

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: February 15, 2023 VOLUME 6 Number 10



3 – 2 – 1... AND THEY'RE OFF



Race One: Things got rolling at exactly 5:05 PM with President Bill Rennison hitting the gong with his gavel to call the meeting to order. We had a paltry group of 20 members and guests. To be direct and honest, that is quite sad for our club. It was our Valentine's meeting and Joseph Alfano had the place looking awesome. President Bill asked those in attendance to rise for the Pledge to our Flag and asked Fr. Kevin Powell to say Grace and what a warm one it was, thanking God for the food, people and the gift of life and health.

Race Two: The food arrived early and was hot and ready to go. Without too much hesitation, Bill told the club that it was time to eat our Penne ala Vodka, Penne with Chicken, Eggplant Parmigiana and a Full Tray of Salad with dressing. There were also loaves of bread and butter. YUP, you guessed it, it was prepared and delivered by Grace Pizza on Myrtle Avenue in Glendale.

Race Three: After our members and friends had a chance to get their meals, President Bill hit the gong, got everyone's attention, and made a few announcements. Then he asked our Speaker, Joe Healy of Prime Prospect Sports to come to the podium to speak about their new Baseball program in Queens that is based out of the Artistic Stitch location on Cooper Avenue. The program is growing by the day and they are looking to have Travel Teams and Instructional Teams playing throughout the year. Joe said that they plan to bring, "Long Island Style" baseball back to Queens. At the Board meeting that followed our regular meeting, the Board voted to donate \$500 to help kick start the program. Joe or one of his coaches said that they would like to become a member of our Club and expand on our partnership.



"GET STUFF DONE"

3 hours of Service; **2** hours of meeting; **1** hour of administration.

Get it!! Ridgewood **3-2-1**.

Race Four: After the presentation, Joe answered some questions and the floor was opened up for some Happy Dollars. DPP Hank Kraker gave some dollars for the program and for winning Half Time in one of our Super Bowl Pools. Other members jumped in to thank Joe for his presentation and for his efforts to get our young people to play sports again and put down the devices that have taken over the world. Janine had a bunch of happy dollars, both CASH & VENMO, AGAIN?? As previously mentioned, it was very, very generous when added up. Thanks DPP Janine. Bernie Zablocki gave some HAPPY dollars to thank Bill for having dessert available for the meeting. Seems that he razzed Bob about not having dessert at the meetings and Bill promised to correct that oversight. Oddly enough, the sweets were Girl Scout cookies, that miraculously appeared on the food table. President Bill then announced that NEXT MEETING, March 1st would be declared Bernie Zablocki Day at the club and it would sample a massive assortment of, you guessed it, homemade and other desserts. Then it all went south as Bill started speaking about the NY District Mid-Winter Conference at the Desmond Hotel in Albany. It was an OOPS when Bill mentioned that he and I stopped at Deising's Diner and Bakery in Kingston for breakfast. Somehow



that slipped my mind and did not get shared with BettyAnn over the weekend. Bill then tried to recover from giving up the dope, you can take that any way that you'd like, and there were lots and lots of laughs and fun. From an eating perspective, the Conference was an early Super Bowl party celebration. Gino and Jed, Bill and I had an awesome Prime Rib dinner at a local restaurant, The Century House and a nice breakfast at the Desmond on Saturday morning. The club won a couple of baskets, the Final Score in one of the grids for a few hundred bucks and even won some awards this year. Having fun at 321.



