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Volume 9  OCTOBER  1937  Number 10
OBJECTS OF THE INSTITUTE

"The objects of The American Institute of Architects shall be to organize and unite in fellowship the architects of the United States of America; to combine their efforts so as to promote the aesthetic, scientific, and practical efficiency of the profession; to advance education in architecture and in the arts and sciences allied therewith, and to make the profession of ever increasing service to society."

THE PRACTICE OF ARCHITECTURE

"The profession of architecture calls for men of integrity, of aesthetic and scientific skill, of practical proficiency and of executive ability and business capacity. The architect is entrusted with financial undertakings in which his honesty and purpose must be above suspicion and his competency beyond question. He acts as professional adviser to his client, designs his client’s project, prepares the drawings, specifications and documents for the contracts between his client and contractors, and exercises quasi-judicial functions concerning those contracts. He has responsibilities to his professional associates and subordinates, to all engaged in the construction industry, and to the public. These duties and responsibilities he cannot discharge properly unless his integrity is beyond question, his advice disinterested, his decisions impartial, his documents clear, definite and complete, and unless his ability and conduct command respect and confidence in his community and his profession."
A Message to Architects

A CHANGING world is presenting novel and critical problems which demand the immediate study of the profession.

We are not concerned here with those spiritual issues which so readily involve a cleavage of academic opinion. Taking it for granted that, in spite of assault, architecture still retains its ancient validities, we are occupied only with the vital and realistic business of the place which it is to have in the new order, an interest which should engage the earnest thought of every architect of America. In the shifting conditions there is visible the opportunity to enlist the science of the architect to a new and more vital social purpose. We cannot hope that the significance of this opportunity will be more directly indicated to us by our American public. It must be clearly detected by ourselves, and the future position of our profession will largely depend upon the intelligence and address with which we meet it.

In our modern society, architecture has had only a limited beneficence. The statement is familiar that only a tenth of our building is architecturally literate, with the consequence that our typical community may claim some proud oasis of beauty, but is preponderantly ugly and incoherent so as to invite question whether the measure of our culture is the one condition or the other. That the profession is, to this degree, ineffectual has always been deplored, but it has been too easily accepted as a condition beyond hope of intrinsic remedy.

Must the architect be satisfied to be considered an instrument of the rich? We know that in the past, and under political systems less admirable than ours, architecture was not estranged from the humbler life of society. Obvious economic difficulties have accounted in the past for the detachment of the profession from this neglected enterprise.

But considerations of social justice are now moving us to a more conscious feeling for the less favored of society. Under the initiative of government a promising beginning has been made in a great program of small housing under responsible architectural control. Other agencies are cooperating which are notably less sensitive to the need of professional direction. It is of vital importance to our profession and at the same time an obligation of enlightened patriotism, that our relation to this great developing interest be securely and permanently established. Our able Committee on Housing will study the means by which the profession, under the guidance of The Institute, may adjust itself effectively to service in this new and extensive field.

As we seek to extend the boundaries of our profession in this direction, however, we are warned of a conflicting movement which threatens seriously to limit it. This is the extension of the bureaucratic idea. So far we have confronted this issue only in our relation to the Federal Government. We must now prepare ourselves to meet the aggravating problem in our very midst. Legislation has been twice attempted in New York State, and actually accomplished in Connecticut, which embodies the principle that architecture can serve the public interest adequately through the incorporation of architects and draughtsmen in the general organization of public works. The implications of this menace are so unmistakable and so clearly to be combated only by local action that a large responsibility must be perceived to rest on all the chapters of The Institute. Nor is this situation to be effectively met by temporary political expedients. It is to be hoped that the validity of our position can be supported by realistic and convincing testimony of
our superior claim upon the community. The lines of such opposition are so well indicated in the admirable enterprise of the Committee on Public Works in relation to Federal projects that chapters are urged to seek its counsel and acquaint themselves with the results of its study and experience.

