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American Bar Association Notes

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charge of his duties, whether as County official or Attorney at Law, has reflected honour upon our profession and as an appreciation of this fact, we express our sorrow and regret over his removal from our midst, and recommend his course in professional and official life to those who come after him as Members of the Bar of North Dakota and of our Association; that a copy hereof be sent to the President and Secretary of the Bar Association of North Dakota, and to the Chairman of its Committee on Memorials.

January 15, 1936.

S. E. ELLSWORTH,
CYTELLA PETERSON,
JOHN KNAUF, Committee.

AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION NOTES

By WILLIAM L. RANSOM, President
American Bar Association

Steady progress is being made in perfecting a suitable and practicable plan for an improved and truly representative National Organization of the Bar. The significant phases that have lately developed are:

(1) The widespread interest manifested by the great number of friendly and very helpful suggestions and criticisms received from State and local Bar Association Committees, and from individual lawyers in all parts of the country;

(2) The hearty and usually unanimous endorsement which the plan has received from such State Bar Associations as have so far been in position to act; only one State has disapproved and that, I believe, through misunderstanding of the preliminary draft;

(3) The open-minded and informed discussion of practically every phase of the plan, during three days in Chicago from January 13th to 15th, with the result that the plan justified itself as sound, when all factors were considered;

(4) The revision of the plan to take into account many of the suggestions received; and the approval of the revised form by the General Council, without a dissenting vote; and

(5) The widespread expressions of interest and determination to attend the annual convention of the American Bar Association in Boston, where the plan will come to a vote on August 24th.

The revised form of the plan has literally been made by American lawyers. No document emanating from the American Bar Association was ever so carefully read and critically studied by as many lawyers. The more the plan is studied, the more practicable and attractive it is seen to be. Many who came to Chicago with an inclination to criticize or oppose were convinced of the reasonableness of the provisions which they challenged.

The present Constitution and By-Laws of the A. B. A. could stand no such scrutiny as the proposed revision has received. If anyone doubts that, let him read the present Constitution and By-Laws. Everywhere the view is expressed that the proposed revision is a great improvement, in text and substance, over what we now have. If the proposed organization offers a substantial improvement over that now in effect, it should be adopted.

The revised form is to be further studied and checked, and is of course open to further clarification and improvement. In essential plan and outlines, however, I believe that the form now prepared and approved is substantially that which will be offered for adoption at the Boston convention.

The interest and active support of all State and local Bar Associations and their members are very much needed at this juncture. A three-fourths' vote of those present will be required in Boston for the adoption of the plan. Good wishes and friendly approval will not consummate this forward step in the history of the American Bar, unless those wishes and approvals are made effective by attendance in Boston.

COMMITTEES AND DISTRICT BAR ASSOCIATIONS

The District Bar Association is an integral and important part of the State Bar Association of North Dakota. The activities of the smaller organizations will be reflected and magnified to a degree in the state-wide association; and failure of the District associations to function actively may, to a greater or less extent, diminish the effectiveness of the entire Bar organization setup. In three out of the six districts no meeting was held by the district organization in 1935; no new officers elected, nor committees appointed. The presidents of the respective district bar associations are *ex officio* members of the Executive Committee of the State Association. We urge the members of the Bar to take an active interest in their respective district associations.

Standing committees appointed last September should, at this time, have their work well in hand. The annual meeting will take place earlier this year than usual, and failure of committees to function and to report their activities will hamper the work of the Association. The evidence before us is that they are acting, and that the reports submitted at the annual meeting will bear witness to the effectiveness of the state organization during the current year and to the accomplishment of some progress towards the various ends for which we strive.

BUT, hold your district meetings as soon as weather and highway conditions permit, and see that committees are on the road to complete their respective tasks and to report progress.

President Hildreth asks that committee members be reminded that expenses incurred by them in connection with committee activities are legitimate items of expenditure and will be paid by the State Association.

CHANGE IN CONTEST RULES

As a result of correspondence with members of the Association and further consideration of qualifications for eligibility of members to participate in the \$100.00 prize contest, it has been decided that a change must be made in the rules. The purpose of the change is to eliminate the requirement that the contest is limited to those who have been members of the Association for at least five years. The project was conceived with the idea that it should be primarily a contest among the younger lawyers of the State, with the purpose of stimulating interest in Association activities. It was found that the requirement relating to length of membership would render most of the younger men ineligible. Accordingly, Rule No. 1, as published in the February, 1936 issue of Bar Briefs, has been altered to read as follows:

"No. 1. The applicant must be a member of the State Bar Association, of good standing, and not over 30 years of age at the time of filing his article; time of filing to be interpreted as date of depositing the article in the mail for transmittal to the President of the Association."

The Executive Committee will welcome any further suggestions received from members of the Association.