



Now is the time to register

Just two years ago, NALC had fewer than 300 branches actively involved in raising funds for the Muscular Dystrophy Association. We had been seeing less and less participation in this worthy cause.

As of this article, the number of participating branches has risen above 425 and more are being added every day. The way we've chosen to increase the number of branches is to ask that each branch register so that we know which locals have pledged to raise money for "Jerry's kids." When they register, we send a packet of information which includes a DVD, an MDA handbook and other materials to use in increasing each branch's contribution. Have you registered your branch? A mailing will be going out soon to every branch that has not already done so. If you have registered, you don't need to do it again.

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To register, simply visit the NALC website at nalc.org and go to MDA under the Community Services dropdown. Then, fill in the registration form, print it and send it to me at NALC Headquarters. The material will be sent as soon as possible.

I will be traveling soon to meet with MDA national officials and film an updated DVD that will explain NALC's involvement and dedication to MDA. Once the DVD is completed, copies will be sent to branches already registered and those new branches that take advantage of the process. Don't miss out on the opportunity!

In May we will be publishing the category winners for 2008. The 10 winners are based upon branch size. The winning branches will send a representative to Las Vegas

for the annual MDA telethon on Labor Day weekend. Those folks will appear on national television with me and represent all those who have raised money throughout the year for MDA.

The time is now to plan MDA events for the coming year, if you have not already done so. Think about the possibility of having an event each quarter. You will be surprised how quickly the funds add up, and your members will enjoy it as well.

Next month, I plan to update the story of a very brave young man from the state of New York. You will recall the story of the Murphy family and their struggle when their son, Derek, was diagnosed with Duchenne's muscular dystrophy. This disease, which attacks young children, is one of the more than 40 diseases that MDA works on to give help and hope to impacted families.

Finally, I want to take a personal moment to remember a good friend. I recently heard that Kelly Pendell, vice president of Portland Branch 82, went home to her god.

Kelly had been recently diagnosed with cancer and, after a brave battle, succumbed to the disease.

Kelly had a heart as big as the world and worked on behalf of letter carriers her whole working life. Many called on her for problems with the Postal Service, but some came to her because she always had a willing ear and compassion for their problems.

But Kelly also cared deeply about kids with muscular dystrophy. Every year she helped organize events to raise money for them. She lived a significant life. I will always remember her for the integrity she showed in all her dealings with people. Kelly Pendell was a lover of those in need and I, along with many others, am blessed for having had her in my life. ☒