



Diane De Leo is the wife of the Great Lakes Regional Umpire in Chief, Mike De Leo. Mike has served as the ASA Region 08 Umpire in Chief since 2000.

In February, Diane was diagnosed with Guillain-Barré Syndrome. Below is from the Mayo Clinic Web site.

In Guillain-Barre syndrome, your immune system — which usually only attacks foreign material and invading organisms — begins attacking the nerves that carry signals between your body and your brain. Specifically, the nerves' protective covering (myelin sheath) is damaged and this interferes with the signaling process, causing weakness, numbness or paralysis.

In July, Diane entered a rehab facility in Saginaw. While there, she had another setback. Diane had another illness and had to have her entire colon removed. The odds were not the best, but she underwent surgery at St. Mary's in Saginaw. After the surgery, Mike was contacted by his insurance company that they had used up all of the days allowed. There is no more insurance coverage and no state help. Diane still needs several months of rehab, which they now have to pay out-of-pocket. The cost is roughly \$6,000/month. Mike and Diane live in Au Gres, he has been commuting daily to Saginaw since Diane's illness.

Diane's recovery period may be up to two years, or longer. We, the MASA, are asking for the generosity of the softball community. To help with expenses, Gary Evans, MASA state umpire in chief, has established The De Leo Fund. Checks should be payable to The De Leo Fund and mailed to Gary Evans, 325 Willow St., Mason, MI 48854.

