



Kiwaniis®

THE ROCKAWAYS

June 20, 2024: Submitted by MaryAnn Nellen

Meeting of the Kiwanis Club of Rockaways; June 20, 2024 @ Rogers Pub, 205 Beach 116th St.

Members in Attendance: President Scott Valentine; Vice President, Jeanette Garramone; Secretary Stacey Savitsky; Treasurer, MaryAnn Nellen; Frank Amato, Grace Arnemann, Kathy Guiseppone, Michelle Hettich, Helen Montero-Hernandez, Felicia Johnson, Dolores Orr. Guests in attendance – From the Swim Strong Foundation, Shawn Selvin, from Howard Beach Kiwanis, Abe Garcia, and our newest member from the Rockaway Business Community, Kyle Meyer.

We enjoyed a Hawaiian themed meal of chicken, coleslaw, and macaroni salad from **Flipflops_Rockaway** Catering, it was \$10 per person. We will continue to cater our meetings at \$10 per person, except our July 18th Meeting will be held at the concessions in Riis Park.

At 7:30 President Scott Valentine led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance

Our guests introduced themselves, Abe Garcia from the Howard Beach Kiwanis Club, is possibly going to join our club as he is a Rockaway Resident. He just completed a book "Money, Insurance & Financial Literacy For Everyone". Abe is happy to Zelle anyone \$11 to buy the book on Amazon, if you leave a review for him. Kyle Meyer, a local businessman and publisher of an informational magazine titled "Belle Harbor & Neponsit Living."

Shawn Slevin gave a presentation on the Swim Strong Foundation. They have been doing their thing for 17 years and have changed 46,800 lives with their various programs for children, adults, seniors, multi-family, military families, etc. Shawn has interacted with 10,900 swimmers and 4,000 people from Rockaway have been trained by Swim Strong. They have given 1.7 million free swim lessons. With the backing of Stacey Amato, they developed an instructional film for new parents to make them aware of the everyday water dangers in and around their homes. Their training stays current and evolves with the new challenges. You can read more at "SwimStrongFoundation.org." Shawn invited us to table an educational event with Swim Strong on 7/13/2024 12:00 through 4:00 pm, set up is at 9:30 am, at the Community Center on Beach 44th Street.

A motion was made, seconded and the minutes report from May's meeting was accepted.

The Treasury Report was read and we spent \$40.00 from the Administrative Account on catering for the May meeting, leaving \$1560.65. From the Service Account we spent \$41.01 on a mini basketball net for the St Camillus, Special Olympics and we deposited \$200 from the 13-run baseball pool, leaving \$2909.79. A motion was made, and seconded and the Treasury Report was accepted.

We discussed sponsoring a sports team and getting our logo on their shirts. Everyone was asked to try to come up with some ideas.

We are postponing Sip and Paint until the fall because of parking limitations in Rockaway. We have an artist; we need a venue. Riis Park and the Wharf were discussed as possibilities.

Until we hear from Kakia Kia Echols we are removing the BCHS Food Pantry from the agenda.

On June 8th we partnered with the New York Public Library on Beach 92nd Street for food distribution. Our members took up all the volunteer positions and we served many local families.

Helen reported that St. John's Episcopal Hospital, in partnership with the Campaign Against Hunger distribute groceries to the community on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month. Volunteers are always welcome.

The Kiwanis Grant Program application has been submitted and accepted, we are waiting for approval.

Our Walk-a-Thon, was a great success. So far, we collected \$2065 of our \$2100 goal. The proceeds are going to be part of the above-mentioned Kiwanis Grant.

Monday, June 17th, Kiwanis Rockaways hosted the Queens West Division Meeting at the Wharf. Thanks to our club's attendance, the meeting was a success. Thank you all for supporting our Lt. Governor, Janice Barr.

Club officers' elections are yearly, please let us know if anyone else is interested in becoming an officer. The year runs from October 1, 2024 through September 29, 2025. We are also looking for a recording secretary, Kathy Guiseppone is currently considering the position. Current officers are more than willing to help new officers.

Our Division Governor, Lucien Giancursio, is visiting on Saturday, July, 20th. Lt Governor, Janice Barr has arranged a Cruise around Manhattan Island. It leaves from the World's Fair Marina in Flushing at 12:00 PM, and returns at 4:00 PM. Boarding begins at 11:30. There is plenty of parking. It is \$60 per person which includes hot lunch buffet, beverages, desert, DJ, Dancing. There will be a 50/50 and Raffles. RSVP BEFORE 7/8 to MaryAnn Nellen. After July 8 the ticket price rises to \$150.

Rock, Stock and Barrel is Saturday, June 22, 8:00AM – 6:00PM. We decided to skip this event because of a little Kiwanis fatigue.

Radio Bingo is scheduled for Friday, October 4, 2024, at the Knights of Columbus; 333 Beach 90th Street. Jeanette, Dolores and Grace A. are on the Radio Bingo Committee. They will have a presentation at the next meeting regarding pricing, 50/50 tickets and Penny Social raffle tickets and prizes and baskets.

**** Correction**** National Night Out Against Crime is **Tuesday, August 6, 2024.** Our volunteers for the 100th Precinct are Jeanette and Grace A. Volunteers for the 101st Precinct are Scott, Dolores and Felicia. We could use more volunteers. Helen announced that she will be able to get "Population Health" to donate water bottles for both of our locations.

Carnival will be on Saturday, August 24th. Details will follow at our next meeting. FYI, I don't think we can count on any West 12th Road members to attend as it is their annual block party.

Helen let us know that St. John's Episcopal in partnership with the Boy Scouts of America are doing a back to school back pack event in August. We can help by collecting school supplies or through financial donation.

Kiwanis of the Rockaways is lucky enough to have strong leaders, who along with other elected officials, are fighting to fund and establish a much-needed Trauma Center in the Rockaways. Thank you, Felicia and Jeanette!