



Photo by Gavin Zac

# NALC National MDA Bowlathon

## November 1

**P**reparations are rolling right along for the first-ever national NALC bowlathon for the Muscular Dystrophy Association on Sunday, November 1, and President Fred Rolando hopes the effort will be the first in a series of coordinated nationwide fund-raisers.

“This is one more way we can show how serious we are about our long partnership with MDA,” Rolando said. “For some branches, it might have been years since they’ve done any sort of MDA fund-raising. Others may never have. An annual event like this means branches don’t have to start from scratch. They have a project set up they can plug right into.”

Rolando stressed that the national event should not be seen as a replacement for other local fund-raisers but as a supplement. “Our goal is to increase participation, not just move the date around,” he said.

To add some excitement, NALC will award prizes both to top fund-raising branches and to a few lucky members who tally top scores at bowling alleys across the United States (*details at right*).

NALC National MDA Coordinator Jim Williams announced the event in his column in the July *Postal Record* (available online at [nalc.org](http://nalc.org)). Williams, a former national executive vice president, noted many branches hold bowlathons, but staging them all on the same day has never before been tried.

MDA is the union’s only official charity. For more than 50 years, letter carriers have helped raise millions of dollars annually for the Tucson, Arizona-based agency that sponsors scientific research into the nearly 40 neuromuscular diseases that affect more than a million Americans. It also helps those afflicted and their families deal with the consequences of the diseases.

“Doing something like a bowlathon on a national level, all on the same day, is an idea that branch MDA coordinators have been kicking around for some time,” inspired largely by the success of NALC’s national food drive, Williams said.

President Rolando said he hopes the bowlathon will be a model for other, similar projects, such as national golf or Texas hold-em poker tournaments. “I want to see the NALC return to the very top ranks of MDA fund-raisers,” he said. “And there’s no reason we can’t have some fun while we do that.” ☒

*Read more about plans for the bowlathon in this month’s MDA column on page 42.*

### Added incentives

A laptop computer loaded with the NALC’s various software programs will be awarded to each branch that raises the most money for MDA in the following membership categories:

- Category I—2,000+ members
- Category II—1,500 to 1,999 members
- Category III—1,000 to 1,499 members
- Category IV—700 to 999 members
- Category V—500 to 699 members
- Category VI—350 to 499 members
- Category VII—200 to 349 members
- Category VIII—100 to 199 members
- Category IX—50 to 99 members
- Category X—10 to 49 members

Also, two individual top-scorers in each MDA category in the three-game series—based both on handicapped and actual scores—will win a new bowling ball and bowling shoes.