Race Five: Happy Dollars were flowing for most of the meeting. DPP Janine was the photographer for the evening and seemed to catch everyone in a bit of an awkward pose. I have put the photos in as small as I could to minimize the damage they may cause. Thank you Janine, without you this would be even more boring than usual. OUCH! Diane Cusimano gave happy dollars because she and Rob are still married after the Valentine's Day massacre at their Florist Shop. Kevin and Maureen gave bucks to have finally won one of the Super Bowl quarters. Bob gave money to say that they finally "KEPT" the money and didn't donate it back to the club. There was some confusion with the last newsletter and the back page. That page, showing my grandsons at the beach, was actually the final page of our 242 page Scrapbook that was submitted at the District Conference. The Scrapbook was dedicated to Hank BAKER, not Hank KRAKER, and I put that in there, knowing that in "THE END" the judges would find a way to make me want to show more than Owen. If and when they ever return our Scrapbook, we will display it at every meeting to let you "judge" for yourself if FIFTH Place was true.



Race Six: Bob then spoke about the Conference and the awards that Ridgewood 3-2-1 received for their hard work during Maricelis' year. We now have a new Distinguished Immediate Past President of the Year – DIPPY Maricelis Romero. Hank Kraker was awarded Distinguished Secretary, AGAIN and the 3-2-1 Club scored a PERFECT 31 of 31 criteria points to earn, once again, the Distinguished Club Award. The rubric wasn't used for the Scrapbook and we were told that it WAS used for the Newsletter and we placed 2nd in the State. Am I the only person who finds it odd that when contests are conducted fairly and by the rules, Ridgewood always seems to be near the TOP and wins, and when you have one person making the decisions it turns into one Big Laughable Joke!!! Only thing is, there is NOTHING funny about Mean Spirited, Self-Serving, BULLIES in a volunteer organization like KIWANIS!

Race Seven: Joseph Alfano then had a Valentine Day's Trivia Contest and gave out prizes for the correct answers. How strange is it that there were 6 women at the meeting and coincidentally 6 prizes. What?? All SIX women won those prizes! Damnation, that just goes to show you that we have some smart ladies in our Club. No mean girls allowed here at Ridgewood 3-2-1. Now let's see who was in attendance today: President Bill Rennison, DPP Janine Mahon, Paul Hoffmann and Joan Hoffmann, Maureen Powell and Fr. Kevin Powell, Diane Cusimano, Shiv Ramsamooj, JR Velepec, Anthony Strobel, Joe Healy, Claire Mahon, BettyAnn Monahan, Bernie Zablocki, Joseph Alfano, Fernando Soto, Aryssa Peterson, and Community Affairs Officer Dilsia Bonilla and Mike Berish were called to an emergency while on their way to the meet.



Race Eight: Upcoming Events include:

- **March 1st – Regular Meeting – 12:00 PM – Bernie Zablocki Dessert Day**
- **March 15th – St. Patrick's and St. Joseph's Day Celebration – 12:00 PM**



Race Nine: Bill closed the meeting at 1:05. We collected \$160 in cash plus \$60 in VENMO for food and \$250 for happy dollars.



Passion ✦ Respect ✦ Inclusion ✦ Diversity ✦ Equity

3 – 2 – 1... AND THEY'RE



FF



Kiwanis Education



Susan McClernon



Greg Faulkner



Craig Melvin, left,
and DeJulio



George Latimer



Renee Wetstein

District
Historian

PIP Tom
DeJulio



1930's was abandoned in the late 1940's at Carthage College in Illinois, the embedded roots in this all-male organization survived. By 1955, Kiwanis International had sponsored as many as 150 Circle K clubs in the United States and adopted the three tenets of Service, Leadership, and Fellowship (with the understanding, of course, that fellowship still meant male only).

It took two years of debate and one bold move on the part of Circle K leaders in 1973 to convince the Kiwanis International board to approve the admission of women.

Unlike the legal action brought by a woman against Kiwanis in 1985, the change happened only after leaders on the Circle K Board, among them a co-founder of the newly chartered Circle K Club at Fordham University in the Bronx, threatened to end their relationship with Kiwanis and join Rotary.

On Feb. 6, 1973, Kiwanis International approved the change in Circle K's governing documents to become the first co-ed organization in the Kiwanis Family.

