

AMERICAN TURNER NATIONAL COUNCIL MINUTES 2021

First Session, Friday evening, September 24, 2021

Meeting was called to order at 6:42 p.m. by National President, Dennis Zeller.

Members stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

A moment of silence in memory of all the Turners who have departed this life, entering the Turnverein Everlasting, and a moment of silence for the service men and women who have given their lives serving our country, and National Council member Franklin Jones.

Welcome by Aurora Turner President, Mark English

Roll call by Vice-President Craig Sniezek

National Officers and Chairpersons

President: Dennis Zeller

Vice-President: Craig Sniezek

Corporate Secretary: Daniel Hoisington

Treasurer: Cindy Law (absent)

National Health & Physical Education Chairperson (acting): Michelle Lesperance

National Cultural Chairperson: Sue Knisley

National Bowling Chairperson (acting): Craig Sniezek

District Representatives

Central States: Kevin McCart

Illinois District: Nick Barts

Lake Erie: Margie George (alternate for Bill Severns Jr.)

Middle Atlantic: Dave Mulrooney

New England: John Beary

New Jersey: Ray Virgens (absent)

New York: Jim Goetz (alternate for Marion Oppelt)

St. Louis: Sean Sendlein (alternate for Jill Pfeuffer)

Upper Mississippi: Liz Eichner (via Zoom)

Western Pennsylvania: Allen Frederick

Western United States: Alexander Hast (absent)

Wisconsin: Daniel Hoisington

Permanent Council Members

President, Endowment Trust Fund: Thomas R. Bozonelos

President, Jahn Education Fund: Frank Wedl

National Administrative Assistant: Kate Payne (via Zoom)

Guests

Peter Horn, Dave Mulrooney Sr., Peter Sammer, Sandy Zeller

Committee Chair Appointments

Turner Topics Editor: Craig Sniezek

National Historian: Giles Hoyt

National Rules and Documents: Joy Bodine. Appointment was deferred pending discussion.

Scholarship: Appointment was deferred pending discussion.

Marketing: Nick Barts. Barts declined appointment as the chair of marketing committee.

District and Officers Reports

The written reports have been distributed to council members. A roll call was taken to ask if there were changes to their submitted report. There were no changes or additions, except for the following comments:

Thomas R. Bozonelos asked whether the NW Chicago Turners were not renewing the lease to their facility. Nick Barts stated that it is not the time to comment but that they have 2½ years on their lease.

Thomas R. Bozonelos commended the new Imperial (Missouri) Society, since it has shown that we can successfully add new societies.

Michelle Lesperance, president of the Wisconsin District, read a letter from the president of the Milwaukee Turners, expressing their commitment in the Turner principles of social justice. The letter had been distributed to council members with district reports. Discussion followed. Frank Wedl and Jim Goetz recommended that societies look for ways to develop diversity. Nick Barts suggested that council members look at Milwaukee's Facebook page to understand their programs.

Nick Barts made a motion to accept the Officers and District reports as discussed. Jim Goetz seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Reports of Standing Council Seats

Endowment Trust Fund. Thomas R. Bozonelos, chair, provided a recap of the annual meeting of the Endowment Trust held earlier today. He explained the noteworthy decisions:

- i. Increase in the Society Payroll Reimbursement Grant to a maximum ETF contribution of \$3k.
- ii. Increase in Physical Education Equipment Grant to a maximum ETF contribution of \$2k.
- iii. Elimination of loans previously provided by the ETF.
- iv. The selection process for members to receive the Edwin E. Colton Honorary Award is to follow the same process as is currently done to submit candidate to receive the American Turners Honor Key. That is each Society will provide their candidate(s) to their respective District. Then each District is to submit one (1) candidate to the ETF Trustees for consideration on an annual basis.

- v. A FY22 budget of \$45k has been established to perpetuate American Turner's motto of a Sound Mind, Sound Body through ETF offerings.
- vi. The above changes take effect January 1, 2022.
- vii. ETF Trustees John Beary and Thomas R. Bozonelos's terms end in 2022. Nominations and elections for these two seats will occur during the 2022 American Turners National Convention.
- viii. Received a \$100 donation from Dennis and Sandy Zeller.

