



## The Triple Crown Newsletter

RESULTS OF MEET FOR: February 16, 2022

VOLUME 5 Number 11

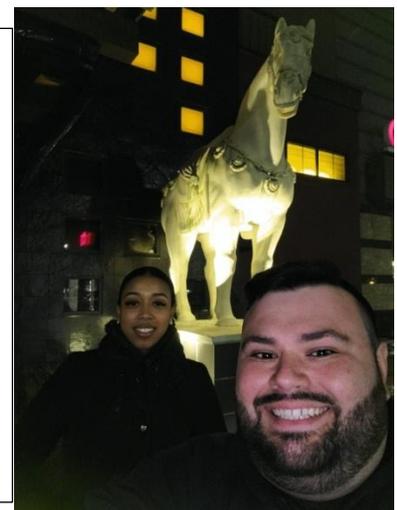
**Race One:** Weather was a bit cool, but we are back in person getting ready for our March Madness meetings. About 20 members enjoyed a Square Table set up by Carlos “Papi Chulo” Rodriguez and Joseph Then. As NYC and NYS continue to see a decline in positive cases of COVID, Ridgewood 321 will remain vigilant to protect all of us. President Maricelis had to use another device to clap the gong since LG Carol Verdi stole our gavel. We will bring 10 members to go and retrieve the gavel on March 1<sup>st</sup>. Everyone was asked to rise from their seats to recite the Pledge to our Flag and then Birthday Boy/Sky Pilot Fr. Kevin Powell gave a beautiful blessing. As always, Kevin was inspiring and right on point.

**Race Two:** The meet was held indoors in the large gathering space, a fancy new term for our big room in the basement. As mentioned, Ridgewood 321 is preparing for our BIG TIME meetings that are planned for MARCH. So March 2<sup>nd</sup> will be our Distinguished Celebration for the Club and Immediate Past President Janine Mahon. That would make Janine a DIPPY even though the Past Governor, who never visited our club, might not have thought so. Then two weeks later will be our March 16<sup>th</sup> meeting for St. Patrick’s and St. Joseph’s Meeting. More details to come on both of those events, as we get closer. Again, NO, Kenny Dunn at the meet, nor were his Past President buddies; John Stahl, Mike Miller, Hank Kraker, Dave Fitzgerald and Liz Fitzgerald. But absolutely present were Birthday Boy Kevin Powell and Birthday Girl Kati McMullin. They were offered first shot at the food and they absolutely took the opportunity. The food for the day included Three Foot Heroes from DeliDelicious on 71<sup>st</sup> Street and Myrtle Avenue.

**Race Three:** President Maricelis and DPP Gino Ancona were up at the podium giving a synopsis of their trip to the Desmond Hotel in Albany for the NY District Mid-Winter Conference. That is when the Ridgewood Club has been accustomed to winning multiple District Awards and receiving their Distinguished Club, President and Secretary recognitions. However, this year, Governor Brenda Leigh Johnson, hot off losing 437 members in the District, apparently decided to take it out on our Club, for no valid reasons, and determined all of our massive work and accomplishments weren’t worthy of her approval. Yes, there is nasty stuff in Kiwanis too. Sorry to say, we have brought this to the attention of the International President in an effort to get accountability and transparency. You guessed it, we are on our own. Not to worry, we are a great club, strong, diverse, focused on community service and will be fine without her approval.



*Gino and Maricelis went out to the store and bought bags of stuff to donate to Kamp Kiwanis for the upcoming season. They used their own money to make this donation. Great Job.*



**Race Four:** Maricelis asked Bob to explain the dynamics of the Conference and what actually happened with the awarding process. Bob started by saying that the Newsletter that you are reading and have read for the last 3 years, was blocked from winning the Best Newsletter Award by a Past Governor. Yes, although we have won for the past THREE Years, this year this newsletter was deemed a rag and didn't place in the top 3 Places. Oddly enough, we asked to see the rubric and score sheet and they don't seem to be available. Well, how about them apples. There were 10 categories to score from 1 – 5 with 5 being the highest. You won't believe it folks, there isn't a rubric to be found with the scores. Our Scrapbook was 2<sup>nd</sup> Place finisher after winning 3 years in a row. The club got Honorable Mention for our Pride Day Meeting, the ONLY ONE OF ITS KIND IN THE DISTRICT. Gino was a bit upset because the winner was a Dictionary Program that had no description. In fairness, this was an International Category called **Citizenship/International Relations**, so maybe the dictionaries were shipped overseas. We also received Honorable Mention for our day at CitiField where, in partnership with the NYPD and Operation Gratitude, we prepared 7,500 gift bags to distribute to NYPD Officers on the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of 9-11. Canandaigua, NY, (Population 10,576), won with Halloween Treats. WE rented a bus for the club to go up to Canandaigua for Halloween next year. We were ignored for installing a \$40,000 Fitness Center at the 104<sup>th</sup> Precinct at a time when the NYPD was being defunded and spit upon. We were also ignored for two other categories that we have won previously, TWICE. And this isn't my virtual newsletter where I'm making this stuff up.

