

August 2025

Year 24

Issue 236

Passaic Valley UNICO

Our September 2025 Monthly Newsletter



Passaic Valley UNICO
PO Box 341
Little Falls, NJ 07424

Serving
Little Falls
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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

Hello Chapter Members

Summer is over - Wow - went quick. Thats what happens as we all get younger, and time keeps moving on. Hope everyone truly enjoyed yourselves. On behave of our Executive Board, we thank you all for making this past year successful-

As always there are so many people to thank. That is why we have a great chapter.

We had our 2025-2026 Budget meeting a few weeks back. All looks good and we will discuss it at our first meeting. The UNICO National Convention went well and that information will be given at our meeting.

Please if you have not yet paid your dues please address it asap so we can close up that book.

Our September meeting will be held at Arturo's Cafe in Little Falls. If you are attending dinner, please be there by 6:15pm so we can start dinner on time. If you are just attending the meeting, please be there for an 8:00pm start.

Respectfully Carmen Criscione- Chapter President



September Birthdays

3 Michael Carrubba
26 Roni Corrado
27 Alexandra Stefanelli

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

September ~ Date to be determined ~ Our first chapter meeting of the UNICO year ~ More information will definitely follow ~ Please stay informed by always going to our chapter website ~ www.PassaicValleyUNICO.org

December 2, 2025 ~ Tuesday ~ Our NJ District IV Christmas Dinner at The Brownstone ~ The flier is in this newsletter ~ Please bring your check to the November meeting (if not sooner) ~ Thank you

December 6th, 2025 ~ Saturday ~ Our NJ District IV Christmas Get Together Bus Ride to NYC ~ The flier is in this newsletter ~ First 50 to pay get a seat on the bus

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

A lot of members have already paid which makes it easy for our accounting

\$85.00 for a regular member

\$15.00 for a lifetime member

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

Please bring them to the September meeting  
Our chapter deadline is at the November meeting  
Or mail them to our Little Falls PO Box 341 Zip 07424

## 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

## Italian Lesson

Very Big ~ molto grande

Very small ~

molto piccolo/a

Very good ~ molto Buono/a

Very bad ~ molto cattivo/a

Very beautiful ~

molto bello/a

Very ugly ~ molto brutto/a

Very fast ~ molto veloce

Very slow ~ molto lento/a

Very clean ~ molto pulito/a

Very dirty ~

molto sporco/a

## 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 2025-2026 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 2025-2026 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 |

### Our 2025-2026 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 2025-2026 Fundraising Committee Heads

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, Evelyn Tosi  
Raffle ~ 50/50 ..... Claudine Stefanelli

### Non-Fundraising Committee Heads

Community Service Day (April) ..... Claudine Stefanelli  
Good and Welfare ..... Joe Benvenuti  
Heritage ..... Angelo Verrone  
Membership ..... To be appointed  
Newsletter ..... Steve Pelonero PNP  
Nominating Chair ..... Open - To be appointed  
Publicity ..... Christina Castillo & Roni Corrado  
Scholarship / Brian Piccolo ..... Michael Russo  
Study Abroad College Grant Chair ..... Cav. Joseph Agresti PNP  
Website ..... Steven Pelonero PNP

# UNICO OFFICERS

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T R A K S L C F D H U E B U O  
O G R R E I L R U E J T R C E  
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CALANTONE  
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BENVENUTI  
CHUCK  
RUSSO







**UNICO NEW JERSEY DISTRICT IV**  
**Cordially Invites You To Our**  
**ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY**  
**“A SPECIAL PARTY FOR EXCEPTIONAL**  
**PEOPLE”**

***Tuesday, December 2, 2025 ~ 6:30 to 10:30 PM***

**The Brownstone**  
**351 West Broadway**  
**Paterson, NJ**

**\$65.00 person**

**RSVP PLEASE BY NOVEMBER 21, 2025 to:**  
**NJ IV District Governor Anthony DeGennaro – 201-264-8984**  
**PNP Joe Agresti – 201-874-0546**  
**2nd VP UNICO National Steve Calantone – 862-668-8682**

**This year’s invited guests are:**  
**Found Abilities & Clifton Rec Buddy Cantine**

**MENU Family Style**

**Italian Cold Specialities, Ceasar Salad, Pasta w/Tomato Sauce**  
**Cacio e Pepe, Sliced Sirloin, Chicken Marsala, Chicken Tenders &**  
**Fries(for the Special guests) Red Potatoes, Fresh Vegetables, Rolls**  
**Cake-Donuts – Coffee – Tea – Wine – Soda**

**LIVE MUSIC**

**and**

**A VISIT FROM “SANTA CLAUS” OF COURSE!**



# NJ District IV Christmas Bus Trip

*The David D'Arco Memorial Bus Trip*

**SATURDAY DECEMBER 6, 2025**



Little Italy - Rockefeller Center - Dinner - Shopping



Bus will depart at 12:00 pm from  
the parking lot of the  
**Little Falls United Methodist Church**  
139 Main Street, Little Falls, NJ 07424