It would be highly agreeable to the conservative spirit of the profession if its social value needed no aid of propaganda. But in these articulate days so many interests of no less conservative habit are clamoring for the public consciousness that, if we are even to hold our present place, we have need to make the world more aware of us. The means by which, without loss of dignity, we may bring an intelligent concept of the profession to the public understanding must always be a matter of controversy. There are those who by nature shrink from any departure from our traditional reserve and many, on the other hand, who hold it against The Institute that it has left the task of dealing with the public indifference altogether too much to the individual, whose enterprise has been apt to seem an offence to the professional proprieties. A new approach to this important concern is being made by the reconstituted Committee on Public Information, with the view to such a program of publicity along educational lines as shall be worthy of the best Institute ideals and adequate at the same time to the high opportunity which modern life is presenting to the profession.

CHARLES D. MAGINNIS
President.

State Organizations

Note: At the meeting of The Board of Directors preceding the last Convention, the report of The Institute Committee on State Associations, John R. Fugard, Chairman, was received and acted upon.

The Board's statement on state organizations, in its report to the Convention, appears on page 9 of the July number of The Octagon.

When this subject was under consideration by the Convention the report of the Committee on State Associations, above mentioned, was presented from the floor, with modifications agreed upon by representatives of the State Societies at their meeting on the day preceding the opening of the Convention.

The action of the Convention—following the reading of the modified report, and full discussion, was as follows:

"Organization of State Associations.

"Resolved, That the recommendations contained in the report of the Committee on State Societies, as revised, and as read to the Convention as a part of the resolutions adopted by the Convention of State Architectural

Societies, be carried out in detail; and be it further "Resolved, That The Institute adopt a vigorous policy of nation-wide organization of state associations; and be it further "Resolved, That the Committee set up under the recommendations of the report study carefully those portions of the Standard Form of Chapter By-laws issued by The Institute which pertain to the state associations and their affiliation with The Institute, and make recommendations for their revision to the proper authorities for action at the earliest possible time."

Subsequent to the issuance of the July Octagon a letter was received from the Secretary of the Southern California Chapter, George J. Adams, requesting that the report presented to the Convention on behalf of the State Society representatives be printed in full.

The Secretary is pleased to comply with that request, and to publish this additional information so relevant to the important questions involved.

CHARLES T. INGHAM
Secretary.

Report Adopted by Meeting of State Society Representatives

IN BOSTON, MAY 31, 1937.

Whereas, At the convention of the State Architectural Societies held in Boston on May 31, 1937 the report of The Institute Committee on State Societies was read and carefully considered,

Now Therefore, The State Societies in Convention assembled do hereby approve and endorse the said report, omitting only the following final para-
present plan of Unification through membership of the state organizations.

Second:

Whether or not The Institute should promote a plan of nation wide organization of State Associations, separate and distinct from The Institute.

The aforementioned report as adopted reads as follows:

Final Report: To The Board of Directors, American Institute of Architects, from the Chairman, Committee on State Societies.

Review:

During the year since the Convention of 1936, there has been no change in the number of State Association members of The Institute. They remain as follows:

Michigan Society of Architects
Architects Society of Ohio
State Association of California Architects
State Association of Wisconsin Architects

At the present time there are non-member State Organizations as follows:

Florida Association of Architects
Illinois Society of Architects
Indiana Society of Architects
State Association of Kentucky Architects
New Jersey Society of Architects
New York Council of Registered Architects
Oklahoma State Society of Architects
Pennsylvania Association of Architects
Washington State Society of Architects
Minnesota State Association of Architects

It is understood that there is in formation an Association of Architects in the following state:

Maryland

Thirty-nine states now have legislation which calls for registration of architects, and it is quite likely that the formation of additional State Societies may be expected from time to time.

Question before the Committee:

Why have not the ten non-member state organizations listed above seen fit to present their applications for membership in The Institute?

It is considered of importance to seek the proper answer to this question, as such answer would naturally point the way with certainty to the possible expansion, or at least, revision of the present Unification plan.

Possibly the answer might shed a revealing light on matters within The Institute itself which are in need of revision.

The Answer:

Unfortunately, no specific answer is at hand. The arguments which have been heard regarding the aloofness of the State Association quite generally fall within the following categories:

First: The Institute as a national organization is detached from local problems of the State Association, consequently is unable to exercise any helpful influences in meeting such problems. Membership in The Institute therefore, is just an added expense to be carried by State Organizations.

