



## Onward and upward

**A**s I sit in my hotel room after the close of the 2009 Jerry Lewis Muscular Dystrophy Association national telethon, I'm a little bit tired but excited about the results. As usual, NALC was a part of the presentations from the national sponsors and we have pledged to do our part over the coming year to help fight neuromuscular diseases under the banner of MDA.

While I am so proud of all our branches do to support our national charity, I can't help but think of the impact we could have if we could raise even more for these families. I met new people who are fighting for their children's lives and was fortunate to reconnect with many friends

**“It was Mother Jones who wrote these words the labor movement remembers: ‘Mourn the dead, fight like hell for the living.’”**

I've met along the way. Of course, some of the kids did not make it to this year's show. Their bodies could not fight anymore. We can only hope and pray the families find real peace in the midst of their loss.

**It was Mother Jones who wrote these words the labor movement remembers:** “Mourn the dead, fight like hell for the living.” We quote her to remind ourselves about the price that was paid by our forebears to get us what we have as working people. I thought, though, that the words could also be applied to our 57-year battle against the more than 40 diseases that MDA provides help and hope for every day.

This Labor Day weekend made me aware again of those who were born before a cure could be found. But we cannot spend too much time dwelling on the past. We

remember, but we don't forget that many are relying on us for help in the present and a cure in the near future.

**I spoke again with the Christie family, whom many have met through the years.** Luke, who suffers from Duchenne's muscular dystrophy, served as a co-host at this year's show and did an excellent job. Brad and Gloria, Luke's father and mother, were present and we renewed our special relationship. In fact, we are hoping that they will join us again at the national convention in 2010 in Anaheim. Luke is a fighter in every sense of the word and he will not give up hope. We won't either!

In addition, we were fortunate to have President Rolando join us this year to show his commitment to the NALC-MDA partnership. Under Fred's leadership, we are planning to expand our efforts in the coming years. That is why we are so hopeful that our first national bowlathon scheduled for the November 1 weekend will be a great beginning. I know that many of you are putting the finishing touches on the

bowlathon in your branch this month. MDA officials and branch representatives are reported to be working well to plan this exciting event.

Finally, I want to again thank those branch members who accompanied us to Las Vegas for the telethon. I can report to all that they represented the NALC with distinction. If you were lucky enough to catch the show and see letter carriers wearing their uniforms, you were justly proud of all of them. A special thank-you to Linda Giordano for her help at Headquarters and at the telethon for making sure everyone was in the right place at the right time.

**Remember to report your results from the bowlathon no later than December 1** so that we can declare the winners as soon as possible. Thank you all in advance for your hard work! 