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New Program of Colorado Bar Association

By THOMAS M. BURGESS, *President*

During the past year the Officers and Board of Governors of the Colorado Bar Association have devoted considerable attention to an expansion of programs for the benefit of the individual members, and looking toward effective internal organization of the Association.

On June 7, 1948, the Board of Governors approved a plan of expanded activities and some reorganization. At the same time the Board appointed a committee of its members to work out the details of the program for presentation to the Annual Convention. The committee appointed consisted of the President, the President Elect, the Secretary, and W. Clayton Carpenter of the Denver Bar.

In order that all members of the Association may be advised as to the contents of the proposed program, your attention is urgently invited.

Executive Secretary

It has been recognized for sometime that the affairs of the Association cannot continue to successfully function with the services of practically an Honorary Secretary. Membership has more than trebled in the past ten years. The mechanics of handling correspondence and office routine now demands all of the time which our Secretary can afford to devote to the affairs of the organization. It leaves him with no time to develop publications or to handle programs of Bar improvement; nor should we expect him to constantly leave his practice in order to handle our affairs.

It therefore seems that any program for expansion of activities of the Association or for improvement in existing programs is dependent upon the establishment of an office of Executive Secretary with adequately paid full-time employees to devote their undivided attention to the affairs of the Association.

The Denver Bar Association has come to the same conclusion and with this unanimity of opinion it has been decided to establish the office of Executive Secretary, with the person appointed to serve as Secretary of the Denver Bar Association and as Secretary of the Colorado Bar Association, with the expenses of the office to be equally split between the two organizations. It is estimated that the cost to the Colorado Bar Association for this item will be approximately \$2500.00 per year.

Mr. John Poyen of the Denver Bar was appointed Executive Secretary of the Denver Bar Association, effective as of August 1, 1948. He has been appointed Executive Secretary of the Colorado Bar Association and will assume his duties as such on October 1, 1948.

Publications

DICTA and Loose Leaf Service are at the present time the only publications of the State Bar Association. For several years in the past it was possible to publish the current Supreme Court Reports through a contract with a Denver newspaper. A year ago the contract price was increased so high that it was impossible to continue that publication. There is an ever increasing demand and need for prompt information as to the decisions of our highest tribunal.

There is also a definite need, during sessions of the Legislature, for the distribution of information on legislative matters.

It is, therefore, proposed to continue the loose leaf service on Rules of Procedure and Real Estate Title Standards, and related subjects.

It is also proposed to publish a weekly pamphlet to be issued through the Secretary's Office for distribution to all members of the Association, which pamphlet shall contain the decisions of our Supreme Court as rendered that particular week, together with general Bar Bulletins and head-notes on new cases in the United States Supreme Court, and information on current important matters.

It is also proposed to provide a legislative service, which will promptly give each week the copies of all bills passed by the Legislature during the week, except appropriation bills.

In order to provide these services, it may be necessary to discontinue DICTA as an organ of the State Bar Association.

It is estimated after conferences with printers and the gathering of information, that the cost of these services in publications will be approximately \$4,300.00 per year. The present publication and mailing costs are approximately \$2,000.00 per year.

General

It is proposed to formulate and inaugurate a sound public relations program. The American Bar Association has recommended such programs and several of the State and large city Bar Associations have been successful.

The Public Relations Committee has been working on programs for the past year, and making comprehensive studies. It is now time to inaugurate a set of programs with the general purpose of securing more favorable public reactions toward the Bar as a whole.

It will be necessary to conduct a revival campaign on improvement of Judicial Administration. In order to carry through the work of the Judiciary Committee, public sentiment must be aroused in favor of the plan, and since it is the program of the State Association, it is our obligation to arouse that public sentiment.

It is proposed to establish a thoroughly active and potent committee on Unauthorized Practice. It is well known that many laymen throughout the entire State, in all walks of life, are practicing law without a license. The work of the present committee has been ineffective because of the lack of means of properly clearing their work through the office of the Secretary. The Executive Secretary will have the time to devote his attention to the gathering of information and arranging for the handling of cases of unauthorized practice.

It is proposed to revitalize the committee on placements. There is a real need for a clearing house between the newly admitted lawyer and the office of the practicing attorney. The voluntary committee on placements has laid a good foundation, but the detail of the work can only be properly handled through the office of the Executive Secretary, and records and clearance methods will be now arranged in that office.

It is proposed to provide more legal institutes on subjects that are of primary interest to the practicing lawyer in the different localities of the State. The American Law Institute will now assist with programs, and the Secretary's Office will be able to arrange appropriate times and programs for the local Bar Associations.

It is proposed to continue the work of the present Committee on Revision and Standardization of Forms. The Committee has been working for the past year on all of the obsolete forms now in use throughout the State, but it has been hampered in its work through lack of secretarial facilities and inability to gather together all of the obsolete documents. The Secretary's Office will handle these details for this Committee as well as all other Committees.

It is proposed to continue all of the present committees and activities of the Association, and to increase the effectiveness of those Committees and activities.

Cost

As we all realize, the dues are now \$5.00 per year. In effect, those dues are wasted through ineffectual application, for such small dues must be spread so thin that no real object can be accomplished with them.

The program outlined above requires an increase in dues. The Board of Governors has approved a proposed amendment which in substance will authorize the Board to set the annual dues at a sum not to exceed \$15.00 per annum. The Annual Convention will be called upon to vote upon that proposed amendment.

It is believed that the entire program outlined herein can be carried out at the present time with dues of \$12.50 per year.

This program is vital to the Association. The Members are urged to give it their individual particular attention prior to the Convention.