Second: The Institute should be conducted as an honorary or an aesthetic society, and should not attempt to handle the business or practical affairs of the profession, which fall more properly within the province of the State Organizations.

Recommendations: It is not our purpose to answer the foregoing arguments. We are merely recording impressions, although it is recognized that there is much to be said concerning these matters.

Strange as it may seem both arguments have been advanced by Institute members as well as State Organizations. Furthermore, we wish to point out that in any attempt to evaluate this situation, it must not be forgotten that quite generally the officers of the State Organizations are members of The Institute.

This fact is often overlooked by Institute members in their consideration of the subject of Society relationship.

Constructive suggestions: If The Institute desires to proceed along the lines of its present Unification project, it must initiate, adopt and effectively promote a policy and a program which will appeal to the State Organizations as sincere efforts towards solving professional problems of local importance.

In consideration of that program the following items may be of importance to State Organizations:

1. To increase the influence and importance of State Organizations and their membership within their own geographical limits.

2. To serve the entire profession by group advertising, done in a professional way.

3. To oppose, as a profession, all unfair competition by governmental bureaus in whatever capacity they may be, and all others not qualified...
to practice architecture.

4. To suggest and promote laws which will tend to strengthen existing state laws concerning the registration of architects and the practice of the profession.

5. To oppose vigorously any legislation which may tend to lower the standards of registration of architects or for the practice of the profession.

Conclusion:

It is suggested to The Board of Directors of The Institute, that:

1st: The name of this committee be changed to “The Committee on State Organizations.”

2nd: The membership of the committee include one Institute member from each of the fourteen existing state organizations, whether or not such organizations are affiliated with The Institute.

3rd: The membership of the committee be made by election or appointment by the State Organizations.

4th: The Chairman of the committee be a member of a State Organization as well as The Institute, and be appointed by The President of The Institute.

5th: The Board of The Institute appropriate a sum for purpose of this committee sufficient to allow its representative to make one visit during the year to a meeting of each state organization, together with a sum sufficient to carry on the business of the committee.

The State Associations affiliated with The Institute present the following resolution which was unanimously passed by the Convention of State Architectural Societies for action by The Institute:

Be It Resolved, That the recommendations of the aforementioned report as revised be carried out in detail; and be it further

Resolved, That The Institute adopt a vigorous policy of nationwide organization of State Associations; and be it further

Resolved, That the Committee set up under the recommendations of the report, study carefully those portions of the Standard Form of Chapter By-laws which pertain to the State Associations and their affiliation with The Institute and make recommendations for their revision to the proper authorities for action at the earliest possible time.

Chairman of the Resolutions Committee
(s) LOUIS N. CRAWFORDB
Chairman, Convention of State Architectural Societies
(s) JOHN R. FUGARD
Secretary, Convention of State Architectural Societies
(s) THOMAS PYM COPE

Private Capital in Housing

CHARLES F. LEWIS, Director of the Buhl Foundation, Pittsburgh, whose success in the building and administration of Chatham Village surely gives him the right to be heard, thinks that private capital could do a lot more in housing than is generally expected of it. It is popular today to say that private capital can do nothing in low-cost housing and that the job must be turned over to the Government. Mr. Lewis suggests a four-fold program:

1. Let business encourage more adequate zoning legislation.

2. Let the governments—Federal, State and Municipal—destroy slum housing.

3. Let FHA be strengthened as an agency for research, for stimulation and for financing large-scale operations.

4. Let private capital on a sound basis build large-scale planned communities designed to be managed as income-producing properties which are inherently as nearly blight-proof as is possible to contemplate.

One of the obvious hurdles to the above is to induce private capital to think of housing in a new way. It has in the past thought of housing as a speculative gamble, to be produced and sold at once or produced for the sake of the unearned increment in the natural appreciation of real estate values. Instead, in England, housing is looked upon as a long-time carefully produced investment to bring a modest, but regular, return.

—from American Architect and Architecture.
Public Information

Of the buildings erected in this country every year the proportion designed by architects depends to a large extent on how much the public knows of what the architect is and what the architect does.

