A win-win raffle for MDA

If you’d like to get in on the opportunity to take a vacation where and when you want, purchase Muscular Dystrophy Association raffle tickets for drawings to be held during the convention’s general session. NALC will be raffling up to five travel gift certificates valued at up to $3,000 each. For each 1,000 raffle tickets purchased, NALC will raffle off one $3,000 travel voucher.

You get to pick the destination, time and duration of your liking through Carlson Wagonlit Travel—CWT Vacations. Travel vouchers do not expire and can be used by you or anyone of your choosing. Tickets will be sold by regional administrative assistants (RAAs) near the delegate registration area and at the MDA booth, during normal registration hours until one hour prior to the drawing. All ticket sales will be credited to the branch that sells them, to help boost its fundraising dollars for the 2018 Honor Roll. Please contact me at mda@nalc.org or call 202-756-7403 for details. Tickets will be $20 each, so bring lots of $20 bills to help NALC “Deliver the Cure” for MDA.

MDA/NALC 2018 commemorative pin for sale

NALC will be selling an MDA/NALC Convention commemorative pin. This pin will not be sold at the store. Please stop by the MDA booth or at a location set to be near the registration area to purchase it. Proceeds from the sale of the pin will go to MDA as part of the convention fundraiser. Since there will be a limited number, stop by the MDA booth early in the week if you wish to purchase one and support MDA.

MDA Summer Camp is coming

Your branch is having a bowlathon to benefit MDA and you’ve been invited to attend. You’d really like to help out, but you stink at bowling. You also hate to ask for pledges.

You feel awful, but bowling and fundraising is not for you. If this is you, I would like to suggest another way to help out: MDA Summer Camp. It might be just the activity you feel comfortable with and are able to participate in.

MDA Summer Camp provides thousands of kids with muscular dystrophy and related muscle-debilitating diseases “the best week of the year.” At the camp, kids are living beyond limits in a place where anything is possible. It’s a week where they’re free to enjoy horseback riding, swimming and fishing and to develop lifelong friendships while building self-confidence and independence.

MDA’s nearly 75 weeklong summer camps—offered at no charge to families, thanks to NALC branches that fund the camps—give these kids a life-changing experience in an environment without barriers. Maybe there is one near you.

Opportunities at camp include participating in preparing or serving meals, assisting with daily activities including water-oriented ones, developing and assisting campers with crafts and attending the VIP day. NALC is a VIP sponsor by virtue of fundraising efforts and our Diamond partnership status with MDA. You also can volunteer for the medical staff or as a counselor for the entire week if you meet the requirements set by MDA. Children over 16 years of age can volunteer with you to make it a family event.

At most MDA camps, volunteer counselors work one-on-one with campers, providing the around-the-clock care, close supervision and attention that children with MD need. Counselors push wheelchairs, meet the daily needs of each child and become a youngster’s friend for a week. MDA is in particular need of male camp volunteers; however, female camp volunteers also are needed.

Attending these camps inspires me to continue my personal efforts to help MDA in fundraising, volunteering and promoting NALC’s continued commitment to help “Deliver the Cure.” Some branches focus their entire fundraising on sending a child to camp. Having an NALC member there would be a great way to put the face of a letter carrier behind the funds that were raised for this purpose.

To find an MDA Summer Camp near you, give me a call or send a letter and I will help you get in contact with your local MDA office for more information. Think of the difference you can make with this volunteer opportunity.