

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: March 1, 2023

VOLUME 6 Number 11



3 – 2 – 1... AND THEY'RE



OFF



Race One: Things got rolling at exactly 12:10 PM with President Bill Rennison hitting the gong with his gavel to call the meeting to order. We had a healthy group of 40 members and guests. This is a nice improvement from our previous meeting numbers. It was our special Dessert Day for Bernie Zablocki. President Bill asked those in attendance to rise for the Pledge to our Flag and asked Fr. Kevin Powell to say Grace and, as always, it was a wonderful reflection of thanks for our many blessings and the gift of life and health. Amen.



Race Two: This was supposed to be a DESSERT FEST ONLY with homemade, high end Bakery stuff and more, but, some members wanted “actual” food (during Lent) so we got 2 Grandma and 2 Sicilian Pizzas from, YUP, you guessed it, it was prepared and delivered by Grace Pizza on Myrtle Avenue in Glendale. Gino also walked around with a tray of garlic knots for those who wanted to spend the afternoon alone.



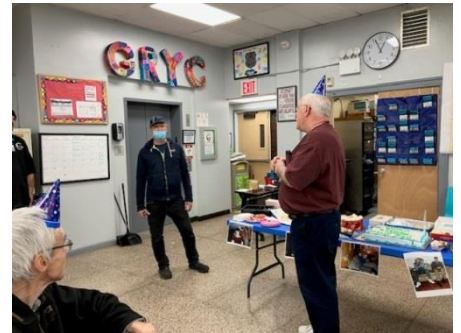
Race Three: After our members and friends had a chance to load up their plates with food and desserts, President Bill hit the gong, got everyone's attention, and made a few Kiwanis announcements. Then he opened the floor up for our Happy Dollars and they started flowing like Ice Wine. Now you may be asking what that means and I will fess up and say that Master Beekeeper Tom Wilk brought 6 expensive bottles of Ice Wine to raffle off and I totally forgot that we had them and will have to wait until the St. Patrick's & St. Joseph's Day Celebration on March 15th. We will have Tom explain how this expensive stuff is made, it is very, very interesting. Fr. Kevin was so excited for Bernie's Dessert day, and said that he would have deferred to Bernie to say the Grace, IF, it was a Surf and Turf Day instead of desserts. That led to a whole lot of money being thrown around for a **Fr. Kevin and Maureen Day** at the ranch or a place that specializes in Lobster Tails and Filet Mignon. Let's see what we can do...

"GET STUFF DONE"

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

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

Race Four: After some folks went up to the dessert table for the 3rd, 4th and 5th time, Bob gave a short presentation on our upcoming SLP Convention to be held at IS 77 in Ridgewood. We are bringing together our 11 – Builders Clubs and our 6 – K-Kids Clubs for a day of showing off their talents and projects, along with Forums and other educational activities. The key is to have FUN on this day and we are certain that will happen. Bill then asked Bob to speak about our happy dollars for the day. Last week, Charlie who works across the street at Lisa's Deli had his apartment destroyed by fire, losing everything that he owned. It was a horrible scene and the club decided to donate, ALL of the day's Happy Dollars to Charlie. Papi Chulo Rodriguez went across the street and had Charlie come over to the clubhouse where we presented him with \$740.



Special thanks to Joe the Plumber, Michael Addeo, Bob & BettyAnn Monahan for their generous gifts, and to all who contributed to this wonderful and compassionate cause. 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 BIG HAPPY dollars to thank Bill for having HIS special dessert day. Bernie the Burglar had a short speech prepared where he remembered his dear wife Ann who was with us in spirit and his son Michael who was working today. Somehow, Diane Cusimano, BettyAnn Monahan and a few other members packed up to go boxes filled with desserts for Bernie to bring home, thus reducing the leftovers for those diabetics who work at the ranch. Having fun at 3-2-1.



Race Five: Happy Dollars were flowing for most of the meeting. DPP Janine was one of the photographers for the afternoon, Carlos Rodriguez jumped in to be the sheriff, Gino was taking some pictures, and the folks looked really nice with their little party hats on. **EXCEPT**, as you can observe, Linda Manetta and Mary Benitez who refused to cooperate. Just look at these two faces and know that **payback is a ...** Somehow, the two culprits got Joseph Then to put on each of their hats at one time. Looks like one happy devil in this shot. And not to be outdone, there's Joe Florio looking a bit happy with all those bands on his beard. Joe, you look marvelous, simply marvelous. Thanks for being a good sport.



