



Pediatric Lyme Disease

John Gridley

Did You Know?

These facts about Lyme Disease and other tick borne infections?

Across the globe, all types of media are reporting increasing problems with ticks and their diseases. All local reports suggested an increase of Lyme Disease in New York State and on Long Island.

Ticks can go unnoticed, because they are so small.

Ticks can carry and transmit several diseases at once.

Reported cases of tick-borne disease continue to rise in many states in the US and many countries across our earth.

Any person can be infected for weeks or months or years or a LIFETIME.

An infected person can experience combinations of symptoms. They can be few or many changes, subtle or strange effects, difficult or tolerable pain, painful, or sometimes even there is an absence of symptoms altogether. There can be various types of rashes or even no rashes at all.

Quick and effective treatment following a tick bite could prevent persistent infection. Find a good specialist.

Unidentified and untreated infections can progress indefinitely.

All diseases a tick can transmit can be difficult to diagnose.

Tests can be falsely negative, leaving infected persons undiagnosed.

When a tick bite results in sickness, symptoms of the infection can be varied and easily mistaken as other illnesses or diseases.

There are NO 100% conclusive, diagnostic tests for most of these infectious diseases.

There are very few doctors, tests, or labs able to diagnose 'Lyme' or associated tick-borne disease.

There are even less doctors treating Lyme and associated diseases.

Upon completion of 2 to 6 weeks or more of treatment, countless individuals continue experiencing symptoms and some continue testing positive for tick-borne diseases.

The reality of tick-borne diseases continues to be an enigma for scientists and doctors worldwide.

As you know, this program was started when I was Governor of this great district. We have come a long way since then. We are now a Foundation (Pediatric Lyme Disease Emergency Fund) and any donation is tax deductible. We now have two fundraisers. One is selling pins and the other, which has just been introduced, is called the Brittany Fellowship, which is named after the little girl who gave that moving speech at our district convention. A contribution of \$500 will get you enrolled as a Brittany Fellow. You will receive a medallion and plaque, which is numbered (*sorry, no jackets*). The first one,

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Joseph Michael Wuest Honored by Morris Park

Kiwanis Club of **MORRIS PARK**, Bronx West South Division - DPLG Joseph Michael Wuest was named recipient of Kiwanis International's Lifetime Award on May 18th at the NY Athletic Club in Pelham, NY. President Peter Caliendo presented the award as one hundred fifty Kiwanians gathered to celebrate Joe's twenty year commitment to Kiwanis. Joe is recognized for his generous support of children, especially those afflicted with Pediatric Lyme Disease. The Pediatric Lyme Disease Project is a cause close to the hearts of Joe and wife Ginnie (DPP, Westchester Village Club) as grandchildren Brittany and Courtney Mezzancello are victims of the disease carried by ticks.

Joe Wuest was accompanied by family and friends while a parade of distinguished Kiwanians from across the NY District filed the room. Son-in-law Mark, nephew Justin Scrafani, daughter Pattie and granddaughter Brittany Mezzancello, son-in-law Roy and daughter Debbie Ellefsen, granddaughter Lynn and her husband Frankie Cherabini were by Joe's side.

Co-chairs of the special event were LG Designate Dennis Rosa and Warren Gold, Sr. (Morris Park Club). Warren was assisted by his wife Mary Ann.

BWS LG Jack Glazier was MC for the evening and introduced a long list of dignitaries: Past Gov. & Int'l Trustee Thomas E. DeJulio and DPLG Dr. Rosemary DeJulio (Fordham Club), DPG John A. Gridley (Floral Park) and former First Lady Rose Marie, BSW DPG Dr. George Kane, LISW PG Alfred J. Bevilacqua, and Gov. Elect Joseph L. Corace, and future First Lady Nydia.

Also, present from other divisions were: Finger Lakes DPLG Ray Pfeifer and Sarah, SDPLG Dr. Peter Pellittieri and Doreen Pellittieri, LISC DPLG Mickie Leamey and LISC LG Warren Kalmenson.

BWS PLGs who attended included: IPDLG Rocco Riti, SDPLG Sister Anne-Marie Kirmse, O.P., PLG Danny Ilich, DPLG Don Ciota, PLG Bob Rubinstein, PLG Bob Foster, PLG Anthony Guarino, DPLG Pat Pilenza, DPLG Dr. Rosemary DeJulio, PLG Ron Volino, DPLG Angela Politano.

