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# Soaring

Henry N. Wightman, Editor

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE  
SOARING SOCIETY OF AMERICA, INC.

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## WHERE IS MY

## *December Soaring?*

There will, no doubt, be much and varied comment on the fact that the December SOARING has not arrived in time for Christmas. This most unfortunate circumstance was caused by the fact that the Soaring Society was forced, by lack of funds, to dispense with the services of its office secretary just at a time when work was heaviest. Since the office staff consisted of the secretary and the editor, this meant a 50% cut in personnel, and resulted in a good deal of confusion. Various promotional schemes that are finally getting under way demanded immediate attention, and made it impossible to devote full time to the magazine. Arrangements are being made for distribution of the work among those who are willing to help out, and we expect no further delays in publication.

In the January issue, the promotional schemes mentioned above will be discussed, together with suggested changes and innovations in the organization and policies of the Soaring Society. This will be in preparation for the annual meeting on January 27 and 28, where plans for the year will be placed before the membership for suggestions and final approval.

The delay in the publication of SOARING brings out the point which we have been trying to put across for most of the year. The Soaring Society cannot sit back and expect a complete magazine to be dropped, prepaid, into its lap, or to have a national organization to represent its needs and to conduct contests, unless it goes out and works hard. The Society is not a handful of legendary figures who only become visible for two weeks at the national contests, and who will supply you with a magazine of varying quality if you send them two dollars. You, in-

dividually, are the Soaring Society. On your interest and your activity depends the whole future of the organization. If you, personally, do not tell the directors whom you yourself have appointed, about your suggestions for improvement and then do everything in your power to fulfill the plans that they devise on the basis of your suggestions, we cannot advance; we cannot even hold our present position.

It has been generally assumed that we can solve our problems by saying "we will go out and get some donations." Once, that was true. On the strength of a bright future and attractive plans, it was easy to raise money. Now, we must prove that the funds thus produced have been justified. We must prove that the interest and activity today warrant the continuation of the type of organization that was set up three years ago. We must prove that the publicity, the magazine, the society sailplanes, have served their purpose. In short, we must prove that we can stand on our own feet.

The future appears hopeful, but we cannot be content with bright prospects. Our problem is partly one of organization, to unite the increasing regional activity into a single, national program. It is still, however, mainly a problem of starting activity where there has previously been nothing but interest, and of enlisting the support of the hundreds who have been actively flying and receiving benefits from the Soaring Society without contributing anything to its support. We have made a fine start in many sections of the country, but if our efforts are to be successful, there is still much to be done. Let us bring to the meeting next month the ideas and the determination from which a new and effective program for 1940 may be evolved.

\*\*\*\*\* Officers \*\*\*\*\*

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