The progressive actions by Circle K leaders in the early 1970's was followed by the election of Fordham's George Latimer as 1973-74 Circle K International

President and Baruch College's Greg Faulkner (currently Assistant New York District CKI Administrator), as the first African-American to serve in the position of Circle K International President in 1975-76.

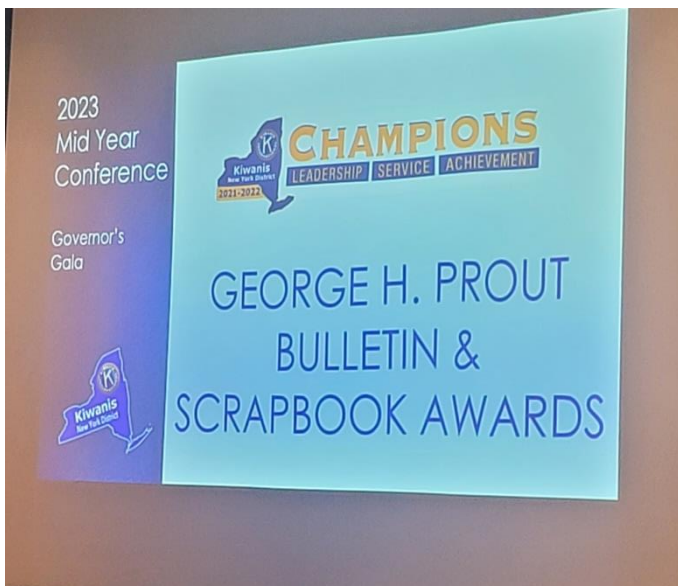
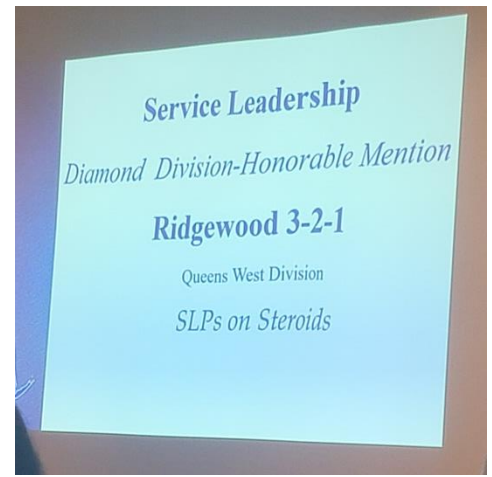
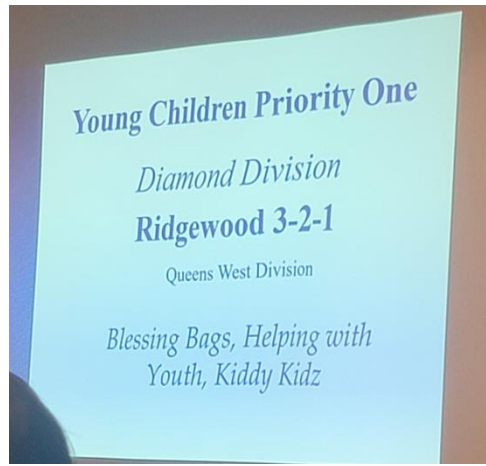
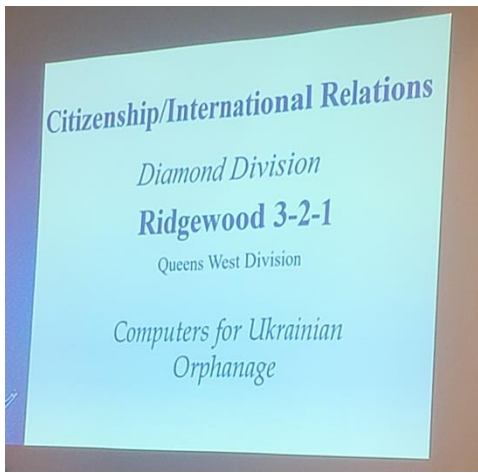
New York leadership at the highest levels of Circle K also influenced the change that followed in 1977 allowing women to join Key Clubs. Among the first females elected to the Key Club International Board was Renee Wetstein, now a Family Law attorney, who was a member of Spring Valley's Ramapo High School between 1977-81.

