Planning for the biennial national convention in Philadelphia has been underway for many months as NALC prepares for thousands of delegates converging to discuss the future of our craft. Our founders understood that it was necessary to meet as a national organization periodically and make decisions for our membership.

We have exciting plans for every delegate who attends the convention. The Muscular Dystrophy Association and NALC will host a reception on Wednesday from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. for all those who buy a raffle ticket for MDA. The tickets are $50 each, and we will be drawing for a brand-new 2014 Harley-Davidson motorcycle. We will be selling tickets at the MDA booth starting on the Saturday before the convention begins.

For those who will not be at the convention, I have included an order form below so that you can purchase tickets and be eligible to win any of the prizes, including the motorcycle. I want to thank the Harley-Davidson Company for its support and MDA for its work in making this happen for us. Remember, you do not have to be present to win! Branches are encouraged to buy tickets for their delegates or to hold raffles in their locals for even more funds for MDA. You may recall that we did the same thing at the Minneapolis convention two years ago and it was a great success. In fact, we raised more than $48,000 at that event.

The winner of the motorcycle will pick up the bike at the nearest Harley dealership to his or her home location.

Additionally, we will offer a workshop about MDA focusing on breakthroughs in research. Come hear the latest on new trials and treatments for the more than 40 diseases supported by the Muscular Dystrophy Association. Branches that have been successful in efforts to raise funds for MDA will be featured, and ideas will be shared so we can all increase what we do for these families.

RAA Orlando Gonzalez will share how his region was successful in hosting a Muscle Walk honoring President Emeritus Vincent R. Sombrotto. Representatives from MDA will be there to answer questions and MDA’s national goodwill ambassador will join us as well.

Next month we will publish the 2013 Honor Roll for all branches. Each category winner will be eligible to attend an award celebration for the hard work you have put in to raise money for MDA. More information will be forthcoming. See you in Philadelphia!

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