

September
2026
Year 24
Issue 248

Passaic Valley UNICO

Our September 2026 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 Chapter members,

Summer has gone by very fast. Hope all had an enjoyable summer and were able to vacation.

On behalf of our executive board want to thank you all for making this past year very successful. We do have a great chapter thanks to all of you.

We will be discussing our budget at our first meeting for 2026-2027 and will vote on the budget at our October meeting.

From what I have heard the National Convention went well this year despite some travel issues due to the weather that week. Some members could not make it down for the convention because of cancelled flights. We will have a report at our meeting about the convention.

Our dues for the upcoming year are due so please get your dues into Steve so he can mark you paid.

Our September 9th meeting is at Casa Arturo Main St. Little Falls. Dinner is to start at 6:30pm. If you are coming just for the meeting only, we will start that at 8:00pm

Looking forward to working with you all this year
Joe Benvenuti. Chapter President



September Birthdays

09-03 Michael Carrubba

09-26 Roni Corrado

Photo Albums

All our chapter event pictures can be seen on our website ... Additional pictures from our "NJ IV District" and a lot from our "UNICO National" events can also be seen on their websites.

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 donations 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 9th, 2026 ~ 2nd Wednesday ~ Our 1st Meeting of the UNICO Year
 Casa Arturo ~ 6:30 pm Dinner ~ 8 pm Meeting

September 11, 2026 ~ Friday ~ Convention Fundraiser Beefsteak ~ Wayne PAL ~

December 1st, 2026 ~ Tuesday ~ NJ District IV Christmas Dinner for our Special Need Friends ~ Brownstone ~ RSVP to chapter president ~ The flier is on our chapter website ~ [Click here to go to the flier section](#)

