



KIWANIS CLUB OF RIDGEWOOD, NY 3-2-1

Meets 1st & 3rd Wednesday, 12 Noon @ GRYC Clubhouse, 59-03 Summerfield Street, Ridgewood, NY 11385



The Triple Crown Newsletter

RESULTS OF MEET FOR: February 17, 2021

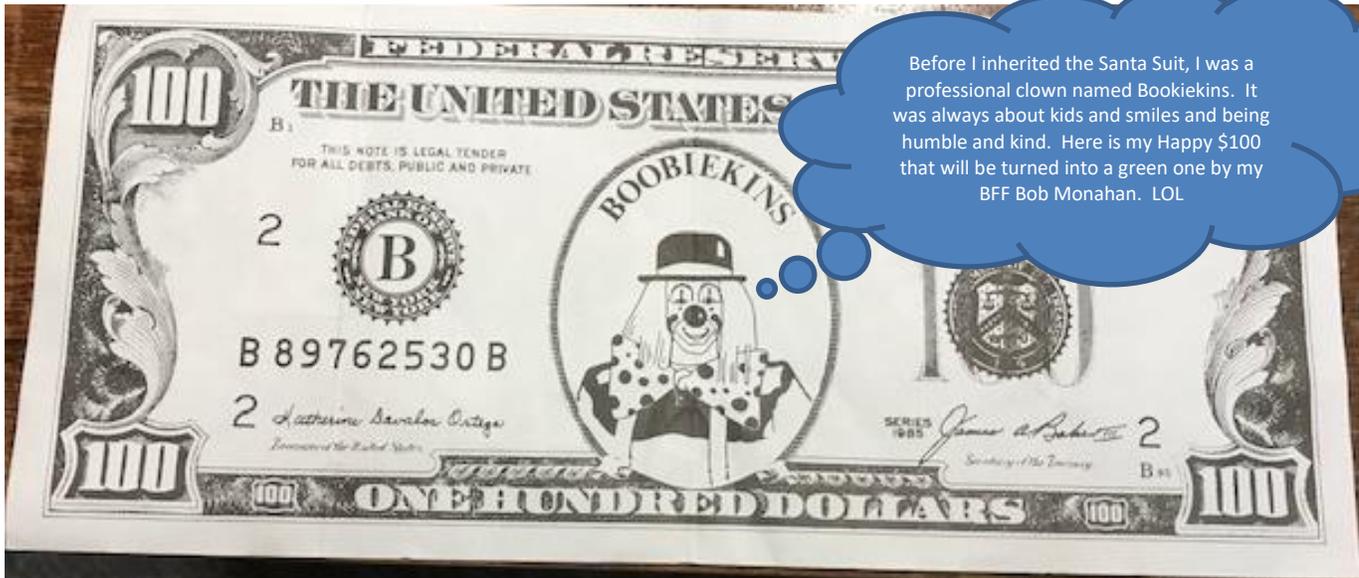
VOLUME 4 Number 10

Race One: What a fantastic day for our meeting. The sun finally broke through in between all of the snow days and we celebrated President's Day and Valentine's Day a few days late. The meet was at our regular time and in the Clubhouse and our outdoor spacious deck. Yes, if you read last Newsletter, I will continue the new tradition of creating this virtual newsletter when we are unable to meet in person. The "fix" is in. Hope that you feel somewhat connected and focused on the mission to serve during these difficult times. Here we go again. There were over 60 members and friends present to see President Janine clap the gong and ask everyone to rise from their seats to recite the Pledge to our Flag. Everyone was socially distanced and at the completion of honoring our Flag and what it stands for, Janine asked DEACON Kevin Powell to give the blessing. As always, Kevin was inspiring as he asked for the club to remember those in need and the gifts that we have to offer in service to others. Then Deacon Kevin sprinkled some ashes for Ash Wednesday and offered to dispense them individually, if you wanted them. He had little pouches with ashes and applicators for us and also used the applicators to put a NICE BIG CROSS ON YOUR FOREHEAD. For some reason, having limited hair didn't work so well for me and as he went from the middle of the top of my head almost to my nose and then across. WOW, how blessed I felt.

