

# *AMERICAN TURNERS*



## *NATIONAL COUNCIL MINUTES*

*AUGUST 7, 2022*

*LOUISVILLE TURNERS, KY*

MINUTES  
NATIONAL COUNCIL MEETING  
AMERICAN TURNERS

AUGUST 7, 2022

*Hosted by Louisville Turners*

The meeting was called to order by President Dennis Zeller at 9:10 a.m.

Council members recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Council paused for a moment of silence in memory of all the Turners who have departed this life and entering the Turn Verein Everlasting, service personnel who have given their lives serving our country.

Vice President Craig Sniezek read the roll call.

National Officers and Chairs

President	Dennis Zeller
Vice President	Craig Sniezek
National Corporate Secretary	Daniel Hoisington
National Treasurer	Cindy Law
NHPE Co-Chairs	Michelle Lesperance, Emily Miesner
National Cultural Chair	Sue Knisley

District Representatives

Central States	Kevin McCart
Illinois	Nick Barts
Lake Erie	Bill Severns, Jr.
Middle Atlantic	Keith Mulrooney
New England	John Beary
New York	Marion Oppelt
St. Louis	Sean Sendlein
Upper Mississippi	Liz Eichner
Western Pennsylvania	Not present
Western United States	Not present
Wisconsin	Andrea Boettger

Special Funds

Endowment Trust Fund	Thomas Bozonelos
Jahn Fund	Frank Wedl

Introduction of guests

Dan Ahern  
Sandy Zeller  
Linda Paxton

Appointed

Turner Topics Editor	Craig Sniezek
National Historian	Daniel Hoisington
National Rules/Document Coordinator	Joy Bodine

### **Closed Session**

The council discussed an employee review for the administrative assistant. Andrea Boettger (WI) made a motion that the president schedule a review with Kate Payne as soon as possible and report back to the council no later than August 31, 2022. Seconded by Nick Barts (IL). The motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

Craig Sniezek read the nomination of John Beary (NE) to be awarded the Honor Key. The nomination approved by the Clinton Turners and then the New England District. Sniezek read the nomination letter. Following discussion, Sue Knisley (IL) made a motion to accept and approve the nomination. Seconded by Marion Oppelt (NY). The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

### **Old Business**

#### *Status of Districts*

National President Zeller reported that Ray Virgins (NJ) informed him in a letter dated August 1, 2022, that the Northern New Jersey (formerly known as Passaic) is closing. Because a district requires more than one society, the New Jersey District will no longer exist.

Craig Sniezek moved that the National Council send a letter to the Carlstadt society informing them that they need to choose a new district, seconded by Sean Sendlein (SL). No vote was taken on this motion.

Following discussion, Andrea Boettger made a motion to send letters to the New Jersey District, to the Carlstadt society, and to the individual members, with a response from the district no later than October 1, 2022. This was seconded by Craig Sniezek. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

#### *Delinquencies*

The next order of business was membership dues delinquencies. Kate Payne reported that Northern New Jersey, Providence, and Schiller have not paid for 2022. Discussion followed and there was general agreement that action needed to be taken in accordance with our bylaws.

Craig Sniezek made a motion that the National Council send letters to those societies that are in arrears for the first six months of this year, seconded by Andrea Boettger. Kate Payne said that these letters would be sent by certified mail. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

Craig Sniezek made a motion that the Executive Committee come up with a process for late dues payments, seconded by Andrea Boettger (WI). Michelle Lesperance (WI) then read from the O & P Manual that the policy is already in place, and we should just take action. Craig withdrew his motion that the Executive Committee come up with a process.

The discussion then moved to setting a due date for annual payment of membership dues with a motion by Thomas Bozonelos (IL), "Societies that have not paid their dues by March 31 shall be considered not in good standing and shall not benefit from American Turner offerings." Motion seconded by Bill Severns Jr. (LE). The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

An extended discussion followed about the institution of a late fee penalty. No motions were made.

#### *Financial Statements*

There was discussion about the frequency of financial reports. No motions were made.

