

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: September 20, 2023

VOLUME 6 Number 20



3 – 2 – 1... AND THEY'RE OFF



Race One: This was a regular meeting day in September and the last regular meeting for our President Bill Rennison. The meet began at 12:00 PM with President Bill Rennison hitting the gong with his gavel to call the meeting to order by asking those in attendance to rise for the Pledge to our Flag. After the Pledge, Bill asked Henrietta Maier to say a blessing that was prayerful and reflective. Thanks Henrietta for the blessing.

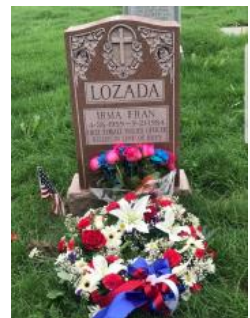
What do you mean he's in NC? Who authorized that??



Race Two: The food was on time because Gino ordered it early. Thanks Gino for organizing the food for today's meeting. YES, it was pizza and there was plenty of it for everyone at the meet. YES, it was Grace Pizza from Glendale. President Bill read some upcoming news and announcements and we had introductions for guests that were in the Clubhouse. Joining us for the first time in the Clubhouse was Jaimyline Echevarria | Senior Bank Officer and the Ridgewood Branch Manager for our Corporate Sponsor, Maspeth Federal Savings. Jaimyline was also at the Backpack Giveaway at the 104th Precinct and plans to be an active member of our great club. Along with Rozario Sylvain from Champion Elevator who attended our last meeting, both will become new Active members in the NEW Year for President Elect Danielle Kleiman.



Race Three: After our members and friends filled their plates with food, members, once again, started with the Happy and Sad and Mixed Dollars. Diane Cusimano gave mixed dollars to tell a story about NYPD Officer Irma Lozada who was the FIRST woman Police Officer shot and killed in the line of duty. It seems that Officer Lozada worked for Transit Division 33 and chased a suspect into an alley where he overtook her and shot her to death. Last year at this time, we had Captain Greg Mackie from TD 33 with us and he told us that as the Commanding Officer, HE, PERSONALLY places the wreath on her grave. Every year, Diane makes a wreath to be placed on the grave of this brave officer in Calvary Cemetery. Diane also shared that because of this tragedy, the number 14 is very special to her.



Race Four: Friends are nice to have, nice to share with and are our most precious gifts. Speaking of friends and gifts, our President gave out a few recognition awards for all of the assistance he received to make his year so ***DISTINGUISHED***. He thanked Joseph Alfano, Francesca Fedkowskyj, Diane Cusimano and DPP Gino Ancona. Seems someone went to Circo's Pastries for his Consigliere Diane and something special in a little white bag for Gino.



Then the bucks started flying around the room. JR Velepec, Tom Wilk, Diane Cusimano (again), DPP Janine Mahon, DPP Maricelis Romero, Dina DePaola, Henrietta Maier and President-Elect Danielle Kleiman all gave happy dollars for a great year by Bill and hopeful and confident \$\$\$'s for Danielle. Then Bill had some bucks to speak of the countless number of service projects performed by our awesome and distinguished club and he highlighted a few that were really special to his year, especially "BERNIE ZABLOCKI DAY". Congratulations Bill on a job well done. DPP Gino Ancona then welcomed Bill into the Past President's Club. We will not wait for the District to *not* announce it and will celebrate Distinguished Immediate Past President of the Year (DIPPY) Bill Rennison at our October 18th Meet.



What time is it? It's time to serve!!



Race Five: The Ridgewood 3-2-1 Club BOARD voted last month to suspend/eliminate our 17 SLP's because the cost is a whopping \$3,655 for our 11 – Builders Clubs and 6 – K-Kids Clubs. **NO RESPONSE** from our NY District Governor, **NO RESPONSE** from our current QW Division Lt Governor and Kiwanis International is a **NO SHOW** on “HOW CAN WE HELP YOU TO KEEP THIS FROM HAPPENING”. Although this should be extremely disappointing, our members know, without question, that through our partnership with the GRYC, this is simply a matter of branding, what name we attach to these clubs. **The kids will never suffer from the economics of this, thanks to the Ridgewood 3-2-1 and GRYC partnership.** As a matter of fact, we will have more of our participants involved in **SERVICE LEARNING PROJECTS** than ever before AND the “G” will partner with DYCD, the NYPD & FDNY and other groups to have our Youth Conference next Spring. Since the “powers that be” have chosen; No response, No Help, No money relief, we say, “NO WAY, WE PAY”!!

Race Six: So much continues to happen since our last newsletter. The 3-2-1 and Pride Club, along with the GRYC, distributed over 1,200 Backpacks loaded with school supplies; Pencils, Pens, Crayons, Markers, Rulers, Erasers, Pencil Cases, Glue Sticks, Composition Books and Safety Scissors at schools throughout our communities. We attended the Queens West Division meeting to see Lt. Governor Elect Janice Bar get her gong, gavel and banner. What a great night that was, the changing of the guard, a new focus and direction. We celebrated Victor's accomplishments and hope that Janice will build on those successes and much more.

Race Seven: Ridgewood 3-2-1 is going to have a couple of fundraisers and we are in the process of setting up the 2023 – 2024 Administrative Year Committees for President Elect Danielle Kleiman's term. The Turkey Shoot is back and will have a tentative scheduled date of November 10th. We are asking for donations of candles, alcohol, and other basket fillers. We would prefer NEW items, please. Since it is right before Thanksgiving, we will also be giving out Turkeys and all of the sides to create a delicious home cooked meal. Save the DATE, Friday, November 10th. Working **TOGETHER** always works **BETTER**.