Joe Wuest has been the recipient of every award that Kiwanis offers! Among those are the Diamond Kaiser, the Diamond Hixson, the KPTC Fellowship, and the Tablet of Honor. Ginnie Wuest was handed a bouquet of roses by DPLG Angela Politano for the unwavering support of her husband. But, let's make it clear that the woman behind the man has earned numerous Kiwanis award of her own. Kiwanis is a family affair to the Wuests.

Testimonials regarding Joe's many contributions to Kiwanis were presented by NY Gov. Elect Joseph Corace, Int'l Trustee Thomas E. DeJulio, LG Elect Palma Volino and Pres. Vicki Volino, DPG Dr. George Kane, and PG Al Bevilacqua.

Significant among the speakers was DPG John Gridley, who is co-chair along with Joe Wuest, of the NY District Foundation for Pediatric Lyme Disease. Joe has introduced John to many "nice kids" suffering with the disease; and subsequently, the Governor's Project in 2000-2001 became the PLD Project. The Governor saw for himself how the spirochete bacteria can ravage a child's immune system, possibly rendering the young with neurological symptoms or with symptoms that mimic other serious diseases - sometimes with life threatening consequences.

DPG John Gridley announced that the PLD fund had officially become a NY District Foundation entitled, the Brittany Fellowship. For a \$500 donation to the Brittany Fellowship, the contributor is awarded a medallion called "The Brittany." The name-

sake and her proud parents, Mark and Patti Mezzancello were present to witness Joe receive the very first "Brittany," which is designed in her likeness. DPG John Gridley sponsored the premiere award and unveiled a sketch of "The Brittany."

Joe's face displayed a thrilled and proud

expression upon receiving the honor. The event was a fitting tribute to the quintessential Kiwanian, Joseph Michael Wuest. The vibrant, forthright, influential, dedicated, philanthropic Kiwanian has been courageously battling cancer for several years, but is unyielding in his struggle.



L to R : PG Al Bevilacqua, International Trustee Tom DeJulio, DPG Dr. George Kane, DPLG Joseph Michael Wuest (honoree), DPG John Gridley, and Gov. Elect Joe Corace.



Brittany Mezzancello, DPLG Joe Wuest, Morris Park President Peter Caliendo and DPG John Gridley. Brittany is the granddaughter of Joe Wuest and the namesake for the Brittany Fellowship Award. DPG & Lyme Disease Chair John Gridley presents rendition of the award to all.



Brittany and her dad Mark Mezzancello are proud to honor Joe Wuest for all his achievements.

DeJulio

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The New Kiwanis will be redesigned and restructured to become more cost effective and efficient. Clubs and their members expect that and deserve nothing less. And they also expect to be empowered, not embarrassed, by Kiwanis activities. And that includes running a House of Delegates without confusion. The commitment to excellence was best demonstrated by the contrast between the Montreal experience and the "hula dances" done on the delegate floor in Hawaii last year when the amendment to the amendment that was first amended by an earlier amendment made by a point of order that was out of order at the wrong microphone could not be heard.

The New Kiwanis also believes that nothing of value happens in our organization in the absence of leadership, leadership that is committed in its vision, in its strategic planning, and in its management. Toward that end, because we believe better than 85% of our challenges, conflicts, and controversies are solvable through more education and better communication, the New Kiwanis is developing K-University, a broad based educational initiative to reach out beyond the relatively few who always come year after year to convention workshops and forums.

We need to reach out to all Kiwanians, all too many I fear are disconnected from their International and District structures. These are the members who labor in the fields of service of their local communities and who may not realize how much our organization needs their skills and talents in leadership positions in our regional and International structures.

The New Kiwanis will reach out to that untapped potential to assume club regional and district leadership roles so that "funny" story about the last person to arrive at a club meeting becomes next year's president will become fiction rather than common practice.

Yes the New Kiwanis CAN AND WILL DO IT - Climb Higher, Achieve Success and Nurture Excellence. But the new Kiwanis is not the bricks and mortar of a building in Indianapolis. The New Kiwanis is you.

You are the ones transforming lives daily by your volunteer spirit. You are the ones who by what you do, transform your own lives through the magic of Kiwanis service. You are the ones who love this organization so much, and all that it does collectively and all the time honored values it stands for, that you will not only continue in Kiwanis with your compassion and great heartedness, but you will also recognize that one of the most important responsibilities of your being a Kiwanian is to SHARE your love of Kiwanis by inviting others to join.

The New Kiwanis believes that membership growth is not a numbers game, (its not a game at all) but a serious desire to render more service in your community and in newly defined and more diverse communities who need Kiwanis and who are willing to go beyond random acts of kindness and make a commitment, a long term commitment to the Kiwanis brand of service.

How? By touching the lives of children today. Making a difference in one life that will make a difference in our lives and in our world.