December 5th, 2026 ~ Saturday ~ NYC Bus Ride to Little Italy NYC ~ RSVP to our chapter president ~ The flier is on our chapter website ~ [Click here to go to the flier section](#)

~~~~~

*Ans please remember that chapter dues  
 are now being accepted  
 Please mail them to our PO Box 341  
 Little Falls, NJ 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

Car ~ Automobile  
 City ~ Citta  
 Day ~ Giorno  
 Family ~ Famiglia  
 Fashion ~ Moda  
 House/Home ~ Casa  
 Love ~ Amore  
 Party ~ Festa  
 Son ~ Figlio  
 Sun ~ Sole  
 Time ~ Ora  
 Wine ~ Vino

(There's more on Page 4)

## 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 2026-2027 Executive Board

President ..... Joe Benvenuti  
 1st Vice President ..... Fred DeMarco  
 2nd Vice President ..... Chuck Russo  
 Treasurer ..... Bruce Ponchak  
 Secretary ..... Steve Pelonero  
 Sgt. At-Arms ..... John Barbieri  
 Corresponding Secretary ..... John Barbieri

### Our 2026-2027 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 |
| Carmen Criscione | Past Chapter President | 2024 & 2025 |

### Our 2026-2027 Chapter Delegates

President Joseph Benvenuti ... 51 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 2026-2027 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 ..... Christina Castillo, Roni Corrado  
 Newsletter ..... Steve Pelonero PNP  
 Publicity ..... Christina Castillo & Roni Corrado  
 Scholarship / Brian Piccolo ..... Michael Russo  
 Study Abroad College Grant Chair ..... Cav. Joseph Agresti PNP  
 Website ..... Steven Pelonero PNP  
 Website Member Section ..... John Barbieri

## *Italian Lesson*

|                               |                            |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------|
| <i>Love</i>                   | <i>Amore</i>               |
| <i>I love you</i>             | <i>Ti Amo</i>              |
| <i>Hungry</i>                 | <i>Affamato</i>            |
| <i>I am hungry</i>            | <i>Ho fame</i>             |
| <i>Family</i>                 | <i>Famiglia</i>            |
| <i>Boy</i>                    | <i>Bambino</i>             |
| <i>Girl</i>                   | <i>Bambina</i>             |
| <i>Son</i>                    | <i>Figlio</i>              |
| <i>Daughter</i>               | <i>Figlia</i>              |
| <i>Sister</i>                 | <i>Sorella</i>             |
| <i>Brother</i>                | <i>Fratello</i>            |
| <i>Husband</i>                | <i>Marito</i>              |
| <i>Wife</i>                   | <i>Moglie</i>              |
| <i>Aunt</i>                   | <i>Zia</i>                 |
| <i>Uncle</i>                  | <i>Zio</i>                 |
| <i>Cousin</i>                 | <i>Cugina</i>              |
| <i>Grandfather</i>            | <i>Nonno</i>               |
| <i>Grandmother</i>            | <i>Nonna</i>               |
| <i>What time is it?</i>       | <i>Che ore sono?</i>       |
| <i>What day is it?</i>        | <i>Che giorno e'?</i>      |
| <i>Beautiful (boy)</i>        | <i>Bello</i>               |
| <i>Beautiful (girl)</i>       | <i>Bella</i>               |
| <i>Eat</i>                    | <i>Mangiare</i>            |
| <i>Good</i>                   | <i>Bene</i>                |
| <i>How much does it cost?</i> | <i>Quanto costa?</i>       |
| <i>Happy Birthday</i>         | <i>Buon compleanno</i>     |
| <i>Happy Thanksgiving</i>     | <i>Buon Ringraziamento</i> |
| <i>Merry Christmas</i>        | <i>Buon Natale</i>         |

*Remember: the days of the week, and months, are always all lower-case letters*

*Ex: Sunday = domenica    September = settembre*

*Note: UNICO is always "all" Upper Case, as is FBI and CIA etc ...*

## *Italian Heritage Calendar Photo*



*The above photo is taken from the 2026 UNICO Heritage & Photo Calendar*

*It is an Amusement Pier in Bari, Italy (southern Italy)*

*It was taken by a Binghamton, NY UNICO Chapter Member*

*Click on this link to see and read all about Bari, Italy >>> [Bari Italy](#)*

**WAYNE UNICO**



**BEEF STEAK**

*Friday*

**SEPTEMBER 11**

**6:30 TO 10:30 PM**

  
BEER, SODA, WATER  
**BYOB**

  
COMEDIAN  
**VINCE AUGUST**

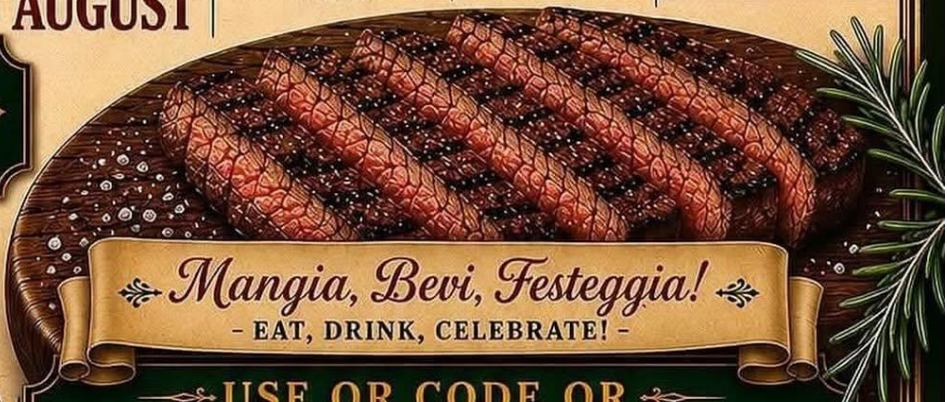
  
TRICKY TRAY

  
50-50



**\$80**  
PER PERSON

Location:  
**Wayne PAL**  
1 PAL Drive  
Wayne, NJ



*Mangia, Bevi, Festeggia!*  
- EAT, DRINK, CELEBRATE! -

**USE QR CODE OR**  
**Contact Steve Calantone**  
862-668-8682    [Stevencalantone@gmail.com](mailto:Stevencalantone@gmail.com)

## *Where is your Family From?*



## Committee & Comments

### Food Pantries ~ Carmen Gaita and Patricia Pelonero

*As always, let's continue helping others. Please consider bringing one or more non-perishables to the September chapter meeting, or bring it directly to one of our town's pantries, or you could even contact our pantry committee for more information: Carmen Gaita and/or Patricia Pelonero*

### Membership ~ Christina Castillo

*We now currently have 52 members. Welcome to our newest member, Gina Bucci. And thank you Joyce O'Hara for being her sponsor. Looking forward to a great year 2026-2027.*

### Overseas Soldiers ~ Roni Corrado

*Should anyone know of a soldier stationed overseas please let a member know and we will gladly send them a care package.*

### Publicity ~ Christina Castillo & Roni Corrado

*Roni ~ The chapter looks forward to another successful year of publication with our partner newspapers Passaic Valley Today and the Italian Tribune.*

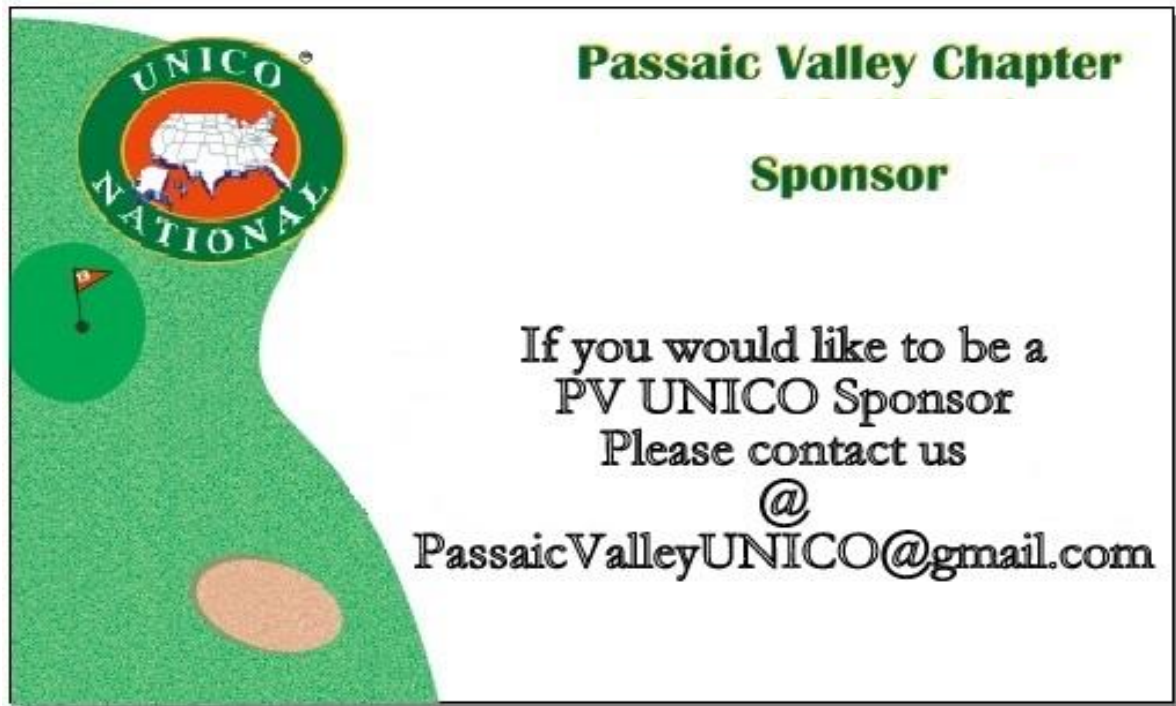
### Sponsors ~ Please try to support all our supporters. They are all listed on the following pages.

### Note ~ UNICO is always all capital letters ... Examples: when using in a sentence such as with FBI and CIA

