



Planning for success

The national convention is just weeks away, and we are actively planning for the NALC and Muscular Dystrophy Association reception that will occur on Wednesday of the convention week. Please see the coupon on the inside back cover and fill it out as soon as possible for a chance to win a Harley-Davidson motorcycle. You don't even have to be present to win! Many branches are ordering tickets to support MDA, and you will get credit for all ticket sales as contributions for the branch.

Starting Saturday at noon, we will begin selling tickets at the convention for delegates and will continue up to 4 p.m. on Wednesday. The reception begins at 5 p.m. at the convention center in the "Seasons" room and will end at 7 p.m. The drawings for the motorcycle and other prizes will occur there. Each person buying a ticket will receive two drink tickets for the reception. All proceeds will go directly to MDA. Make sure you stop by the MDA booth at the convention center to greet us and purchase your tickets.

In addition, the MDA workshop will take place on Thursday morning. Joining us at the workshop is MDA's new national goodwill ambassador, Bryson Foster, along with his parents, to meet and greet you at both the seminar and the reception. I know you'll really enjoy Bryson and his family.

Fill the Satchel

I can now announce the dates for our annual "Fill the Satchel" event in 2012. President Rolando has decided that we will have the event on the second Sunday of September every year, so you can plan accordingly.

We are very aware that many branches struggled last year to put carriers on the street due to local ordinances that restrict collecting in public. Other branches found unique and innovative ways to collect funds. You are not limited to a specific date, so if opportunities occur close to our target date, that is fine. Some sold shamrocks and used other methods to collect money, so I leave it up to your ingenuity. Please see my article in the December 2011 *Postal Record* for other ideas.

Bowlathon

Many branches hold bowlathons at different times of the year to raise funds for MDA. We are setting the second Sunday of January as a target date for our national event. President Rolando has been very supportive of all our efforts and feels that setting these dates in advance will give local MDA coordinators and branch leadership a chance to plan more effectively. Please be thinking now about how to make this opportunity a success. Now every year we can plan to aside a specific day to schedule a bowlathon as a great way to have fun and raise funds for MDA.

2011 MDA Honor Roll

It seems that every year we get late information that causes a change in the reporting of category winners. This year, unfortunately, was not an exception.

In last month's column, I reported that Saginaw, MI Branch 74 won Category 7. We have since received information that the data I was given was not accurate. As a result, Green Bay, WI Branch 219, which raised \$12,000, should have been the category winner. In consultation with our national president, we have decided that for this year, both branches will be honored when we send representatives to Tucson, AZ, with the other category winners. Next year, however, we will put into place a verification process to finalize the numbers before we publish by having our national business agents contact each branch listed to check the totals. A cutoff date will be used, and any branch that does not respond by that date will have to live with the results. That is only fair.

Please also note that Boston Branch 34 actually raised \$24,653, which was not reported accurately last month.

None of us are involved with MDA to get something out of it. We raise money for the families affected by the diseases covered by MDA. At the same time, we want every branch to get full credit for all they do. Please report all fundraising by using the form we have available and in conjunction with your local MDA office. Thanks so much for all you do!