

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 - Ext 221

The Triple Crown Newsletter



RESULTS OF MEET FOR: February 5, 2025

VOLUME 8 Number 10



3 – 2 – 1... AND THEY'RE



OFF



Race One: Today we celebrated Valentines for Vets and although a bit light in attendance, it was a great lunchtime meeting. President Bob hit the gong at 12:05 PM and asked all present to rise for the Pledge of Allegiance to our flag, followed with a beautiful grace given by DPG Joe Corace. Joe thanked the Club for the honor of giving a heartfelt and awesome reflection of Thanks and Blessings for the service that we do as Kiwanians. Bob then welcomed everyone to the meeting and invited those present to dig in and start to eat their \$10 meal. On the menu were: Two 3 Foot Heroes, one Veggie and one Paisano; 40 Empanadas, 80 Wings, some Buffalo and some plain; and a LARGE Picadera (Tostones w/a variety of meats; a half tray of Potato Salad, sodas and water. All of this came from our Business Partners at Deli-Licious Kitchen and Café on Myrtle Avenue and 67th Street. You should absolutely stop in for some of their incredible food. This was our Super Bowl Prep banquet.



Race Two: Our Club, once again, welcomed as our guests, Eleanor Poppe and Nick Caras from the NY Racing Chaplaincy who minister to the families on the Backstretch at Aqueduct, Belmont and Saratoga Racetracks. These two amazing people who work, day in and day out, serving the needs of the workers and families who tend to the horses at the tracks, are so humble and kind, it is an honor to partner with them in service to others. Unfortunately, Deacon Humberto Chavez was unable to make it, but has been to the Club before and loves our connections. Eleanor and Nick shared that there is a tremendous need for Diapers and baby items and we promised to assist with that need. There were two full tables of donated items that included: Winter Coats, Hats, Gloves, Socks, Hygienic Kits, Diapers, Wipes, Children's Pajamas donated by our Kiddy KIDZ Club at the GRYC, games, and a whole lot more. This is what we do, we help to change the world for those in need. Job well done good and faithful servants. Awesome to know that we can make a difference on this fragile planet!



Race Three: Then we introduced DPG Joe Corace and his First Lady Nydia. Bob mentioned that he had attended the Charter Meeting of the DARE BOLDLY Club out in Long Island and heard that Nydia is a Distinguished Past Lt. Governor and was then recognized as one. That meant that we had THREE DPLG's at the table, Joe, Nydia and IDPLG Janice Bar. The room was decorated for Valentines Day and we keep it that way until at least February 15th when we will be hosting our 100 AKTION Club members to the Clubhouse. Anyone who wants to see what true DEI is really about, come down at noon on Saturday, February 15th and watch the magic unfold. Bernie Zablocki would have had something to say today as I failed to provide dessert. Sorry Bernzo, but St. Joseph's Day is coming and that will be off the charts phenomenal, thanks to Corporate Sponsor Michael Addeo and his Godmother, President Elect Diane Cusimano. Chief of Staff, Gino Ancona went over and above with the themed plates, cups, tablecloths and room décor for our Valentines celebration. To say that there was an atmosphere of love doesn't do justice to his House Committee's work to make this all happen. Thanks to all who worked so hard to make the Clubhouse a warm and welcoming place for our members and partners.



Race Four: As everyone was enjoying their meal, we went around the room and had our members and friends speak about Veterans and other things. DPP Janine Mahon had happy dollars for her son Colin who is a West Point Graduate and was a Captain in the US Army. Jayne Wadhawan had happy dollars for her daughter who is in Active Service down South and was just promoted. Diane Cusimano gave dollars for her dad who was in the service and she also had dollars for the Chaplaincy and the work that they do. Seems Diane mentioned something about growing up around the racetrack with her family and having roots in Greenpoint, Brooklyn. Diane mentioned the OLD NEIGHBORHOOD and something about literacy or books or bookies, or something like that. John Hennessey then said that his dad was a Veteran and that he also grew up in Greenpoint which may have helped him to become a banker. HMMM, Not sure if there is a correlation but it sure was funny. Banking, Books, Deposits, Interest Rates and so many similar things. Bob then spoke about his dad being a Veteran and growing up in Chelsea. Seems they also had some Racetrack roots as they would drive from Manhattan to Woodhaven Blvd, stop at Dominick's Hot Dog truck going back to 1959 and then gassing up, literally, and continue the drive to Aqueduct. Here is a picture of FOUR generations of Monahan's at the Hot Dog truck; Bob, Bob, Rob and Sam Monahan. What a wonderful day that was to enjoy delicious hot dogs and share stories with Angela working in the truck.