A supplemental report containing the above information will be made available.

- Kuenzel Fund. Dave Mulrooney, chair, said that there were no additions or changes to the submitted report.
- Marketing. Nick Barts, chair, said that there was no report.
- Turner Topics. Editor Craig Sniezek reported that there would be an increase in the printing costs. Sniezek encouraged submissions of stories.

Nick Barts made a motion to accept committee reports. Seconded by Jim Goetz, no further discussions, passed unanimously.

President Zeller reviewed upcoming events.

1. Senior Volleyball: None
2. Open Volleyball: None
3. Gymnastics: 2022-None scheduled
4. Basketball: None
5. Softball
 - 2022: Ft. Wayne
 - 2023: Covington
5. Golf
 - 2022: Monaca
6. Bowling
 - 2022: Syracuse
 - 2023: Aurora or Elgin
7. Pickleball: None scheduled
8. Jr. Bowling and Jr. Golf: Virtual

President Zeller noted that there was a bid for the 2023 National Festival from New Ulm. Daniel Hoisington discussed the bid, stating that the society has a strong committee and wide community support.

Dave Mulrooney made a motion to accept the bid, seconded by Sue Knisley. Motion passed unanimously.

Michelle Lesperance stated that the NHPE committee would likely meet in New Ulm in spring 2022. Thomas R. Bozonelos suggested that NHPE committee travel expenses be taken from the Festival Fund and not the general fund. No motion was made.

Knisley said that she and Stephanie Minster will work on cultural competition plan for the 2023 Festival and work with New Ulm.

Craig Sniezek said that the Bowling Committee would try to have a virtual meeting in 2022.

President Zeller brought up the 2022 National Convention, which is scheduled for Louisville. At this point, they have not paid their dues. He stated that he does not believe that we can award the convention until Louisville is in good standing. Sean Sendlein recommended that we set a deadline. Kate Payne said that October 31st is the deadline for final payment of dues. She said that she will follow up with the society. There was no motion, and the question was tabled.

President Zeller said that the 2022 National Council meeting, scheduled to follow the National Convention in Louisville, raises the same issue.

Thomas R. Bozonelos made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Sean Sendlein. Motion passed unanimously.

Second Session, Saturday morning, September 25, 2021

Second session of National Council meeting called to order by President Dennis Zeller at 8:48 a.m.

Craig Sniezek made a motion to waive the reading of the minutes from the first (Friday) session. Seconded by Sean Sendlein. Motion passed unanimously.

The morning began with a closed session. All non-council members left the room.

The first item on the agenda for the closed meeting was employee review. President Zeller stated that the Executive Committee has not officially met to review Kate Payne's performance, although a number have been in contact with her at various times.

A discussion followed. Sean Sendlein expressed concerns about the tight budget and whether we can afford a full-time person. Liz Eichner stated that the council should consider the day-to-day duties that they expect from the administrative assistant and supported a full-time position. Dave Mulrooney said that the executive committee needs to come back with recommendations for action. Allen Frederick expressed concerns that a part-time might create problems, especially around the time of Council meeting and Convention. Jim Goetz brought up the issue of check signature cards. Thomas R. Bozonelos said that we need to consider: (1) that we need to write a new job description; (2) that there needs to be consistent communication. The budget is a separate issue, but closely related.

Thomas R. Bozonelos made the following motion: That the executive committee will meet and create a current job description for the administrative assistant position, no later than October 31, 2021. Sean Sendlein seconded the motion. After some discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

Thomas R. Bozonelos raised concerns that the bank account signature cards and lack of action. President Zeller expressed frustration that he has only been placed on one bank signature card after nearly a full

year. John Beary recommended weekly, monthly, quarterly, or semi-annually meetings to keep communications open. Hoisington asked for a current job description. Craig Sniezek said that he can distribute it as a baseline. He brought up the bank signature cards.

President Zeller brought the nomination of Mary Jo Bursig to the Athletic Hall of Fame before the Council.

