

July 2025
Year 23
Issue 234

Passaic Valley UNICO

Our July 2025 Monthly Newsletter



Passaic Valley UNICO
PO Box 341
Little Falls, NJ 07424

Serving
Little Falls
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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

Hello Everyone - After somewhat dreary days, June and summer have finally come in with some hot days. It looks like the rest of the summer months will be torrid in many ways.

The scholarship dinner went off great as usual. Chuck Russo and his team did a tremendous job making the evening relaxing and enjoyable. Thank you.

As you all know by now, Chuck has stepped down from all the years of a phenomenal service he has given us. He has been a driving force putting together this end of year event. On behalf of the Executive Board - THANK YOU.

This year's golf outing was held at a different venue - Crystals Springs. Kudos to Joe Barone and his committee. The weather for the day had a sweltering heat index of 109°.

Unbelievable. All of the golfers had a great time and the dinner that followed in an air-conditioned tent helped immensely.

But most of all: A very special THANK to all of the volunteers who assisted that day. We could not have got thru the day without your assistance. The Executive Board appreciates the time and effort that you have given us. Hopefully it will be cooler next year.

Please remember that our annual dues are now due. You should have all received a reminder either personally or in the mail. Thank you.

Hoping everyone has a safe and enjoyable summer. Thank you and God Bless.

Carmen Criscione- Chapter President



July Birthdays

6 Emilia Klosik
 9 Jessica Gaita
 10 Daniel Dransfield
 16 Ken Kribs
 20 Evelyn Tosi
 23 Michaela Ragusso
 31 Joe Benvenuti

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

July 30th, August 2nd

UNICO National Convention in Fort Lauderdale, FL

~~~~~

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

\$85.00 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 thank you 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

## Italian Lesson

**Bicycle – Bicicletta**  
**Clothes - Vestiti**  
**Home – Casa**  
**Colors – Colori**  
**Family – Famiglia**  
**Health – Salute**  
**Time - Tempo**

[Click here for even  
 more words from  
 English to Italian](#)

## 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 ..... Steve Pelonero PNP  
 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



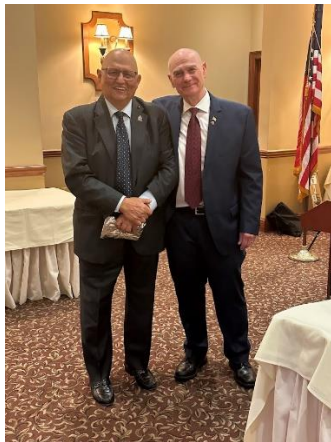
# Scholarship & Brian Piccolo Award Night



*Above left: Our 2025 Scholarship and Study Abroad Recipients ~ Above right : Our chapter Scholarship Committee*



*Above left: Our NJ District IV Governor Anthony ~ Above right center is Linda, Anthony's wife with our Scholarship chair and his wife*



*Above left: Cav./ PNP Joe Aresti (Study Abroad Chair) ~~~~~~ Right: Chuck with Chapter President Carmen Center Center: Jane Russo and Chuck Russo Scholarship Chair*



**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 Specialties, 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 ~ July***  
***Venice Italy***



***This photo was taken when Steve and Pat Pelonero were with Bruce and Ann Ponchak and their daughter Jennifer. It was taken from the dock of their hotel in Venice***



## *Where is your Family From ?*





## Committee & Comments

### Food Pantries ~ Carmen Gaita and Patricia Pelonero

*Seeing as we do not meet during July and August, there are still families in need of help. Please stop in one of our local pantries with an item or two. "Every little bit helps"*

### Membership ~ Steve Pelonero PNP

*Please remember that only once a year that our UNICO National and Chapter dues are due. Now is the time seeing that the National Fiscal Year starts on July 1<sup>st</sup>. Most members have paid them already and there was a mailing that went out after our June Year end Chapter Monthly Meeting. If there are any questions, please reach out*

### Overseas Soldiers ~ Roni Corado

*Evelyn Tosi's grandson will be deployed to Kuwait shortly and is presently in Texas receiving training. Once we know his needs, members who would like to participate can bring items to the September meeting and a package will be mailed to him.*

### Publicity ~ Roni Corrado & Christina Castillo

*Roni ~ The chapter sincerely thanks the Italian Tribune for publishing pictures and articles of every one of our events and endeavors this 2024-2025 year.*

*Christina – A thank you to the PV Today Paper for being so great in publishing our articles and pictures for the 2024-2025 year.*

### 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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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

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