



Letter carriers are amazing

As usual, the national convention in Minneapolis was a resounding success. Branch 9 met all expectations by showing great hospitality and concern for the attendees and their families. Many new delegates were blown away by seeing that many letter carriers together in one hall. The first time you attend is an unforgettable experience. The camaraderie and solidarity shown by the membership to one another was also on display.

As NALC's representative to the Muscular Dystrophy Association, I see our membership's response to those in need all the time. I am always proud of how we rise to the challenge set before us to stay with MDA until a cure is found. Those words mean something to letter carriers.

Even so, I was blown away by the response of the delegation to our fundraising effort at the convention. In Anaheim, we raffled off a motorcycle and raised more than \$34,000 for MDA. That was a great success and I hoped we could at least meet that effort in Minneapolis. Well, we did more than I had hoped or imagined. Once we were done, we raised \$43,600. Now that might not seem like a lot, but that total means that 55 children with one of these diseases will be able to go to camp next year. What a legacy for our union!

We had more than 800 people in attendance at the reception and all had a good time. Thank you to all the volunteers who worked so diligently taking tickets and making sure everybody got in. I especially want to acknowl-



MDA National Goodwill Ambassador Bryson Foster was joined by President Rolando during the national convention.

edge my good friend, Matty Rose, who, along with a group of letter carriers, sold 50/50 tickets and raised \$1,032. Kevin Boyer from my hometown of Sikeston, MO, won the other half of that raffle.

This kind of suc-

cess is not the result of any one person's work but illustrates what a collaboration of like-minded people can do. First, let me thank all of the delegates who purchased tickets to attend the NALC/MDA reception on Wednesday night of the convention. By doing so, they were entered into the raffle for a new Harley-Davidson motorcycle. The winner of the bike was Dennis Perk of Cleveland, OH Branch 40. Thanks, Dennis, for being part of our effort. The picture below shows President Rolando with MDA National Goodwill Ambassador Bryson Foster; also shown is the motorcycle won by Brother Perk.

Another highlight was spending time with the Fosters. Bryson is lucky to have a supportive and loving family. His parents, Phil and Claire, are glad to share their son with letter carriers and others who are fighting for a cure.

One of the other surprises I received was when I visited the National Auxiliary during its meetings. Linda Kirby, Marie Rasmussen and the other national officers presented me a check for more than \$8,500 to MDA. Thanks to the Auxiliary for being an active part of all the NALC does and stands for.

We have a rich history of accomplishment with MDA, but we cannot rest on our laurels just yet. The battle continues and the next big item on our agenda is the national bowlathon in January. While there is no absolute requirement for your branch to hold your event on the second Sunday in January, our hope is that you begin now to put the date on a calendar and begin working to make a success in your local branch. Please go to nalc.org and check out the "Community Service" pull-down. On the MDA page, you'll see a planning guide to help you get started. There you will also find a list of items to get your branch going. Start small and build on your success.

Next month I'll be writing about an exciting new idea to raise money. It is called a "Muscle Walk" and it's being used by many branches to greatly increase their activity. You'll find it to be easy and rewarding! ☒