~~~~~

Please: don't forget to send in your dues ~ Let's close out our book keeping records

*Passaic Valley UNICO
PO Box 341
Little Falls, NJ 07424*



Our UNICO Charities

UNICO National

Armed Services ~ Columbus Day ~ Heritage & Photo Calendar

UNICO Foundation

21st 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 2026/2027 Sponsors

You too can be a sponsor of our Passaic Valley UNICO Chapter in our 2026/2027 Year

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We also have other sponsor choices and amounts

Please email us at PassaicValleyUNICO@gmail.com for more information

Thank you to “All” of our Sponsors

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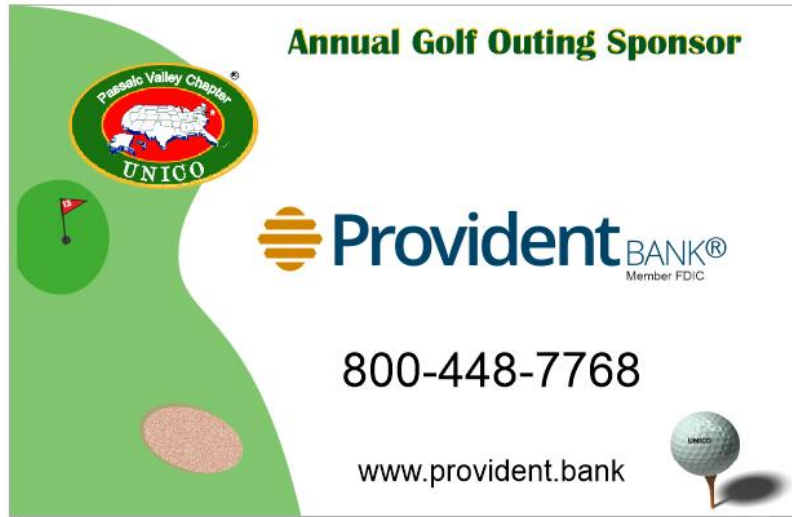
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**< Another Gold Sponsor is on the Next Page >**

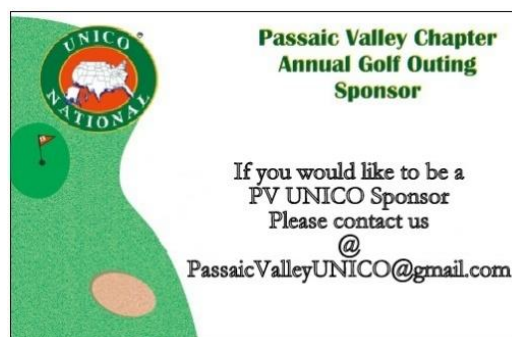
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