

KIWANIS CLUB OF RIDGEWOOD, NY 3-2-1

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

www.ridgewoodkiwanis321.org

718-456-5437 x221

The Triple Crown Newsletter



RESULTS OF MEET FOR: October 4, 2023

VOLUME 7 Number 1



3 – 2 – 1... AND THEY'RE



OFF



Race One: This was our Installation Meeting and the FIRST regular meeting of the 2023-2024 Kiwanis Administrative Year. Immediate Past President Bill Rennison clapped the gong to begin the meet at 12:15 PM by introducing President Danielle Kleiman and presented her with a personalized GAVEL for her year. Danielle then hit the gong with her gavel to call the meeting to order by asking those in attendance to rise for the Pledge to our Flag. After the Pledge, Danielle asked Bob to say a blessing that was prayerful and reflective. What a great way to start our NEW KIWANIS YEAR.



Race Two: The food was on time because Joseph Then went early to pick it up. Thanks Joseph for hooking that up. So let's see what \$10 buys you for lunch at the 3-2-1 Club. We had 5 – 3 Foot Heroes in total. There was ONE – Paisano, ONE – Italian and ONE – Veggie from our friend and sponsor at DeliDelicious in Glendale along with a FULL Tray of Potato Salad and a HALF Tray of Macaroni Salad. Then there was ONE – American and ONE – German Hero from our friend and sponsor Zum Stammtisch along with a HALF Tray of German Potato Salad and a HALF Tray of Macaroni Salad. There was PLENTY for everyone and some folks even got to bring food home. Normally we would offer the remaining food to the Precinct, but I will let the pictures speak for themselves. Okay, that's not what happened. Community Affairs Officers Mike Berish and Andrew Incantalupo came to enjoy some lunch and celebrate with Bill and Danielle, but had a meeting to go to at 1:00. Mike gave Happy Dollars for IPP Bill's fantastic year and more Dollars for the start of President Danielle's year of leadership and service. Other great news from the NYPD: Inspector Victoria Perry was promoted to be the Commanding Officer for the Community Affairs Division and Chief John Mastronardi is now Chief of Detectives for Brooklyn North and Inspector Louron Hall is the Commanding Officer for Highway. Congratulations to our friends.

MNPHMNDLH...translates into, it would be rude to speak with a mouthful of food, but damn this is an amazing lunch with all of my true friends at the Ridgewood 3-2-1 Club.



Okay, Okay, we gotta get out of here before they make us take all the food back to the 104. Run, Forrest Run, gotta go!!



Race Three: Before our members and friends filled their plates with food, NYS Assembly Member Jenifer Rajkumar was joined by Chief of Staff Vyola Isufaj to present a beautiful Proclamation to IPP Bill Rennison for his incredible year of service as our leader and guide.



As if that wasn't enough hoopla, DPG Joe Corace awarded Bill with a KPTC Fellow Award for his leadership and commitment to serve those in need throughout NY District and beyond. And as if that weren't enough hoopla, our Queens West Lt. Governor Janice Bar did the honors in presenting Bill with his Club recognition and NEW nameplate with Immediate Past President engraved on it. What an honor and blessing was bestowed on us with Bill Rennison in the saddle and leading the charge to serve others.



Race Four: Friends are nice to have, nice to share with and are our most precious gifts. Speaking of friends and gifts, our new Queen West Lt. Governor Janice Bar is a TRUE FRIEND of Ridgewood 3-2-1 and as it would happen, our club was her FIRST Installation of Board Members out of 20 Clubs in the Division. Thanks Janice for your support and guidance and we will be working side by side to make magic happen during your year. Here are some pictures of our Installation of Officers.



So let's see who we have running the show here: There is President Danielle Kleiman, 1st VP Diane Cusimano (who will never leave the room again at a Board Meeting), President Elect Michael Addeo (who mentioned something about a weapon), Chief of Staff & Board Advisor DPP Bob Monahan and then we had DPP Maricelis Romero, Paul Hoffmann, Joan Hoffman, DPP Liz Fitzgerald and DIPPY Bill Rennison. There is a complete listing of Board Members later on in this publication. What a wonderful day of fun and festivities at the Clubhouse.

