

NALC readies for MDA 'satchel' drive

Autumn for NALC members is becoming synonymous with working to raise funds for the Muscular Dystrophy Association. From the Sept. 4 Labor Day Telethon to the Nov. 6 Bowlathon, branches across the country will be gathering every cent they can to help MDA deliver the cure. The letter carriers aren't content to settle for what they've done in the past; this year will start a brand new campaign, kicking off Oct. 2.

"I'm excited for the new 'Fill the Satchel' campaign," NALC President Fredric Rolando said. "It's a great opportunity for letter carriers to use their knowledge of their local communities to spread the word about this important charity."

On that Sunday, NALC members can use their satchels to collect donations on street corners and at participating locations. The Postal Service also has generously authorized carriers to wear their uniforms while making the collections.

Preparations for the annual event are well under way. A mailing to every

branch was being prepared as this issue went to press, with details on the Oct. 2 Fill the Satchel campaign. The mailing will include a how-to manual explaining how members can solicit donations, a poster, and information on how to order banners, yard signs and T-shirts to promote their efforts.

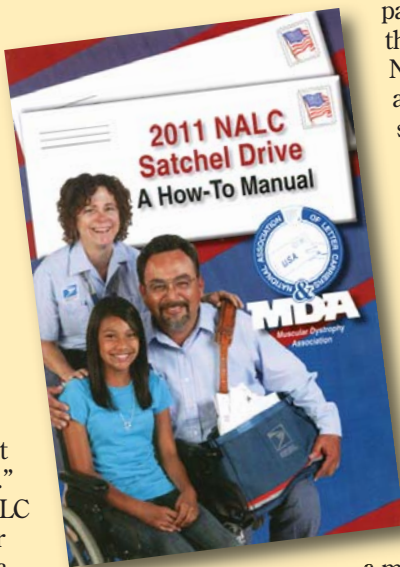
NALC members who participate can wear their uniform or an NALC T-shirt. All signs and advertising must say that this is an NALC and MDA event and is not sponsored by the Postal Service.

Plans for the third annual Bowlathon also are being prepared, and a mailing about that campaign will go out soon.

"Thanks to the hard work of branches throughout the country, we raised close to half

a million dollars through the Bowlathon last year," Rolando said. "We hope to see it continue to grow this year and in years to come."

For more information about these events, please contact NALC Community Services Coordinator Linda Giordano at 202-662-2489 or giordano@nalc.org. ✉



Books to help NALC charities

Looking for a good book? How about a book that does good, too?

NALC is making available two books that offer proceeds directly to charitable causes: the Muscular Dystrophy Association (MDA) and the Postal Employees' Relief Fund (PERF).

Carried Away! True Stories from Letter Carriers Across America, a collection of stories compiled by



Kate Drury and Lois McNulty, is a celebration of the unique lifestyle and contributions that carriers bring to their communities. Drury, a member of Northeast Massachusetts Merged Branch 25, and McNulty, a former city carrier, teamed up to print heroic carrier stories, funny anecdotes and photos of unique mailboxes. Proceeds for the book go to PERF, which offers financial grants to active and retired postal employees who

have been the victim of natural disasters or fires.

Out There, a collection of Bakersfield, CA Branch 782 member

Fred Acedo's popular cartoons that appeared in newsletters throughout the country from 1993 to 2002, is being sold to raise money for MDA. The book contains reprints of black-and-white and color comic strips.

You can find out how to order both on the NALC website, nalc.org. ✉



Plaque to recognize carriers killed

Honoring those who have fallen in the line of duty always has been a priority for the armed services, and it's also something NALC has striven to do for our own service. Going a step farther, the union is in the process of commissioning a plaque that will be on display at NALC Headquarters in Washington, DC, bearing the names of those killed while on their routes.

"As a union, our mission is to protect the safety of carriers," President Fredric Rolando said, "but our service shouldn't end with their lives. We have a commitment to honor their legacies as well."

The plaque will include the names of

the carriers, their branches, the cities they carried mail in and the dates of their deaths. Submissions for the plaque can come only from a branch president, who should use the official form that will be posted on the NALC website. To be honored on the plaque, carriers must have died in the line of duty from accident or attack and not from natural causes or illness.

"We intend to make this a tradition, as a way to never forget those who gave their lives in the fulfillment of their duties," Rolando said.

Once completed, the plaque will be installed later this year. ✉