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Announcements

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William Wheeler Thornton was graduated from the University of Michigan with the degree of LL. B. in 1876. He was deputy attorney general of Indiana 1880-1882 and judge of the superior court of Marion County 1914-22. He is now engaged in the general practice of the law at Indianapolis, Indiana. Judge Thornton has been a contributor to legal periodicals for many years and it is likely that he has written more treatises upon different phases of the law in Indiana than any other lawyer in the history of the state. His works include: Statutory Construction (Indiana), 1887; Indiana Practice Code, Annotated, 1888; Lost Wills, 1890; Indiana Municipal Law, 1890; Railroad Fences, 1892; Gifts and Advancements, 1893; Indiana Practice Forms, 1893; Decedents' Estates, 1895; Revised Statutes of Indiana, 1897; Indiana Township Guide, 1898; Building Associations, 1898; Government of Indiana, 1898; Oil and Gas, 1904; Indiana Negligence, 1908; Federal Employes' Safety Appliance Acts, 1909; Intoxicating Liquors, 1910; Pure Food and Drugs Act; The Sherman Anti-Trust Act; Indiana Instructions to Jurors, 1914; Indiana County Officers, 1923.

Glenn D. Peters was graduated from Indiana University (A. B. 1906) and studied at the University of Chicago. He practiced law at Knox, Indiana, 1908-1913 and since 1913 has been in the general practice of the law at Hammond; he is a member of the firm of Bomberger, Peters and Morthland of that city.

ANNOUNCEMENT

PLANS FOR THE ORATORICAL CONTESTS ON THE CONSTITUTION

To the Editor of the Indiana Law Journal:

Complying with your request for statement of the workings of the National Oratorical Contest in Indiana, and the connection of the State Bar Association with that movement, permit me to say that this movement in Indiana had its inception in the adoption by the Indiana State Bar Association at its annual meeting in July, 1922, of the following resolution:

"BE IT RESOLVED by the Indiana State Bar Association assembled in its regular annual meeting:

"That it is the belief of the Association that we have been giving too little attention to the matter of educating the citizens, both present and future, of this state, in the principles and essential elements of our institutions and in the fundamentals of constitutional government, and that it is the conviction of the Association that it is the duty of the bench and bar of this state to co-operate with all the activities that have for their object training for a more enlightened and loyal citizenship.

"And, to assist in the accomplishment of this purpose, that a committee of five members be appointed by the incoming

President of the Association, with instructions and authority to carry out, as far as practicable, such purpose."

A committee, appointed to carry out the work contemplated in that resolution, set about creating a state-wide organization by selecting a manager in each congressional district and a chairman in each county, the object being to get a number of lawyers interested who would agree to go before organizations when requested, and especially before the schools, and speak on topics relating to the fundamentals of constitutional government, in an endeavor to create interest in things essential to free government and, as far as possible, make the study of our constitution popular.

Believing that much of the opposition to our form of government springs from ignorance, and that the remedy is education, this organization very naturally looked upon the schools as one of the most effective agencies for this purpose.

Working through the schools, however, is only one phase of the activities contemplated by this organization; it aims to enlist the support and co-operation of every agency which has for its aims a more enlightened and loyal citizenship.

From the first this Association has had the co-operation of the Department of Public Instruction, and of practically all the leading civic and patriotic organizations in the state.

During the Summer and Fall of 1923, as a means of introducing it to the teaching staff, addresses on this subject by members of the legal profession were made in the normal schools and in most of the colleges where teacher training classes were conducted, and in most of the teachers' County Institutes. In this way the subject was brought to the personal attention of more than 20,000 teachers in Indiana, prior to the opening of schools that year.

The American Bar Association, at its meeting in San Francisco in August, 1922, in the adoption of the report of its Committee on American Citizenship, definitely committed itself to the encouragement of all measures, calculated to increase knowledge of and respect for the basic law of the land.

Among the recommendations made by that Committee to the American Bar Association, was one pointing out the duty of that organization as that of—"Arousing patriotic effort of the members of the Bar in every state, utilizing to this end the state, city and country bar associations, and co-ordinating with all societies having the same ends in view."

Following that action came the organization of the National Oratorical Contest. This was accomplished under the direction of Randolph Leigh of Los Angeles, California, who succeeded

in interesting a number of metropolitan newspapers throughout the country which agreed to finance the contest as a nationwide movement, each newspaper to finance and direct the contest in the territory assigned to it, according to a program prepared by Mr. Leigh and his committee. This movement in its national scope was launched in 1924. This Bar Association, for its school activities adopted the Leigh program in its entirety.

Under such an arrangement the contest in Indiana was for the next three years financed and directed by a single newspaper in this state, the Indiana State Bar Association co-operating. This year, Mr. Leigh's organization failing to contract with any newspaper in Indiana, the Bar Association suddenly found itself under the necessity of taking full charge of the contest in this state, and of finding new means of newspaper publicity. The plan which was then adopted was to secure the promise of at least one newspaper of general circulation in each congressional district, to support this movement and give a reasonable amount of space in its columns to news regarding the contest.

