

August 2025

Year 24

Issue 235

Passaic Valley UNICO

Our August 2025 Monthly Newsletter



Passaic Valley UNICO
PO Box 341
Little Falls, NJ 07424

Serving

Little Falls

Totowa

Woodland Park

Page Highlights:

About UNICO	10
Be a Sponsor	10
Birthday's	2
Board of Directors	3
Bus Ride	6
Calendar Heritage Photo	7
Chapter Delegates	3
Christmas Party	5
ComUNICO Link	3
Committees	3
Committee Comments	9
Dues Reminder	2
Italian Language Lesson	3
Executive Board	3
Food Pantry	2, 9
Fundraising Committees	3
Map of Italy	8
Photo Links	2
President's Message	1
Publicity	9
Sponsors ~ Golf 2025/26	11-14
UNICO Charities	3, 10
UNICO Core Values	2
Upcoming Events	2
Website Update	9
Word Search Puzzle	4

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 Everyone-

As you can see the summer is moving fast. As of this writing, a few of our members are participating in this year's National Convention. I am sure they will do us proud. Thank you.

Our golf outing in June was another successful event. Raising \$9,000 towards scholarships is tremendous. Truly thank Joe Barone and his Committee for another outstanding dedication of duties for this event.

I also wish to thank and not forget the volunteers on that hot scorching day. Worked under adverse conditions. Thank you. Mr. Barone will give his positive report at our first meeting in September.

I hope everyone is having a great summer and enjoying the time with families and friends. A few members have reached out to member Tony Orlando (turning 92). He is doing well and he sends his regards to us all.

In closing: Our first meeting will be held at Arturos Restaurant in Little Falls, September 10th @ 6:30pm. Looking forward to seeing the membership. God Bless, Be well, and enjoy the rest of the summer.

Thank you-- Carmen Criscione- Chapter President



August Birthdays

2 Peggy Ann Nicora
6 Claudine Stefanelli
9 Cav. Joe Agresti PNP
9 Tony Orlando
10 Giavonna Bergamasco
15 Pete Longo

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

August ~ Our chapter vacation month

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 ..... 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

## UNICO OFFICERS

B G H T C R I S C I O N E J S  
N M U U T B E N V E N U T I T  
E F A A B R T I M Q A F B K E  
C G K P R E E N K Y X I P M V  
A N I G R C E A L A N R J P E  
L F A V B E O X S J O S E P H  
A S H S S F S Z E U P T I C X  
N E C Z E E U I H C R R U H J  
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  
N E M U C V L O E B N M I K X  
E A E S O I H O M T R T H V G  
G N N S N C V Q S P A I K D E  
Z T L O D E E K G S H R A L D  
M Y K Y Q H F H C A N H Y N W

PRESIDENT  
JOE  
NASELLO  
CARMEN  
CRISCIONE

EXECUTIVE  
BRIAN  
GUARCO  
SECRETARY  
TREASURER

VICE  
STEVE  
CALANTONE  
SERGEANT  
FIRST

JOSEPH  
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 August in ...***  
***Salogni, the Piedmont Region of Italy***



*This photo was taken by a Granby, CT chapter member*

*Salogni is a small town in the Piedmont region. This is just one of the few houses there.  
There are only about 16 families with 25 residents living in this small town.*

## *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 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 in 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.*

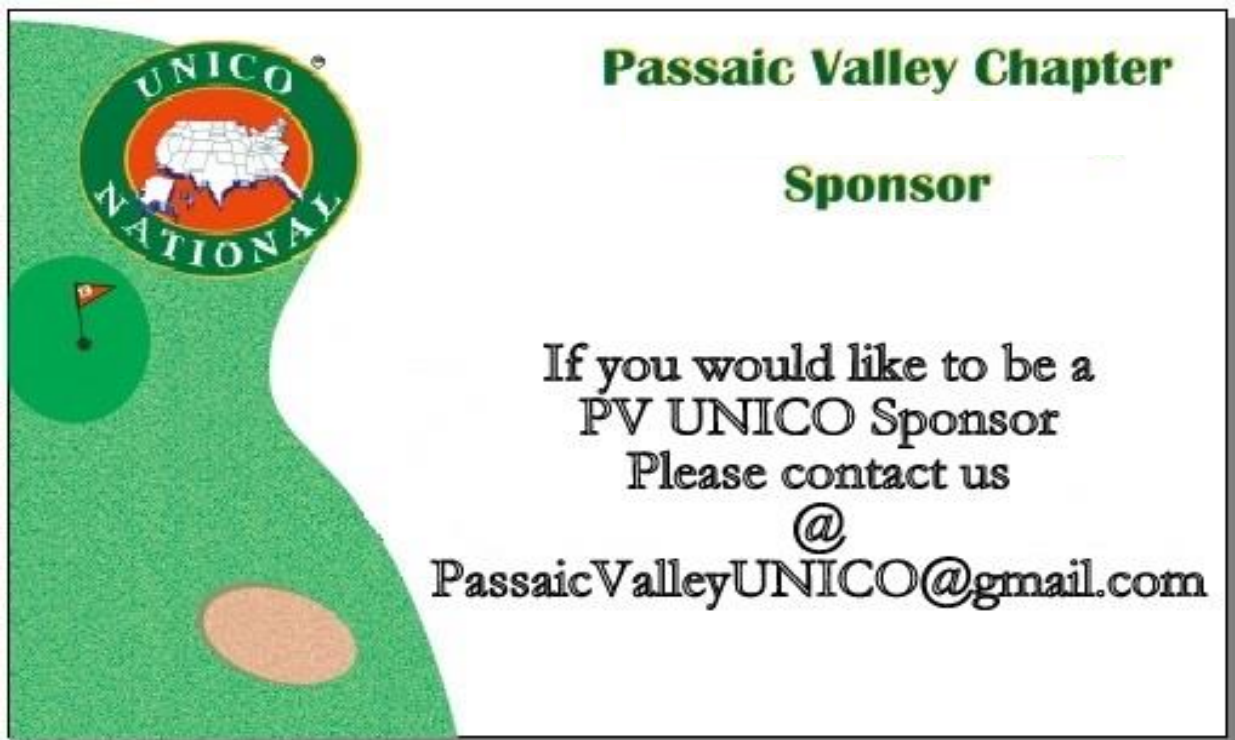
Sponsors ~ Please try to support all of our supporters. They are all listed on the following pages. Let them know that you are with our Chapter and that we truly thank them.