Race Five: Joining us again was Jaimyline Echevarria | Senior Bank Officer and the Ridgewood Branch Manager for our Corporate Sponsor, Maspeth Federal Savings and Rozario Sylvain from Champion Elevator. Both will become new Active members at our German Day Celebration on October 18th in the Clubhouse. DPP George Silkes from the West Hempstead came to accept some donations for the Victory Games. This amazing event serves nearly 1,400 Special Needs athletes and EVERY SINGLE participant gets a prize and gift. George has been involved in this service project for 38 YEARS and is a humble servant doing incredible work. The 3-2-1 Club donated a dozen each of Soccer Balls, Playground Balls, Basketballs and Footballs. In addition, we will be donating 250 Baseball Jersey s that were donated to us by our friends at BSN Sports. Thank you DPG Joe Corace for introducing this Project to our club and allowing us to help the cause. And speaking of causes, Governor Joe introduced us to the NEW Teddy Bear project that the KPTC is kicking off. There are 12 bears in a case and they are for children in Hospitals, Homeless Shelters and other situations that might need some kindness to help them smile and feel welcomed. The cost is \$125 per case and we are going to sponsor a bunch to help support KPTC and our friend Joe Corace.



What time is it?

It's time to serve!!

Race Six: Then the bucks started flying around the room. Diane Cusimano (again), DPP Janine Mahon, DPP Maricelis Romero, Dina DePaola, Henrietta Maier and President Danielle Kleiman all gave happy dollars for a great year by Bill and hopeful and confident \$\$\$'s for Danielle. Then Bill had some bucks to thank everyone for their gracious gifts and awards, followed by Bob giving some bucks for Bill's incredible and DISTINGUISHED Year as our leader. Lucian Matej sent in some BIG Happy Dollars because he met Bill on Myrtle and couldn't make the meet. Thanks Lucian, miss ya buddy. DPG Joe Ruggiero was in the house and gave some bucks to let us know that if you give service to others, it does nice stuff to your body and Science shows it increases your life expectancy. Benjamin Engel from Ridgewood Rides, a fun bicycle club, came to speak with us about a quest to have a safe place for cyclists to peddle along Cypress Avenue heading up to the reservoir. There will be a rally on November 4th by Vermont Avenue. There is a picnic in Highland Park following the RALLY. Great cause, Benjamin.



Oh what could have been! One of these esteemed gents didn't learn from a previous experience at our club. Yup, Michael was still "DON"ning his TIE and Joe and John were a bit wiser. Each has a tie on our Club Banner. Diane said that when Michael becomes President there will be a change in dress code at the meetings and events. LOL

Race Seven: Ridgewood 3-2-1 is going to have a couple of fundraisers and we are in the process of setting up the 2023 – 2024 Administrative Year Committees for President Danielle Kleiman’s term. The Turkey Shoot is back and will have a scheduled date of November 10th at the Clubhouse. We are asking for donations of NEW candles, alcohol, and other basket fillers. We can only accept NEW items, please. Since it is right before Thanksgiving, we will also be giving out Gift Cards for Turkeys and all of the sides to create a delicious home cooked meal. We will PRE-Sell tickets on a grid & also sell tixs that night. Save the DATE, Friday, November 10th. Working **TOGETHER** always works **BETTER**.

Race Eight: Upcoming Events include:

- **October 18th – Oktoberfest and DIPPY Bill Rennison’s Distinguished Party**
- **October 25th – Board of Directors Meeting in Clubhouse at 5:30 PM**
- **October 28th – AKTION Club Halloween Party in Clubhouse from 12 – 2:30 PM**



Race Nine: Bill closed the meeting at 1:15 PM. There was \$675.00 for Happy Dollars and Food Money. It was a good day!!!



Passion ✦ Respect ✦ Inclusion ✦ Diversity ✦ Equity

3 – 2 – 1... AND THEY'RE OFF



Why don't you just ignore those mean-spirited, self-serving imposters...



After 40 YEARS in Kiwanis, what makes you think that nasty will become accountable for their evil ways...

My gift from **Bill Rennison**
Distinguished Immediate Past President of the Year
DIPPY

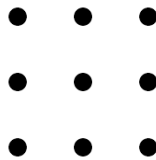
Editor's Page

Think outside the box.

Surely you've heard the phrase "think outside the box"; perhaps you've even said it yourself a time or two. After all, it's one of the most well-worn phrases not just in the business world but throughout the realm of real life.

Speaking generally, it means to think differently, unconventionally or from a fresh, different perspective. The saying is an attempt to inspire (and accept) free, creative thinking. While we rely heavily on computers, algorithms and neural networks for so much, those very tools would only be a figment of our imagination had there been no "outside-the-box" thinking.

