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President's Page

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BAR BRIEFS

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—BY—

STATE BAR ASSOCIATION OF NORTH DAKOTA

M. L. McBride, Editor

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THE PRESIDENT'S PAGE

Fellow members of the Bar:—

This message comes to you directly from the halls of the Assembly and House of Delegates of the American Bar Association where calls came from every corner, section and place of these United States, even from across the waters, from the lawyers of our allies for leadership of the lawyers of our country. We of North Dakota heard this call, first, from our recent Past-President, O. B. Herigstad in his most able annual address delivered at the Minot meeting. He emphatically urged the lawyers of North Dakota to take on the leadership in their respective communities. Now it most forcefully comes again to us from afar, from those high in the office of governmental and military affairs.

The Bar of North Dakota won distinction in the work we did for those in the armed forces for which our Association was recognized by awards from both the Army and Navy, and well may we be proud of those awards.

Our work as lawyers in such service is not finished. Every community has had and will have its soldier problems. May I suggest, do we as lawyers of North Dakota know much, if anything, about pensions for soldiers, widows or children of the military men? Do we as members of our profession know about exemptions from federal or state taxation of soldiers incomes? Are we familiar with methods of proving wills of dead soldiers which the last one made in camp or maybe the fox hole? Are we taking a leading

(Continued on Next Page)

(Continued from First Page)

part in organizing our communities for the rehabilitation of the returning men and women? Are we able to advise them as to the rights to preference as to jobs or property? Have we lawyers of North Dakota who have, during late years, been so busy rehabilitating ourselves from the distress of drought that possibly we have overlooked those present problems, and those which are now suggested as ours in governmental and community affairs. Rear Admiral T. L. Gatch said to the assembly of the American Bar in his address to its members, "The lawyers of the United States are responsible for the government of the United States." Are we assuming that responsibility? If that be true, then it is likewise true that the lawyers of a community may be charged with the responsibility of the rules of society imposed upon him by our own state.

My sincere hope as your President is to get the judge and lawyer members of our Bar together as a united working force for the good of our State. To do this our Association must have active, sincere, and working committees. Those committees will soon be announced as approved by your Executive Comittee. Will you lawyers get together in your respective judicial districts as the By-Laws of our Association require and make up a set of suggestions which you believe to be for the good of our Association? Give those suggestions to the President of your district organization—he is your member of the Executive Committee. Let us get to work, not only for the good of our Association, but for the up-building of our communities and State. Will you help build our Association?

Sincerely,

WM. G. OWENS
President of N.D.B.A.

ANNUAL MEETING

The 1944 annual meeting of the Association was held at Minot, N. D. on August 24th and 25th. And while it was a "streamlined" meeting on account of the war, it was well attended, and members were well repaid by the fine program.

As no meeting was held in 1943, the Executive Committee felt justified in having a short meeting at which National Defense and Direction of the War Effort; Function of the Red Cross on Claims of Soldiers and Sailors, and Their Dependents; Post War Road Building, and Soldiers' and Sailors' Civil Relief Acts took the forefront.

However there was no lack of interest in Pre-Trial Procedure by Judge Grimson, and former Judge Palda.

Citations by the Army and Navy for Meritorious Service for Legal Assistance to those in the Armed Forces of the United States was another high light. Major R. N. Davies awarded the Citation for the Army, and Lieutenant Commander William C. Thompson for the Navy.