

October 2025

Year 24

Issue 237

Passaic Valley UNICO

Our October 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

Hello Everyone

Time is passing and the Fall is now upon us as we will be seeing the leaves on trees falling. We had a great September meeting with a nice turnout. Thank you for all who attended.

Our "Italian Studies Abroad" recipient Angela Sebetta was with us and gave us a recap of her experiences - very interesting.

October we will be participating in the Italian Flag Raising at the Little Falls Municipal Building on Monday October 6th around 6pm.

As always, we would like to see members of our UNICO family with friends, so your attendance is welcome to be a part of it. We hope to see you there.

We are looking for a Membership Chairman for this year and would truly appreciate to have someone step up quickly - We will work with whomever has interest-

As we approach the months ahead, we have outlined in our last meeting what is going on.

Let's all have a great start to this new year and work together to keep our chapter active for many worthy causes.

Thank you

Respectfully Carmen - Chapter President



October Birthdays

10-1 Frank Capalbo
 10-2 Christina Castillo
 10-6 Peter Cervino
 10-9 Carmen Gaita Jr.
 10-10 Carmen Criscione
 10-20 Mark BiFalco
 10-24 Aylssa Russo
 10-25 Damian Kribs

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

October 6th ~ Monday ~ 6 pm ~ Our Italian Flag Raising to celebrate our Heritage ~ At the Little Falls Town Hall

October 8, 2025 ~ 2nd Wednesday ~ Our chapter monthly meeting ~ Biga Restaurant, 557 Pompton Ave, Cedar Grive ~ 6:15 Attendance – 6: 30 Dinner ~ 8:00 Meeting ~ Please stay informed by always going to our chapter website ~ www.PassaicValleyUNICO.org

October 28, 2025 ~ Tuesday ~ Meet the National President ~ See chapter president Carmen for more information and if you are interested in going.

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)

## 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

Bread ~ pane  
Cheese ~ formaggio  
Fruit ~ frutta  
Vegetable ~ verdura  
Meat ~ carne  
Egg ~ uovo  
Milk ~ latte  
Rice ~ riso  
Fish ~ pesce  
Chicken ~ pollo  
Salad ~ insalata  
Butter ~ burro

## 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 ... 59 Members (President +3)

Delegate: Sal Benvenuti

Delegate: Patricia Pelonero

Delegate: open

Delegate: Joseph Agresti as PNP

Delegate: Steven Pelonero as PNP

(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 ..... Fred DeMarco  
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  
Italian Flag Raising ..... Steve Pelonero PNP  
Membership ..... Open ~ 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 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*  
*Celebrating the month of October*



*Gondolas in Venice*

*This photo was taken by a in Venice when Passaic Valley Chapter members, Steve Pelonero and Bruce Ponchak spent a week traveling Italy with their wives and family*

*There are no cars in Venice:  
Just water buses (known as Vaporetto), private boats, and Gondolas. It is a pedestrian only city*

## *Where is your Family From ?*



## Committee & Comments

### Executive Vice President ~ Joe Benvenuti

*Welcome all to October and this fall season. Our meeting last month went longer than usually as we had lot of items to cover after being off for the summer. This month's meeting should not be as long. We do have someone who stepped up to chair our golf committee, which is our biggest fund raiser of the year and hopefully we can finalize next years soon. We are still in need for someone to step up as either Membership Chair or Secretary. Steve Pelonero is willing to take over the membership but can't do both, so if someone can step up and take one of them it would be much appreciated. Steve will help whoever takes either position. Thank you all and hope to have a few new members at our October 8<sup>th</sup> meeting at Biga restaurant in Cedar Grove. Hope to see you all there. ~~~ JoeB*

### Food Pantries ~ Carmen Gaita and Patricia Pelonero

*Thanksgiving will soon be here next month. Please consider bringing some non-perishables to the October and November meetings ~~~ "Let's help others"*

### Membership Dues

*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 your check mailed to our chapter PO Box 341 in Little Falls, or you can bring your check to the October 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. One more mailing will go out at the end of October. If you are not sure if you paid, please reach out to Steve Pelonero (973-271-9314)*

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 UNNIXO Chapter and that we truly thank them.

### WEBSITE NOTE:

*The Member Section in our chapter website 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.

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

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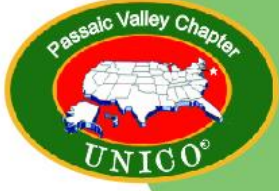
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It is never too late.

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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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