Nick Barts made the motion that we approve Mary Jo Bursig for the NHPE Hall of Fame. Seconded by Dave Mulrooney. Motion passed unanimously.

Liz Eichner made a motion to end the closed session. Seconded by Sean Sendlein. Motion passed unanimously.

(Non-Council members rejoined the meeting)

President Zeller brought up the status of the merger of the New Jersey and New York Districts into a New York Metro District. Jim Goetz stated that Marion Oppelt, as New York District Secretary, has had correspondence with Ray Virgens from the New Jersey District. After three years of discussion, no action has been taken by New Jersey. Zeller noted that the New Jersey District has two societies. Their reports are inadequate or absent. Jim Goetz and Frank Wedl expressed frustration at the lack of accountability.

Thomas R. Bozonelos made the following motion: Northern New Jersey-Passaic has until October 31, 2021, to be in good standing with the American Turner Bylaws, and if they not, they will not be recognized as a society. Seconded by Michelle Lesperance. Motion passed unanimously.

Kate Payne will send a certified letter with a copy of the Bylaws. Sue Knisley recommended that it be a certified letter with signature required.

Thomas R. Bozonelos made the following motion: Should Northern New Jersey-Passaic cease to exist as a society, then Carlstadt will transfer to a new district no later than December 31, 2021. Seconded by Dave Mulrooney. Motion passed unanimously.

Craig Sniezek brought up an issue with correct wording of a bylaw.

Thomas R. Bozonelos made the following motion: That the section of the bylaws pertaining to this topic should be reviewed by the executive committee and document coordinator and come up with a resolution to submit to the National Council no later than February 28, 2022. Seconded by Sean Sendlein.

Kate Payne stated that Joy Bodine would like to continue as document coordinator. Thomas R. Bozonelos recommended that the position should continue but that the documents coordinator should report through the Corporate Secretary. Jim Goetz strongly commended Bodine for her work. Craig Sniezek clarified that the topic in the motion was “Bylaws, Section 7, Subsection I: The number of votes reported by any society shall be valid only if the President and the Secretary have attested to them.” It is written and listed as societies and not districts.

Motion passed unanimously.

Finances were the next item on the agenda. President Zeller said that everyone has had a chance to look at the financial statements and should be aware that there is a cash shortage. He also said that several accounts are not necessary and should be combined into the General Fund account. Craig Sniezek distributed a cash balance statement.

Thomas R. Bozonelos made the following motion: That the executive committee and administrative assistant shall reconcile all American Turner accounts by December 1, 2021. Liz Eichner seconded.

Kate Payne and Thomas R. Bozonelos discussed how membership dues were distributed to various accounts. Michelle Lesperance raised a question about the P&L Statement and a difference in figures. Payne said that these were different reports. President Zeller said that we will review and get back to the council.

Motion passed unanimously.

The next item on the agenda was the Civil War drum. New Ulm submitted a letter requesting the drum for their society. Daniel Hoisington said that New Ulm requested custody of the drum. The founder of the society was a Lincoln elector in 1860. He has won several national awards and would develop the exhibit. New Ulm has also received numerous grants for conservation. Craig Sniezek reviewed his work to assess the value of the drum. He sent pictures to an expert, who said it was worth around \$500. There was no documentation to show whether it was authentic. Frank Wedl said that the gymnastics museum connected with Universal Gymnastics was not ready yet. Kate Payne stated that the Abraham Lincoln Museum was interested in the drum and would agree to display it with the Turner logo.

Dave Mulrooney made the following motion: That the drum goes to New Ulm with a \$500 donation from that society. Seconded by Kevin McCart.

Frank Wedl made a point that the New York Turner Rifles were Lincoln's bodyguard. Jim Goetz expressed concern that it would not be seen in Minnesota. Sean Sendlein asked whether the drum could be seen online. Daniel Hoisington agreed that it would be.

Motion passed with one no vote.

Discussion followed about the double-sided Columbia Turners banner, but no action was taken.

President Zeller turned to new business and brought up the subject of society delinquencies. Kate Payne stated that Johnstown, Louisville, Milwaukee, Northern New Jersey, and Providence were delinquent in submitting membership dues and/or directories.

