November
2026
Year 24
Issue 250

Passaic Valley UNICO

Our November 2026 Monthly Newsletter

Passaic Valley UNICO
PO Box 341
Little Falls, NJ 07424

Serving
Little Falls
Totowa
Woodland Park

Page Highlights:

About UNICO	12
Be a Sponsor	12
Birthday's	2
Board of Directors	3
Chapter Delegates	3
ComUNICO Link	3
Committees	3
Committee Comments	11
Doorways in Italy	9
Executive Board	3
Food Pantry	2
Fundraising Committees	3
Heritage Photo	8
Italian Flag Raising	5
Italian Language Lesson	3, 4
NYC Bus Ride	7
President's Message	1
Photos	5,8,9
Special Needs Dinner	6
Sponsors ~ Golf 2026/27	13-20
UNICO Charities	3,11
UNICO Core Values	2
Upcoming Events	2
Where is your family from	10

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 all, and welcome to November

First would like to thank anyone who has sent cards and condolences to our family on the passing of my brother Frank

On behalf of the board and myself want to thank you all for attending the last 2 months' meetings. Both were very well attended.

There is lot of activity coming up in November and December so please try to support as many activities as you can. Our 50/50 is in full swing and Claudine has done a great job getting tickets out so now we need to sell them and bring money and tickets to our meeting as well as any unsold tickets so we can get them all sold.

Our Holiday Cheer Program is coming up fast so Sal will be collecting donations at our November meeting. We need to buy gift cards to give out early in December so please try to donate for our needy families for Christmas.

WE will be honoring our members who have been involved in the chapter for many years which is a well-deserved honor.

The Christmas Parade is November 28th, and we know that member Tom Breitwieser is working on a Gondola float for our chapter, so we need unwrapped toys for kids to donate to the parade. Please bring toys to our November meeting or drop them off at my house.

District 4 Cigar Night fund raiser for Steve Calantones convention which will be held at The Brick House in Wyckoff cost is $135.00 pp November 4th See Joe Agresti for tickets.

< continued on page 11 >

November Birthdays

11-1 Jerry Gaeta
11-15 John Barbieri
11-22 Sal Benvenuti

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

November 11, 2026 ~ 2nd Wednesday ~ Our monthly meeting ~ More information will follow ~ This is the "last" chance you have to pay your chapter dues

November 13 and 14 – Friday and Saturday – Eastern Region Meeting in Newport, RI

December 1st, 2026 ~ Tuesday ~ NJ District IV Christmas Dinner for our Special Need Friends ~ At the 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

December 16, 2026 ~ Wednesday at 7 pm ~ 50/50 Drawing ~ At the Ties in Singac ~ You have to be in it to hopefully win it

~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~

And please remember that your chapter dues
Will be accepted at the November meeting.
This is your last and final chance to get them paid
You can mail them to our PO Box 341
Little Falls, NJ 07424
But this month of November is the cutoff month

Below are our UNICO 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

Who	***Chi***
What	***Cosa***
Where	***Dove***
When	***Quando***
How	***Come***
Why	***Perche'***
Whose	***Di chi***

(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

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 Pelolnero 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

Together	*Insieme*
Are you okay?	***Stai bene?***
What's new?	***Cosa c'e`***
Where do you live?	***Dove vivi?***
Who's calling?	***Chi sta chiamando?***
What do you mean?	***Cosa vuoi dire?***
Can you hear me?	***Mi senti?***
Are you sure?	***Sei sicuro/a?***
Do you like it?	***Ti piace?***
Can I join you?	***Posso unirmi a voi?***
Is everything okay?	***Va tutto bene?***
Do you have a minute?	***Hai un minute?***
Did you enjoy it?	***Ti e` piaciuto?***
Are you coming with us?	***Vieni con noi?***
Do you remember me?	***Ti ricordi di me?***
Are you done?	***Hai finito?***
Need anything?	***Hai Bisogno di qualcosa?***
Talk to you later?	***Ci sentiamo piu` tardi?***
What are you watching?	***Che cosa guardi?***
What are you waiting for?	***Che cosa aspetti?***
What should I do?	***Che cosa devo fare?***
What do you recommend?	***Che cosa mi Consigli?***
What is this?	***Cos'e` questo?***
What time is it?	***Che ore sono?***
What did you say?	***Cosa hai detto?***
What is your name?	***Come ti chiami?***
What do you want?	***Cosa vuoi?***
What are you doing?	***Cosa fai?***
What does it mean?	***Cosa significa?***