To this request eighteen newspapers in the state responded, but the time required in arranging to take charge of this contest, and arrange for its publicity, so far delayed the launching of the 1927 contest, that some schools which otherwise would have participated, failed to enroll.

The failure to have Indiana represented by some newspaper under contract with Mr. Leigh's organization, resulted in putting Indiana this year, in what is styled territory "X", and under the rules of the National organization, students in such territory desiring to compete for the national prize, are required to submit the manuscript of their oration to the national committee sitting at Washington, which, if found to meet certain requirements, entitles the orator to participation in the zone finals, and thus have a chance to win a place in the national finals.

The story of the Oratorical Contest in its national and international phase, is an interesting one, and may be better told in a later issue of the Journal.

This year the subjects assigned and the rules governing the contests are the same as those laid down by the national organization. The plan for awarding prizes, however, differs in Indiana from that which obtains in most of the states; here the local bar associations are requested to furnish four county awards totaling \$50 in cash, and in each congressional district, four awards totaling \$85 in cash, while in the state finals \$1,000 will be distributed in awards as follows: first prize \$400; sec-

ond prize \$250; third prize \$150; fourth prize \$100, and two consolation prizes of \$50 each.

The contest is open to students in the public and parochial high schools who are not over nineteen years of age. The orations must be the work of the contestants and not require more than ten minutes in delivery. County contests must be concluded by April 20th; district finals by April 29th; the consolidated or zone contests by May 6th. The state finals will be held at Anderson on the evening of May 14th.

There has been a consolidation of the congressional districts for elimination purposes, so that the number of contestants who participate in the State finals is six.

The \$1,000 to be distributed in state prizes was generously contributed by Mr. Frank C. Ball of Muncie.

In addition to the cash awards the State Bar Association has provided for a system of medals to be awarded as follows: To the one winning highest honors in the final or state contest, a gold medal. To the one winning highest honors in the congressional district contest, a silver medal, and to each one who wins highest honors in his county contest, a bronze medal. These medals will all be engraved with the name of the winner, and for that reason can not be bestowed at the time of the contest; that will be done at a later date.

At this writing enrollments are still being made. One hundred and seventy-five high schools, representing 74 counties, have enrolled, which, under the circumstances, and especially in view of the delay in starting, is by the committee considered exceedingly good. One significant feature of this year's enrollment, is its wide distribution over the state.

The Bar Association is represented in this movement by a manager in each congressional district, and a county chairman in each county.

The managers for the several Congressional districts¹ are:

1st District	—Richard Waller	Evansville, Ind.
2nd	—John C. Chaney	Sullivan, Ind.
3rd	—Chas. P. Tighe	New Albany, Ind.
4th	—John W. Craig	Greensburg, Ind.
5th	—John M. Fitzgerald	Terre Haute, Ind.
6th	—Roscoe C. O'Byrne	Brookville, Ind.
7th	—William P. Evans	Indianapolis, Ind.
8th	—Harry Orr	Muncie, Ind.
9th	—O. B. Ratcliff	Covington, Ind.
10th	—Jos. G. Ibach	Hammond, Ind.

¹ Limited space makes it necessary to defer printing the names of the county chairmen until the May issue.

11th District—	Robt. H. Van Atta	Marion, Ind.
12th “	—William Ballou	Ft. Wayne, Ind.
13th “	—William E. Miller	South Bend, Ind.

While these officials have other duties in connection with the Bar Association program, their part in the Oratorical Contest is to co-operate with the school heads in their respective units, and with other friendly agencies in seeing that the program is carried out in that unit. The work these men do is purely gratuitous, prompted by the desire to render to their state a needed service.

It is not the purpose of the Bar Association to ask the school authorities to add a new study to the present curriculum; the aim is to awaken a wider interest in history, civics, and those studies that have to do with the formation and functions of our government, that the student may know not only *how* but *why* it was so formed.

In this day of short thinking and radical preachment regarding self-government, and with evidences of increasing disrespect for law and order, the need for service that will tend to stabilize us in our course is admitted by almost everyone; in this there is a special call upon the members of the legal profession to do their part. In this the Indiana State Bar Association is not alone, the movement is nation-wide.

This Association believes that in trying to stabilize our citizenship through the schools, it is applying the remedy at the foundation of the structure.

The response of the press to this effort of the Bar Associations of the country, to arouse the people to the necessity of a more enlightened citizenship, is convincing evidence that the public mind is responsive to this call. The duty of the Bench and Bar in the premises is certainly obvious.

J. A. VAN OSDOL,
Chairman Citizenship Committee,
The Indiana State Bar Association.