



Success at the national convention and beyond

Last month, letter carriers from all over the United States convened in Anaheim, CA, for the NALC's national convention. As always, it was a chance to connect with old friends and make new ones along the way. We shared our experiences and came away with a sense of purpose and renewed vigor.

There is no doubt that the future is fraught with peril for our way of life and what we do in the next few months and years will tell the tale. But have no fear: We've been there before and our future is in our hands.

So it is with those who have muscular dystrophies. Our effort to help people who cannot help themselves is a mirror of what we do every day. The Muscular Dystrophy Association is working to provide the help and hope to those in need. We are doing our part.

In Anaheim, we held our first MDA reception on

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Sunday afternoon before the convention. It was a great success and we ended up raising more than \$34,000 through ticket sales and a 50/50 drawing at the reception. My thanks to all those who helped with tickets and other duties. I especially would like to thank my friend, Matty Rose, who ran the 50/50 drawing and kept his eye on the money at all times. We raffled off many prizes donated by the Harley-Davidson Company, and Nancy Taylor from Branch 3867 in Pasadena, TX, was the winner of the brand new motorcycle. Congratulations, Nancy—and be careful!

I want to thank the 647 of you who bought tickets; next convention we'll do even better. President Rolando and I have talked about how we can improve our turnout and result in Minneapolis in 2012. Anaheim was a wonderful start and those who took part deserve all the credit.

It is time to really gear up for the NALC national bowlathon, coming up on November 7. I have placed on

the NALC's website a PowerPoint presentation put together by Donna Sterner, Shreveport, LA Branch 197 MDA coordinator. Working with Emily Gillespie and Jessica Ray from the local MDA office, she has prepared a great outline for branches to use to get ready for a successful event. Thanks to Donna and her cohorts for this fine work. The Shreveport branch is lucky to have Donna working for them.

Donna tells us that we need to do MORE. By providing Motivation, Organization, Recruitment and Enthusiasm, we can have a successful bowlathon. In fact, these simple steps apply to any MDA event we want to plan. How ready is your branch? It's not too late, but time is running out, so get busy.

To access the presentation, go to nalc.org and under “Community Service,” select MDA. The PowerPoint is there and the presentation can be saved as a PDF file 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 fund-raising. 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 fund-raising read the material 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 in Las Vegas preparing for the national MDA telethon. As always, we are mindful of the reason NALC began this crusade as the Muscular Dystrophy Association's first national sponsor. We were 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. ☒