Remember:
The days of the week, and months,
are always all lower-case letters
Ex: Sunday = domenica October = ottobre

Note:
<u>UNICO</u> is always "all" Upper Case, as is FBI and CIA etc …

Our Chapter's Italian Flag Raising





Above Photo left: Chapter President Joe Benvenuti
Above Phot right: Our chapter members with the Little Falls Mayor and Town Council

Our Chapter Italian Flag Raising, on October 5th, at the Little Falls Town Hall, went "Very Well" … Lots of people were there to help celebrate it along with a Flag Raising for the Domestic Violence Association

Below: Views looking at Town Hall and from the steps of Town Hall
A thank you to everyone who help celebrate our Italian Heritage





UNICO NEW JERSEY DISTRICT IV

Cordially Invites You To Our

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY

"A SPECIAL PARTY FOR EXCEPTIONAL PEOPLE"

Tuesday, December 1, 2026 ~ 6:30 to 10:30 PM

The Brownstone
351 West Broadway
Paterson, NJ

$65.00 person

RSVP PLEASE BY NOVEMBER 20, 2026 to:

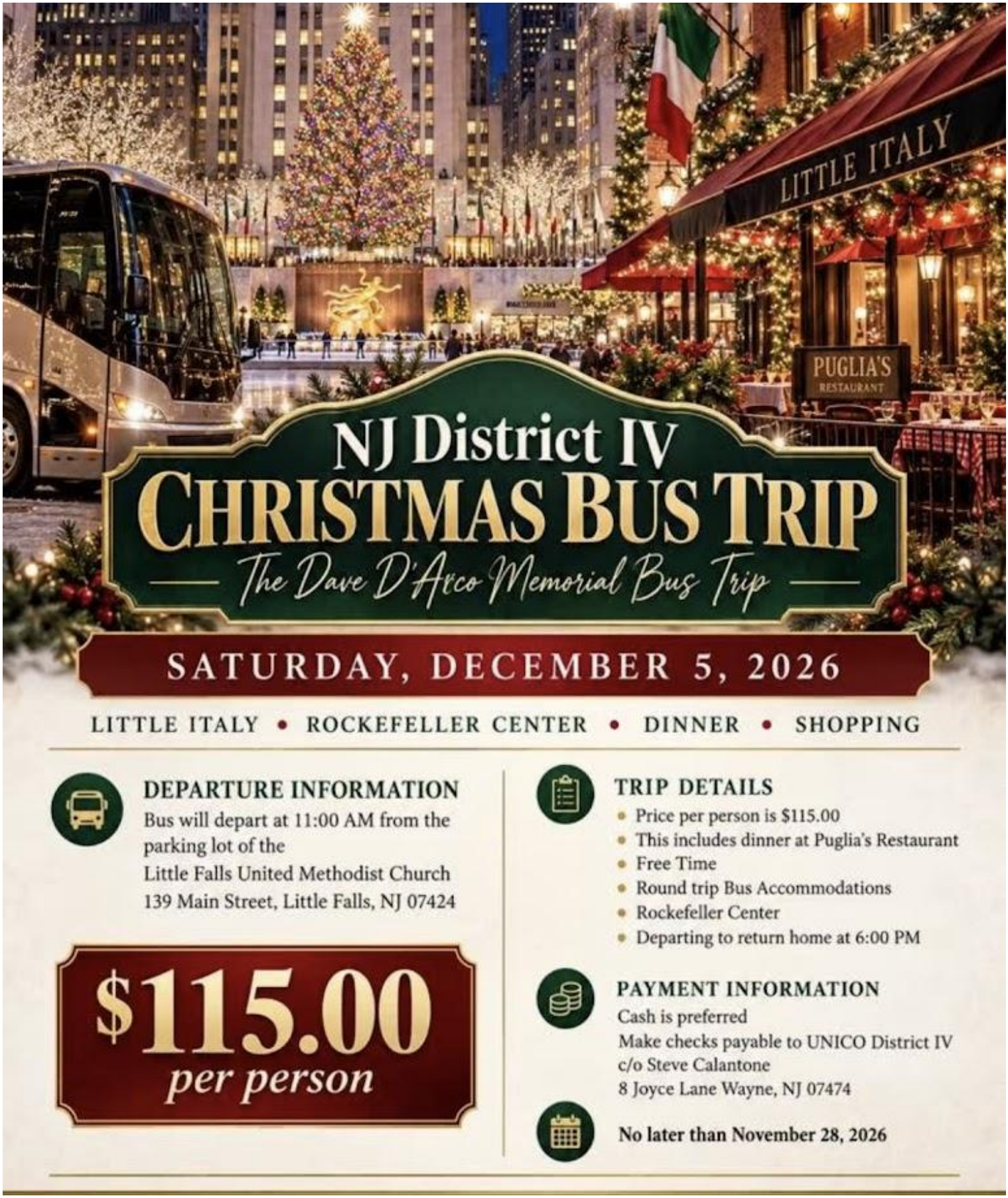
Please contact committee co chairs
Joe Agresti – 201-874-0546
Steve Calantone – 862-668-8682
Anthony DeGennaro 201-264-8984

