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==== A Voice for the Bar ====



D.A. Simmons

With the publication of this first number of the TEXAS BAR JOURNAL, our Association has become articulate. From a small beginning in 1882 the Texas Bar Association has grown to be one of the most active professional associations in this part of the country. The lawyer who fails to attend the annual meeting has difficulty in believing that the officers, directors and committees work steadily throughout the year, and he is prone to assert that the only activity of the Association with which he is familiar consists of mailing him two letters a year, one in the spring notifying him that his annual dues are payable and one in June stating that the annual meeting will be held somewhere the first week in July. The publication of the Journal is undertaken in part to eradicate this false impression, but more particularly to render a service to the profession in Texas. Its pages will be utilized for the publication of committee reports, for suggestions from the members, and, with your cooperation, to report local and district bar association activities and any other matter of interest to the bench and bar of this state.

The committees of the Association for the current year were appointed shortly after the adjournment of the annual meeting and have been functioning. The directors have met several times and have devoted their energies not only to the general affairs of the Texas Bar Association, but are encouraging and participating in the activities of the local bar associations in their individual districts. Minutes of the last meeting of the Board will be found elsewhere in these pages and, I believe, will be of considerable interest to the membership. Considerable study has been made as to the most pressing needs of the Association, and the conclusion has been reached that we should endeavor to accomplish as many of the following objectives as possible:

1. The publication of a monthly journal in the interest of the profession. This issue marks the accomplishment of step No. 1, and with your cooperation and support it will be continued from month to month.
2. The employment of a full-time executive secretary who will work for the interest of the Texas Bar Association and its membership twelve months in the year, coordinate its activities, and give continuity to its efforts.
3. The establishment of a central office, preferably at Austin, as the geographical and political center of the state.
4. To develop sections, through which more members can participate in the activities of the Association, in lieu of, or as an enlargement of, the work of committees. To this end the directors have authorized, and your president has appointed committees to organize sections on mineral law and on insurance law at the next meeting of the Association.
5. To increase the membership so that the Association may represent in fact as well as in name the legal profession of the State of Texas.

We earnestly solicit your cooperation in the accomplishment of these objectives.

Sincerely yours,
D.A. SIMMONS
President, Texas Bar Association.

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