In 1984, Susan McClernon, now an innovative health care leader from Minnesota, became the first female elected President of Circle K International. In 1996, Broadcast Journalist, author, and Today Show co-host Craig Melvin from South Carolina was elected as the first African-American President of Key Club International.

Making change takes both courage and wisdom. New York Kiwanians are proud to know that members of its New York Kiwanis Family displayed the necessary courage and wisdom a half century ago that brought more diversity and inclusion into our organization's leadership ranks.

At the Mid-Winter Conference, DPP Gino Ancona presented the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Forum. It must be known that Gino is also the newly elected President of the Queens West Pride Club that will be chartered in about 6 weeks with close to 40 members. This is the ONLY PRIDE Club in NY District and represents a large involvement with the LGBTQ+ community, but the article above speaks to the "Bigger" picture of what DEI can mean in Kiwanis and how it got its roots.

Let us be thankful to Past International President Tom DeJulio for teaching us that change is possible, is sometimes needed, and must be vigorously pursued when necessary.



Ridgewood 3-2-1 also won the Scrapbook, Completed the Governor's Project Award and was recognized as a DISTINGUISHED CLUB, along with the Distinguished President and Distinguished Secretary designation. We submitted 5 entries in the Achievement Awards Categories and received 2 Winners and 1 Honorable Mention. OUTSTANDING YEAR!!!

Ridgewood 3-2-1 Super Bowl Grid Winners

2023

Five Alive Grid – Ridgewood 3-2-1 (Minimum of 5 Boxes)

First Quarter Score - 150

Joe Florio

Half Time Score - 300

Richie Grace

Third Quarter Score - 150

Kevin & Mo Powell

Final Score - 600

Marybeth Reynolds

PRIDE Club Grid – Queens West PRIDE Club

First Quarter Score - 150

Nick Mulero

Half Time Score - 300

Hank Kraker

Third Quarter Score - 150

All Sports

Final Score - 600

Joe Eppolito

Original Grid – Ridgewood 3-2-1

First Quarter Score - 150

Janine Mahon

Half Time Score - 300

Wayne FBS

Third Quarter Score - 150

Marybeth Reynolds

Final Score - 600

Lucian Matej

**A special thanks to those who participated and
Congratulations to all of the Winners.**



Kiwanis[®]
Service Leadership Programs



AKTION CLUB
Kiwaniis

Kiwanis[®]
 **ONE DAY**



Lights, Cameras, AKTION



This meeting was held to elect the NEW Officers for next year.

Can you tell who the NEW Board of Directors is for the AKTION CLUB??



This meeting was the ELECTIONS for our AKTION Club Board of Directors. What EVERY KIWANIAN should learn from THIS group of Kiwanians is that the members are pure and without Political agendas. The "POLITICS" that has been allowed to take over too much in NY District and Kiwanis can learn lessons from the innocence and purity of this "election". Look carefully at the picture and see the candidates in suits, each with prepared campaign posters and speeches and friends supporting their efforts. Matt asked who wanted to run for President and 7 members came up to the front of the room. Then he publicly asked, "who wants so and so for President?" and some hands went up around the room. Then Matt went down the line, candidate after candidate until all had received a certain number of votes. There was no drama and in the end, the candidate with 9 votes became President, the next became the 1st VP with 8 votes, then the 2nd VP, Secretary, Treasurer with the final 2 becoming Asst Secretary and Asst Treasurer. Everyone WON and there was applause and happiness in the room. What an amazing day to recharge your Kiwanis battery and see what Service really means to folks that have very little and are grateful for our sharing and caring.