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!


LITTLE ITALY
PUGLIA'S
RESTAURANT
NJ District IV
CHRISTMAS BUS TRIP
The Dave D'Arco Memorial Bus Trip
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2026
LITTLE ITALY • ROCKEFELLER CENTER • DINNER • SHOPPING
DEPARTURE INFORMATION
Bus will depart at 11:00 AM from the parking lot of the
Little Falls United Methodist Church
139 Main Street, Little Falls, NJ 07424
$115.00
per person
TRIP DETAILS
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 6:00 PM
PAYMENT INFORMATION
Cash is preferred
Make checks payable to UNICO District IV
c/o Steve Calantone
8 Joyce Lane Wayne, NJ 07474
No later than November 28, 2026

Italian Heritage Calendar Photo



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

It was the month of November's photo

Pictured is one of the five villages of Cinque Terra

It was taken by a Wayne UNICO Chapter Member

Click on this link to see and read all about Bari, Italy >>> Cinque Terra

~~~~~

More of our Heritage ~ both Family and Chapter is on the next page
~~~~~

The doorways to family

Le porte verso la famiglia



The Benvenuti door in Calabria Italy



The Pelonero door in Seradifalco Sicily

~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~

Also, a video from our chapter year 2013 / 2014

With Music … So turn up the volume

< Click here to see the 7 minute video >
~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~

Where is your Family From?



Committee & Comments

Presidents Message <continued from Page 1 >

Our NJ District IV Christmas Party for special needs people and for the Kids that were added on this year will be on December 1st 6:30 pm at The Brownstone. The cost is $65.00 pp. It is a very rewarding night to see these kids and special need people to get to enjoy Santa come and give them gifts, I have tickets so please see me at our meeting … District IV also has a bus ride to Rockefeller Center on December 5th to see the tree as well as dinner at Puglia's restaurant. The food is fantastic there. Cost is $115.00 pp … Happy and Heathy Thanksgiving to all. Our meeting this month is at Holy Cross Church on Browertown Road in Woodland Park November 11th 7 pm dinner and 8pm meeting … Thank you ~~ Joe Benvenuti President

Food Pantries ~ Carmen Gaita and Patricia Pelonero

As always, let's continue helping others especially during this Thanksgiving season. Please consider bringing one or more non-perishables to the November 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 currently have 53 members. Welcome Robert Barraco! Please, if you know anyone looking to join our chapter, please let them know that our meetings are always the 2nd Wednesday of the month. Our membership number will drop to under 50 members once the kids come off. Steve Pelonero, chapter secretary, sent our letters to those 7 members who have not yet paid their dues as a reminder.

