

Our Passaic Valley Chapter Executive Board (2009-2010)

President	Carmen Criscione
1st Vice President	Kathy Masone
2nd Vice President	Richard Raad
Sgt. At Arms	Carmen Gaita
Treasurer	Bruce Ponchak
Secretary	Steven Pelonero

Committee Heads (2009-2010)

Beefsteak Dinner	Joseph Benvenuti
Bus Rides	Tom Triolo, Tony Orlando
Christmas Dinner	Steven Pelonero
Columbus Day for the Youth	Joseph Agresti
Community Service Day (April)	Kathy Masone
Dinner For A Year Raffle	Carmen Criscione
Food Pantry	Angelo Verrone
Golf Outing	Robert Appaluccio
Good and Welfare	Carmen Gaita
Holiday Donations	Robert Appaluccio
Italian Heritage and Culture	Angelo Verrone
Membership	Angela Jones
Newsletter	Steven Pelonero
Overseas Care Packages	Roni Corrado
Scholarship **	Joe Agresti, Chuck Russo
Website	Steven Pelonero

If you are interested in being on any of the committees (or even volunteer a year or two as a new committee head) **“Please let us know”**

Member Roster

If any member would like a membership roster Complete with addresses, phone #'s and e-mail addresses Just e-mail our membership committee at PassaicValleyUNICO@gmail.com

Food Pantry

Please don't forget about the food pantry. Your non-perishable food donation can help restock our UNICO - Phil Arena Food Pantry. You can bring it directly to the pantry at Holy Angels or to our next meeting

Our Monthly Newsletter

The Passaic Valley Chapter Of UNICO National

President's Message

Hello Fellow UNICANS

I hope every one is doing well. We had a great meeting last month and I wish to thank everyone for their participation. Last month members Joe Agresti, Sal Benvenuti and Steve Pelonero attended the Western Regional meeting in California and they will give their report at our regular scheduled meeting in February.



Passaic Valley UNICO
PO Box 341
Little Falls, NJ 07424

February's meeting will be held on Wednesday the 10th at the Bethwood in Totowa at 8:00 pm. As always if you would like to come for dinner, please arrive somewhere between 6:30 and 6:45 pm to sit and break bread with our membership

UNICO National has rescheduled its annual Presidential Ball honoring our current National President Andre' DiMino. This is a black tie affair scheduled for April 30th at the Villa At Mountain Lakes. The cost for the evening's festivities is \$85.00 which includes: open bar, food, and musical entertainment.

One of our largest fundraisers is scheduled for Saturday, Jan 30th at St. Georges Church in Little Falls. This is our annual "Beefsteak" with proceeds going towards scholarships and other community activities. Please contact Joe Benvenuti with your head count as we need to give the hall numbers within the next week or so.

In the past this has been an extremely successful for us and I am sure that it will be the same again this year. As always special thanks to Joseph and his committee on preparing for this delightful night.

Mr. Joe Agresti , Richard Raad, and a few other members will spearhead this years scholarship committee. Thank you for stepping up. As you all know, the scholarships that are given out to deserving individuals who are going on to colleges or trade schools are one of the highlights of our year.

On Tuesday, February 9th I will be attending a "Presidential District meeting". I will give a report to the membership the next night at our regular scheduled meeting. It seems every time you turn your head than is some type of activity going on. As always communication is the key to success.

As of this writing the Jets will have either won or lost its opportunity to be in the Super Bowl. But if anything we have learned is that the fans have demonstrated positive support for the organization. Just as in our UNICO support for all of our activities, it is greatly needed for us to be successful with our endeavors throughout the year.

See you at our next meeting.