STAKES Race Six: Bill was a busy President today as he also mentioned that we were going to be meeting at 6:00 PM with the NY District Governor, other dignitaries and some of our members to discuss recurring concerns that we've had, and continue to have, with one specific "Distinguished" Past Governor. To put it into 3-2-1 terms, unfortunately, it is like beating a dead horse. **Spoiler Alert**, it was a very productive meeting with HOPE that we can continue to do **OUR, REAL** DISTINGUISHED work without interference from some "leaders" in Kiwanis. Let's focus on the many 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. We are a bit baffled and surprised that no one found it important to announce at the Conference that Ridgewood was ONE of ONLY TWO Clubs in NY District to achieve a perfect score. **That's ONE of ONLY TWO Clubs (out of over 250 Clubs) in NY 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 or at the TOP, and when you have only 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! We will continue to fight the fight so that the BULLIES don't win and Kiwanis, truly lives in a "culture" of Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion for ALL in our beloved Kiwanis.

George Santayana says this line in the closing section of Volume I of his book back in 1905. He basically argues that, **if our world is ever going to make progress, it needs to remember what it's learned from the past.** After all, **change isn't the same thing as progress.**

In a 1948 speech to the House of Commons, Churchill paraphrased Santayana when he said, **"Those who fail to learn from history are condemned to repeat it."**

Race Seven: Joseph Alfano was fresh off his Chairing our Valentine Day Meeting and was joined by lots of folks. 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, DPP Gino Ancona, Paul Hoffmann and Joan Hoffmann, Maureen Powell and Fr. Kevin Powell, Diane Cusimano, Shiv Ramsamooj, BettyAnn Monahan, Bernie Zablocki, Community Affairs Officer Dilsia Bonilla, Aidan Leavens, TJ Ritter, Jayne Wadhawan, Linda Manetta, Mary Benitez, DPP Liz Fitzgerald, Andy Villion, Dina DePaola, Danielle Kleiman, Joe the Plumber, Francesca Fedkowskyj, Papi Chulo Rodriguez, Sabrina Montero, Diane Marzuillo, Henrietta Maier, Tom Wilk, Joseph Then, Michael Addeo, Cat Siegel, John Hennessey and some other folks that missed signing in.

Race Eight: Upcoming Events include:

- **March 15th – St. Patrick's and St. Joseph's Day Celebration – 12:00 PM**
- **March 18th – Aktion Club Karaoke Day at the Clubhouse – 12 to 2 PM**
- **March 25th – Rummage Sale at the Clubhouse 10-5, all needed and welcome**
- **April 5th – Easter Egg hunt and more fun things**



Race Nine: Bill closed the meeting at 1:05. We collected \$740 in Happy Dollars and \$250 in cash for food, plus \$60 in VENMO.



Passion ✦ Respect ✦ Inclusion ✦ Diversity ✦ Equity

3 – 2 – 1... AND THEY'RE OFF





Party Hats, no TIE but Cuffs ready if Bernie gets out of hand!

Desserts and Pizza always go better with Diet Pepsi.

Homemade Coffee Cake, Cannoli's, Rainbow Cake, Red Velvet Cake, Sheet Cake with Vanilla and Chocolate cake, Homemade Cannoli Sticks, some Greek Pastries, and a whole lot more. Then we had two Grandma pizzas and two Sicilian pizzas for all to share. This was a fun time with party hats, masks for Bernie the Burglar and Rocky the Wonder Dog, and pictures and blow ups of Bernie that had him looking like Dutch Schultz (the mobster) his pre pampers Baby picture in cloth diapers and a whole bunch more memories. Congrats!!



Don't mess with Diane when she has a knife in her hand.



No party hat for Mary as she tries to sneak some desserts.



Diane holding up one of the pictures from Bernie's younger days.