Overseas Soldiers ~ Roni Corrado

The chapter is always happy to support our servicemen/women serving in conflict zones. Let a PV UNICO member know and we will gladly send a care package.

Publicity ~ Christina Castillo & Roni Corrado

Roni ~ The chapter is grateful to work in partnership with both the Italian Tribune and Passaic Valley Today. We thank them both for including the articles on our many Fall events.

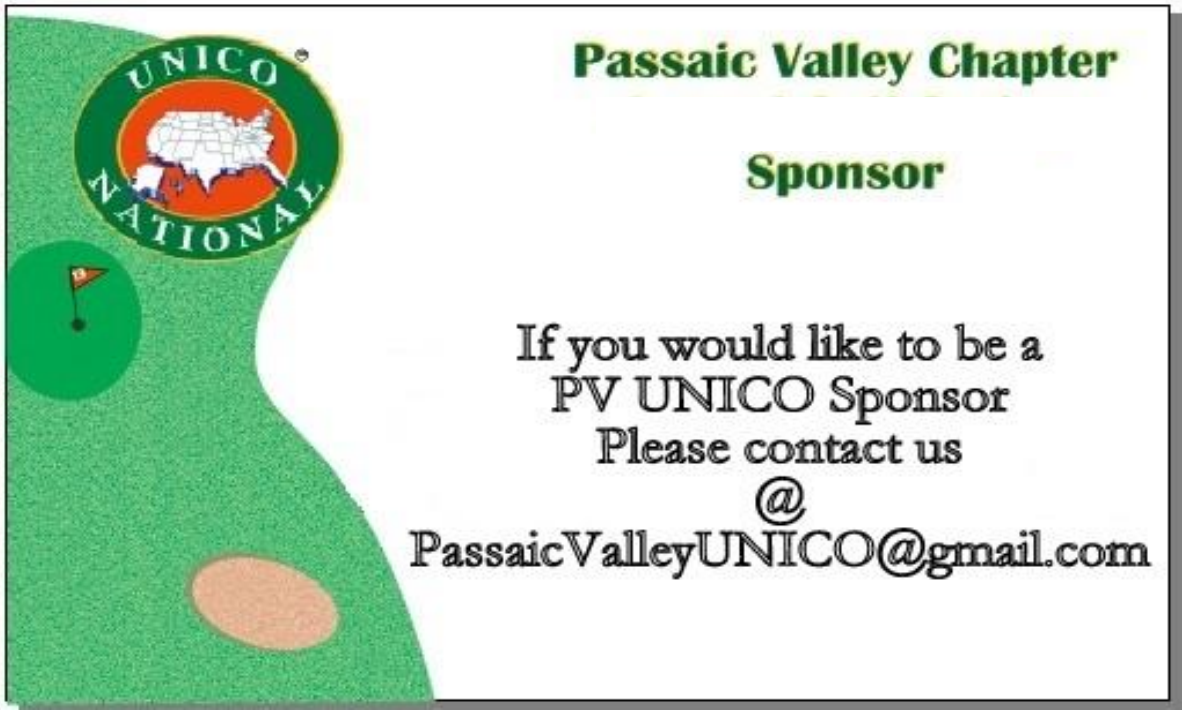
Sponsors ~ Please try to support all our supporters. They are all listed on the following pages.

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

~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~

Please : don't forget : This month of November is the last chance you get to pay you yearly dues

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 ~ Torraco 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

For just $100 you can be a proud business card sponsor
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

