



# Year-end updates

**I want to apologize for my absence at the national convention.** I really did miss you, brothers and sisters. However, I want to thank all those who stepped up to help in my absence. You all rock!

Wow. I blinked my eyes and now summer is already coming to an end. MDA Summer Camp 2026 was truly one for the books! This year, once again, brought us 23 in-person sessions and one virtual session across three months. MDA stated:

Thank you for bringing your heart, commitment, and creativity to camp sessions. Because of you, each one became something truly unforgettable for everyone who took part. And remember what was accomplished and created this summer doesn't fade as the season ends. The impact will live on through the memories, stories, and experiences shared by every person involved for years to come.

In the meantime, the excitement doesn't stop here. MDA Family Getaways kicked off! Think camp, but for the whole family. Be sure to read more about MDA Family Getaways and this exciting opportunity at [mda.org/family-getaways](https://mda.org/family-getaways).

It's official, the 2026 Q3 Branch Challenge raised almost \$250,000 for MDA! Thank you to everyone who has helped raise money for MDA so far this year. We're heading into Q4 and the year end, and I know many branches have events and fundraisers planned. We wish you the best of luck as you wrap up your 2026 MDA fundraising efforts. Now, let's celebrate our Q3 winners:

- Erie, PA Branch 284: \$18,010
- Garden Grove, CA Branch 1100: \$15,603.99
- Mansfield, OH Branch 118: \$13,659
- Camden, NJ Merged Branch 540: \$10,430
- Saginaw, MI Branch 74: \$9,715
- Team NALC: \$9,390
- Syracuse, NY Branch 134: \$6,956.02

- Greater East Bay, CA Branch 1111: \$6,664.51
- San Diego, CA Branch 70: \$6,528.81
- Rochester, NY Branch 210: \$6,518

Congratulations to all our Q3 winners. Our top three winners will receive an MDA prize pack.

## MDA September updates

- The FDA approved Itsembli (apitegromab-mstn), the first and only muscle-targeted therapy for spinal muscular atrophy (SMA), marking a new milestone in SMA treatment.
- The U.S. Senate passed the House version of the ACT for ALS Reauthorization Act of 2026. Reauthorization of the landmark 2021 ACT for ALS will help sustain the momentum created over the past five years, supporting faster therapeutic development while expanding access to care, services and research opportunities for those facing this devastating disease.

## Year-end donation reminder

A friendly reminder that all 2026 MDA donations must be received by Dec. 31. MDA will be closed for the holidays beginning Dec. 24 and will reopen on Jan. 4. Tawny will be on leave beginning Dec. 18, but she will be checking in periodically to answer any last-minute questions about submitting your donations. However, please don't wait until the last minute—get your donations submitted as soon as possible!

As always, if you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to Tawny at 719-640-8625 or [nalc@mdausa.org](mailto:nalc@mdausa.org).

Thank you for all you do to support the MDA community.

—Submitted by Christina Vela Davidson

## Staff Reports

# FECA Transmittal 26-2 (continued)

(continued from previous page)

back from their supervisors or the bureaucratic entanglements of OWCP's claims process.

And while it is not uncommon for injuries to resolve themselves on their own, the takeaway from this rescission of *Transmittal 24-2* is that injured workers should file a claim immediately when hurt to avoid "casting doubt on

the validity" of the claim. This can only congest the workload of already overburdened claims examiners.

**Finally, on another note, while I will still contribute** to this column as assistant to the president for workers' compensation, beginning next month our regional workers' compensation assistants will also contribute to future columns to share their insights and experience.