



MDA at the national convention

As we get closer to the national convention, our plans are taking shape for the involvement of the Muscular Dystrophy Association. MDA is NALC's official charity and we have partnered with this worthy organization since 1952. We have a rich history together fighting these diseases. At our convention, it has been the practice to have MDA play a vital role in educating and updating our membership at a booth outside the convention floor and at a seminar held during the week. This year will be no different.

Representatives from MDA, along with NALC MDA coordinators from around the country, will be staffing the MDA booth at the convention in Boston. Remember to stop by and say hello and take part in the activities there. We will be providing the latest information about research about neuro-muscular diseases and, for a donation of \$20,

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you will receive a T-shirt with the NALC and MDA logos. Additionally, the donation allows you to putt for a chance at a big-screen television that will be drawn at the MDA presentation on Friday during the convention.

The putting contest will be held at the MDA booth beginning during registration on Saturday and Sunday before the start of convention and continuing until Thursday afternoon. So don't wait to make your donation and take a chance at the TV. NALC will ship it to your home as part of the winning ticket.

Also at the booth, we will have copies of the latest DVD we provide to branches concerning NALC's commitment to MDA and our challenge to increase our efforts to raise money for our official charity. Other vital information will be there as well.

Joining us at the convention will be a good friend to letter carriers. Luke Christie and his parents, Brad and Gloria,

will be on hand at the MDA seminar to be held Thursday morning and will be with President Young on Friday during the convention. As many of you know, Luke has been the MDA poster child for the last two years and attended the last convention in Las Vegas. He is quite a young man and we are glad to have him back.

The seminar on Thursday morning will be full of information with a few new ideas thrown in. Along with the latest research from MDA professionals, representatives from each of our Honor Roll category winners will share their ideas for successful fund-raising. By talking about the best practices they use, we can increase the amounts raised across the country.

We will also have a discussion about how branches can make sure they get credit for the hard work they do for MDA. Problems continue to crop up when amounts raised are not reported properly or MDA representatives don't get the information reported correctly internally. We are working to straighten out the problems now and more information will be given at the seminar.

On Friday morning, depending on the schedule, President Young will honor the category winners and announce those who will represent NALC at the upcoming Labor Day telethon in Las Vegas. He will also introduce the Christie family and have Luke say a few words. At that time, we will draw the winner of the big-screen television as a thank-you for the donations during the week. It will be a good time to remember our pledge to be with MDA until a cure is found.

On a final note, I have been highlighting events around the country that show ways NALC raises funds for MDA. On June 22, Deland, Florida Branch 2591 is hosting a “poker run” for MDA. Participants ride their motorcycles from place to place and get a card to make their poker hand. All the proceeds go to MDA.

If you have a unique way to raise funds, send me a note at NALC Headquarters describing the event and I'll publicize it depending on available space. See you in Boston! ☒