It also depends on how much the public appreciates architecture. In a recent poll of readers by a well known journal, architecture came last in order of interest in a list of some thirteen subjects such as religion, education, sculpture, painting.

That does not surprise us but it should challenge us.

I believe that now with the coming of better conditions, comes an opportunity such as we have not had for years to interest people in architecture, and acquaint them with the architect.

Your Committee on Public Information through Mr. Grady, our Publicist, will of course continue to spread country-wide such articles, reports and other information as can be obtained for this purpose, but its work cannot be either truly effective or comprehensive unless it has the active cooperation of the Chapters and of individual architects who will give out both local and general information to local communities, and will send reports and information of general interest to your Institute Committee, for wider distribution.

I would like to ask a few questions of everyone who may chance to read this article:

How much is your local chapter doing through proper publicity in your local press to interest your public in architecture?

You have a Committee on Public Information, of course; is it headed by a man who is interested and active?

Does your local press attach the name of the architect to articles or pictures of buildings which appear in the papers? If not, are architects doing anything about it?

Do your schools, libraries or museums, with the assistance of the architects ever hold architectural exhibitions?

Do your schools have courses in architecture, or accord to local architects opportunity for ten minute talks to the students on architecture?

Do the architects of your community take active interest in public affairs?

What are they doing about antiquated building codes, city planning, low cost housing?

Are they doing what they can to uphold the ethics of the profession, so that the architect shall be known as a man of high standards and integrity?

The Institute Committee on Public Information asks for your suggestions and your assistance because we believe that this work is one of greatest importance to the profession, and we need your cooperation.

WILLIAM ORR LUDLOW, Chairman
Committee on Public Information

A Clarification of Functions

A recent joint statement made by Secretary of The Interior Ickes and Federal Housing Administrator McDonald reads as follows:

The Federal Housing Administration and the new United States Housing Authority, despite the similarity of their names, are two entirely separate organizations, separately staffed and separately operated.

Their functions are different. They do not conflict or overlap. Both are designed to be permanent agencies of the Federal Government.

The United States Housing Authority was created by Act of Congress, commonly known as the Wagner-Steagall law, and approved by President Roosevelt on September 1, 1937. Its purpose, as defined in the title of the Act, is to "provide financial assistance to the States and political subdivisions thereof for the elimination of unsafe and insanitary housing conditions, for the eradication of slums, for the provision of decent, safe, and sanitary dwellings for families of low income, and for the reduction of unemployment and the stimulation of business activity, to create a United States Housing Authority, and for other purposes."

The United States Housing Authority is
designed primarily to provide housing for groups of persons for whom private industry cannot provide suitable housing.

The United States Housing Authority is headed by an Administrator and is in the Department of the Interior under the general supervision of Secretary of the Interior Harold L. Ickes.

The Federal Housing Administration was established more than three years ago. The National Housing Act, creating the F. H. A., was signed by President Roosevelt on June 27, 1934. Its declared purpose is to encourage improvement in housing standards and conditions and to establish a sound system of home financing.

A distinctive feature of the F. H. A. is that it makes no loans or grants of public money. It simply insures loans for home financing made by banks, savings, building and loan associations and other private lending institutions.

The F. H. A. is an independent agency of the Federal Government. It is headed by Stewart MacDonald, Federal Housing Administrator.

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F. H. A. Small House Conferences

The members of The Institute will be interested to learn that the Federal Housing Administration is to continue the Small Home Planning Conferences this fall and winter.

Realizing that better housing can be obtained only through better planning, the Federal Housing Administration is constantly encouraging the home building industry as well as the public at large to secure the services of competent architects at all times.

Since January, 1937, twenty-six conferences have been held in various cities throughout the country. The local chapters of The American Institute of Architects have as a general rule sponsored these meetings and in many instances taken an active part.

The meetings are conducted by Howard Leland Smith, Chief of the Architectural Section, Federal Housing Administration. Mr. Smith is a member of The Institute and has practiced architecture for many years.

It is hoped that the local chapters in the cities scheduled for future conferences will endeavor to cooperate in the same splendid manner as have the chapters in cities previously visited.

