



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: January 6, 2021

VOLUME 4 Number 7

Race One: Today would have been the first official meeting of 2021, but, as all of you know, NO CAN DO. As has been the case when we are unable to meet in person, you get to receive a virtual newsletter in an effort to keep all of us connected and focused on the mission to serve during these difficult times. Here we go, there were over 50 members and friends present to see President Janine clap the gong and ask everyone to rise from their seats to recite the Pledge to our Flag. Everyone was socially distanced and at the completion of honoring our Flag and what it stands for, Janine asked DEACON Kevin Powell to give the blessing. As always, Kevin was inspiring **as he asked for the club to remember those in need and the gifts that we have to offer in service to others.**

Race Two: The meet was, as mentioned, held indoors in the large meeting room at the clubhouse and spilled out onto our beautiful outdoor Deck. We had the tents put up, along with their side panels to keep in some warmth. Master Electrician, Chris McDougall, retro-fitted a heater/blower to make the space comfortable and available. Thanks, Chris that counts as an Attendance Credit. (Lord knows you need them) Thanks Carlos, Jason, Joseph and the rest of the members for setting up the room and the corral for social distancing. Kenny Dunn was in his usual seat and said that he wasn't going to miss out on our amazing lunch. Today we traveled to Greece, via Ditmars & Astoria Boulevards. First up, our traditional Greek Salad with Kalamata olives (flown in from Peloponnese), Tzatziki and Pita, Fried Squid, Florina and Spanakopita. Kotosoupa was the next up in individual soup containers, donated by TASTY on Myrtle, and that led straight into Arakas me aginares, Tsouknidopiat & Horta for our VEGETARIANS AND Moussaka, Paidakia & Souvlaki for we meat lovers. NO not Zablocki, Souvlaki. And just when everyone thought that they would explode from this over-eating, Michael Addeo strolls in with Melomakalona, Pasteli and Baklava from his favorite Greek Bakery on Crescent Street. Mayoral Candidate Eric Adams was in the house again and thanked us for the lesson in Greek Culture and felt ready to campaign in Northwest Queens with this knowledge under his belt. Thanks for attending Borough President Adams. PDG Joe Corace and PDG Steve Sirgiovanni were in the house to break bread and say hello.

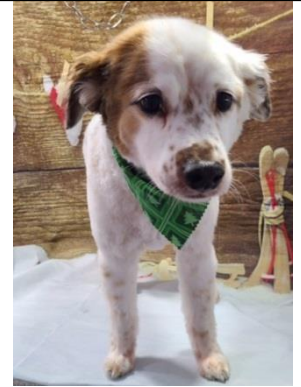
 Bernie Zablocki, yet again, found a way to beat Kenny Dunn to the front of the line. Slim and fast win most of the time. Hank Kraker was at the meeting and could be seen looking around for our buddy, JR Velepec, who was deep sea fishing off the coast of Cyprus. If anyone wants to elaborate and describe specifically what we actually ate for lunch, send me the answers and win a beautiful MYSTERY prize worth at least \$25 - \$50.

Race Three: Janine asked for any Happy Dollars and guests and Bob introduced the Commanding Officer of the 104th Precinct, Captain Louron Hall who spoke about community issues throughout his command. Back in the house was Deputy Inspector Victoria Perry who has been busy with the NYPD Holiday Gift and Sleigh Ride Initiative for Community Affairs. Thanks for sharing and allowing the 3-2-1 Club to make a LOT OF KIDS happy for Christmas. Yes, we still love you and know that you love us. There were lots of happy dollars for both Captain Hall and DI Perry. Along for the ride were 104's Community Affairs Officers Mike Berish and Asar Sanad, joined by Sgt. Ed Reiman, YCO's Amato and Bush, NCO's Santos and Nessler and RETIRED Detective Tommy Bell.