Platinum Sponsors



Annual Golf Outing Sponsor

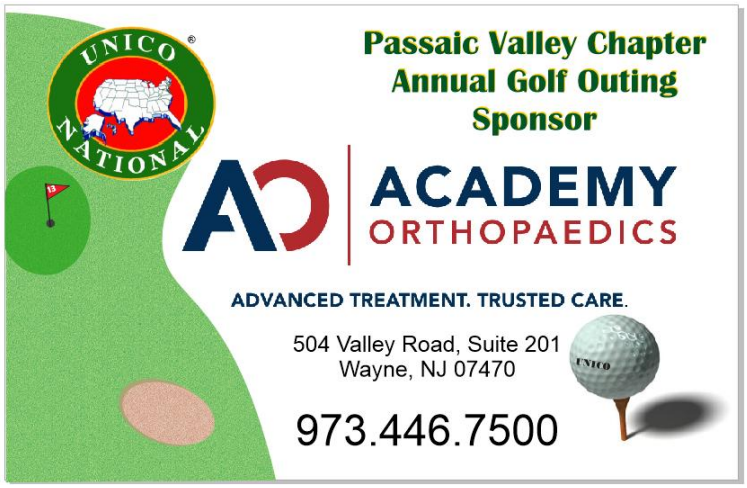
Studio 43D

310 Passaic Avenue
Building B, Suite 202
Fairfield, NJ 07004
973-837-6055
info@studio43d.com



Our 2026/2027 Sponsors

Gold Sponsors





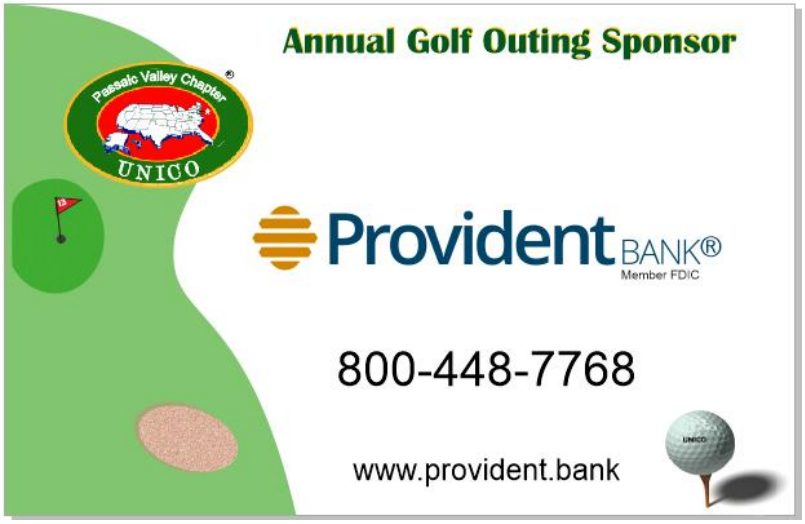




< Another Gold Sponsor is on the Next Page >

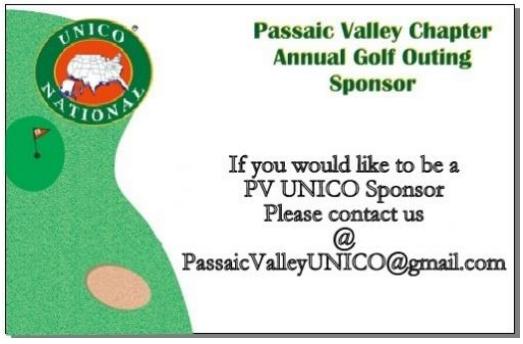
Our 2026/2027 Sponsors

Gold Sponsor



~~~~~~~~~~~~

You too can be a proud supporter and sponsor of Our Passaic Valley UNICO Chapter
There are all different levels
Please continue to see all of our Silver Sponsors