- All directories are due by April 1st of the calendar year.
- Membership: Any renewal is due by June 30th of every calendar year.
- Membership: Any new or renewal of dropped memberships are due by October 31st.

Thomas J. Bozonelos made the following motion: That Johnstown, Louisville, Providence, and Milwaukee have until October 31, 2021, to be in good standing with the American Turner Bylaws, and if they not, they will not be recognized as a society. Seconded by Jim Goetz.

Discussion followed. Nick Barts asked if we wanted to risk the loss of those societies. Liz Eichner asked if these societies consistently had a problem or was it a one-time issue. Kate Payne stated that she reaches out consistently and that all have been contacted. Kevin McCart said that he had been on contact with Cindy Law of the Louisville Turners. She explained that there was new leadership and that might have led to the delay. Jim Goetz stated that a letter should be sent by certified mail.

Motion passed with one no vote.

The next agenda item was the issue of merging the Bowling Chair back under NHPE direction. Craig Sniezek said that the Bowling Chair has a seat on the National Council but that we do not often get much input on other issues during Council meetings. It would save travel expense if we moved the chair back under NHPE. He believes that rule changes need to be approved by the National Convention. Michelle Lesperance stated that the Bowling chair would still have input through NHPE meetings. Frank Wedl expressed concern that it would place a burden on the NHPE chair. There was additional discussion.

Craig Sniezek made the following motion: That the Council will submit a resolution to the National Convention to eliminate the National Bowling Committee as a standing committee and move it under the NHPE Committee. If adopted, the National Bowling Committee would retain its members and elected chairperson or officers. Sean Sendlein seconded.

Motion passed with two no votes.

President Zeller then brought up the next agenda item, updating the O&P Manual. He stated that there is a lot of verbiage that needs to be changed.

The next question was whether attendance of a Turner Representative to USA Gymnastics was worth the cost of around \$1,500. Michelle Lesperance said that we need to keep our voice in USAG so that that organization knows that Turners are still involved in gymnastics. Jim Goetz asked how many societies have gymnastics programs. President Zeller said thirteen societies have programs. Frank Wedl said that we should not lose who we are.

Dave Mulrooney made the following motion: That American Turners continue to attend USAG meetings, attended by a NHPE representative. Seconded by Kevin McCart. Motion passed unanimously.

Frank Wedl reemphasized the importance of gymnastics and said that the money is there. He recommended that an annual travel budget be set up.

President Zeller then brought up needed changes to the O&P manual. He will talk with Joy Bodine about continuing as documents coordinator and working on resolutions about possible changes.

Dave Mulrooney spoke about the Kuenzel Memorial Fund (KMF). Thomas R. Bozonelos said that the fund is restricted to a five-county area in Pennsylvania. The KMF will continue to support the American Turners' mission in perpetuating gymnastics and physical education in the spirit in which these monies were donated and awarded.

Craig Sniezek made the following motion: That the contact information for the Kuenzel Fund be placed in the National Directory. Seconded by Dave Mulrooney. Motion passed unanimously.

President Zeller mentioned the delinquent National Directory submissions. No action was taken. Craig Sniezek, editor of *Turner Topics*, then brought up the publishing plans for next year. He recommends publishing three issues. No action was taken. Deadline for the next issue is October 15, 2021, and in the mail by November 1, 2021. A general discussion followed about content. Sniezek said that he needs stories and news from the societies.

Sue Knisley made the following motion: That Turner Topics be published a minimum of three times a year with more at the discretion of the editor. Seconded by Dave Mulrooney. Motion passed unanimously.

Craig Sniezek brought up the need for a second license for the National Bowling Tournament software. No action was needed or taken.

The council took a break for lunch.

Third Session, Saturday afternoon, September 25, 2021

President Zeller called the afternoon session to order at 1:18 p.m.

Moving to additional old business, President Zeller raised the issues of the O&P and the need to review verbiage about several issues, including the membership of the Scholarship and Marketing Committees. There was a general discussion. Thomas R. Bozonelos suggested that those committees do not need term limits and that they can select their members and chairs. He asked that the executive committee and administrative assistant make the O&P Manual current by December 31, 2021. Sean Sendlein said that the O&P need to have clear guidelines for official notification of societies and districts. No action was taken.