The origin of "**thinking outside the box**", according to many, traces back to the 1960s and the use of the "9 dots" puzzle, which was originally published in 1914 in a book called the *Cyclopedia of Puzzles* by Sam Lloyd. The puzzle consisted of the following diagram and the instructions: *Link all 9 dots using four straight lines or fewer, without lifting the pen and without tracing the same line more than once.*



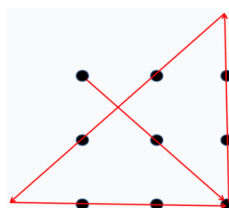
Go ahead and print that out -- probably a few times -- and give it a try. We'll wait right here for you. What you'll eventually find (one common solution is found below) is that you're going to have to think "outside the box" to come up with a solution.

Even though there's no instruction to stay within the box, most minds immediately tend to build a box, which instantly puts a constraint in place. Thinking outside the box, meanwhile, removes as many constraints as possible -- leading to the most original and innovative solutions.

Thinking outside the box is an incredibly powerful and useful tool; however, it can be a bit scary. After all, it tends to be a bit safer to err on the side of conventional wisdom. **The reality, however, is that outside-the-box thinking is a powerful key that can open countless doors:**

- It allows you to generate more possibilities.
- It forces you to ask questions (i.e., question the status quo)
- It helps you step outside your comfort zone.
- It inspires others, helping *them* step out of their comfort zone.
- It creates tremendous learning opportunities.
- It opens doors to unforeseen results.
- It allows you to stand out from the crowd.
- It inspires critical thinking skills.

If you tend to struggle with outside-the-box thinking, the next time you're faced with a problem, approach it from a different perspective. There's more than one way from point A to point B. Think wide, think differently, or maybe, don't think at all.



After all, ***change isn't the same thing as progress.***



A Picture is worth a thousand words!!!

It was delightful to have Sandy Liew from the Douglaston Club come to present Bob with an iPad that he won in their raffle.

Danielle will have an awesome year as our royal and loyal leader. Diane Cusimano had a crown made for President Danielle because she remembers the show, "Queen For A Day" back in the day. For those of you who don't remember, Google it. Just a hint, Janine was a one year old when the show went off the air.

We were blessed to have West Hempstead Club's DPP George Silkes visiting with us today. The items that you see were donated by Ridgewood 3-2-1 and our partners from the NYPD and GRYC to George for the Victory Games that serves 1,400 physically challenged young people. George has been doing this amazing service for 38 years.

Linda Monte was in the house and she was cold as ICE. Linda and Steve just returned from ICE LAND and said that it was all that it's cranked up to be. Check that one off the Bucket List.

A high ranking NY District Kiwanis Member recently asked me what makes Ridgewood 3-2-1 so special?

Then I went downstairs to the Clubhouse and looked at our wall covered with over 25 DISTRICT ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS that we won in ONLY 5 YEARS and I had my answer. Let's all remember that that doesn't include the incredible year that we just completed under Bill Rennison. SPECIAL, you ask?? Indeed we ARE SPECIAL, to answer anyone who doubts us.





It is so wonderful to see smiling faces all over the place at Ridgewood 3-2-1 meetings. Laughter is food for the soul and we have plenty to offer at our gatherings.



There's no way that you are getting another picture of me eating food.

OK here goes the spinning drum to find out who wins the 50-50. Winner: DPP George Silkes



Peace Out says Joseph Then who was waiting to dig into the heroes and salads.

I will end this Newsletter with some incredibly SAD NEWS! Out on Staten Island yesterday, a 13 Year Old student was stabbed to death by another 14 Year Old Middle Schooler on a City Bus. How horrific this is and there are NO words to explain this senseless act. NYPD believe that it was GANG related. How blessed we are that the 3,000 young people we served in Afterschool yesterday, arrived home safely. Kids need US, they need our guidance and kindness. Thanks for your service!



**Kiwanis Club of Ridgewood, NY 3-2-1
Board of Directors
2023 – 2024**

President – Danielle Kleiman

President Elect - Kevin Powell/Michael Addeo

Immediate Past President – Bill Rennison

1st Vice President – Diane Cusimano

Treasurer – Dave Fitzgerald

Secretary – Hank Kraker

One Year Board (2023 – 2024)

- Fredric "JR" Velepec, Jayne Wadhawan, Maureen Powell

Two Year Board (2023 – 2025)

- Diane Marzuillo, Joan Hoffmann, DPP Margie Stahl

Three Year Board (2023 – 2026)

- SDPLG Mike Miller, Paul Hoffmann, DPLG John Stahl

**Past Presidents Panel – DPP Liz Fitzgerald, DPP Gino Ancona,
DPP Janine Mahon & DPP Maricelis Romero**

Board Advisor & Chief of Staff – DPP Bob Monahan



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