Race Two: The meet was held indoors in the large meeting room at the clubhouse and spilled out onto our beautiful outdoor Deck where Carlos, Jason and Joseph had the tents put up, along with their side panels to keep in some warmth. No Chris McDougall this week as it was warm enough to leave every other panel open for ventilation. Past President Kenny Dunn was back in his usual seat and was joined by Past President Hank Kraker, Past President John Stahl, Past President Margie Stahl, Past President Al Bellington and Past President Gene MacQueen (all the way up from NC) along with Margaret and guests of JR Velepec. It should be noted that JR's dad was also a Past President. Oh yeah, I was a Past President and was in DISTINGUISHED company along with Past President Dave Fitzgerald. How is this possible, you ask, if the Ridgewood 3-2-1 chartered only three years ago? Oh, it's a long story but every single member that is mentioned has proudly served Kiwanis for a one year sentence, I mean one year term. DPP John Stahl has even been Lt. Governor of the Queens West Division. There is a lot of experience and firepower in the Kiwanis Club of Ridgewood, NY 3-2-1. Not to be outdone, then there was DPP Liz Fitzgerald, soon to be Distinguished Past President Gino Ancona and our current President Janine Mahon who has another SEVEN (7) months to go for Distinguished status. That is an additional 7 months without parole. Janine had Rocky, the wonder dog joining us along with Claire. One of these days we will do a Kiwanis Education Program to explain what it means to be a Distinguished President and the recognition that should be bestowed upon those individuals at EVERY Club throughout the world. Oh yeah, in Queens West, too.

Race Three: Janine asked for any Happy Dollars and guests and JR immediately jumped up to recognize his guests, Gene and Margaret MacQueen. Bob immediately gave Happy Dollars for HIS sponsor into Kiwanis over 35 years ago. Gene and Mick Ennis, two of the greatest Kiwanians around, made the mistake of thinking that this editor might make a good Kiwanian. Hope that you are not too disappointed. Then Hank, preparing for St. Paddy's Day, gave some green to introduce some *passed* Presidents. His guests included Ulysses S. Grant, Andrew Jackson and Abraham Lincoln who had a very nice welcome for his old buddy, General Grant. Cha Ching!! Thanks Hank for bringing the old guys with you. Then some of the other *Past* Presidents started to fill the feed bag with those three gentlemen. Thanks everyone for being so patriotic and honoring our MANY Past Presidents in such a noble and gracious way. Bob then gave some more green to honor DPP Bob Pullano and spoke about his making the GRYC his Major Emphasis for his year. DPP Dave Fitzgerald – 1999; DPP Bob Monahan – 2000; DPP Bob Pullano – 2001; DPP Dan Vessio - 2002 and DPP Hank Kraker – 2003, ALL worked in partnership with the Youth Council. That group built our Community Center on Myrtle. Those were great years.

It should be mentioned that Gene MacQueen asked Fred Velepec Sr. to allow the GRYC to have space at his building on Myrtle and that was our first Community Center. Fred was a gentle man and a true philanthropist. Thanks JR for following in your Dad's footsteps. Not to be forgotten, by any means, DPG Joe Aiello was also a Distinguished President,(twice) and Lt. Governor of Queens West Division before becoming the NY District Governor. Joe has also lived his commitment to the GRYC and is on their Board of Directors along with other Ridgewood 3-2-1 members. Joe couldn't make the meet.



Race Four: Since this was a Valentine's and President's Day Celebration we went with a Red, White and Blue theme for our lunch. We started with Loin of Pork, Turkey and Chicken, (**WHITE MEAT**), Pasta with Alfredo Sauce, Mashed Potatoes, Red Cabbage, Beets, Ziti with Marinara Sauce, Bleu Cheese, Adirondack Blue Potatoes, Blueberry Cobbler and those Blue Potato Chips that they serve on Jet BLUE. Bronco Bill Rennison brought only VANILLA Good Humor Ice Cream to cap off this amazing assortment of food.