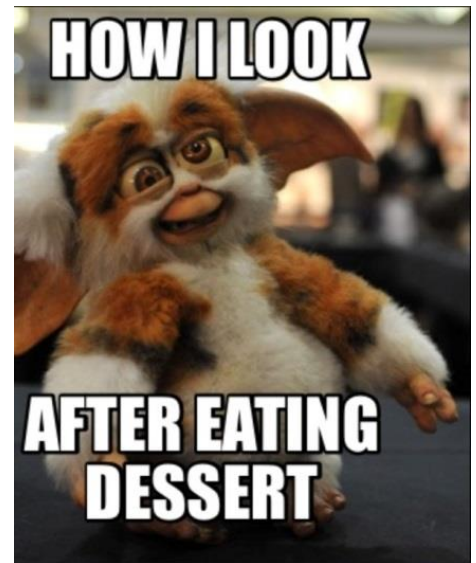
Bernie Zablocki...IS, THE MAN!!



Joe the Plumber holds on for dear life trying to avoid eating some of EACH of the desserts. What did you say Papi Chulo? This was his SECOND ROUND at the dessert table!! NO WAY!!



Who tries to hide from having a picture taken of them when they're wearing a NAME TAG, DINA, DINA, DINA??





Thanks to Diane Cusimano for making this special sash for the Man of Honor to wear at his Celebration. Looking Awesome



Bernie... Bernie... Bernie were the chants that came from the members. Today was Bernie's Day to celebrate and in the spirit of following the rules, Bernie was first on line to get food. Here's a story you won't hear often, Joe "The Plumber" Florio came to the meeting today because he heard it was Bernie Zablocki Day. Only problem: he thought Carlos said Souvlaki Day and he came expecting Greek Food. Joe is now the Chairman of GREEK DAY!



GREEK DAY COMING SOON!!

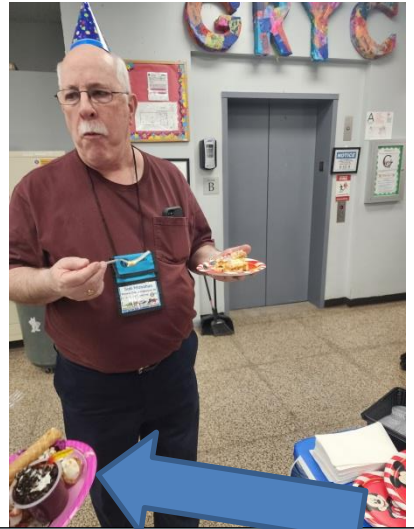




Souvlaki, Zablocki who cares!!
If you look two pictures to the right, guess whose plate in on the lower left hand side of the pic.



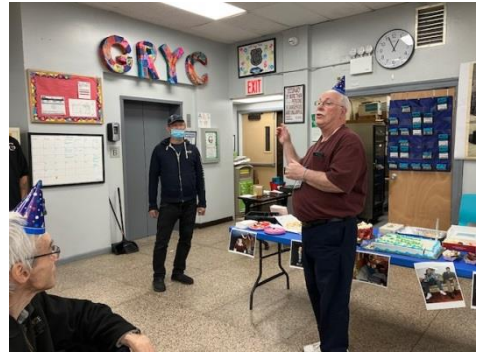
Yes Joe, they do sound alike, but there's something that rhymes with HOPE for someone who thinks a cannoli is a cigar.



YUP, busted with a sampler plate



Hey wait a second, is Gino missing a name tag? AND a Party Hat, AND a mask??? It's ok, mom will pay the fines and then you're grounded. LOL



In 2008 Kiwanis International passed this resolution regarding Diversity, Equity and Inclusion.

Therefore, be it resolved that the delegates assembled at the 2008 Kiwanis International convention in Orlando, Florida, and all Kiwanis leaders and members to take action to create a culture and club environment that develops and nurtures mutual respect for all and celebrates the inclusiveness of our beloved Kiwanis.

MIGHT WE BE THE ONES...

who see potential where others see a problem

who provide support where others offer resistance

who lift up where others write off

Might we be the ones who say, "It's possible."

With the right tools & a little belief, we could help someone clear out doubt so there's ample space for dreams.

Rachel Macy Stafford @handsforacause

People may doubt what you say, but they will ALWAYS BELIEVE WHAT YOU DO.