



The Triple Crown Newsletter

RESULTS OF MEET FOR: July 21, 2021

VOLUME 4 Number 19

Race One: What an awesome day to celebrate the visit of International President Designate Peter Mancuso to our ranch. Although Pride Month is officially over, I will display the banner one more time to show the overall diversity of Ridgewood 3-2-1. It was a beautiful sunny day with over 40 people on hand to break bread with us. 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. Kevin asked 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. Can I get an "AMEN"!

Race Two: The meet was held indoors in the large meeting room at the clubhouse and arranged in a way that allowed for compliance with CDC rules. President Janine introduced our youth day campers who came to sing and dance for our guest, KI President Elect Peter Mancuso. They kicked it off with the "HELLO SONG" singing hello in multiple languages. Hola, Bonjour, Konnichiwa, Shalom, Jambo and others were sung to welcome Peter to our meet. Then the campers performed two other songs and dances with flags from all around the world being distributed to the members and guests to wave and display with enthusiasm. It was really, really a great demonstration of the hard work that Gino and his staff are doing at the Summerfield Day Camp. Our Queens West Lt. Governor Kerrie Hansen was in the house along with hubby Steve Hansen, President of the Glendale Kiwanis Club. At that completion of their songs and dances, the campers took their applause and began to exit and headed back to their rooms, upstairs. It was said that they would be treated to a Pizza Party for such a fine display of talent. It was mentioned that they put the whole act together in only FOUR DAYS and it stunned the crowd to hear that. Hank Kraker then mentioned that Bob was lip syncing the songs and had all of the words wrong. Thanks Hank for being so attentive and observant. There is a reason that I have my nickname on my hat, thank you very much. You see Peter; we did get "Jackass Bob" into the newsletter. LOL



GRYC Day Camp participants performing for KI President Designate Peter Mancuso.



Race Three: At that point, Peter Mancuso was invited up to speak to the members and guests about his vision for Kiwanis in his term as President. He began with a personal story about his family service to Special Needs youth and how through volunteering his children learned and developed an understanding and acceptance that is so needed in today's Kiwanis world. The lesson is that when you start small (young) great things can and do happen as was the case for him and his family. What an incredible journey and we are about to witness and share in the mission that President Mancuso has laid out for us to join. Peter then went on to focus on five principles and focus points that he has already begun and Service Leadership is paramount to that success. Also mentioned was the potential that lies in partnership with Community Based Organizations like the Greater Ridgewood Youth Council and how much can be accomplished through these efforts. We would like to thank Peter for his shout-out on his Facebook page, "It was my pleasure to present a program at an outstanding meeting of the Ridgewood 3-2-1 Kiwanis club this afternoon, at which I could not have been made to feel more welcome". In addition, the GRYC and Ridgewood 3-2-1 donated \$500 to the Kiwanis Children's Fund to support their great work and hopefully kick start Peter's efforts throughout the world of Kiwanis. It was then time for us to enjoy our specially prepared International themed lunch.





Race Four: Seems that Diane Cusimano had happy dollars for hooking up with Michael Addeo at 10:00PM on the last day of the Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Feast in Williamsburg. Diane met her 90 year old neighbor, who is struggling with some medical issues, and he told her that he had a craving for some zeppoles and the next thing you knew, Diane and her daughter Chelsea were all at the Feast to get some. Just happens that Michael, who will be the Capo de Capo's in 9 years, had just completed his lift of the Giglio but was still able help Diane complete her mission to get fried dough with powdered sugar for her neighbor. Now that is Service at its best. Diane and Chelsea helping a neighbor and Michael volunteering at the Feast for all of these years in the tradition of his Dad, Mike Addeo who was a long time Ridgewood Kiwanian, back in the day. There is a bit of Kiwanis Education here: When you have service in your blood and total being, you are always willing to help out and perform good deeds. It is not only Kiwanis Service, but, anything that you volunteer at, soup kitchens, food pantries, little leagues, etc. all count toward your Kiwanis Attendance credits. Oh, and speaking of "Godfathers", Bill Rennison (the king of service) was totally surprised by his Goddaughter Melissa Verdi who came to our meeting with Queens West Lt. Governor-Elect Carol Verdi.