Race Five: President Janine had a special treat for Valentine's Day as she had Gino go to Aigner Chocolates on Metropolitan Avenue and buy everything in **RED** heart boxes, **RED** foil packaging and some **WHITE** Milk Chocolate and the cost of it all DID NOT MAKE HER **BLUE**. What an awesome treat and such an incredible thank you from our President. Then Happy Dollars came from our members in **BLUE**, led by Captain Louron Hall. Joining C.O. Hall were Community Affairs Officer Mike Berish, NCO Sgt. Michael Mercurio with NCO Officers Pat Nessler and PO Maria Santos. Each spoke of the Community Partnership with the Greater Ridgewood Youth Council and its many Directors and staff. Don't worry Captain Hall, September is coming and we will partner again to distribute over 250 School Supply filled Backpacks. The 3-2-1 also partners with Inspector John Mastronardi over at the 75 PCT to distribute another 250 Blessing Bags. This is Community Service and Partnership at the highest level. Also in the clubhouse were Michael Addeo, Liran Gross and Joe "The Plumber" Florio who was sporting a beautiful assortment of **RED, WHITE** and **BLUE** flowers in the middle of his facial hair called a beard. Cute, JTP, cute, and thanks Diane Cusimano for bringing the **RED** and **WHITE** Roses and **BLUEBELLS** for each member present.



Each and every member received an assortment of flowers and chocolate to bring home with them. Nice touch to Janine, Gino Diane and Liz for the thought.

Race Six: Some members have mentioned that other Clubs are meeting in-person and wondered why we are not doing so. As of this time, it is not prudent to hold our regular in-person meetings because we have too many members who would attend. However, after discussing this situation with our Board, we will have a scaled down meeting on March 3rd at the Clubhouse for about 25 – 30 members ONLY. I am asking you to notify me, Janine or Gino to let us know that you are planning on attending that day. We are absolutely looking at St. Patrick's Day/St. Joseph's Day on March 17th to be our next BIG meeting. As more members get the vaccine, this will help us to make things even safer. Congratulations to ANY and ALL members who have taken the vaccine and trust the science of it all. We continue to stay connected through media, pools and raffles with projects being done under all distancing measures, etc. Ridgewood 3-2-1 is taking every opportunity to SERVE others who have less than us, who need us to bring a smile to their faces, to make a difference in the lives of others. Be an ACTIVE Kiwanian, be proud of what we are doing, and most of all, stay involved?? Our club potential is multiplied by the number of ACTIVE members that we have.

Race Seven: Another nice representation of GRYC Directors, staff and other members came to enjoy the meal and support their friend and leader, Janine. If I remember correctly, here are the attendees: Dina DePaola, Ariel Triunfel, Danielle Kleiman, Maria Batista, Mary Benitez, Maricelis Romero and Xiomara Pina. DPP Liz Fitzgerald and Catherine "Siegel" Zahedi were back at the ranch and many of the Directors went to dine "outdoors" on the deck. Christine Halloran and Walter Welsh were at the ranch along with Sky Pilot Kevin Powell and his bride Maureen Powell. President Janine Mahon was happy to see her daughter, Claire at the meeting. Patrick Wagner, David Volcy, Aidan Leavens, Ricky Wahmann, Cynthia Diaz, Linda Manetta, Joan Hoffmann and Paul Hoffmann, Carlos "Papi" Rodriguez, Jason Demeloitz, Joseph Then and PP Gino Ancona. Please continue to keep Tina Forte, our best Crossing Guard ever, in your prayers as she is battling some medical issues. John Hennessey from Ridgewood Savings is not allowed to attend outside events because of the risk of COVID. Bronco Bill Rennison was in the corral and continues to blow the doors off the words, generous and active. Diane Cusimano thanked everyone who participated in the Valentine's Day Fundraiser Grid for Roses and four other Mystery gifts. Carlos was the Big Winner, along with Hank, Janine, Linda and Paul. Thanks Diane for the donation and hard work.

Race Eight: Upcoming Events include:

March 3rd – Limited Regular Meeting In-Person at the Clubhouse – 12:00. Call to confirm your attendance.

March 10th - In-Person and Zoom Board Meeting at 4:00 PM at the Clubhouse. Please try to attend, one way or the other. There will be a maximum of 15 people in the big room and we will be socially distanced, plus some.

March 17th – In-Person General Meeting at the Clubhouse. Indoor/Outdoor dining.

Race Nine: The meeting ended on time, for a busy, busy, meeting. The total of \$900 was collected in Happy Dollars, Food Money and the Grid Box. Hey, You can't make this stuff up!! Oh wait a second, YES YOU CAN.



3 – 2 – 1... AND THEY'RE OFF



If you read this Newsletter than you saw that the color theme was RED, WHITE & BLUE. I saw some red and white wine on the table and that didn't seem to get in the press. There was also Blue Label, who knows what that is? First right answer, free lunch on St. Paddy's and St. Joseph's Day.