### Vice President ~ Joe Benvenuti

*Welcome all to August, as usually the summer goes by way to fast, and it has been a very hot humid summer for sure. Hope everyone is enjoying the summer and will come back energized for the September 10th meeting at Casa Arturo. Anyone that has an idea or ideas for a fund raiser, please bring them to the board's attention we are always looking for new ideas. Enjoy the rest of the summer. See you in Sept. ~ JoeB*

### 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)

**Thank you to “All” of our Sponsors**  
**Corporate Sponsor**



**Passaic Valley Chapter  
Annual Golf Outing  
Sponsor**



1244 McBride Ave.  
Woodland Park

973-339-9477

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



## Gold level Sponsors





**Coccia  
Foundation**

Best Wishes  
UNICO





Peter Graziano



**Griffin & Howe**  
at Hudson Farm  
Where A Legacy Is Crafted

Exceptional Sporting Experiences Since 1923  
Andover NJ

973-398-2670





# Our 2025/2026 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

Passaic Valley Chapter  
Annual Golf Outing  
Sponsor

**Law Offices of  
Abdy & Kane**

17 Furler Street  
Suite 3  
Totowa, NJ 07512  
973-890-9090

Passaic Valley Chapter  
Annual Golf Outing  
Sponsor

**ABSOLUTE**  
Packaging & Supply Inc.

456 East 22nd St., Paterson, NJ 07614  
973-278-0202 Fax 973-278-0044

www.THISBAGISNOTATOY.com

Passaic Valley Chapter  
Annual Golf Outing  
Sponsor

**Anthony's Cleaners**

279 Browertown Road  
West Paterson  
1581 Rt. 23 South  
Wayne

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

**CASA ARTURO**  
BISTRO

75 Main Street  
Little Falls, NJ 07424

Passaic Valley Chapter  
Annual Golf Outing  
Sponsor

**Cestone Electric Company**

23 Jackson Street  
Little Falls, NJ

Passaic Valley Chapter  
Annual Golf Outing  
Sponsor

**Chuck Russo**  
Insurance Consultant

Passaic Valley Chapter  
Annual Golf Outing  
Sponsor

**CORE WELLNESS**  
Chiropractic | Holistic | Massage

Little Falls  
973-837-6677

Passaic Valley Chapter  
Annual Golf Outing  
Sponsor

**Corrado & Corrado Esqs.**

142 Totowa Rd, Totowa  
STE 2  
(973) 956-1400

Passaic Valley Chapter  
Annual Golf Outing  
Sponsor

**CPR Inc**  
Commercial Plastic Recycling

Tampa, Florida  
Joe Benvenuti  
Account Rep

Passaic Valley Chapter  
Annual Golf Outing  
Sponsor

**Election Fund for  
Senator Corrado  
for Senate**

Passaic Valley Chapter  
Annual Golf Outing  
Sponsor

**Crews-Wilbert Vault Co.**

**The  
Criscione  
Family**

Passaic Valley Chapter  
Annual Golf Outing  
Sponsor

**The Damiano Team**  
Mayor  
James Damiano  
Council President  
Anthony Sgobba  
Councilwoman  
Christine Hablitz  
Councilman  
Chris Vancheri