*CIAO and God Bless
Carmen Criscione*

Monthly Update

Western Regional Meeting Update

This is just a brief summary of the Western Regional Meeting that was held the weekend of January 15th in California. As you may or may not know UNICO National holds regional meetings across the country to discuss issues and also to keep in touch with the 129 chapters of UNICO. There are currently 6,587 members in UNICO National and all UNICO members are always invited to attend any or all of these meetings. There are 3 Regional Meetings, east coast, west coast and mid west. And of course there is also the UNICO National Convention which this year will be held very close to us in Hershey Park, PA. The Mid West Regional Meeting is next in line and scheduled for March 19 and 20 (Friday and Saturday) in Nashville, TN. Maybe think about attending and having a nice Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday get-a-way. It's also a great way to meet new friends, discuss everything and nothing, see some new sights, and of course talk UNICO at the meetings.

At this meeting in Long Beach, only 20 minutes below the Los Angeles airport, we stayed at the Westin Hotel. It was a fantastic place to stay with all of the amenities. There was also plenty to see and do during the free time of the trip.

I personally took in a tour of the Queen Mary which is permanently docked about one mile away from where we stayed. And also took a train ride to watch an LA King / Anaheim Duck Hockey game in Los Angeles

But enough of this talk for now. Please come to our next meeting to maybe get another recap and it's also your chance to maybe ask some questions.



*Joe Agresti, Sal Benvenuti and Steve Pelonero
At the Western Regional in Long Beach, CA*

Thanks
Steve

Annual Beefsteak Fundraiser

If you are reading this before Saturday, January 30th, you still have a chance to attend our Annual Beefsteak. And it's your chance to get out for the evening with great food and friends. Please contact Joe Benvenuti at 973-610-9365 with your table requirements and requests.

We are hoping to see you there and to be a part of a long time tradition of "Service Above Self"

Important Dates

February 10 ... 2nd Wednesday ... **Monthly Meeting** ... The Bethwood, Totowa ... \$30.00
7:00 Meeting ... 8:00 Dinner

March 19,20 ... Friday, Saturday ... **Midwest Regional Meeting**
Gaylord Opryland Hotel, Nashville, TN ... More information to follow

April ... Saturday ... **Community Service Day / Please help** ... More information to follow

May ... Monday ... **26th Annual Golf Outing Fundraiser** ... More information to follow

June ... Annual Scholarship Awards Dinner ... More information to follow

July ... Wed., Thurs., Fri., Sat ... **UNICO National Annual Convention** ... Hershey Park, PA
Register NOW ... Forms are online at www.UNICO.org

Our 1st Annual Bocce Ball Tournament

Joe Agresti is taking upon another fundraising event which we think that everyone can participate in. Unlike golf, where you need clubs, all you need here is to get a 4 person team together, sign up, and just bring yourselves out for a day of festivities, food, friends and fun.

April 18th is the kickoff for hopefully a long tradition of raising money for cancer research which will go through our UNICO National Foundations and we will also have a chance to give back to our local community as well.

In an elimination style tournament, you can enter for only \$200.00 a team. Or you can just volunteer to help cook, serve, clean-up and just be there for chapter support. Please look for our soon to be released flier.

Phrase Of The Month

Happy
Valentine's Day
~~~  
Felice  
San Valentino

### February Birthdays

02-01 Helen Triolo  
02-02 Chuck Russo  
02-02 Jay Sisti  
02-12 Joyce O'Hara  
02-14 Ron Squillace  
02-15 Jim Cestone  
02-22 John Morano



### We have a Perfect Record so Far

*Since our first meeting in September of 2009, we have had over 50% of our membership at every one of them. Thank you all for coming out and making this happen. If we can only keep this trend going.*

*And don't think that UNICO National doesn't know this either. They do ..... Every month, our chapter is suppose to send in a chapter report (and we do and we have been ritually). It includes membership totals, new members (if any) and so far this year we have increased ours by 6 new members. Thank you again.*

*Along with this report we also need to let them know how many members attend each meeting as well as to district and regional meetings. And as previously noted, we are at them all.*

*Please look at our Chapter Banner at the next meeting you can attend and take note at all of our chapter achievement patches. Our chapter as a whole, in many aspects earned us all of those. And not every chapter gets these patches either, only a few are presented at the National Convention every year. Only the top chapters get them.*

*Attending district meetings, regional meetings, conventions, new members, chapter reports, participation and "Service Above Self" ... it's all part of being a UNICAN.*