Race Four: Happy Dollars continued as members and guests praised the Club's Holiday Family Project that contributed over \$5,000 to families and children in need. Thanks to all who made that happen and for those of you who missed this opportunity... you surely missed something very, very special and wonderful. President Al Gentile of the Middle Village Club (our sponsoring Club) stopped by to break bread. Al is quite familiar with Astoria!! Liran Gross and Michael Addeo, both tie-less, are working very hard to reactivate the Fresh Pond Road Chamber of Commerce, along with member Mike Romer from Force Fitness was unable to attend today. There were Holiday Lights and special sales going on during December. Also in attendance and back in the saddle was Andrew Trumbetti from Cross County. John and Margie Stahl were at the meet to ask for and accept more diapers and wipes for the Blessing Bags that continue to go to MICIH at Wyckoff Heights Hospital. Joan Hoffmann was in the house with son, Paul.

Rocky "the Wonder Dog"
Club mascot of the year!!



Race Five: Thanks again 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 and a picture of the final standings for this season is in this newsletter. If you owe money, please pay up. The Club generated over \$2,000 for a donation program started by Hank, JR and Kenny a few years ago. Thanks gentlemen for this great fundraiser. Rafal from Oliwa came in to "donate" as did, Bill Rennison, Michael Addeo, Diane Cusimano, DPP Liz Fitzgerald, DPP Dave Fitzgerald, Joe Florio Lucian Matej and Bernie Z 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 Six: Times are tough. Times are tough for EVERYONE. The uncertainties that come along with this horrific pandemic have changed many things. It is impossible to hold our regular in-person meetings because we have too many members who attend. There are other clubs that would love to have that problem, but, sometimes it is a matter of how we look at things that matters. Our business members are trying to stay alive and hope to recover from this damn virus and what it has done to our lives and economy. In spite of that circumstance, the 3-2-1 continues to see an outpouring of support and generosity from our Business community. Michael Addeo, Hank Kraker, Tony DiPiazza, JR Velepec, Rafal Ziolkowski, Alan Bellone, Chris McDougall, Lucian Matej, Diane Cusimano, Tom Wilk, Joe "the Plumber" Florio, John Hennessey, Al Bellington, Kenny Dunn, Liran Gross (and I apologize if I missed anyone else) have all continued to contribute to our Service Projects. Folks, The Kiwanis Club of Ridgewood, NY 3-2-1 is a SERVICE CLUB, a group of volunteers that come together to improve the quality of life for our communities. It is not a lunch club, it is not a spectator sport, it is not a meeting to meeting event where we have fun, laugh and enjoy each other's company for one hour at a time, every other Wednesday and then wait till the next one and repeat the process. Ridgewood 3-2-1 is an opportunity to SERVE others who have less than us, who need us to bring a smile to their faces, to make a difference in the lives of others. Ridgewood 3-2-1 is delivering 32,000 meals to Front Line Workers and First Responders in the heart of the pandemic; it is sponsoring 10 families at Christmas at \$350 each to provide food, clothing and toys for their children; it is offering our KIDDY KIDZ in Pre-K, toys and gifts for the Holiday; it is providing 50 bagels to the Officers at the 104th and 75th Precincts on Christmas Day, New Years Day and other times throughout the pandemic; it is distributing 500 Blessing Bags to the Mothers of Newborns at Wyckoff Heights Hospital; it is giving 2,750 Backpacks filled with School Supplies to students in need; and, so much more. NOW here is the question??? How much of that did YOU feel connected to and a part of?? Are you an ACTIVE Kiwanian, proud to be a part of so much great stuff?? If not, we should chat about what YOU believe Kiwanis is, or isn't, in your world. Our club potential is multiplied by the number of ACTIVE members that we have. It is exhausting chasing down folks for dues, money owed for raffles, money owed for Pools, etc. Please, you know what you owe, just send it in and allow us to do even more good for our communities. Sound too passionate, well that comes from being an ACTIVE Kiwanian for over 35 years.