Following is a list of cities (subject to change) in which Small Home Planning Conferences will be held during the coming months. The dates indicate the first day of the week during which each conference will be held.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Milwaukee, Wis.</td>
<td>Oct.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Des Moines, Iowa.</td>
<td>11, 1937</td>
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<tr>
<td>Omaha, Neb.</td>
<td>18, &quot;</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wichita, Kan.</td>
<td>25, &quot;</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oklahoma City, Okla.</td>
<td>Nov. 1, &quot;</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dallas &amp; Fort Worth, Tex.</td>
<td>15, &quot;</td>
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<td>San Antonio, Tex.</td>
<td>22, &quot;</td>
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<tr>
<td>Houston, Tex.</td>
<td>29, &quot;</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pittsburgh, Pa.</td>
<td>Jan. 6, 1938</td>
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<tr>
<td>Binghamton, N. Y.</td>
<td>29, &quot;</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hartford, Conn.</td>
<td>16, &quot;</td>
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<tr>
<td>Philadelphia, Pa.</td>
<td>30, &quot;</td>
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<tr>
<td>Louisville, Ky.</td>
<td>23, &quot;</td>
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<tr>
<td>Memphis, Tenn.</td>
<td>30, &quot;</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nashville, Tenn.</td>
<td>27, &quot;</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jackson, Miss.</td>
<td>6, March</td>
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<tr>
<td>Miami, Fla.</td>
<td>13, &quot;</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jacksonville, Fla.</td>
<td>27, &quot;</td>
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<tr>
<td>Atlanta, Ga.</td>
<td>3, April</td>
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<td>Birmingham, Ala.</td>
<td>10, &quot;</td>
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Meeting of American Institute of Steel Construction

In response to an invitation, President Maginnis has designated Past-President E. J. Russell, of St. Louis, to represent The American Institute of Architects at the annual meeting of the American Institute of Steel Construction to be held in White Sulphur Springs, West Virginia, October 26 to 29.

Mr. Russell will be one of the principal speakers at the Convention session on October 27, and will discuss the general prospects for building operations during the year 1938.
Notice of Meeting of The Board of Directors

THE semi-annual meeting of The Board of Directors of The Institute will be held at The Octagon, in Washington, D. C., on November 15, 16, 17 and 18.

Members and Chapters having matters which they wish to bring to the attention of The Board should address communications thereon to The Secretary of The Institute, at The Octagon, for delivery there not later than November 10, as the agenda will be closed as of that date.

Committee chairman will submit progress reports.

CHARLES T. INGHAM, Secretary.

The 1938 Convention

THE long standing and cordial invitation of the Louisiana Chapter to The Institute to hold the 1938 Convention in New Orleans has been accepted by The Board of Directors.

President Maginnis and Secretary Ingham will visit New Orleans during the latter part of October for the purpose of conferring with the Regional Director of the Gulf States District, Moise H. Goldstein, and with the Officers of the Louisiana Chapter to select the best available dates, determine the general program and act upon other major items.

Definite information concerning the final dates, and any features of the program which may be arranged so far in advance will be published in the December number of The Octagon.

Structural Service Department Notes

BY THEODORE I. COE, TECHNICAL SECRETARY

Research Program on Building Materials and Structures.

The National Bureau of Standards of the Department of Commerce has announced the general details of the Objectives, Procedure and Scope of the Research Program contemplated to carry out the intent of Congress as expressed in the Bill which will make approximately $200,000 available for the purpose of research to determine the properties and suitability of building materials with particular reference to their use in low-cost housing, including the construction of such experimental structures as may be necessary for this purpose.

It is proposed that the results of the research be made available to the public and that the program include materials, equipment and methods already in use as well as new materials, equipment and construction methods.

The influence of obsolete building codes in restricting the use of new constructions will be considered and the useful life of each construction determined.

The program will not include sociological, economic, hygienic or esthetic questions or the design of houses.

The third revision of the Safety Code for Elevators, Dumbwaiters and Escalators was approved as American Standard by the American Standards Association, July 20, 1937.

