

1944

Report of the Membership Committee

Minn. L. Rev. Editorial Board

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members of the Bar in behalf of such bills, the possibilities of accomplishment would be greatly enhanced.

Unless the members, generally, are interested in devoting some time to the legislative program after the convention is over, and are willing to concentrate upon a more limited program, the Bar Association might as well adopt the following policy: "The purpose of the legislative program of the Minnesota State Bar Association is to give the various pre-convention committees an opportunity to work and make recommendations pleasing to the members of the convention, but without serious expectation or hope of accomplishment."

Respectfully submitted,

BELDIN H. LOFTSGAARDEN, Chairman	DOUGLAS HALL
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REPORT OF THE MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

TO THE MINNESOTA STATE BAR ASSOCIATION

RECOMMENDATION

The Committee recommends:

That upon the election of the President, the Committee on Membership be appointed and confirmed at the first meeting of the Board of Governors, July 14, 1944.

REPORT

The purpose of the recommendation of your Committee is to keep the Membership work on a twelve month basis. There should be no lapse in this important task; hence, your Committee feels that the appointment of this committee should be made at an early date so that the Membership Drive which was commenced in 1944 may be continued throughout the coming year. 149 new members have been brought into the Association as of April 24, 1944.

The splendid cooperation of the District Associations and the local Membership Committees has been most gratifying. The result of the 1944 Membership Drive in no small part is due to the hearty support of District Officers and Committees as well as the members of the State-wide Committee.

The Membership of the Association on April 24, 1944, the date of the submission of this report is 1391 members, as compared with a total on April 29, 1943, of 1261 members, and a total of 1737 for the entire year of 1943. Unfortunately, approximately 50 of our members die during each twelve month period, and a similar number are taken into the armed forces, hence, it will be seen that the first 100 new members brought into the Association each year merely fill the ranks of those who have left, but do not add to our total paid membership. It therefore becomes apparent that working on the Membership Committee is like working on a tread mill. We can't stand still, we must go forward. World War II has so far taken into the armed forces a total of approximately 250 members of the Association. A large percentage of applicants for admission to the Bar of this state are inducted into the armed forces at the time of their admission to the Bar, and consequently, will have no opportunity of joining the Association until they return to civilian life. We must continue to attract to the Association older practitioners who are fortunate enough to remain at home. We hope that our goal of 2,000 members will be reached before the convening of the Annual Meeting of the Association on July 13 and 14, 1944. Your committee will continue its efforts until that time and suggests that the new committee continue the work thereafter.

In order for the Minnesota State Bar Association to properly repre-

sent the Bar of this state, it should have the vast majority of practicing lawyers on its membership roll. A goal of 2,000 from a possible number of 3,000 is not too much to expect.

The records of the Central Office indicate that at the date of the submission of this report there are 391 members who have not paid their 1944 dues. Assuming these dues will all be paid and then adding this number of 391 to our April 24th total of 1391 gives us a projected total of 1782. This would be an increase over last year of approximately 50 members, however, we would still be more than 200 members short of our goal of 2,000. We therefore ask your renewed efforts in bringing in new members between now and the end of the year.

One of the problems which faces the Membership Committee each year is the burdensome task of re-soliciting lawyers who have not paid current dues. It seems to be a needless burden to impose upon the Membership Committee the necessity of reselling old members, year after year, on the idea of paying current dues to their own organization. Perhaps a special committee should study the advisability of recommending to the District Associations the feasibility of carrying a member on its rolls so long as he remains in the District and bill him for current dues as well as delinquent dues. The practice now seems to be to drop delinquent members for non-payment of dues and then re-solicit them for membership in subsequent years.

The following figures show the membership of the District Associations on December 31, 1943, as compared with the membership of April 24, 1944.

District	December 31, 1943 Total	April 24, 1944 Total
1	27	29
2	352	313
3	47	33
4	612	536
5	33	24
6	20	0
7	66	45
8	21	7
9	45	37
10	32	28
11	156	121
Range	41	25
12	52	40
13	27	22
14	30	22
15	40	22
16	30	15
17	38	22
18	15	0
19	26	24
District Judges	26	26
Out of State	1	0
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	1737	1391

Respectfully submitted,

T. H. WANGENSTEEN, Chairman

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