Race Five: There were lots of stories and happy dollars flying around the room and we had Tracy Rodriguez as our Sheriff. Our 104 Community Affairs Detective Mike Berish and P.O. Dilsia Bonilla and P.O. Mike Gonzalez were unable to attend because there was a terrible fire in Ridgewood that displaced a bunch of families, and our awesome partners were attending to their needs. Some of the GRYC and Business partners were at the meeting to enjoy their afternoon; Paul Hoffmann, Shiv Ramsamooj, Tracy Rodriguez, Carlos “Papi Chulo” Rodriguez, Joseph Then, Cat Siegel, JoAnn Siegel, Linda Manetta, Joe “the Plumber” Florio, Jose Martinez, Chris McDougall, Nick Caras, Eleanor Poppe, Jayne Wadhawan, Joan Hoffmann, Sabrina Sierra, Mary Benitez, Walter Welsh, DPP Janine Mahon, President Elect Diane Cusimano, Queens West DPLG Janice Bar, DPP Gino Ancona, John Hennessey from Ridgewood Savings Bank, FUN and LAUGHTER all around and happy dollars kept rolling. All together, we had 25 folks there to enjoy the food, fun and frivolity. It doesn’t get much better than that, and Ridgewood is one club that continues to pack the house and all for a \$10 fanny kicking meal.



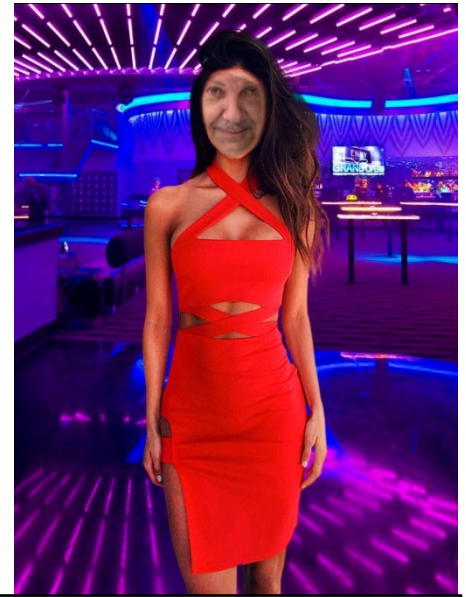
Race Six: As Happy Dollars continued, Diane told the history of Valentine’s Day that dated back to the Roman Empire. Long story, very short (unlike Diane’s amazing historic version) there was an Emperor’s decree that his soldiers had to avoid the female gender and focus on being the best soldier’s that they could be to conquer the world. Some guy named Valentine got arrested to going against the emperor’s decree, met the jailkeepers daughter, wrote a beautiful love letter before he was killed and the rest is history. LOOK it up on Google for yourself if you think this is too short, or better yet, get a chair and have our esteemed historian, Diane, tell you the longest version.



Race Seven: Partnerships at the Ridgewood 3-2-1 Club are critically important to our success. It is unlike the Corporate Partners of Kiwanis International, it is local and it is powerful and meaningful. We have 10 Corporate Sponsors who infuse a lot of money into our Service Fund and then we have our COMMUNITY Partnerships like the Greater Ridgewood Youth Council, the NYPD, the NY Racing Chaplaincy, the Backstretch, Queens West Pride and Ronald McDonald House/KPTC. These mutual collaborations make a massive difference to each organization and if that’s not a partnership, I’d like to know what is!!

