



## MDA by the numbers

**Y**ou would have been proud to attend the 2008 MDA Telethon in Las Vegas on Labor Day weekend. The letter carrier representatives from 11 branches that won their categories stood tall when it came time to appear on national television. They wore their uniforms and were impressive. But remember that there are literally thousands of others who work hard to raise funds throughout the year. The category winners, while worthy of praise, are representatives of all of you. Thank you for a job well done!

Even more amazing was the fact that the telethon broke another record. The generosity of America resulted in pledges of more than \$65 million. This was true even though Hurricane Gustav caused a number of stations to cancel or delay their local efforts due to coverage of the storm. The message of help and hope to these families clearly resonates with our country.

**“I challenge every branch to keep on helping us toward a cure and involving our members along the way.”**

When NALC was on the air, I made sure our commitment was communicated to America. We have been with MDA since 1952, making our involvement one of the longest in the MDA family. In fact, we are the longest-serving national sponsor of MDA. We should be proud, because our history shows we keep our commitments.

Recently, MDA published its annual report for 2007 detailing the specifics of their operations. In the period ending in December 2007, MDA used only 7.5 percent of its budget on overhead. This is an extremely small portion and means that more than 92 percent of all money raised went to services for families, research and fund-raising. A full report can be found at [mda.org](http://mda.org).

The annual report, however, only tells part of the MDA story. I have been impressed with the quality of all those

who work for MDA. The dedication and humanity of those I work with cannot be believed. In a time when many people just “go through the motions,” every single individual who works for MDA has shown compassion in the most difficult of circumstances. We can be secure that the money we raise and the hours we donate to MDA are not squandered in any way. These families are well served.

In last month’s article, I announced the formation of the NALC Motorcycle Club. This is the second attempt to raise money for MDA in this way. Many years ago, Bill Dunn, then-director of the MBA, began the club. We are simply renewing it now. It doesn’t matter whether you own a bike or not. All are welcome to join.

We will soon be posting the application on the NALC website so that it can be printed, filled out and mailed to NALC Headquarters. The cost is \$35 and includes two patches, a hat and a pin. The check should be made out to NALC. For each membership, MDA receives \$20 and the rest goes to our supplier. In the interim, you can get an application by calling NALC Headquarters and speaking with Linda Giordano, assistant to the president. In the future, we will supply the NBAs with the applications. Branches will be given credit for each membership and contribution.

Our plan is to keep a database of all members, and we are still in the planning stages of activities we could take part in. I want to thank former NBA Matty Rose for his efforts in this regard. It was his idea to renew the NALC Motorcycle Club as a way to support MDA.

I intend to keep this worthy charity in front of us at all times. We can have fun and raise money, too. I challenge every branch to keep on helping us toward a cure and involving our members along the way. Leadership is about more than processing grievances. Yes, we need to excel at representing our members, but we are about more than that. Through MDA, the food drive and all the other community activities we do, NALC stands for excellence in all. ☐