The next topic was the trademark. Every ten years it needs to be renewed. Craig Sniezek explained the issues and that Turners will file for both old and current logos. This follows legal advice. There are other logo variations because individual societies have modified it for the club use. The primary concern is that other organizations might use it. Jim Goetz pointed out that some unaffiliated clubs like Sacramento club are using the Turner logo.

Thomas R. Bozonelos made the following motion: Once the American Turners has a registered trademark, any non-American Turner Society or District or Organization, found to be using such, shall be issued a legal letter to cease and desist. Sean Sendlein seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Daniel Hoisington then discussed the transition from SilkStart to the new website. It was set up using WordPress, so it is nonproprietary software and easy to use. Cost will be around \$200-\$300 for the year, including several domains. Hoisington said he and Kate Payne are interested in making some additions, such as an online store, testing a registration form, and possibly featuring a “club of the month.” These are administrative actions that do not require council action. Hoisington said to funnel information or changes to Kate Payne, but he will assist for the coming year. Hoisington and Payne both have log-in access.

Jim Goetz asked about SilkStart. Hoisington explained that we had thought that we could pay monthly. SilkStart said that it was an annual subscription. After looking closely at the wording of the contract, it seemed that it would be difficult to get out of the contract because we had given tacit approval.

Frank Wedl made the following motion: That we pay the outstanding balance on the contract with Silkstart and notify them that we are terminating our subscription. Seconded by Jim Goetz. Motion passed unanimously.

Returning to the trademarked logo, Jim Goetz observed that Sacramento was using it, although they are no longer a member of American Turners.

Nick Barts raised the question of whether we will bring a resolution to the next National Convention to raise the membership dues.

Dave Mulrooney asked about a budget and that would be the place to start. Jim Goetz said that the executive committee needs to come up with a budget proposal in a timely manner. Craig Snieszak laid out the current cash flow through the end of the year. Kate Payne explained that account “buckets” need to move out of the general account to restricted accounts. She said that we are approximately \$19,000 in arrears for the rest of the year. President Zeller announced that the 1850 Foundation gave a donation of \$50,000 to go to the general fund, so we have a positive balance of \$31,000. Sue Knisley said that we need to increase membership dues and we will need to work to get it passed at the National Convention. We need to promote it to make members aware of what is going on. Goetz suggested asking Gold Card members for additional money. There was further discussion about the need for an increase and how to convince the membership to support it.

Thomas R. Bozonelos made the following motion: That the National Council recommends an increase in annual membership dues to \$12 a person. Seconded by Sean Sendlein.

Allen Frederick said that the problem at the last convention is that the financial report was inconclusive, and members did not understand it. The discussion turned to the bank and investment account signature cards.

Motion passed with one abstention and one no vote.

Sean Sendlein made the following motion: That the president, vice-president, Craig Snieszak, and administrative assistant, Kate Payne, will be added to the signature cards for all accounts, banking and investment, no later than October 15, 2021. Seconded by Kevin McCart. Motion passed unanimously.

Thomas R. Bozonelos made the following motion: That the transition of newly elected officers take place within thirty (30) days of taking office. This includes signature cards for all checking, savings, investments and money market accounts. Seconded by Sean Sendlein. Motion passed unanimously.

With no new business, President Zeller then brought up the next agenda item: approval of the sites for Turner events in 2022.

1. Softball: 2022 at Ft. Wayne; 2023 at Covington
2. Golf: 2022 Monaca
3. Bowling: 2022 Syracuse; 2023 Aurora or Elgin
4. Possible Pickleball National Tournament, not settled
5. Jr. Bowling: 2021, October 15 to November 15; 2022, February 15-March 15.

Sue Knisley made the following motion: The Council approves of these sites for 2022. Seconded by Dave Mulrooney. Motion passed unanimously.

President Zeller then brought up other upcoming events.