Race Eight: Upcoming Events include:

- **September 27th – Board Meeting at 5:30 PM – Bill's Last Board Meeting**
- **September 30th – Queens Blvd 25th Anniversary Celebration at 12:00 noon**
- **October 4th – Installation of Danielle Kleiman as President of 3-2-1 @ noon**
- **October 18th – Oktoberfest and DIPPY Bill Rennison's Distinguished Party**



Race Nine: Bill closed the meeting at 1:00 PM. There was \$325.00 for Happy Dollars and Food Money. It was a good day!!!

Passion ✦ Respect ✦ Inclusion ✦ Diversity ✦ Equity

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Before

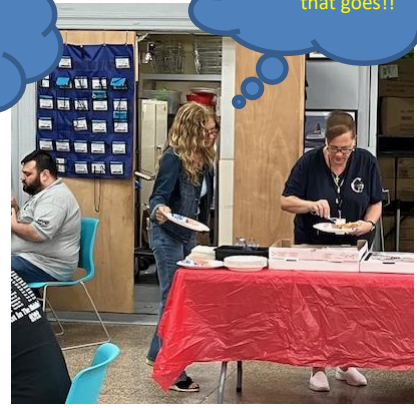
After

Round 2



Veggie, Pepperoni,
Veggie, Pepperoni,
Where's Linda??

Let's just take one of
each and see where
that goes!!



Oh that Mary,
how hard is it
to pick a slice?



PLEASE BE CAREFUL and SAFE

How amazing to have members from the Ridgewood 3-2-1 and QW PRIDE Club sharing great times at the Clubhouse. Partnerships are what make us one of the most diverse, equitable and inclusive clubs in Kiwanis. What is our trademark, you ask?? How about just playing nice in the sandbox, for starters!!

Editor's Page

Mute the negativity.

We are surrounded by negativity. If it wasn't bad enough that most of us were cursed by a preponderance of negative self-talk, we are also inundated with negative messages seemingly wherever we turn -- the news, social media and even gossip at the water cooler.

The truth is that it's human nature to be more attentive to negative content, and research shows that the average human is more physiologically activated by negative (rather than positive) news, for example. But just because we might get a rouse out of it doesn't make it right.

In fact, negativity not only limits our potential, it also has a real tangible effect on our health. Research has shown that people who cultivate negative energy experience more stress, more sickness and less opportunity over the course of their lives than those who choose to live positively.

Although it's not possible to completely eliminate negativity, the key to becoming more positive is to limit the amount of negativity that we experience by filling ourselves up with more positivity. Here are some ways to get rid of negativity and become more positive.

- **Be grateful for everything.** When we practice gratitude regularly and appreciate everything in our lives -- from the roof over our head to the car that gets us from A to B to the daily struggles that refine us -- we shift our attitude from selfishness and entitlement to one of appreciation. The crazy thing is that we begin to receive more of what we're grateful for because we've opened ourselves up to the idea of receiving instead of taking.
- **Laugh more.** Quit taking life -- and yourself -- so seriously. Laugh more, especially at yourself. When you're serious all the time, it often results in negative and performance-oriented thinking.
- **Help others.** Negativity and selfishness are partners in crime. On the other hand, positivity goes hand-in-hand with purpose, and the most basic way to create purpose and positivity in your life is to embrace a servant mindset and do things for others. As Albert Einstein said, "A person starts to live when he can live outside himself."
- **Change your thinking.** Change starts from within. If you want to become more positive, be more mindful of your thoughts and how you talk to yourself. There's arguably no one harder on you than you, and a stream of negative self-talk is corrosive to a positive life.
- **Surround yourself with positive people.** They say that you are the average of the five people you spend the most time around. What does your inner circle look like? Are they feeding you encouraging, positive feedback? Or, are they contaminating you with negative, withering talk and thoughts? Becoming more positive may mean cutting out the negative people in your life, and it may also mean taking time off from social media, which tends to be a negativity hot bed.
- **Don't be the victim.** Take full responsibility and stop playing the victim. You and only you are responsible for your thoughts. People that consistently believe that things happen to them handicap themselves to a victim mentality. Taking full responsibility for your life, your thoughts and your actions is one of the biggest steps in creating a more positive life.

Make positive choices in favor of yourself.

After all, *change isn't the same thing as progress.*

So proud of you Franny for your dedication and community service! Way to go! Well deserved!



A Picture is worth a thousand words!!!

Look at the pictures and what do you see?? You see the pride that Francesca's parents have for her selfless dedication and service to others through Kiwanis.

Sometimes you just have to stick your neck out to see things more clearly and to see where and what you want to do next.

Then there is that BRIDGE to cross and the challenge of the steps on the other side. But then the beauty of the garden as it offers many different paths to take to enjoy the surroundings.

With encouragement and taking it one step at a time, SUCCESS can be achieved!!

Ridgewood 3-2-1 is at a crossroads, once again, being challenged by "the powers that be", to climb, to choose a path, to fly through the storm and hope for change. Let's take one step at a time, let's encourage one another to proceed at our own pace and do what we do best: SERVE OTHERS! Then, the beauty of the season will carry us through these challenges.



How can Henrietta be in two places at once, you ask??

