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Our Business

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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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OUR BUSINESS

For this issue the President has surrendered his page for the announcement of the committee appointments he has made for his official year, and, as approved by the executive committee. That the matter of these appointments has been given much thought and consideration by him goes without saying, and before giving the completed list to all our members thru this publication he initiated the practice of having your secretary write each one appointed for his acceptance and pledge for activity.

To make it possible for each Chairman to have accessible for consultation the membership of his committee an attempt has been made to group the appointments in the vicinity of the Chairman so that from two to four members can easily attend a meeting.

There are some exceptions of course to this rule such as the committee on local organization, where the system has been inaugurated of placing one member in each judicial district to spur action thereon.

And may I suggest that each one of you so appointed inform your chairman that you are ready for action. That you proceed to map a campaign for your committee work, and then promptly start upon it, and follow it through to its conclusion, compiling a report for your association, and submitting the same to your executive committee at least thirty days before the annual meeting, to the end that the same may be considered by the several District Bar organizations of

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the state in advance of such annual meeting, and in this way your membership will be advised and give consideration to the conclusions and recommendations thereof, and be prepared to discuss the same and give a worthwhile opinion at the annual meeting.

And unless you do this much of your committee work will go for naught. The time at the annual meeting is too short to give serious consideration, and discussion of many controversial matters, when submitted there for the first time; but if the committee reports are submitted before and in time for study your members will come there—some at least—prepared to analyze them intelligently.

And if you don't, the result will be the same as so many times in the past—report accepted and placed on file—referred to the executive committee for action — perhaps resolved on, and forgotten. This body of men dislike to take hastily ill considered action on important matters heard of for the first time in a committee report made without any notice; and generally they don't do it, and avoid it some way.

At our annual meetings you generally hear voiced that we didn't do anything about this or that, and what became of this resolution or that, and your committee is tired of making reports to have them buried, etc.

Well said and true, but why? Part of the answer is given above and the rest of it is the result of lack of interest and attention of the members of the association at large who carp and bark at home but display no ambition to employ a little of their time for the good of the order in attendance at the district or annual meetings. And you know brother the most of us have quite a bit of the commodity of time on hand not now, nor recently, required in considering heavy litigation.

Right now two thirds of you are local trouble shooters without pay, why not give a little time and thought to making your Bar Association work as intended—it may yield more to you, and can never be a total loss.

Come out for practice, boys, anyway, and take a swing at the ball. You can never tell what a little team work will accomplish.

YOUR SECRETARY.

ASSOCIATION ORGANIZATION FOR 1937-1938

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