



## Where is the vision for the future?

**T**here is an old proverb that I think is true today: “Without a vision, the people perish.” Never has that truth been more evident than today. At a time when our union is working diligently to stop the Postal Service from foolishly throwing away the greatest delivery network in the world, this union is exhibiting the kind of leadership that postal management can only dream about. In the halls of Congress and in every forum, we are taking the truth to those who lie about what the Postal Service means to our country. President Rolando and our Executive Council will need all our support as they bargain this fall. At least NALC has a vision for the future.

NALC is managing to fight in all these arenas and at the same time continue to fight for those afflicted with muscular dystrophies.

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Every year, I write one article to thank those who, in the midst of busy lives, work to raise money for MDA families. These branch members give of their time to create and plan events in our branches several times a year and are the ones who deserve praise for all they do.

These MDA coordinators are the folks who have a vision to come alongside families who are in need and try their best to get others to have the same vision. Is your branch involved in MDA? I hope so. If not, why not take the opportunity to name an MDA coordinator in your branch now?

Choose a person who has a heart for those in need. Once your branch chooses someone, give him or her support from the executive board and branch elected officials. You never know what you can accomplish until you try.

It is time to really gear up for the NALC national bowlathon, coming up on Nov. 6. Last year, we had a great turnout and raised \$500,000 across the country. We still have a PowerPoint presentation available on NALC’s website explaining how to organize your branch’s efforts. To access the presentation, go to [nalc.org](http://nalc.org) and under “Community Service,” select “MDA.” The PowerPoint is there and the presentation can be saved as a PDF, if you prefer.

The national bowlathon was a success last year in large part because we had branches participating that had never taken part or had not recently been involved in fundraising. Due to the bowlathon, we had more than 500 branches reporting an event, 200 more than the prior year.

Please have your MDA coordinator or the branch representative responsible for MDA fundraising read the materials and get ready for this one-day event. Make it a fun time for the branch. Arrange with your local MDA representative to ask an MDA family to come and speak to the carriers there or at a branch meeting. It will make a world of difference.

As I write this article, President Rolando and I are preparing for the national MDA telethon. In Las Vegas during Labor Day weekend, letter carriers from around the country will be representing branches that have won their categories. As always, we are mindful of the reason NALC began this crusade as the Muscular Dystrophy Association’s first national sponsor. We are proud that we were there at the beginning and we’re even more so now. We are not quitters. The road has been long, but genetic diseases are incredibly expensive to fight and the science is difficult. No one said this was going to be easy—nothing worth doing ever is.

Our union has been blessed to have leadership that understood that vision is vital to our future. That was true in our rich history, and it is true today. Let’s not lose sight of what roles we can play in the fight against muscular dystrophy! ✉