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Members,

I had a great week traveling the state and talking to licensed organizations. I always enjoy putting St. Paul in the rear view mirror and getting out talking with folks.

In Bemidji we had a small group at the Eagles, but [television news was there to cover it](#). No legislators were in attendance.

In Willmar we had a nice group at the Eagles. There were no legislators in attendance and no press coverage.

In Rochester last night we had another nice sized group at the American Legion. [Local television was there](#) as well as Rep. Duane Quam and Senator David Senjem. [Senator Carla Nelson had a conflict, but had a letter read to the group](#).

Many thanks to our hosts.

A couple of themes emerged this week. One is that what we do is too important to let die on our watch. We have to come together and help the Governor and legislature understand how important this is to our local communities. To that end ACM needs to provide more concise tools that let you communicate effectively with your legislators. That is in the works and will be out as soon as possible.

probably tighten their belt to some degree, there is almost no expense of ours that is not regulated or mandated. Wages, rent and games make up 86% of our total expenses. State and federal mandates govern wages for everyone but the GM. Rent is regulated by statute. You might save a dollar or two if you shopped all distributors for your games and you might end up saving a few thousand dollars over the course of a year. Compare that with paying the state 72% of what you have left after expenses when you are in the 36% tax bracket. All this talk of padding our expenses is designed to keep people from looking behind the curtain to see what our real problem is.

Next week we are at the American Legion in Marshall on Wednesday and the Eagles in Detroit Lakes on Thursday. Meetings start at 5:30 and will be done no later than 7:30.

The Convention and Expo mailing went out this week. On-line registration is available as well. Look under the Convention and Expo tab on the ACM website www.alliedcharitiesmn.org. Convention is at the River's Edge Convention Center, November 16 – 18, 2017.

Regards,

AI

Marshall

Wednesday, Aug. 23

American Legion Post 113
412 W. Main St.
Marshall, MN 56258

East Grand Forks

Wednesday, September 6

American Legion Post 157
1009 Central Ave NW
East Grand Forks, MN 56721

Detroit Lakes

Thursday, Aug 24

Fraternal Order of Eagles #2342
112 Holmes St. W
Detroit Lakes, MN 56501

Brainerd

Thursday, Sept. 21

American Legion Post 255
708 Front St.
Brainerd, MN 56401

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