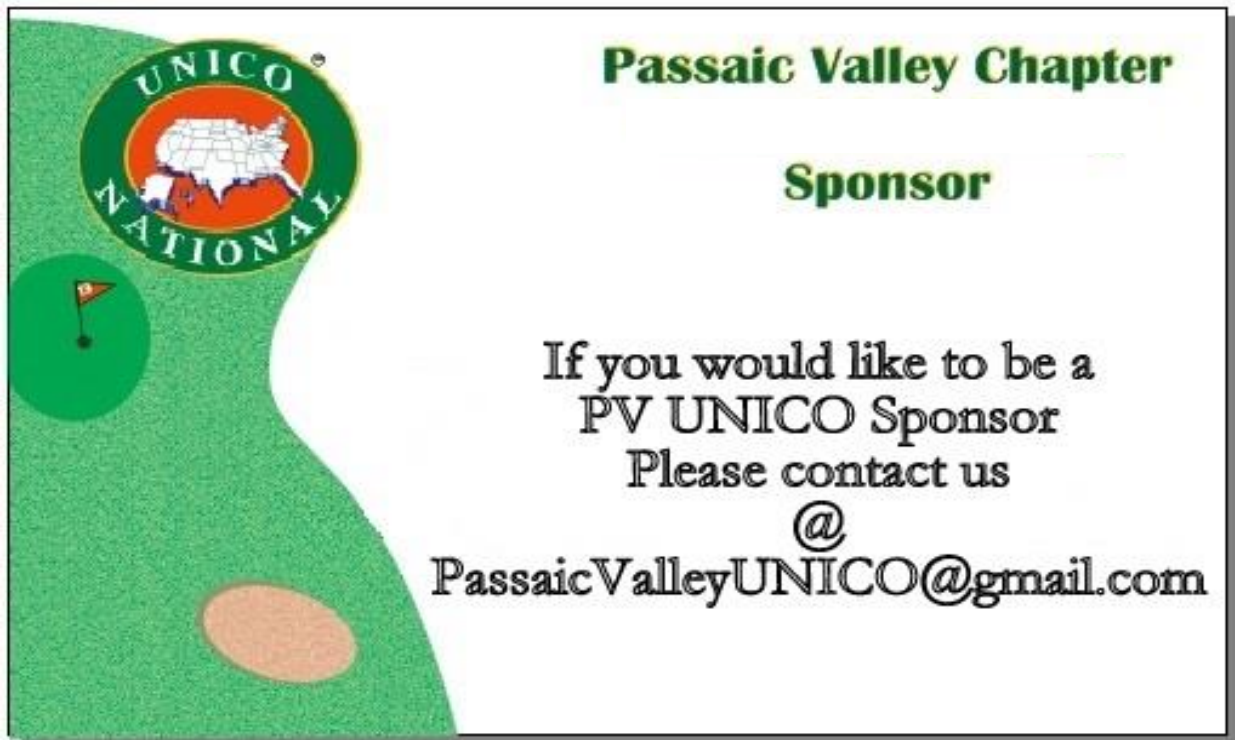
Ad displayed on the course, on our Website,  
and in our Monthly Newsletter for the Year!

**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  
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SPONSOR

Passaic Valley UNICO

**CASA ARTURO**  
BISTRO  
75 Main St, Little Falls  
(973) 837-8282

SPONSOR

Passaic Valley UNICO

**Gary & Meg's**  
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Wayne

SPONSOR

Passaic Valley UNICO

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

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**LEGAL LEAF**  
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973-339-9477  
[www.LegalLeafNJ.com](http://www.LegalLeafNJ.com)

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**The Original Jumbo's**  
Clifton, NJ

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**ShopRite**  
Little Falls

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**ShopRite**  
Wayne

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**Viva LA PIZZA**  
We Deliver!  
973-785 7501  
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**



