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Members and associates,

The 2017 Legislative session is over. Sort of anyway. There will probably be court cases to determine if what the Governor and the Legislature did to each other was legal.

There is a Japanese proverb that loosely translated says that a skilled hawk hides its talons, meaning that a person of power does not show their strength needlessly. Both the Legislature and the Governor could have heeded that advice. The Legislature tried to close down the Department of Revenue by not funding them and the Governor retaliated by trying to close down the Legislature by not funding them.

Licensed not-for-profit charities who conduct charitable gaming came away with nothing this session. There is no sugar-coating our disappointment. However, during the last six months, we have accomplished some things and we have learned a lot:

- We raised our profile and are starting to elevate the issue in the news media. We started the campaign with a [strong article in the StarTribune](#) on the problem and we still are getting noticed, including this [recent editorial in the Duluth News Tribune](#) and [op-ed in the Rochester Post Bulletin](#).
- We had a very aggressive advertising campaign that made our case for tax relief and built our reputation as organizations that are investing in our communities, making them better places to live and work. You can [hear](#)

- There's an old line in politics that the final speech of a losing campaign is two speeches – it's the close of the campaign just ended and the launch of the new campaign. In the last two-three weeks, I've put over 1000 miles on my car to tell our story to media in Duluth, St. Cloud, Brainerd, Fargo-Moorhead and Rochester. I've told them why we were disappointed in 2017 but also our plans to be back in 2018, 2019 and beyond. This campaign can't end.
- We built stronger relationships with some legislators. Obviously, we didn't go far enough, but we made some headway. The challenge now is for YOU, our members, to keep those relationships going.
- And that's my final point. We had members step up – some of them for the first time – to contact legislators, tell their stories to the media and get involved. It was great, but it wasn't nearly enough. We need every charity and all the groups they support to reach out to legislators and let them know that fairness is long overdue. Nothing will make our case like the voices of people in legislators' communities.

ACM will be looking for ideas as to what to propose for the 2018 session starting in February of 2018. Tax relief needs to remain on our agenda as does other cost cutting measures meant to get more dollars to our communities and missions. It is clear that at this moment in time the Governor and the Legislature are going to hold us to the 2012 stadium bill and our funding of said stadium.

I would ask the Governor and the Legislature to then honor their end of the legislation and let us have our sports themed tip boards that were part of the bill as well. We need to stand up and demand we get what was promised to us in that 2012 legislation. Holding us responsible while keeping a valuable tool from us is wrong on so many levels.

Weekly letters will no longer be the norm. I will keep in touch over the summer and will have our convention information out in August. We are in St. Cloud this year, November 16 – 18. Hope to see you there. Call or write anytime. I hope that you all have a wonderful summer. Stay safe.

Regards,

Al Lund

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