

Eliminate Project

Sister Anne-Marie Kirmse



Here we are at the beginning of a new Kiwanis year, and coming closer to our 100th birthday in 2015. That means we have only 21 more months to donate or pledge to the EliMiNaTe Campaign.

The fundraising aspect of the Campaign is in full swing now and the momentum keeps growing! There is good news to report: two more countries have eliminated MNT through Kiwanis' efforts - Sierra Leone and Gabon.

This is the time for clubs to sit down together and decide on what they can do for EliMiNaTe.

So far only 62 percent of our clubs in the New York District have participated. Our neighbor across the Hudson River, the New Jersey District, has 100 percent participation by its clubs. Remember the TV commercial for the Jersey Shore that had the slogan "Stronger than the Storm?" New Jersey Kiwanians certainly are! But what about us?

As I said my last column, please send in funds as they come in. Don't hold on to them until you have a larger amount to submit.

There is a new initiative from EliMiNaTe in Indianapolis called "The Speakers' Bureau." Each district had members trained to go to clubs in their areas to speak about Model Clubs. Our speakers are Linda and Jerry Christiano, Rickie Santer, and Rosemary DeJulio. Please welcome them warmly and listen to their presentations with an open mind and heart.

Remember - although the campaign officially ends in 2015, Model and 100K Clubs have five years from their agreement to complete their pledges.

Right now our Sponsored Youth Programs are being invited to participate in "Trick or Treat for UNICEF." Once again all funds raised through this program will be given to EliMiNaTe. Please encourage your sponsored youth to take part in this endeavor. So far Sponsored Youth Programs have raised \$2 million for EliMiNaTe! Let's support them in every way that we can.

Another fun item that is on the horizon is the EliMiNaTe Walk at the Tri-K weekend in November. There is a detailed blurb on the District webpage. Please support your Lt. Governor in this



Walk. Which division will come out on top? This is a real cliff-hanger! Keep tuned - we'll know in November!

JP DiTroia, EliMiNaTe Division Coordinator for Queens West, has obtained a wonderful offer from Patty Fay of Eternal Branding Plus. Patty will provide, free of charge, a table cover for Project EliMiNaTe. All one needs to do is to call and speak with her about her company. There are absolutely no strings attached. You will be receiving further information about this opportunity in the near future.

Let me conclude by thanking you for the cards, condolences and concern you offered me at the unexpected death of my beloved brother, Robert. He and I were very close and his passing leaves a great void in my life. The kindness of my Kiwanis family has been a great comfort to me, and I am very grateful.

As always -- Excelsior!

Pediatric Lyme Disease

DPG John Gridley



LYME DISEASE TOLL IS HIGHER. Lyme disease is 10 times more common than previously reported, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has announced.

As many as 300,000 Americans are actually diagnosed with Lyme disease each year, said the CDC, which previously had put the number at 20,000 to 30,000. The better estimate was based on actual lab surveys and reviews of insurance information. There is not yet an FDA approved test for this microbe, but it's expected within the next year. To continue the work of the New York District Pediatric Lyme Disease Foundation which is treatment, medication and education, funds are needed. There are a few ways in which you can help raise the funds needed.

One way for us to raise funds is through the Brittany Fellowship Award. This fellowship is named after DPLG Joseph Wuest's granddaughter, Brit-

tany Mezzancello, who has chronic Lyme disease and who by-the-way receives no funds from the foundation. The cost is \$500 for which you will receive a plaque, medallion and a pin all in her likeness.

For information on the Brittany Fellowship contact Pediatric Lyme Disease VP/Treasurer Distinguished Past Gov. John Gridley at hmteam2316@verizon.net or call (516) 488-1132.

A second way is the Joseph Michael Wuest Fellowship. This award is open to our Sponsored Youth Clubs and Kiwanis Clubs alike. The cost is \$150 for the Sponsored Youth and \$400 for Kiwanis Clubs, for which you will receive five certificates, a banner patch, and pins. The contact for this award is Mickie Leamey at (516) 993-4246.

A third way is the new Emerald Brittany lapel pin. This cost \$250, for which you receive a beautiful pin with room to add additional emeralds however, you must have already received the Brittany Fellowship. The contact is Rose Marie Gridley at hmteam2316@verizon.net or call (516) 352-6105.

These are inexpensive ways to honor a Kiwanian or any individual and help young children with Lyme disease.

Also, the Pediatric Lyme Disease Foundation's Service Leadership Committee entered into its second year supporting the mission of the PLD Foundation.

This committee is comprised of Key

Clubbers and Circle Kers from all over the district. The committee is co-chaired by Circle K Governor Kelly Chan and Key Club Governor Paul. The committee meets online once every month.

The committee is currently planning its second Pediatric Lyme Disease Awareness Week for Feb. 3-9, 2014. (More information will follow as we get closer to the date). This special week encourages Sponsored Youth Clubs and Kiwanis Clubs to fund raise for and share information about Pediatric Lyme Disease. The committee has also been a resource for the Pediatric Lyme Disease Foundation on the use of technology to generate support for the cause. Kiwanis Clubs are asked to contact their sponsored Circle K and Key Clubs to find out if they have representation on the PLD-SLC. The Key Club and Circle K Divisions without representation on the Pediatric Lyme Disease SL Committee are asked to contact their respective governor or the PLD Service Leadership Chair Rich Santer at rs2wdld@aol.com to join the committee.

If you know any child with Lyme disease that needs financial assistance to pay for treatment and/or medications please contact me or any member of the Pediatric Lyme Disease Foundation Board. As always, remember, the main thing is to keep the main thing, the main thing. In this case the main thing is helping children and that is what we do.