~~~~~~~~~~~~

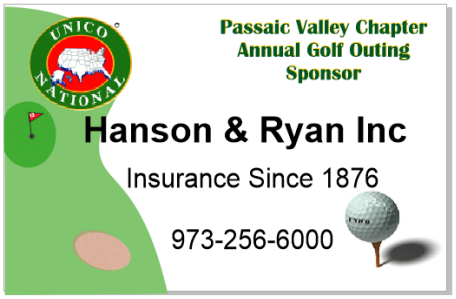
Our 2026/2027 Sponsors

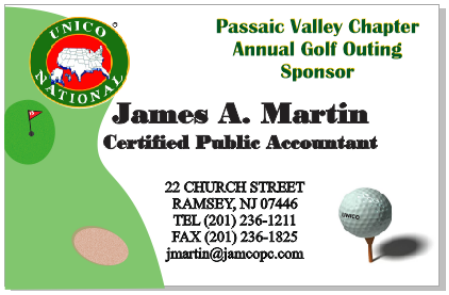
Silver Sponsors



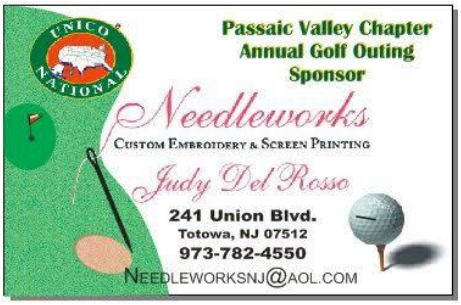


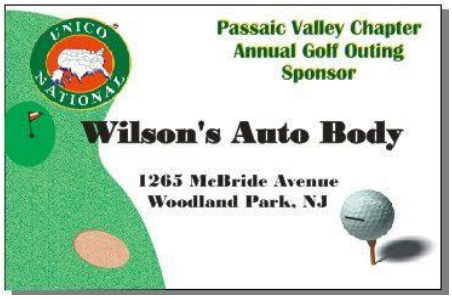




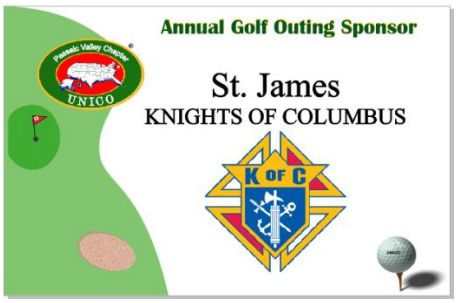
















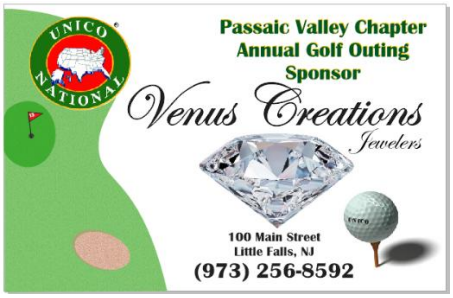
< Continued on Next Page >

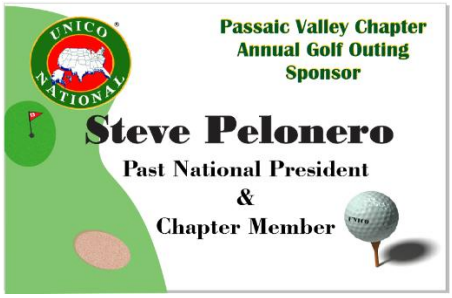
Our 2026/2027 Sponsors

Silver Sponsors

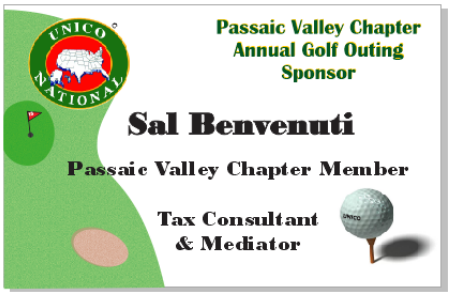