Partnership: working together for the good of the communities that we serve. This is the CULTURE of the Ridgewood 3-2-1 Club and its members.

For the CAUSE and not the APPLAUSE!!



The Lighter Side of Things at Ridgewood 3-2-1
 Gino was seen walking around the GRYC Building in some cleric attire and our own, Carlos “Papi Chulo” Rodriguez took it to another level. The picture on the right is a stunning Alan-a Bellone from 20 years ago when he was dating a handsome man of influence. Our Corporate Member had a ton of fun at the last meeting with this.

Race Eight: Upcoming Events include:

- *February 19th – Past President’s Meeting at 12:00 NOON in the Clubhouse*
- *February 26th – Board Meeting at 5:00 PM in the Clubhouse*
- *March 5th – March Madness Meeting at 12:00 Noon in the Clubhouse*
- *March 19th – St. Joseph’s & St. Patrick’s Celebration at Noon in the Clubhouse*

Race Nine: This is the time to make all necessary arrangements to get to the NEXT 3-2-1 meeting on Wednesday, February 19th. Stop with the excuses and make it happen.

ALWAYS HAVING FUN AT 3-2-1 !



Passion + Respect + Inclusion + Diversity + Equity

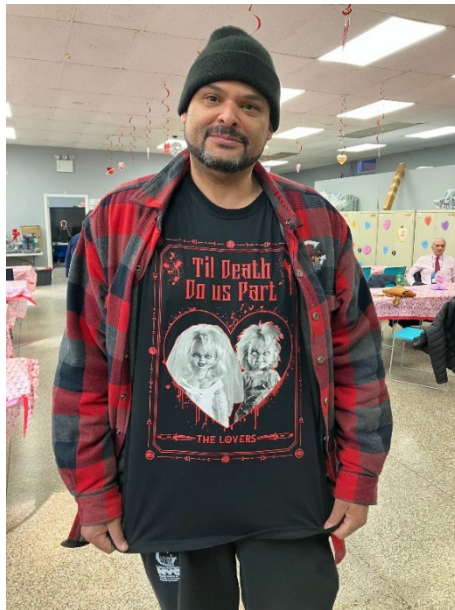
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Ridgewood Kiwanis
 @Ridgewood-Kiwanis



Lots of smiles and laughter at our meeting today. We had the Chaplaincy with us to collect their donations and we also had our collections for Valentine's for Vets. What a great and productive day. There is Walter my shadow writer taking notes, Carlos "Papi-Chulo" sporting his Valentine's shirt; DPP Gino and DIPPY Danielle collected our \$10 for lunch, and Corporate Sponsor Michael Addeo with that "HAT". All members and friends enjoying our Super Bowl Wings and Things.



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Backpacks and much more for our partners at the Belmont and Aqueduct Racetrack Backstretch. These came along with a great meal and some light refreshments, thanks to our partners at the NY Racing Chaplaincy for organizing this project.



There's a new club in town. The DARE BOLDLY Club had their Charter Lunch on 2/2/25 out in Merrick with a wonderful crowd of Kiwanians and friends in attendance. The focus of the Club will be to support Special Needs Projects and Activities throughout the District and on Long Island. Congratulations and welcome.



Tom Rudzewick, President & CEO of Maspeth Federal Savings Bank joined some of his staff at PS 153 to show off SAM the Savings Squirrel and speak about Financial Literacy and Savings to the participants in the GRYC Afterschool Program. MFS is a Corporate Sponsor of our 3-2-1 Club.



DPP Gino Ancona travelled out to San Diego to visit our former member Ariel Triunfel and her one-year-old twins. He left on Friday evening and was back to work on Tuesday morning. Now that is a true friend and Godfather.



Valentine's For VETS was an amazing success. Our partnership with the GRYC, our members and friends always support our Service Projects. Way to go team!



**Ridgewood
3-2-1
Wall of Fame**

Each year, NYD recognizes Clubs with Achievement Awards for Service Projects, Newsletters and Scrapbooks. We Done Good!!