1. Health & Phys. Ed. meeting
2. Cultural Meeting
3. Bowling Meeting
4. 2022 National Convention - Louisville Turners
5. 2022 National Council Meeting – Louisville Turners (directly following Convention)

Craig Sniezek made the following motion: That if the NHPE needs travel funds next year that they be taken from the Festival Fund. Seconded by Sean Sendlein. Motion passed unanimously.

Sue Knisley said that the Cultural Meeting will not need additional funds. Probably just Minter and Knisley.

Craig Sniezek hopes that the Bowling Committee will be a virtual meeting or it will be held in central location.

President Zeller raised the question of the National Convention in Louisville.

Craig Sniezek made the following motion: That if the Louisville Society is not in compliance by October 31, 2021, that the National Council will request bids for hosting the 2022 National Convention and 2022 National Council meeting. Jim Goetz seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Craig Sniezek made the following motion: That the 2022 National Council be held at the site of the 2022 National Convention. Seconded Jim Goetz. Motion passed unanimously.

Good and Welfare of the American Turners: Liz Eichner noted the loss of Steve Radke, long time financial secretary of the Upper Mississippi District. A moment of silence followed.

Motion to adjourn by Dave Mulrooney, seconded by Nick Barts, vote passed unanimously.

Adjournment of the 2021 National Council Meeting at 4:12 p.m.

Minutes Attested by

DENNIS ZELLER

American Turners National President-Dennis Zeller

Minutes prepared by
Daniel J. Hoisington

Daniel J. Hoisington

American Turners Corporate Secretary-Daniel J. Hoisington

ANNUAL MEETING of AMERICAN TURNERS, INC.

Aurora Turners, September 25, 2021

Annual Meeting of American Turners, Inc. was called to order by President Zeller at 4:18 p.m.

The American Turners, Inc. was incorporated on the 15th day of March 1988 in Louisville, Kentucky. Under the laws of the Commonwealth of Kentucky, a meeting of the members of a non-profit corporation must be held at least annually, with minutes prepared and kept on file of all corporate meetings. Likewise, there has to be an annual filing with the Office of the Secretary of State, verifying that the corporation is still in existence and supplying information on the verification form received from the Secretary of State's Office along with the appropriate fee each year that it is received.

The vice-president read a roll call.

National Officers and Chairpersons

President: Dennis Zeller

Vice-President: Craig Sniezek

Corporate Secretary: Daniel Hoisington

Treasurer: Cindy Law (absent)

National Health & Physical Education Chairperson (acting): Michelle Lesperance

National Cultural Chairperson: Sue Knisley

National Bowling Chairperson (acting): Craig Sniezek

District Representatives

Central States: Kevin McCart

Illinois District: Nick Barts

Lake Erie: Margie George (alternate for Bill Severns Jr.)

Middle Atlantic: Dave Mulrooney

New England: John Beary

New Jersey: Ray Virgens (absent)

New York: Jim Goetz (alternate for Marion Oppelt)

St. Louis: Sean Sendlein (alternate for Jill Pfeuffer)

Upper Mississippi: Liz Eichner (via Zoom)

Western Pennsylvania: Allen Frederick

Western United States: Alexander Hast (absent)

Wisconsin: Daniel Hoisington

Permanent Council Members

President, Endowment Trust Fund: Thomas R. Bozonelos

President, Jahn Education Fund: Frank Wedl

National Administrative Assistant – Kate Payne (via Zoom)

The Chair will entertain a motion that the National Officers and Council members of the American Turners shall serve as the officers and board of directors for the American Turners, Inc. So moved by Dave Mulrooney, seconded by Nick Barts. No discussions. Vote passed unanimously.

Good and Welfare. Liz Eichner noted the loss of Steve Radke, long time financial secretary of the Upper Mississippi District. A moment of silence followed.

Adjournment of the American Turners, Inc. Meeting for 2021. ***Motion was made by John Beary. Seconded by Liz Eichner. Motion passed unanimously.***

Meeting adjourned at 4:26 p.m.

Minutes Attested by

American Turners National President-Dennis Zeller

Minutes prepared by
Daniel J. Hoisington

Daniel J. Hoisington

American Turners Corporate Secretary-Daniel J. Hoisington