Passaic Valley Chapter  
Annual Golf Outing  
Sponsor

**DANAHER'S**  
IRISH PUB

31 Passaic Ave, Fairfield, NJ  
(973) 227-4938

Passaic Valley Chapter  
Annual Golf Outing  
Sponsor

**Billy & Wyatt  
Ermolowich**

Friends  
of  
UNICO

**Fall's  
CREAMERY**

Ice Cream - Treats - Coffee

11 Paterson Ave.  
Little Falls, NJ 07424  
(973) 837-6118

Passaic Valley Chapter  
Annual Golf Outing  
Sponsor

**FRANK'S PIZZA**

261 Comly Road  
Lincoln Park, NJ  
973-686-9005

Passaic Valley Chapter  
Annual Golf Outing  
Sponsor

**Gaita Memorial Home**  
Little Falls, NJ

Passaic Valley Chapter  
Annual Golf Outing  
Sponsor



**Hanson & Ryan Inc**  
Insurance Since 1876

973-256-6000

# Our 2025/2026 Sponsors

Passaic Valley Chapter  
Annual Golf Outing  
Sponsor



**Best Wishes  
Henry Youngster**

Passaic Valley Chapter  
Annual Golf Outing  
Sponsor



**James A. Martin**  
Certified Public Accountant

22 CHURCH STREET  
RAMSEY, NJ 07446  
TEL (201) 236-1211  
FAX (201) 236-1825  
jmartin@junoopo.com

Passaic Valley Chapter  
Annual Golf Outing  
Sponsor

**Jay Sisti**  
Passaic Valley Chapter Member



Passaic Valley Chapter  
Annual Golf Outing  
Sponsor

**JK REALTY**  
NEW JERSEY LICENSED REAL ESTATE BROKER  
www.JKREALTY.com  
973-472-7000






Passaic Valley Chapter  
Annual Golf Outing  
Sponsor

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

Passaic Valley Chapter  
Annual Golf Outing  
Sponsor

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

Passaic Valley Chapter  
Annual Golf Outing  
Sponsor

**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

**Eugene Liss  
ESQ**  
"Friend of UNICO"

Little Falls, NJ  
973-890-1819




Passaic Valley Chapter  
Annual Golf Outing  
Sponsor



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




Passaic Valley Chapter  
Annual Golf Outing  
Sponsor


GENEROUSLY SPONSORED BY  
**MURPH'S TAVERN**

375 UNION BLVD.  
TOTOWA, NJ 07512



Passaic Valley Chapter  
Annual Golf Outing  
Sponsor

**Peter Murphy**  
County Chairman  
& the entire Passaic  
County Regular  
Republican Organization






Passaic Valley Chapter  
Annual Golf Outing  
Sponsor

**Park West**  
Diner • Cafe  
& Bakery  
Route 46 West  
Little Falls

Passaic Valley Chapter  
Annual Golf Outing  
Sponsor


**Steve Pelonero**  
Past National President  
&  
Chapter Member

Passaic Valley Chapter  
Annual Golf Outing  
Sponsor


FLOWERS FOR ALL OCCASIONS  
WIDOWS - BIRTHS - PARTIES - BANQUETS  
WEDDINGS - FUNERALS - SYMPHONY  
BOYCOTS - PRIZE BASKETS - HOSPITALS  
OPEN HOUSES - FLOWERS FOR THE  
FLOUNDER BOAT WEDDINGS  
JANUARY - 973-889-9999 FAX 973-889-9999  
www.pjstowe.com

**PJ'S TOWNE FLORIST**




Passaic Valley Chapter  
Annual Golf Outing  
Sponsor

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

Passaic Valley Chapter  
Annual Golf Outing  
Sponsor



**SABRETT**  
Dave Martina  
Frankfurters  
Hamburgers  
Condiments  
Hot Dog Push Carts

TEL (973) 773-4401  
http://www.pushcarts.com  
E-Mail: Pushcarts@att.net  
657-A Van Houten Ave. • Clifton, NJ 07013




Passaic Valley Chapter  
Annual Golf Outing  
Sponsor

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

Passaic Valley Chapter  
Annual Golf Outing  
Sponsor

**Santangelo Funeral Home**  
Woodland Park, NJ  
973-343-2500




Passaic Valley Chapter  
Annual Golf Outing  
Sponsor

**Shook's Cedar Grove  
Funeral home, Inc.**  
486 Pompton Ave.  
Cedar Grove, NJ  
07009  
973-239-1489





Passaic Valley Chapter  
Annual Golf Outing  
Sponsor

**Little Falls ShopRite**  
Little Falls, NJ






Passaic Valley Chapter  
Annual Golf Outing  
Sponsor

**STERIATRICS**  
Your Source for  
Power Injector Syringes and Servicing  
**Guy S. Luongo**  
President  
460 Main Street  
Sewell, NJ 08080  
856-226-9040




Passaic Valley Chapter  
Annual Golf Outing  
Sponsor

**STIX**  
CIGAR SHOP AND CLUB  
440 Route 23 North  
Pompton Plains, NJ  
973-831-2499

Passaic Valley Chapter  
Annual Golf Outing  
Sponsor

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




Passaic Valley Chapter  
Annual Golf Outing  
Sponsor

**VALLEY SPA**  
Premium Cigars  
61 E. Main St  
Little Falls  
973-785-0794






# Our 2025/2026 Sponsors