Race Five: President Janine then Gave Happy Dollars for the campers who entertained us, for Gino and his staff, which when you really think about it are HER staff and if you really super analyze this, it was Janine giving happy dollars for Janine doing a great job. WOW, you can't make this stuff up, or can you? Janine then gave dollars for KI President Designate Peter Mancuso for joining us, for QW LG Kerrie Hansen, President Steve Hansen from Glendale, Melissa Verdi from the Lefferts/Liberty Club and QW LG- Elect Carol Verdi. Then Happy Dollars came for Keith Cummings and Michele Geresi from Staten Island's Richmond County Club who were at the meeting to represent the Kiwanis Anti-Bullying Project. Keith and Michele have worked with the GRYC before and have done an amazing job speaking around the Country. Out of the blue, Keith gave a \$1,000 donation to the Club for their great works and service to the Community and beyond. Thanks for your generosity. Also joining us for our meet was Rachel Kellner who owns Aigner's Chocolates on Metropolitan Avenue and created the awesome bats and balls that were given to Peter Mancuso. Oh yes, there was also a BIG box of assorted chocolates for Peter to share at home. Rachel was delighted to be with us and is looking forward to our continued work and partnerships. Then, our very own 104th Precinct Community Affairs Officer Mike Berish was joined by his mentor and predecessor, RETIRED Detective Tommy Bell, down to break bread from upstate New York. Great to see both of you, as always. Deputy Inspector Louron Hall was away on a well deserved vacation, but sent happy dollars to mention Night Out Against Crime on August 3rd. The 3-2-1 Club will be there and make our member proud. In addition, Mike Berish spoke about the Backpack giveaway for September and Janine made it clear that we will be there again offering Back to School Blessing Bags for up to 250 students.



Race Six: Our very own President Janine Mahon and I were over at PS 81 this morning with Schools Chancellor Meisha Ross-Porter. The Chancellor came to see what it was like to have over 300 students/campers having an incredibly productive time in their Summer Rising Program in Ridgewood. She went for a little walk in the water and danced to the Steel Drum that was playing music for the children and staff. Here is a brief news clip from a local TV station.

<https://brooklyn.news12.com/department-of-education-more-than-200k-kids-signed-up-for-summer-rising-across-nyc>



Race Seven: A light showing of members from the “G” at today’s meet as they were unable to catch a brief respite from their hard work and commitment to conduct the largest SUMMER PROGRAM in the agency’s history. The GRYC is serving over 3,000 kids in Day Camp and over 1,100 Summer Youth Employment Programs participants. ALL HANDS ON DECK. In spite of all of that, Sheriff Clark McKinney, Edwing Vilsaint, Andy Villion, Maria Batista, DPP Liz Fitzgerald, Carlos Rodriguez, Joseph Then, Paul Hoffmann and Maureen Powell along with hubby Deacon Kevin Powell who is also our Club Sky Pilot. OK, ok, I forgot to mention the delicious meal that consisted of Shephard’s Pie from Yerman’s Pub in Glendale, Pasta Primavera and a Mixed Salad from Grace’s Pizza in Glendale AND the Wurst Combo with Sauerkraut, Home Fries and Potato Salad from Zum Stammtisch in Glendale. Hey wait, there seems to be a pattern here, just like DPP Kenny Dunn being first on line AGAIN to start the parade of happy diners. Good Lord, even the International President wasn’t extended the courtesy of First on Line. Some traditions are very hard to break as even “sexy legs” (as Ann would have said) Bernie Zablocki couldn’t outrun the champion to the paper plates and plastic knives and forks. (But they’re really good plastic ones) Add to that, Wild Bill Rennison, Michael Addeo who was joined by Cross County Bank Manager Sabrina Montero, Joan Hoffman, Master Beekeeper Tom Wilk, Rafal Ziolkowski from Oliwa Construction and Dennis Remorca AND you can’t help but have a fun time and really nice gathering. Dennis owns Fitness Gyms in Manhattan and Rafal is bulked up too, and neither one dare challenge Champion Bull Kenny Dunn to the chow line. And last but not least, of course, our Club Secretary Hank Kraker all the way in from his new digs in East Rockaway. If I missed anyone, I truly apologize & will make it up next time.

Race Eight: Upcoming Events include:

August 3rd – Night Out Against Crime at Juniper Valley Park starting at 5:00PM. Girl Scout Cookie giveaway.

August 4th – Regular Meeting at the Clubhouse. NYPD Canine Unit scheduled to attend.

August 11th - Board Meeting in person at the clubhouse. Start time is 4:00 PM. Any 3-2-1 members may attend and see how we do business and spend our money. Please join us.

August 22nd – NYD Governor’s Visit at Forest Hills Tennis Stadium.



Race Nine: The meeting ended at 1:00 PM and the total amount of money collected in Happy Dollars and Food Money was \$750 and a few more in VENMO.

3 – 2 – 1... AND THEY'RE OFF



Some things are just worth showing again and again...



Are you freakin' kidding me, you and I planted flowers at PS/IS 128 for three hours and you ONLY have happy dollars for Pre-K at Fairview!! Well, Knock my mask right off.

Everybody wave your flag for the Day Camp Performers. This is part of our crowd, minus 20 members who are Directors at the GRYC and were at their Day Camp sites serving over 3,000 kids each day. Nice partnership lots of stuff going on.