1244 McBride Ave.  
Woodland Park  
973-339-9477

**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  
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**Passaic Valley Chapter  
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**North Jersey  
Hearing Aid  
Center**  
Gregory Romano  
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Annual Golf Outing  
Sponsor**


**Gaita Memorial Home**  
Little Falls, NJ





**Passaic Valley Chapter  
Annual Golf Outing  
Sponsor**

**Crews-Wilbert Vault Co.**





**Passaic Valley Chapter  
Annual Golf Outing  
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**Genaro J. DePalma**  
Denville, NJ  
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# Our 2024 Golf Sponsors

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Annual Golf Outing  
Sponsor

**Murray Contracting**  
Murray Paving & Concrete, LLC  
South Hackensack, NJ  
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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.alliancehpt.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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**Cyndia's**  
Breakfast, Lunch, and Catering  
169 Union Boulevard  
Totowa, NJ  
973-925-7778

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**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

Passaic Valley Chapter  
Annual Golf Outing  
Sponsor

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

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Annual Golf Outing  
Sponsor

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Cedar Grove, NJ  
07009  
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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

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Annual Golf Outing  
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**Statewide Reports**  
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Supporting All 21 New Jersey Counties

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Sponsor

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Little Falls, NJ

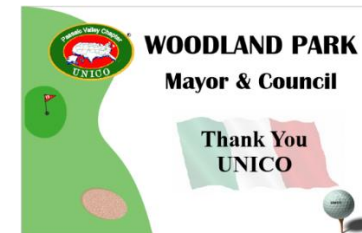
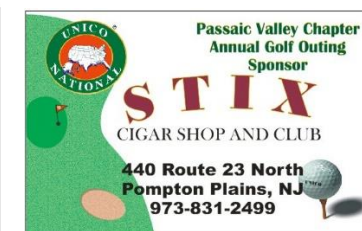
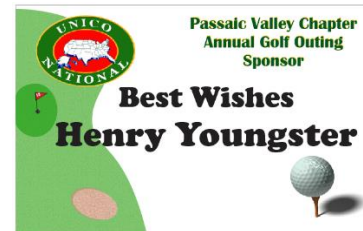
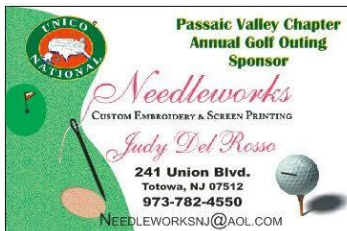
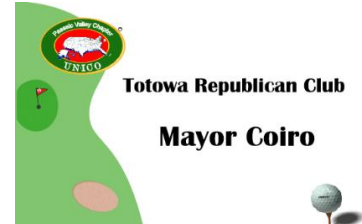
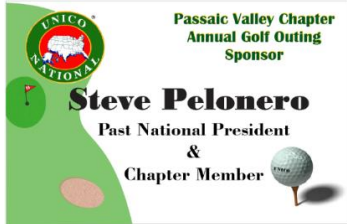
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# Our 2024 Golf Sponsors



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

# Our 2025 Golf Sponsors

(From June 23<sup>rd</sup> 2025 ~ through June 30, 2026)

## **Coccia Foundation ~ Breakfast Sponsor**

**Absolute Packaging ~ Paterson**  
**Chuck Russo ~ Chapter Member**  
**Commercial Plastics Recycling ~ Tampa FL ~ Chapter Member**  
**Eugene G. Liss DDS ~ Little Falls**  
**Falls Creamery ~ Little Falls**  
**Franks Pizza ~ Lincoln Park**  
**Gaita Memorial Home ~ Little Falls ~ Chapter Member**  
**Hanson & Ryan ~ Totowa**  
**Jay Sisti ~ Chapter Member**  
**JK Realty ~ Clifton**  
**Joe & Ellen Kliminski ~ Friends of UNICO**  
**Little Falls Trophy ~ Little Falls**  
**Shook's Funeral Home ~ Cedar Grove**  
**ShopRite ~ Little Falls**