



The Triple Crown Newsletter

RESULTS OF MEET FOR: August 4, 2021

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Race One: Who let the dogs out! It was a beautiful day to celebrate a visit from the NYPD Canine Unit at the corral. I have been asked to permanently and proudly display the banner on our masthead to demonstrate the overall diversity of Ridgewood 3-2-1 and use it as a welcoming symbol for all. It was a beautiful sunny day with over 25 people on hand to break bread with us. President Janine clapped the gong and asked everyone to rise from their seats to recite the Pledge to our Flag and then asked Deacon Kevin Powell to give the Blessing. Kevin did a magnificent blessing and asked the club to remember those in need, thanked God for the gift of each other, in-person, and asked us to reflect on the gifts that we have to offer in service to others. Can I get an "AMEN"!

Race Two: The meet was held indoors in the large meeting room at the clubhouse and arranged in a way that allowed for compliance with CDC rules. President Janine introduced her Chief of Staff to continue with the meeting by introducing NYPD Officers Matthew Gullo and Anel Capursi with their trusted NYPD Canine Partners. All canines within the NYPD are named after slain officers and what a fine tribute that is. It must be noted that Matt and Anel had a presentation with our GRYC Day Campers prior to coming into our clubhouse to show "us big kids" the dogs and their talents. What an incredible overview we all received about the dogs and their abilities to sniff out the minutest chemicals to help in cases that are local and even international. Kudos go out to the NYPD for their vision & commitment to catch the lawbreakers. P.O. Matt did mention that he and Anel AND the dogs just broke one of the cases that they were assigned to; finding out who was in possession of tons of missing Girl Scout cookies and distributing them in the name of the NYPD. Case solved and sealed with a quart of milk. Also seems like the dogs were sizing up Kenny Dunn and their odds of beating him to the front of the food line. Obviously after some thought, they just laid down and said to themselves, "That big boy looks like he means business and we can bypass all this trouble if we sniff out a phone or a flash drive" for food. Anyway their Union delegate was in the car taking his break in the temperature controlled Police vehicle. Then out of nowhere, Diane Cusimano gave happy dollars to state that "If you can train dogs to do such sophisticated and intelligent things, there is hope for men". That point was proven by the fact that not one male in the room challenged her.



I'll distract him, you lay down in front of him.

Maybe we can do the old trip joke.



Race Three: At that point, DIPPY Gino Ancona invited everyone up for food. For lunch the members and guests were treated to Breakfast Cereals, Girl Scout Cookies, Donuts, other snacks and an assortment of milks. After the dogs tripped Kenny Dunn on his way up to the line, “Sexy Legs” Bernie Zablocki edged out the Dunnster. Way to go Bernie. I have a picture of your awesome physique later on in the bulletin. Thanks Gino and Janine for going to the store to buy this fantastic assortment of cereals. Almond Milk, Soy Milk whatever the heck it was, good old Cow milk worked for me. Bernie was quoted as saying, “MOOOVE OVER Kenny Dunn”. Somehow word came out that the last meeting had an International Buffet for K I President-Elect Peter Mancuso and we only had cereal for this meet. Master Beekeeper Tom Wilk gave some happy dollars for Night Out Against Crime that was held the night before at Juniper Valley Park. He mentioned that he had a chance to finally use his pop up tent and advertise for his Queens Beekeepers.



Look at the assortment on the table and pick your favorite.

Race Four: Seems that our Younger Youth group from the GRYC Summer Youth Employment Program were doing service learning projects and connected with 3-2-1 member Fr. Mike Lopez to help get blessing bags for the homeless. Three of the workers gave a presentation to our members and asked them to contribute items for those less fortunate. It was mentioned that the list of items would be brought before the Board of Directors next Wednesday. Then the workers will be able to purchase their prioritized items and fill the blessing bags to distribute to the homeless in our communities. The Service Learning participants are all 14 & 15 years old and are In-Person at the Fairview Avenue. There are 200 YY's in the program and the GRYC is one of the few Agencies in Queens to work with this population.



Race Five: President Janine then Gave Happy Dollars for Night Out Against Crime and for our very own 104th Precinct Community Affairs Officer Mike Berish who coordinated most of the event that had tons of vendors and organizations represented. There were over 2,000 community residents who stopped by and enjoyed free gifts, food and water. The Kiwanis Club of Ridgewood 3-2-1 gave out over 1,300 Trefoils Girl Scout Cookies in less than an hour's time. Then Gino started giving away the house to avoid bringing anything home. Water, masks, and anything not bolted down. There were over 25 members of the 3-2-1 Club that attended and worked at the event. Seems that P.O. Mike Berish and Deputy Inspector Louron Hall surprised Bob Monahan with an NYPD Citation and even said some really nice things about him. Much appreciated, friends. It was an amazing night of service and Kiwanis was well represented with the Glendale Club grilling over 2,000 Hot Dogs for the crowd. Funny story: Millie Mandese brought over a tray of freshly cooked dogs to the Ridgewood Table and before any of the members could get to the tray, strangers came by and took them. Thanks to John Hennessey and Ridgewood Savings Bank for the 600 bags to put the cookies in, thanks to Gino for making the stickers to show the partnership between Operation Gratitude, the NYPD 104th Precinct, the GRYC and 3-2-1 Club. It was an amazing event.



