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President's Page

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West Virginia Bar Association

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On August 28-30 at The Greenbrier the Association will hold its next meeting. To the Bar this date may seem a considerable time away, but not so to those concerned with the program for that meeting. Each year the President and the Executive Council spend a great deal of time in arranging a program intended to be of interest to our members. For several years it has been recognized that we should do our utmost to strengthen the schedule of events at the Greenbrier.

This is not an easy problem. Many questions exist which are worthy of consideration. For example, the banquet is always a perplexing problem. Should it be completely abolished? If not, should its duration be substantially reduced? Should the principal speaker be limited to thirty minutes? Should the address be less serious than has sometimes been the case? Should a time limit of from 10:00 to 10:30 for adjournment be fixed for the banquet?

In respect to the morning programming, how can we obtain more discussion from the floor? Many will remember that "in the good old days" hardly a subject was mentioned which did not bring forth spirited argument. Many will recall that our honored former president, Randolph Bias, hardly ever let a matter pass without speaking either in favor or against it. He was usually opposed by the picturesque Wells Goodykoontz. Messrs. Clarence E. Martin, George E. Price, Malcolm Jackson and many others added their wit and knowledge to many discussions from the floor. These stirred up interest in the Association and often were both enlightening and amusing.

What are the topics which the members of the Bar would like to have considered at the morning sessions? Would panel discussions of controversial subjects by prominent lawyers be of interest to the membership?

Finally, would the Bar be interested in devoting most of the morning sessions at our next meeting to a discussion of the revision of our state Constitution, particularly article 8 dealing with the judiciary?
The foregoing is posed to the Association in the hope that members may give serious consideration to these matters and may make their wishes and suggestions known to me at an early date. Your suggestions and criticisms are urgently requested, to the end that our next meeting may be programmed along lines most beneficial and attractive to the membership of the Association.

Please write me!

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Hawthorne D. Battle.