Price per person is \$115.00

this includes dinner at

Puglia's Restaurant

Free Time

Round trip Bus Accommodations

Rockefeller Center

Departing to return home at 6:00pm

**\$115.00 per person**

Cash is preferred

Make checks payable to UNICO District IV

c/o Steve Calantone

8 Joyce Lane Wayne, NJ 07474

no later than November 29, 2025

Proceeds from this Bus Trip provide

District IV Scholarships

***Italian Heritage Photo***  
***From the 2025 UNICO Heritage Calendar***  
***Celebrating the month of September***



***And old Tuna factory in Scopello, Sicily ~ It is now used as a Bed and Breakfast***

***This photo was taken by a UNICO National member Anthony Pelonero***

***Scopello is a coastal village in the municipality of Castellammare del Golfo, in the province of Trapani, Sicily (Southern Italy). It is located on the north-western coast of the Sicilian island.***

***The village stands in an area inhabited by man since the Mesolithic era.***

***The ancient Greeks colonized the place and made it a trading settlement.***

***The seaside borough as it appears today dates back to the 17th century.***







## Committee & Comments

### Food Pantries ~ Carmen Gaita and Patricia Pelonero

*Seeing as we have not met during July and August and there are still families that are in need of help. Please stop in one of our local pantries with an item or two. "Every little bit helps". You can always bring a non-perishable item(s) to any of our chapter meetings.*

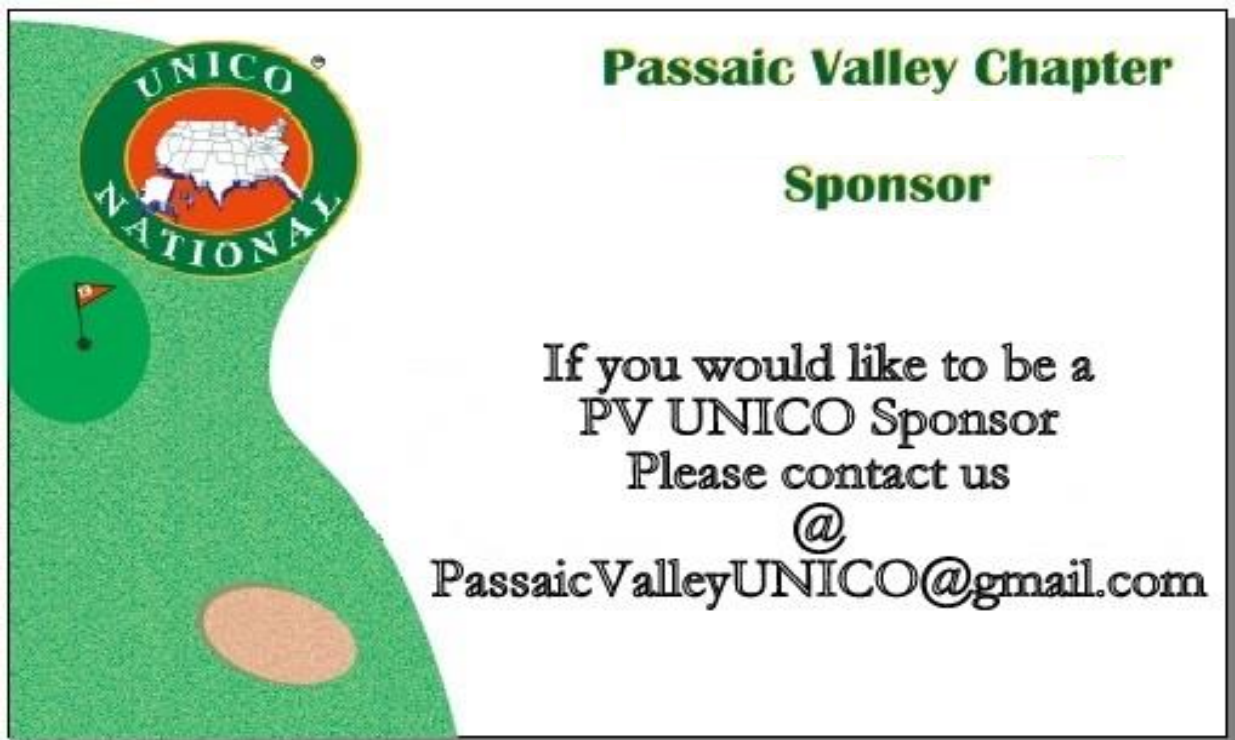
### Membership Dues ~ Steve Pelonero PNP

*Please remember that only once a year our Chapter dues are due. The UNICO National Fiscal Year starts on July 1<sup>st</sup>. Most members have paid them already. There was a mailing that went out after our June year-end Chapter Monthly Meeting. If you still have not paid yours. hopefully you can get yours mailed to our chapter PO Box 341 in Little Falls, or brought to the September chapter meeting. The absolute deadline to get them paid is at the November chapter meeting. The sooner you get them in, the sooner we can close out our chapter books. If there are any questions, please reach out.*

Sponsors ~ Please try to support all of our supporters. They are all listed on the following pages. Let them know that you are with our Chapter and that we truly thank them.

### WEBSITE NOTE:

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



### **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 2025/2026 Sponsors

(From July 1, 2026 ~ June 30, 2026)

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And, if received early enough, you will also have a sign on one of the 18 holes at our Annual Golf Outing

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

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