**OH NO it didn't end there!!** There is a Distinguished Club, President and Secretary Status that is given to clubs who complete certain criteria. There are 11 separate categories and requirements that must be completed, UNLESS they are waived by the Governor. One is that the club must have a positive growth, but since the Queens West Division and many other Divisions throughout NY District lost members to COVID, etc, that was apparently waived by Governor Brenda Leigh Johnson. EXCEPT FOR US since we completed the other 10 categories. Again, no rubric used, and our response when we asked how the decision was made; just a condescending reply that said it was up to the Governor ALONE to award Distinguished status. That must make it a PERSONAL decision. I have attached my response to their request to justify Distinguished Status and you be the judge. Oh BTW, a club of 9 members who met virtually for most of the year was given Distinguished because they went from 8 to 9 members, +1. Also, the Queens West Lt. Governor was awarded Distinguished Status with a NET LOSS of 83 members and has 7 clubs under the minimum 15 member Charter requirement and meeting NONE of the listed criteria. NOTHING PERSONAL??!! Well this turned out to be a Steeplechase Race, hurdles and water holes and all. BUT THE BOARD and all of us should be quite saddened by this course of events, especially when there is NO ACCOUNTABILITY and we paid over \$17,000 the past two years in dues. Wow what we could have done with that kind of \$\$\$.

**Race Five:** Henrietta Maier sent so BIG BUCKS to say how proud she is of the clubs accomplishments and her being a member of such a great club. Bill Rennison, Sky Pilot Kevin Powell, Carlos "Papi Chulo" Rodriguez, Retired NYPD Detective Tommy Bell, John Hennessey and Bernie Z were all in the house to prepare for March Madness. Alan Bellone came with a guest, Dr. Peggy Castillo, who doubles as his therapist when he gets beat up at the club. Long ride back to Brooklyn. Thanks all for your generosity. Having fun at Ridgewood 3-2-1.

**Race Six:** John and Margie Stahl were out of town and unable to attend. Jayne Wadhawan and Alex Lagombra were also jammed up at work and let us know that they missed the members and the fun we have. Joan Hoffmann was in the house with son, Paul. Gino and Maricelis

were chatting with German Day chairman Alfred Ziegler who let us know that he has already hooked up with Werner at Zum's to host the day. Rumor is that those in attendance will get some honey from Master Beekeeper Tom Wilk. Linda Monte was in the house and had happy dollars.

Rocky the wonder dog says, "I'm going to mark my territory and remind nasty folks to stay clear of our Distinguished Club. NO ONE messes with our President."



**Race Seven:** A lighter than usual representation of GRYC Directors and staff at the meet. I already mentioned who they were, but, people like seeing their names in print, so here we go again. Francesca Fedkowskyj, Birthday Girl Kati McMullin, Iralda Frias, Coraima Rivera, Lynn Drapala, Aidan Leavens, Damian Naranjo, Dina Depaola, Xiomara Pina, Mary Benitez, Joseph Then, and Maureen Powell. Now throw in our very own DIPPY Janine Mahon, DPP Gino Ancona, Shiv Ramsamooj, DPP Bob Monahan, and it was a nice group having fun and joking around. John Hennessey almost made the fatal error of keeping his tie on, especially after making fun of Bob, THREE TIMES. John was in great form and celebrating his \$500 win for the Super Bowl pool. pleasure to see everyone there. Speaking of winners, Sabrina Sierra was in the house to collect her \$1,050, Carlos got his \$2K and Robert P. Monahan, my son won \$500. If you were under a rock for the game, the winner of the Half Time was the same winner of the Final Score. Two times a charm. Club made a \$2,500 profit so thank you everyone for participating. Bronco Bill Rennison was in the corral and said something about lassoing a cow or a bull for our March Madness events.

