



# KIWANIS CLUB OF RIDGEWOOD, NY 3-2-1

Meets 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday, 12 Noon @ GRYC Clubhouse, 59-03 Summerfield Street, Ridgewood, NY 11385



## The Triple Crown Newsletter

**RESULTS OF MEET FOR:** April 7, 2021

**VOLUME 4 Number 13**

**Race One:** What an incredible day for our meeting to celebrate Polish Day. The sun was shining and we had another large group to honor Big Bob Wisniewski's birthday. To say that "WE'RE BACK!!!" would be a true understatement. The event was Socially Distanced and safe. We definitely complied with all City and State guidelines and regulations. The meet was at our regular time and in the Clubhouse and our outdoor spacious deck. 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. Bob then asked Rafal Ziolkowski to say a blessing in his native Polish and it sounded heartfelt and incredible. Both asked for 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. Kevin also asked for a moment of silence for the loss of one of our community homeless men who passed away over the weekend. The gentleman was of Polish origin, sad to say. Rest in Peace, AMEN!!

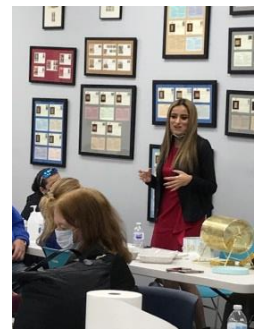
**Race Two:** The meet was held indoors in the large meeting room at the clubhouse and arranged in such a way that the 15-20 folks who have received their double doses of vaccines were seated together on 3 separate tables, 10-15 folks that have antibodies or a single dose of vaccine were interspersed among 4-5 tables with everyone distanced and wearing masks, (except to eat) and all were comfortable and relaxed. Janine invited everyone up to eat our absolutely delicious Stuffed Cabbage, Pierogi's and Kielbasa over sauerkraut. The meal was prepared for us by Werner Lehner from, you guessed it, Zum Stammtisch. Seems Werner had some Pierogis hanging around and it worked out perfectly. We picked up the Kielbasas on Forest Avenue and had them cooked and prepared over the sauerkraut. MMM, mmmm! Thanks really go out to Mary Benitez who prepared all of the Stuffed Cabbage at home. If you are thinking how is it that Mary could make such an awesome Polish dish, well, her birth name is Wisniewski, yes, Big Bob's niece. We are truly blessed.



**Race Three:** There was a really nice blend of folks at the meeting, as always. Young and not so young, men and women, GRYC staff and Community Business peeps, NYPD Officers and Elected Officials, SDPLG's, DPLG's and DPP's of various Kiwanis Clubs, all making Ridgewood 3-2-1 one of the most Diverse clubs in Kiwanis. This is a club of inclusion, everyone is welcome and that's what makes serving others so much a part of our mission. Congrats on getting it right and having fun doing it all. Community Affairs Office Mike Berish was joined by his friend and mentor, retired NYPD Detective Tommy Bell, PBQN YCO's P.O. Rich Bufano and Sgt. Derek Barreto rounded out the NYPD contingent this week. Joining them at the table were; Dennis Remorca, our newest member, along with Giray Atacay and James Healy, all from Remorca Fitness. DIPPY Gino Ancona was sporting his newest facemask and proud of it, Carlos "AQUAMAN" was in the house along with Master Beekeeper Tom Wilk and Jayne Wadhawan from Valley National Bank, both boasting about their Polish Heritage. Michael Addeo from Ridgewood Office Products gave some happy dollars to announce their 76<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in business, 57 Years on Fresh Pond Road, and Bob gave some more bucks for the honor of having known Michael Addeo, SR. for many years as a friend and fellow Ridgewood Kiwanian. The original Ridgewood Kiwanis Club Charter goes back to the 1920's and we have our trophy AND GONG to prove it. LOL



**Race Four:** Since this was a BUSY day, we blended our Happy Dollars with our Programs. DPLG Janice Bar was on hand to speak with the members and guests about her quest to become the Lt. Governor for the QW Division. Janice gave a short talk on her many years and accomplishments in Kiwanis, both in Queens West and Suffolk West. Janice also warned the members, not to get up and leave a meeting as you could become the next Lt. Governor or President. Then Mike Porcelli had an opportunity to present his passionate program on the Gold Shield, an organization dedicated to eliminating Veteran Suicides and the high rate of Veteran Cancers. The Club immediately donated \$250 to pay the annual membership fee and to support Mike's efforts. The Club then paid the winners of the March Madness Pool and made some folks pretty happy. Once everyone had a chance to go up and get served their awesome meal, we mentioned that there were DONUTS from Northside Bakery, provided by Stammtisch. Janine had \$\$ to welcome back SDPLG x 2, Mike Miller and a whole host of other members gave money to say hello to Mike. Diane Cusimano gave \$\$ for something and was really, really busy doing the 50-50. Diane made an extra \$70 for her efforts and we are very thankful for her enthusiasm and energy and leadership and humor, OK, you get the picture. Alan Bellone delivered our new KARAOKE SHIRTS on Tuesday and although we knew he wasn't coming to the meeting, he kept whining and insisting that he'd be there. Guess what...a NO SHOW for the meeting. Rumor has it that Assemblywoman Jenifer Rajkumar, a member of 3-2-1 heard there might be Karaoke and was ready to show us her singing abilities, but, we had to postpone to next week. Jenifer did get to tell the club about Albany and the budget process and we are grateful to have her fighting for us. Bronco Bill Rennison was in the house and was the acting SHERIFF, hat and all and did an outstanding job collecting money from the members. Thanks Bill and remember, Ice Cream season is upon us.