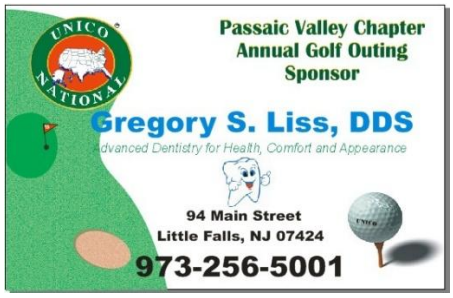


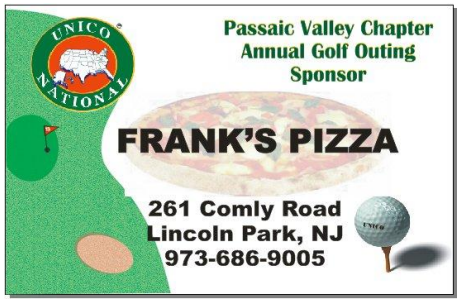


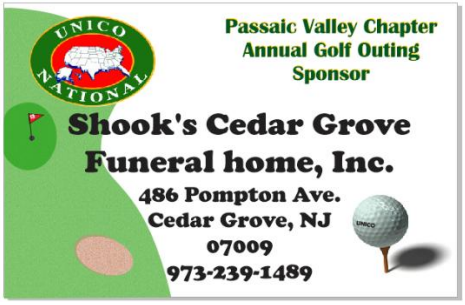




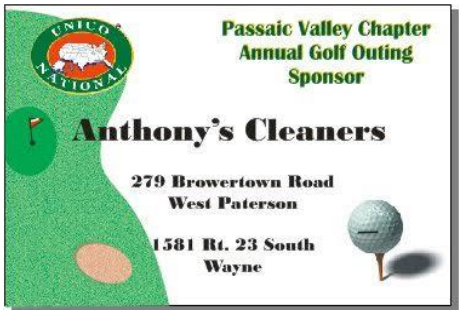


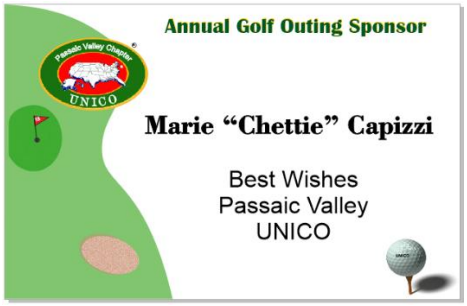










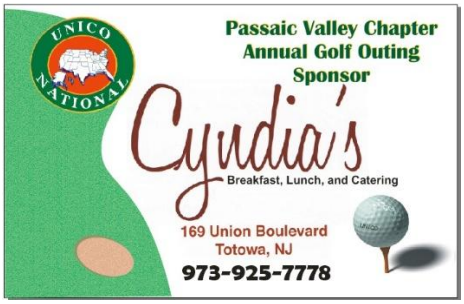


< Continued on Next Page >

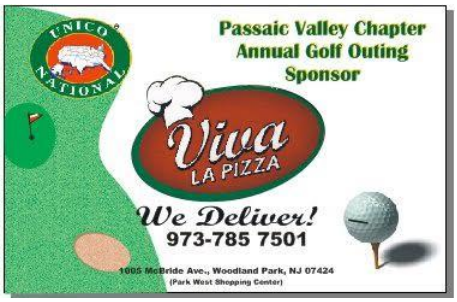
Our 2026/2027 Sponsors

Silver Sponsors

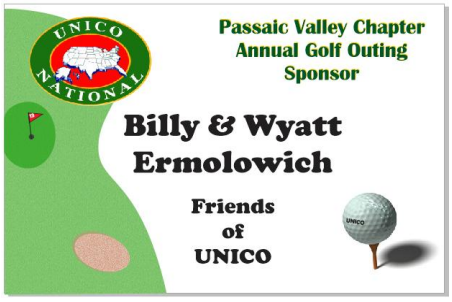






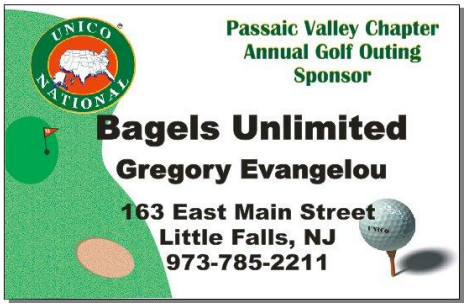


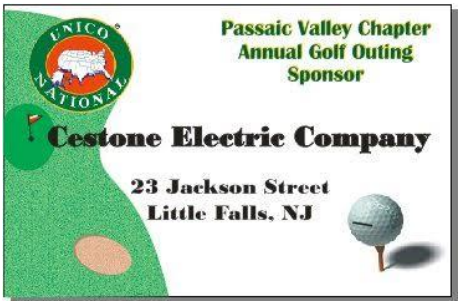












