Exciting plans are coming together for the national convention to be held in Anaheim, California, this August. As usual, representatives from the Muscular Dystrophy Association will attend and update delegates about the ways MDA is providing help and hope to those afflicted with neuromuscular diseases.

Delegates will have numerous opportunities to support MDA during the convention. On August 8, the Sunday before the convention, we will be holding a very special event. In conjunction with MDA and Harley-Davidson, NALC will host a reception to raise money for MDA. The reception will be held from 1 to 3 p.m. at the Hilton Anaheim, the headquarters hotel, next to the convention center.

Harley-Davidson has donated a 2010 motorcycle to be awarded to the winning ticket drawn during the reception. You do not need to present to win and the motorcycle can be picked up at the dealership nearest to the winner’s home. They also have donated other items for the drawing. Refreshments will be served. The names of all winners will be published in The Postal Record.

Please fill out the form completely at the bottom of this page and send it to the address listed with your check made payable to “Secretary-Treasurer NALC.” The cost of the reception is $50 per ticket and all proceeds will go to MDA. Make sure you mail it so that it is received no later than July 1. Tickets will be sold at the MDA booth on Saturday if space is available, so don’t delay!

In addition to the reception, we will staff the MDA booth throughout the week, providing answers to the delegates about the latest developments in research. On Friday morning, an MDA seminar will be held and we will have an MDA family there along with researchers working toward a cure for these diseases. It is always good to see the MDA coordinators together and to let our delegates know where we stand in our efforts.

Finally, let me say how proud I am of all your efforts. I believe when we publish our totals for 2009 next month, we will see that the hard work you’ve all done will result in a great total for MDA. At a time of tremendous economic trouble, our members continue to put their money toward those who have tougher situations than many of us can imagine. I thank God every day that my children are healthy. I know you do as well. Let’s not forget our MDA families.

Update to the 2009 MDA bowlathon tally: Garden Grove, California Branch 1100 raised $2,563; Adrian, Michigan Branch 579 raised $1,007; Raleigh, North Carolina Branch 459 raised $3,500; and Janesville, Wisconsin Branch 572 raised $865.