**Race Five:** President Janine had made an announcement at the last meeting about our Easter support for families in need and informed the club that over \$2,000 was distributed in gift cards to families who have been impacted in a serious way with the uncertainties of our world. Thanks to Kenny Dunn who brought this idea to the Board and thanks to our members and friends who participated in our many events to raise those funds. Our friend and member, P.O. Asar Sanad gave birth to little Amir on March 11<sup>th</sup>. He was 7 pounds 3 ounces and 20 ½ long. Congratulations to Asar and family who also sent a very nice thank you note for the gifts from the Club.

**Race Six:** There is a standing tradition in Kiwanis that the Club banner may be adorned with patches, awards and other significant items that have fond memories attached to them. One of them could be a necktie that club members can bid to cut off of the unsuspecting member or visitor. Others are patches from Kiwanis District and Divisions for completing events and projects within Kiwanis International. DPLG Debbie Kueber will be coming to our next meeting on April 21<sup>st</sup> to give Gino his awards and recognize their Distinguished Year of Service. **DIPPY** Gino means; **D**istinguished **I**mmEDIATE **P**ast **P**resident of the **Y**ear.



**Race Seven:** A nice showing of members from the “G” were present. Danielle Kleiman, Catherine Siegel, Dina DePaola, Edwing Vilsaint, Andy Villion, Christine Halloran, Patrick Wagner, Diane Cusimano, Clark McKinney, Linda Manetta, David Volcy, Joseph Then, Maricelis Romero, Sabrina Sierra, Carlos “Aquaman” Rodriguez, Maria Batista, Celina Rosario, Elvira Rodriguez, Joann Siegel, DPP Liz Fitzgerald and hubby DPP Dave Fitzgerald, Paul Hoffmann with mom Joan Hoffmann and Maureen Powell with Sky Pilot Kevin Powell. BettyAnn Monahan made it two in a row, as did SDPLG Mike Miller, and they saw Tom “Master Beekeeper” Wilk, DPLG John Stahl, Jayne Wadhawan and Lucian Matej in attendance. Carlos brought Tina Forte, our former Crossing Guard some of our food fest and she told him that she missed the club and the fun of the meetings. Tina is battling some medical issues and we ask that you keep her in your prayers.

**Race Eight:** Upcoming Events include:

**April 14<sup>th</sup> - Board Meeting at 4:00 PM at the Clubhouse. In-Person attendance ONLY.**

**There will be a maximum of 20 people in the big room/socially distanced, plus some.**

**April 21<sup>st</sup> - In-Person GERMAN DAY Meeting at the Clubhouse. Indoor/Outdoor dining.**

**May 1<sup>st</sup> – Kentucky Derby Day at the ranch. If you are in the Pool, you have a ticket to attend.**

**May 5<sup>th</sup> – Latin American Day at the ranch. Meal sponsored by Fr. Mike Lopez for his fellow members.**

**Come and celebrate with us.**

**May 19<sup>th</sup> – English Day at the ranch. Hank Kraker has a special day planned for all in attendance.**

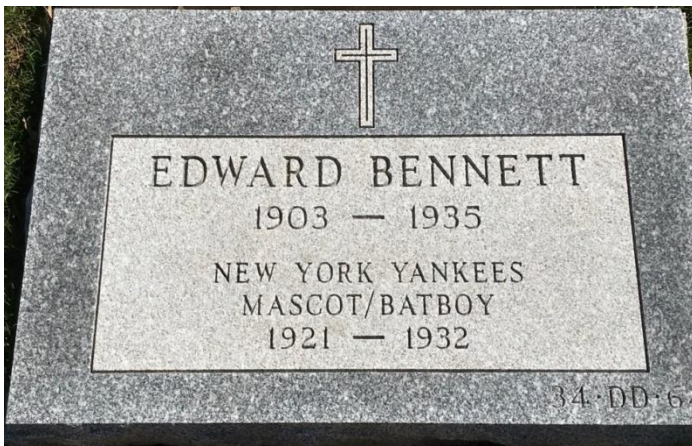
**Race Nine:** The meeting ended at 1:00. The total amount of money collected in Happy Dollars, Food Money, 50-50 and Grid Boxes was \$750.



**3 – 2 – 1... AND THEY'RE OFF**



Good Lord, they said that having diabetes would require exercise and drinking a lot of water. So Bob had me carry all of these cases down to the basement and said I now had plenty to drink. Uh oh!



Someone sent me a story about Edward Bennett who was the batboy and mascot for the NY Yankees from 1921 to 1932. He would bring out as many as 20 bats for Babe Ruth to pick just the right one for him to use, in a single game. He was in an unmarked grave until a local man heard about him, found his gravesite and put the headstone that you see in honor of this young man. Poor Edward Bennett died at only 32 years old when he was found deceased in his small apartment. This stone is in St. John's Cemetery along Cooper Avenue near 88<sup>th</sup> Street. Google it!



**Day: Easter Sunday**  
**Place: Myrtle Avenue & 70<sup>th</sup> Street**  
**Event: Sunrise or "Son"rise**

On Easter Sunday morning, the Ridgewood 3-2-1 Club bought bagels for the 104<sup>th</sup> Precinct. It was a "thank you" for protecting us and keeping us safe. It allowed us to serve the Midnight to 8:00 tour and the 8:00 to 4:00 tour. We are proud to be community partners with our Finest friends.