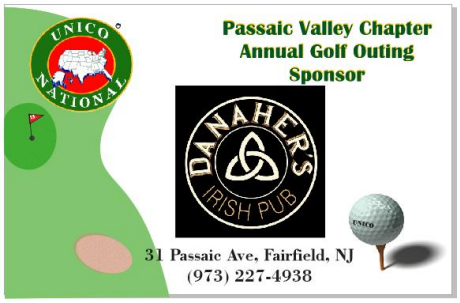


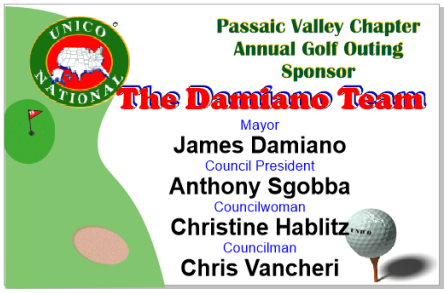


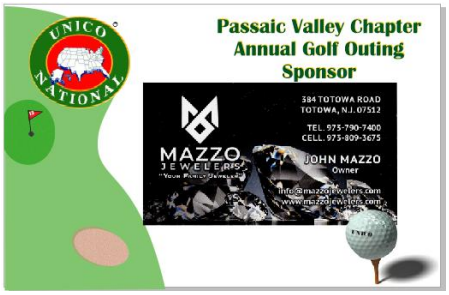
< Continued on Next Page >

Our 2026/2027 Sponsors

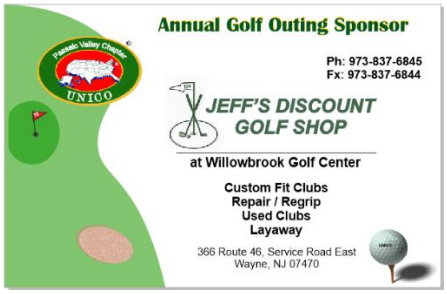
Silver Sponsors



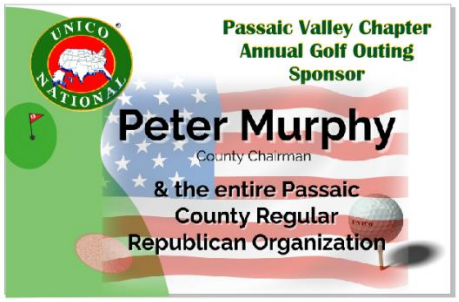


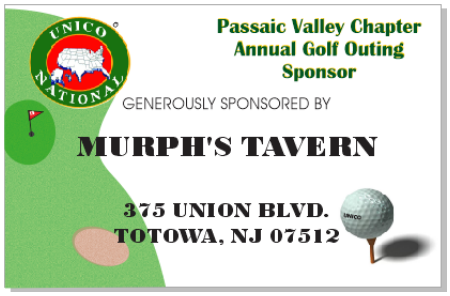


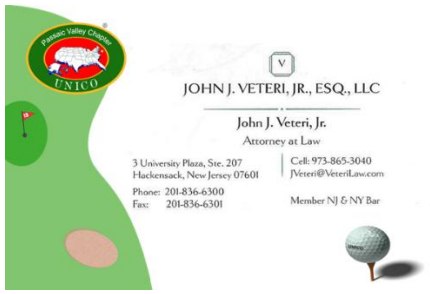




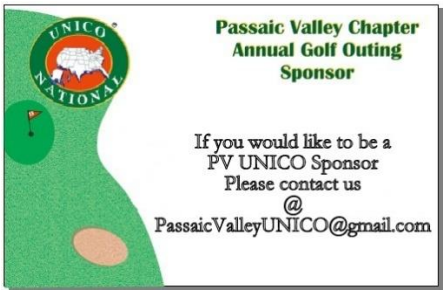














< Continued on Next Page >

Our 2026/2027 Sponsors

Silver Sponsors

