



Letter carriers care

As we approach the date for NALC's 67th Biennial Convention in Anaheim, I am again amazed at the ways letter carriers are able to focus on our multiple priorities. Saving six-day delivery, the future of the Postal Service and the annual food drive we just completed are examples of how we answer the call.

Letter carriers respond to the members' needs time and time again. Why do we do it? What qualities do letter carriers have that set us apart?

In my long career in the NALC, I've concluded that at least three qualities cause us to be distinctive. First, we have a history that has been carried down from generation to generation. That shared history has given us a perspective different from many other groups of workers. In fact, we may take it for granted. Do you know the history of your union? Your branch leaders do. They understand the price that has been paid to give us what we have. More importantly, we know we've been through tough times before and prevailed. History has taught us to keep on keeping on. Our shared history is our strength.

Second, letter carriers care about their communities. Every day, we deliver to America in ways more profound than most workers can imagine. We see our neighbors' hurts, victories and changes. We see their needs more clearly because we're there. Every year, NALC honors those who have performed heroic deeds to help their neighbors. Inevitably, they say words like, "Anyone would have done what I did." The simple truth is that not everyone would have done what they did. Each month, *The Postal Record* writes about some of these deeds.

Another example is the NALC food drive. We stock the cupboards of America every May. We do it because we see the need.

Third, letter carriers are activists. What is an activist? The dictionary describes an activist as "a person who vigorously and sometimes aggressively pursues a political or social goal." When you read *The Postal Record*, you cannot help but be impressed with the way letter carriers get involved. From political action to community service, we


are active in all aspects of where we live and work. And most of the time, no one knows about those acts of service.

So how does all this fit in with our efforts for the Muscular Dystrophy Association? I'm glad you asked. At a time when our focus is so divided because the needs are so great, help me to keep MDA on the radar screen. We have a history with MDA. We committed to be there for these kids and adults until a cure is found. Together with MDA, we deliver help and hope to many. We have a shared history.

Letter carriers help because we care about the communities where we serve. I hope you have met a family dealing with the hurt and shock of muscular dystrophy. Then you will see how your support directly impacts those around you.

Finally, we work with MDA because letter carriers get the job done. We are activists in the truest sense.

Don't delay sending in your request for a ticket to win a brand-new Harley Davidson motorcycle at the national convention in Anaheim. The bike is a 2010 XL883 Low with laced wheels. You don't need to be present to win, so send in your check today made out to "NALC Secretary-Treasurer" along with the form on page 18 or from the April *Postal Record*. Help me keep MDA moving forward!

Clarification to the 2009 MDA Honor Roll: Boston, Massachusetts Branch 34 raised \$15,350; Cincinnati, Ohio Branch 43 raised \$12,665; Hartford, Connecticut raised \$32,289; the MDA Motorcycle Club raised \$800; and the National Auxiliary raised \$2,163. 



MDA will hold a raffle at its reception at the convention in August. The person with the selected ticket will win a 2010 Harley Davidson motorcycle like this one.