**Race Eight:** Upcoming Events include:  
**March 2<sup>nd</sup> – DISTINGUISHED CELEBRATION at the clubhouse – 12 noon**  
**March 16<sup>th</sup> – St. Patrick’s & St. Joseph’s Celebration at the Clubhouse.**  
**Indoor/Outdoor dining weather permitting.**  
**March 16<sup>th</sup> – Board Meeting at the ranch at 4:00PM**



**Race Nine:** The meeting ended on time with a total of \$585 collected in Happy Dollars, Food Money and VENMO.



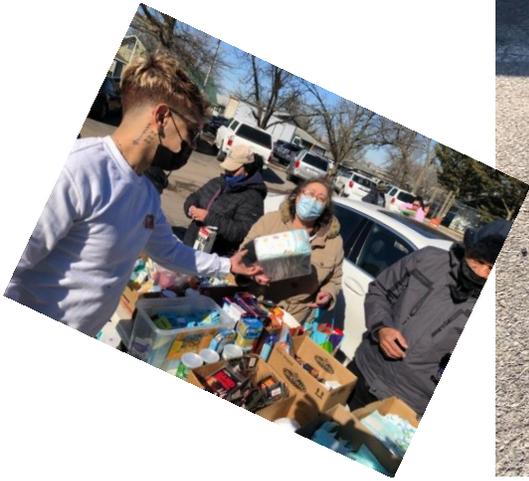
**3 – 2 – 1... AND THEY'RE OFF**



**WINNER, WINNER, STEAK DINNER**  
**Over \$5,000 in winnings for Super Bowl Grids**



*Diapers  
Diapers  
And more  
Diapers*



*The Kiwanis Club of Ridgewood 3-2-1 got a request from one of our partners, the NY Race Track Chaplaincy, to collect diapers for the Backstretch families. A \$10 Grid Box was created and holy cow did the club ever respond, selling out in a week. Each \$10 box allowed us to purchase a pack of diapers. Well done good and faithful servants.*



# KIDDY KIDZ IN ACTION Making Valentine's Day Cards for NYPD





*Sharing and Caring  
for each other*



**Ridgewood 3-2-1 Members  
NYPD Community Affairs Officers  
Mike Berish & Dilsia Bonilla  
Accept the Valentine's Day Hearts  
Created by the Kiddy Kidz Club  
at the Greater Ridgewood  
Youth Council**

*Community Partners & Friends*



**Partnering with the New York Mets and Major League Baseball, the Queens District Attorney's Office had an Information session for the participants at the GRYC Saturday Night Lights program. Participants were able to hear career path stories from the guest panelist and from the NYPD Youth Coordination Officers from PBQN. Taryn Davis from the DA's Office, Janine Mahon and Walter Welsh from the GRYC were present to experience this amazing forum. Another perfect example of serving young people in partnership with others.**



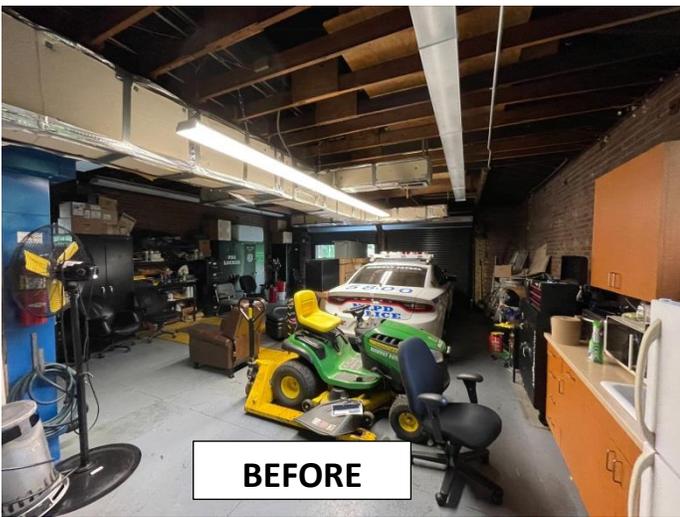
**Rigged: Manipulated or controlled by deceptive or dishonest means. I got that from a dictionary.**



**Diane Cusimano loved her gift of a Raiders Football Hat. Sorry Liz, only one on Property Room and you don't wear hats, anyway.**

**Accountability is all that is ever asked for in a contest. Transparency and valid proof are required. Without these things, evil triumphs when good people do nothing.**





**BEFORE**



**AFTER**



**BEFORE**



**AFTER**



**The Kiwanis Club of Ridgewood, NY 3-2-1 Raised over \$10,000 for the construction of the Highway Patrol Officer Anastasios Tsakos who was tragically killed in the line of duty. Partnering with Remorca Fitness and the NY Police Foundation, this \$30,000 project is to honor his service.**