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.

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The first one, receive a medallion and plaque, which is easily mistaken as other illnesses or symptoms of the infection can be varied and difficult to diagnose.

Find a good specialist.

Even there is an absence of symptoms altogether many changes, subtle or strange effects, difficulties of the infection in new york state and on long island.

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Immune system, possibly rendering the young child sick.

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 funders.

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 dinner. Son-in-law Roy and granddaughter Brittany Mezzancello are victims of the disease carried by ticks.

The New Kiwanis Club of Morris Park was 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 Ellefson, granddaughter Lynn and her husband Frankie Cherabin were by Joe’s side.

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John Gridley

Joseph Michael Wuest Honored by Morris Park Kiwanis Club

Kwians Club of MRRIS 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, President Peter Caliendo presented the award as one hundred fifty Kiwanians gathered to celebrate Joe’s twenty year commitment to Kiwanis.

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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 DPLG Dr. George Kane, LSW 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, LSCP Tickeys Mickey Leamay and LSCP LR Warren Kalmenson.

BWS PGs who attended included: IPDLG Rud Ribi, SDPLG Sister Marie-Kirme, O.P., PGL Dan Costo, DPLG Bob Rubinstein, PLG Bob Frost, PLG Anthony Guarino, DPLG Pat Pienia, DPLG Dr. Rosemary DeJulio, PG Ron Volino, DPLG Angela Pettinato.

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 fund. Dr. Pellittieri for his producing support of her husband. But, let’s make it clear that the woman behind the man has earned numerous Kiwanian award of her own. Kiwanis reflects affection at 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 a 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 our International and District structures. These are the members who labor in the fields of service of our 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.


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

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.

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 duty 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.