



Planning for the national bowlathon

By now, I'm sure you're aware that NALC and the Muscular Dystrophy Association (MDA) are sponsoring the first national bowlathon November 1. This is an exciting development for both organizations and represents a new approach to fund-raising for "Jerry's kids." While a bowlathon itself is nothing new, scheduling simultaneous events for all branches is a new venture for us. Additionally, NALC is providing prizes for branches and individuals who participate.

Letters were mailed to every branch during the week of July 6 providing all the details necessary to plan your local event. Enclosed with the letter was a poster from MDA to be used in advertising the bowlathon and a form so each branch can report the results to NALC Headquarters. Additional posters can be secured from your local MDA representative. We have also included a

20 to 30 lanes, depending on the expected turnout. Use one lane for every four to five bowlers. Request three games per team and plan to average about three hours of playing time.

2. Space—You will need enough space to host a pre-game or post-game party.

3. Meet—Arrange to have an MDA staff member help with planning and packet materials. They can also help you verify scores on the day of the event.

4. Captains—Use stewards or other activists to sign up bowlers and challenge each to get sponsors to contribute to the bowlathon.

5. Sponsors—Solicit sponsors to help pay for food and/or drinks for the event. Name the party after the sponsor so they get recognition.

6. Volunteers—Have the volunteers collect pledges and money on the day of the event. Record the money collected on a poster board so that all can see how they're doing.

Make sure you involve MDA staff as early as possible and rely on their expertise. If this is your first bowlathon, check with neighboring branches that have previously held these events. Remember, this is all about the families that suffer from these

diseases, so do your very best. We are asking that this bowlathon be in addition to your other plans, so keep up the good work. We look forward to a tremendous result.

I want to thank Tom Boyle from MDA and our new president, Fred Rolando, for this idea. Fred has supported this attempt from the beginning and NALC's provision of prizes for the individual winners and branches will go a long way toward a successful result.

We will be writing about the national bowlathon in upcoming editions of *The Postal Record*, so keep reading and start planning now. I know we'll make ourselves proud and take another step toward finding a cure for the more than 40 diseases MDA fights every day.

Clarifications to the 2008 MDA Honor Roll: Santa Rosa, California Branch 183 raised \$1,014 and Tri-Valley, California Branch 2902 raised \$2,902. ☐

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handicap sheet to use when reporting the individual scores of those participating.

The prizes will be for branches in each of the same size categories we use for determining which branches will attend the Labor Day telethon. The branch with the most money raised from the one-day event will receive a laptop computer loaded with all of NALC's programs and other resources helpful to union activists. Additionally, prizes will be awarded to the individuals with high scores in a series (three games) for handicapped and actual scores in the series. We are asking that all forms be returned to Headquarters no later than December 1 so we can process the winners in a timely manner.

The “Deliver the Cure” handbook has a great plan laid out for bowlathons and suggests the following steps:

1. Location—Look for a bowling alley that donates or discounts lane and shoe fees. You will likely need about