Race Six: Our very own President Janine Mahon rallied the troops to distribute all the cookies and water in just over an hour. Assemblywoman Jenifer Rajkumar was in attendance, along with Senator Joe Addabbo and of course our dynamic City Councilman Bob Holden. Congresswoman Grace Meng had her staff working the park and we appreciate everything that she is doing in Washington. Mike Berish was at the top of his game and kept



things moving with Inspector Hall. We had a chance to speak with a Police Officer from HWY 3 who was very excited and thankful for our Club raising money to do a new Gym/Fitness Room at their location. We have raised \$10,000 to complete this new venture with Remorca Fitness and the NYC Police Foundation. Everyone wins and all are happy.

Race Seven: A light showing of members from the “G” at today’s meet as they were unable to take the time to catch a brief respite from their hard work and commitment to conduct the largest SUMMER PROGRAM in the agency’s history. The GRYC is serving over 3,000 kids in Day Camp and over 1,100 Summer Youth Employment Programs participants. ALL HANDS ON DECK and no rest for the weary. Camp starts at 8:00 AM and ends at 6:00 PM, which makes for a LOOONG Day. Edwing Vilsaint, Andy Villion, Joseph Then, Mary Benitez, Linda Manetta and Maureen Powell along with hubby Deacon Kevin Powell who is also our Club Sky Pilot. Happy Dollars were given for the upcoming Ordination of Kevin to the Priesthood. This amazing event will take place on August 21st at All Saints Church in Ridgewood at 3:00 PM. Congratulations Kevin on this continuing chapter in your life.

Some traditions are very hard to break as “sexy legs” (as Ann would have said) Bernie Zablocki broke out the summer shorts. It seems that Bernie went to the Night Out Against Crime and offered Bob a ride home. After 4 hours of standing at the event and wearing brand new sneakers, Bob accepted with joy. Only problem, he didn’t know that the car was parked on Lutheran Avenue, completely on the other side of the park from 80th Street. Bob had SAD dollars for the hike to Bernie’s car. Ironically, if you look at the TV screen in this picture, the song showing is 500 MILES by Peter, Paul and Mary. After Kenny Dunn asked Bob if he wanted some cheese with his whine, Bernie stood up and gave happy dollars to buy Bob foot ointment. The club was hysterical as the best friends went at each other. LOVE YOU Bernie!! Also at the ranch were Wild Bill Rennison, Sabrina Montero, Joan Hoffman, Master Beekeeper Tom Wilk, YCO P.O. Michael Amato who brought the Precinct’s two SYEP’s, Danielle Kleiman, Francesca Fedkowskyj and Kaitlyn Fitzgerald. Our Club Secretary, Hank Kraker was unable to attend, but Hank and JR Velepéc were there helping at the Night Out. Clark McKinney was in the hood and was flying his colors with a pink, navy and black bandana. Jayne Wadhawan from Valley National had happy dollars for her grandsons who attended Day Camp and were really sad to have to leave. If I missed anyone, I truly apologize & will make it up next time.



Race Eight: Upcoming Events include:

August 11th - Board Meeting in person at the clubhouse. Start time is 4:00 PM. Any 3-2-1 members may attend and see how we do business and spend our money. Please join us.

August 22nd – NYD Governor’s Visit at Forest Hills Tennis Stadium.

Race Nine: The meeting ended at 1:00 PM and the total amount of money collected in Happy Dollars and Food Money was \$750 and a few more in VENMO.



3 – 2 – 1... AND THEY'RE OFF



President “Sheriff” Janine Mahon making sure the money keeps coming in. Thanks, Janine for stepping up to act as the sheriff. I think that your Ranch Committee should get a member to be the sheriff next meeting.



There are at least two hounds in this photo, wanna guess???
One seems to be identifying himself!! LOL



Amazing grandson OWEN was 10 years old today. Happy Birthday!!



Here are two more amazing grandsons, Sean and Liam who turned 12 in July and were getting their vaccines. Papa loves you boys!



The Kiwanis Club of Ridgewood 3-2-1 donated cases of Girl Scout Cookies to the Customs and Border Patrol Agents at JFK. Doing the honors was Girl Scout member Madeline Grote, better known as our only granddaughter with 7 grandsons.



The FDNY made a visit to our Summerfield Day Camp and brought along their SMOKE HOUSE to teach FIRE SAFETY to our enthusiastic campers. Every one of the participants had an awesome time and thanks go out to FDNY Lt. Frank Manetta for making this happen. Members Gino Ancona and Linda Manetta chaired this committee for 3-2-1.



The Day Campers did a project on Fire Safety and presented Thank You posters to the FDNY Firefighters for their demonstration.



3-2-1 Club members, P.O. Mike Berish and NCO Sgt. Michael Mercurio went to Fairview Avenue to speak with one group of YY's in the Summer Youth Employment Program about canvassing the area to alert residents about Crime Prevention. Specifically, the large number of Motorcycle thefts that have been occurring throughout the Precinct.

The participants were totally engaged, distributed fliers and actually got to identify vehicles that were potential targets for the thievery. Mike and Mike were totally impressed with the younger youth and plan to let them know the Precinct Stats for the month of August to see if their efforts paid dividends.

Kudos to all and just another example of Community Partnerships.