



LDASEPA

Lyme Disease Association of Southeastern Pennsylvania, Inc.

www.lymepa.org

Greetings from LDASEPA

The Lyme Disease Association of Southeastern Pennsylvania has been a leader in Lyme disease education since 2003, with a reach far beyond our local area. LDASEPA is an all-volunteer, non-profit organization dedicated to improving the lives of people suffering from Lyme and other tick-borne diseases and preventing new cases through education, support, research, and public information.

We have hosted or co-sponsored nationally-known Lyme-treating physicians, including Joseph Burrascano, Ann Corson, Bernard Raxlen, Robert Bransfield, and Richard Horowitz. Details on future events will be on our web site: www.lymepa.org.

To date, we have distributed over 120,000 copies of our booklet "Lyme Disease and Associated Diseases: The Basics" nationwide. It has proved to be a big success because it presents technical information about Lyme disease in a way that is easy to understand. Many doctors offer copies to patients to aid in their education.

We have meetings on the third Wednesday of each month where we offer support and education for people who have concerns or questions. These meetings are free and open to everyone. Free literature is provided. Our meetings include a group discussion, news of interest to the Lyme community, and a talk by a noted Lyme expert. To date, we have held these meetings every month for over 48 months.

In the last year we responded to over 600 calls to our hotline and over 1000 emails, answering questions about Lyme and other tick transmitted diseases. This year we made presentations on various aspects of Lyme disease to more than 20 different organizations, from PTAs to Deer Forums, to school nurses. We sponsor LymeTeens, a private email group for teenagers with Lyme disease, where they can exchange ideas and offer support to one another. This group has over 90 members nationwide. We have an email list to keep people informed of meetings and important news in the Lyme community. If you want to be included, send an email to LymePA@LymePA.org.

In 2004 we conducted a postcard survey of all households in Pocopson Township, Chester County, PA. About half reported at least one family member who has had Lyme disease and a third of those people report they still have symptoms. A similar survey was done in nearby Cecil County, MD in 2005, where the number of cases reported to the CDC is much less than in the adjacent Chester County. We showed that the problem in Cecil County is far greater than the official records indicate. Results of both studies were presented at the ILADS¹ and LDA² conferences, and received newspaper coverage.

In 2006 we helped support and organize a bus to take people to the Lyme Rights Rally in Valhalla, NY, to protest the new IDSA³ guidelines. The new IDSA guidelines make it nearly impossible to be properly diagnosed and/or treated for tick-borne diseases. We see this as a very serious threat to the health of our community and will continue to participate in and support efforts to have these guidelines retracted. We support the ILADS guidelines, which recommend that patients be treated until they are well.

We have ambitious plans for 2007, including a project to help interested doctors learn more about Lyme disease, a large research project, printing the 5th edition of our Basics booklet, major public meetings featuring world-class Lyme experts, as well as our regular monthly meetings.

LDASEPA is an all-volunteer not-for-profit 501(c)(3) corporation. Donations are tax deductible. All members of our Board of Directors serve without compensation.

We need your help to continue our programs. Won't you please join LDASEPA and send us a tax-deductible contribution? A membership form and self-addressed return envelope are enclosed. If you've given in the past, won't you please consider renewing your commitment?

Thank you for your support,

Douglas W. Fearn
President

¹International Lyme and Associated Diseases Society, Inc.

²Lyme Disease Association, Inc.

³Infectious Diseases Society of America, Inc.

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**PO Box 181
Pocopson, PA 19366
610-388-7333**