Race Seven: Another nice representation of GRYC Directors and staff came to enjoy the meal and support their friend and leader, Janine. If I remember correctly, here are the attendees: Dina DePaola, Ariel Triunfel, Danielle Kleiman, Maria Batista, Papi Chulo Rodriguez, Paul Hoffmann, Mary Benitez, Maricelis Romero, Raquel Chin and Xiomara Pina. DPP Liz Fitzgerald and Catherine “Siegel” Zahedi were back at the ranch and many of the Directors went to dine “outdoors” on the deck. Christine Halloran and Walter Welsh were at the ranch along with Sky Pilot Kevin Powell and his bride Maureen Powell. Joan Hoffmann, was in there serving lunch and helped with the 50-50. Diane has been making money for the club each week through her muscling sales methods. President Janine Mahon was happy to see her daughter, Claire at the meeting. Claire recently had the club donate essential items AND chocolate to the Toddler Parents at St. Mary’s Children’s Hospital. Seems they have been living there to be with their children due to the pandemic. Please continue to keep Tina Forte, our best Crossing Guard ever, in your prayers as she is battling some medical issues. John Hennessey from Ridgewood Savings is not allowed to attend outside events because of the risk of COVID. Bronco Bill Rennison was in the corral trying to keep Diane Cusimano calm and relaxed with the 50-50. These two were the recipients of the Kiwanian of the Year Award from Gino. Both are attendees at every event, are Board Members, mentor our young members and are community activists to the Nth degree. Thanks to both of you, and all of our other members for making the Kiwanis Club of Ridgewood, NY 3-2-1 such an awesome club.

Race Eight: Upcoming Events include:
January 12th – In-Person and Zoom Board Meeting at 4:00 PM at the Clubhouse. Yes, it is a Tuesday.
There will be a maximum of 15 people in the big room and we will be socially distanced, plus some.
February 3rd – Possible In-Person meeting at the Clubhouse, conditions allowed. Indoor/Outdoor dining.

Race Nine: The meeting ended a bit late because we had a lot of stuff to take care of. The total of \$447 was collected in Happy Dollars, Food Money and the 50-50 collection.



3 – 2 – 1... AND THEY'RE  FF



No, Claire, nobody knows that this picture is ours on New Year’s Eve. With the pandemic, no one has seen the inside of the house for months. WE’RE in the Clear.

You really have to love this quiet time with libations, cheese, meats, Ritz crackers, bread and veggies. If anyone knocks on the door, we’ll pretend we’re not home.





Emergency Home Food Delivery!

Russo's On The Bay is proud to be apart of the GetFood NYC Program. For those who are unfamiliar, the GetFood NYC Program is designed for those who are unable to go outside, don't have someone to help get food and can't afford food delivery due to COVID-19.

You are eligible for the program if you:

- Are unable to go out and get food for yourself, **and**
- Do not have someone else in your household or a neighbor or friend who can get food for you, **and**
- Do not receive enough food from Meals on Wheels, God's Love We Deliver, or a similar service to cover your daily food needs, **and**
- Are unable to afford food delivery from a restaurant or grocery store.

Sign up at nyc.gov/getfood or, call 311 and say "Get Food."

Sign Up Today!
nyc.gov/getfood

BOOKING WITH CONFIDENCE

Russo's Group is committed to providing the safest possible catering experience for you. Along with the new safety precautions our team will be taking, we ask that you help ensure everyone's safety and enjoyment while dining or having your event with us.



TEAM WELLNESS

All team members are monitored daily for any signs of illness when they arrive to work.



MASKS

Masks are to be worn at all times by our team members, and we ask that you wear a mask when you enter any of our establishments. If you do not have a mask, we will provide one.



HAND SANITIZING

Our team is washing & sanitizing their hands frequently throughout the day and we ask that you take advantage of the sanitizing stations in the venue.



DEPOSIT MONEY

All Deposit Money paid to Russo's under a contract is guaranteed to be returned to you, if Russo's/Vetro is closed for business because of a voluntary or involuntary bankruptcy filing brought by or against Russo's prior to your event.



SAFE ENVIRONMENT

Using UV technology and TwinOxide, we've taken extra steps to sanitize our facilities. 99.9% effective against all pathogens including COVID, SARS, fungus and mold.



NEWLY PROTECTED LINENS

Using a dual patented laundry protection system, our linens are protected 24/7 with antimicrobial protection which controls harmful bacteria such as odor, mold, E-Coli, MRSA and Staph up to 99.9%.

Russo's On The Bay | (718) 843-5055 | www.russosonthebay.com
162-45 Cross Bay Blvd. Howard Beach, NY 11414