The American Recommended Practice for the Inspection of Elevators (Elevator Inspectors’ Handbook) was approved as American Recommended Practice by the American Standards Association, July 7, 1937.

These documents may be obtained from the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, 29 West 39th Street, New York, at $1.00 per copy for the Safety Code for Elevators and 75c per copy for the Elevator Inspectors’ Handbook.

Building Code Correlating Committee—A. S. A.

Supplementing the announcement of Institute appointments to the several Sectional Committees of the Building Code Correlating Committee which appeared in the April, 1937 issue of THE OCTAGON, Mr. Frederick G. Frost, Sr., has been appointed a member of the Committee on Administrative Requirements for Building Codes.

Federal Specifications.

The “Index of Federal Specifications” has been revised to April 1, 1937 and may be obtained from the Superintendent of Documents, Washington, D. C. at 10c per copy.

Welding Chart.

A new drafting room chart, containing the new weld symbols adopted by the American Welding Society and other helpful welding information of interest to engineers, designers, architects and others has been published by the Lincoln Electric Company, P. O. Box 5758, Cleveland, Ohio, who will furnish copies to those interested, upon request.

American Public Works Association.

The American Society of Municipal Engineers and the International Association of Public Works Officials have formed the American Public Works Association by the consolidation of the memberships of the two organizations.

The Association has recently published a revision and assembly of the “Standard Specifications for Public Works Construction”, referring to 22 specifications applying to various forms of street pavements. The specifications are printed on one side only and are punched for a standard loose-leaf binder.

Information concerning the specifications may be obtained by addressing the Association at 850 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois.

Wick Test for Efflorescence of Building Brick.

A report on the above subject, by John W. McBurney and Douglas E. Parsons of the Bureau of Standards, has been reprinted as Research Paper RP-1015 and may be obtained at 5c per copy from the Superintendent of Documents, Washington, D. C.

Notes from The Producers’ Council

A “New Day Dawns” is the keynote of the enlarged activities of The Producers’ Council sounded by Russell G. Creviston, President.

The following well-known producers have recently been added to the rapidly growing membership of The Council:


Cooperating Members of The Council on Structural Service Committee of The Institute.

F. P. Byington, Member of the Board of Directors of The Producers’ Council, has been appointed a Cooperating Member on The Institute’s Structural Service Committee. The other Cooperating Members of the Council on this Committee are: Russell G. Creviston, President, F. R. Gilpatric, Chairman, Board of Directors, and F. J. Plimpton, Member, Board of Directors.
Members Elected From September 1, 1937 to October 15, 1937

Albany Chapter . . . . . Eugene Hammat Callison
Boston Chapter . . . . . James Charles Flaherty
Central Illinois Chapter . . William Raymond McCoy
Central New York Chapter . Clarence A. Damuth, Frank H. Day, Frederick Roy Lear
Chicago Chapter . . . . . Hugh Baker Dunning, Eugene Fuhrer, John Edward Miller, Mason Gerardi Rapp
Connecticut Chapter . . . Frederick Taylor Fay
Eastern Ohio Chapter . . . J. Davis Wilson
Georgia Chapter . . . . . Clement J. Ford, Albert Howell
Hawaii Chapter . . . . . Guy N. Rothwell*
Kansas City Chapter . . . J. H. Felt*, Arthur Kriehn*
Kentucky Chapter . . . . Bergman Stitzel Letzler
Mississippi Chapter . . . Frank Fort
North Texas Chapter . . . Guy Edward Newhall, Robert Johnson Perry, Noah L. Peters
Pittsburgh Chapter . . . . John Nelson Franklin
Rhode Island Chapter . . . Lucio E. Car lone, Oresto DiSaia*
St. Louis Chapter . . . . Norma n Irwin Bailey
Southern California Chapter . . Heth Wharton
Toledo Chapter . . . . . William M. Fernald
Virginia Chapter . . . . . Milton LaTour Grigg, Clarence H. Hinnant, Walter Keeble Smith, Jr.
Washington, D. C. Chapter . Louis A. Nathan, Richard Hersh Pretz
West Texas Chapter . . . . Louis C. Page, Louis F. Southerland

* Reinstatements.