

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: December 2, 2020

VOLUME 4 Number 5

Race One: Today would have been a great day to meet in the Clubhouse, but, with COVID on the rise and as a measure of extreme caution, we have put in-person meetings on hold until January. So, once again, you should close your eyes and picture the virtual meeting that is happening. Imagine that you are in the clubhouse, along with about 30-40 others, all with plenty of space to allow for social distancing and President Janine Mahon using her gavel to hit the gong and start the meeting. Janine then asked everyone to rise from their chairs to recite the Pledge to the Flag and, you guessed it, at the completion of the Pledge, Janine asked **Deacon** Kevin Powell to give the blessing. For some strange reason, Kevin was even more inspiring as he asked us to remember those in need at this time of the year and to be thankful for the gifts that we have to offer in service to others and most importantly, for an end to this darn virus.

Race Two: The meet was, as mentioned, held indoors in the large meeting room. Janine asked everyone to come up and get their lunch. This week the Committee decided on a seafood fest with Lobster Rolls, Crab Cakes, Seafood Tacos, Fried Filet of Flounder, and Tuna Steaks caught by our very own fisherman, JR Velepec. Most people don't realize that JR has been Deep Sea Fishing for many years now and has even been featured on the TV show, Wicked Tuna, Episode 17 in Season 3. JR fishes with precision and has even earned himself a place in the History of Fishing Museum. OK, OK, JR would join the ranks of Liran Gross, Tom Wilk, Chris M, Joe Florio and the other Masters in our club. Thanks JR for the fresh steaks and for the photos. I didn't know that you and Frank Marrero were fishing down in Puerto Rico two years ago and surely didn't know that you were a fisherman for Halloween when younger. Did you march in the Glendale Halloween Parade that year?? WOW!!



Race Three: Bob was asked to introduce the Happy Dollars for guests and friends. First up, was Brooklyn Borough President Eric Adams who came to break bread again and share his vision of service to the City. Thanks Eric for joining us and helping our cause during this time of giving back to others. Community Affairs Officers Mike Berish, Asar Sanad, YCO Michael Amato and RETIRED Detective Tommy Bell came to enjoy the FISH Fest. It was nice to see our newly elected Assemblywoman, Jenifer Rajkumar, back at the club. Jenifer, too, is doing some events to give back to the community and we are glad to have her energy and drive as part of our club's mission of service. For those of you who actually read this stuff, the picture of the young fisherman is actually my grandson, Owen who dressed up to Papa's GNFSHN theme. Yes, you guessed it, Bernie  was in the corral.



Race Four: Joan Hoffmann was in the house with son, Paul. Diane Cusimano was again in rare form, and really muscled folks for the 50-50. The raffle raised close to \$500 with the club making \$250 and the winner making \$250. This money will be used to sponsor families for Christmas, one of Janine's projects for the year. Thanks to Tony DiPiazza and the Federazione Italo-Americana of Brooklyn and Queens for their generous donation of \$1,000 to help in this cause. This is the second year in a row that the Ridgewood 3-2-1 has been recognized by Tony for their commitment to community service. What great partners we have in Ridgewood. Hank Kraker was able to make the meeting today and gave Happy Dollars for his Green Bay Packers win. JR Velepec has sent in his money for the Dallas Cowboys, see the picture in Race Two, and Bob is in the process of getting some of the others back on track with their payments. Rafal from Oliwa came in to donate to the Family sponsorships and pay up for his football money, Bill Rennison continues to prove his extreme generosity and commitment to service with a BIG donation for a family. Diane and Liz & Dave are up to date. John Hennessey couldn't join us at the meet but delivered all of his funds for football, grid boxes, and family sponsorships. Thanks all for your generosity.

Race Five: ALWAYS good to see Corporate Sponsor Liran Gross from Maspeth Federal Savings Bank was able to attend today along with Michael Addeo, Tom Wilk, Kenny Dunn, Joe Florio, Chris McDougall, Rafal Ziolkowski and Linda Monte. Alan Bellone came by for a few minutes but still hasn't paid up. Chris Jardin reached out to us and said his check was in the mail, no really, it's in the mail. Chris is a big fisherman too and has joined Frank Marrero and JR on multiple outings.

Race Six: Another fine showing of GRYC Directors and staff who took time from their incredibly busy schedules to enjoy the meal and support their friend and boss, Janine. If I remember correctly, here is the roster of attendees: IPP Gino Ancona, Ariel Triunfel, Edwing Vilsaint, Danielle Kleiman, Catherine Siegel, Shiv Ramsamooj, Maria Batista and Paul Hoffmann were at the ranch along with Sky Pilot Kevin Powell and his bride Maureen Powell.

Race Seven: Michele Woerner and Joey Pullano reached out to me, along with mom, Janet. As many of you know, that is the family of my best buddy and sidekick, Bob Pullano, aka, Santa. This is a really tough time of the year for me and the Pullano family since this was the season that the Boobie would shine brightest. He always made you feel loved and treated every little child with the love that comes from being Santa, year-round. I miss my buddy and in his honor, let's make a lot of kids happy this Christmas Season. Donate NOW and we will make those less fortunate a bit happier this season. Thanks for listening to the World's Biggest Elf, as he would call me. Haven't worn the suit, since, but, still have the passion to make a difference through service.



Race Eight: Upcoming Events include:

December 23rd – Distribution of Christmas Gifts to Families from Community and Beyond.

Race Nine: The meeting ended a bit late because we had a lot of stuff to take care of. The total of \$1,110 was collected in Happy Dollars, Food Money, raffle and the 50-50 collection.



I'm telling you, I saw a big guy in a red and green outfit and another guy with a red suit and a beard. Then I blinked and when I looked again, there were toys all over the place.

OK, NO MORE TIME TO WASTE. WE NEED TO HEAR FROM EACH AND EVERY MEMBER HOW YOU WOULD LIKE TO PARTICIPATE IN OUR HOLIDAY GIVING EVENT. MAKE A CHILD SMILE AND BELIEVE.



Grid Boxes are \$10 EACH.

Contact Gino if you need to Venmo or Charge it! DO IT NOW!!! PLEASE!!!



*Photos from Last year's
Kiddy Kidz in Action...*



**WE ARE
LOOKING FOR
SPONSORS FOR
OUR KIDDY KIDZ
GIFTS.**

3 - 2 - 1... AND THEY'RE OFF







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Pictured (dressed for Halloween) are Maria & Renee Goustas. These two remarkable young girls, while students at PS 229, participated in our Treat or Trick for UNICEF Program. Together, they raised over Two Thousand Dollars, Maria (2012 to 2016) & Renee (2015 to 2019).

Both have graduated and now attend IS 73. The Kiwanis Club of Ridgewood 3-2-1, awarded both girls with the ELIMIDALLION, which they are proudly displaying, for their contribution to the Kiwanis Eliminate Project. In total, the student body at PS 229 has raised and contributed over \$110,000.



Ridgewood 3-2-1 Members, John and Margie Stahl have also been awarded Elimidallion Medals for their tireless efforts to support Trick or Treat for UNICEF over the years.



Immediate Past President Gino Ancona became the DNKN Representative with his new outfit.

When Gino walked into our local DUNKIN DONUTS the entire staff thought that they were on UNDERCOVER BOSS and paid extra special attention to him. Gotta love this stuff.

YES, the outfit came with socks and undies. Need to know anything else??

The Argyle Sweater