#### *Review of National Council Committees*

President Zeller asked Nick Barts about the Marketing Committee. Barts noted that he is no longer the best person to head that committee. There was some discussion. At present there is no marketing committee. No motions were made.

President Zeller asked about the status of the Finance Committee. At present, the Executive Committee fills that role. Nick Barts noted that the finance committee was formed four years ago for a specific purpose and not as permanent committee. No motions were made.

President Zeller asked about the Kuenzel Memorial Fund. Dave Mulrooney is the chair. Current members are the National President, Frank Wedl, Bruno Klaus, and Thomas Bozonelos. Bozonelos noted that the distribution of funds was restricted. No motions were made.

President Zeller asked about the status of the Scholarship Committee. The committee has not met in four years. Thomas Bozonelos recommended that a new chair be appointed. Craig Sniezek nominated Thomas Bozonelos to serve as committee chair, seconded by Sue Knisley. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote. Nick Barts and Keith Mulrooney (MA) volunteered to serve on the committee.

Trademark Renewal Status: Kate Payne reported that the renewal is still not settled. Our legal representative has filed for trademark renewal – one every ten years. We are working through the issue because there were changes so we are refile for old one and filing a new one for one with changes.

The patent is not protected for use in clothing and merchandise but is good for publications.

The president announced a break for lunch. After returning from lunch, Thomas Bozonelos asked that the Council review the 2021 council mandates and what action was taken.

Craig Sniezek reviewed the budget for 2022-23, which was mandated at the last council meeting. He emphasized that it is a best guess. The following mandates have been addressed:

- Final payment to SilkStart
- Notification letters to delinquent societies
- Signature cards
- Turner drum
- Job description for Administrative Assistant
- Reconcile accounts
- Bylaws review

Kate Payne reported that she has made the shared Google Docs Turner finances folder available to all council members.

Andrea Boettger made the motion to add the secretary, treasurer, and president to all signature cards to investment account signature cards if allowable, seconded by Thomas Bozonelos. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

## **New Business**

National Historian Daniel Hoisington (WI) discussed a plan to develop a traveling exhibit on the American Turners. It would be made available on loan to all clubs. Hoisington made a motion that the National Council authorize the National Historian to develop plans and seek funding for a traveling exhibit on Turner history and activities. It was seconded by Nick Barts. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

Daniel Hoisington also made a motion that the President appoint a Strategic Planning Committee, to report to the next National Council meeting. It was seconded by Andrea Boettger. The committee consists of Andrea Boettger, Nick Barts, Daniel Hoisington, and Liz Eichner (UMiss). No vote was taken on the motion.

The President brought up the need to review the Bylaws and O & P Manual. No motion was made but a committee was formed to include Joy Bodine, Sean Sendlein, John Beary, Thomas Bozonelos, and Andrea Boettger. Kate Payne will be included in the review.

Wisconsin District requested, with the addition of New Ulm, that the name be changed to Upper Midwest. Craig Sniezek made a motion to approve the name change, seconded by Nick Barts. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

The meeting then turned to a discussion of 40-year memberships. Craig Sniezek stated that a society had requests to allow members to pay for years when membership lapsed in order to qualify for forty years. He believed that a council policy needs to be established. Following discussion, Andrea Boettger made a motion that if dues are paid, the American Turners accept past membership dues at the current rate. Thomas Bozonelos seconded. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

The next agenda item was that American Turners items stored at Northwest Chicago Turners needs to be moved by November 1, 2023. Thomas Bozonelos made a motion that the Executive Committee determine the physical assets of the American Turners and, if feasible, to rent a climate-controlled storage area. It was seconded by Craig Sniezek. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

The National Council next considered the application of the Wildcard Turners in Milwaukee to be a new society. No motion is necessary as part of the application process.

Craig Sniezek made a motion that if and when they become a society, the Wildcard Turners will be allowed to participate in the 2023 National Festival. It was seconded by Sue Knisley. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

Craig Sniezek raised the question about the status of the two historic banners that came from the Columbia (D.C.) Turners. They are quite large, and we need to find a permanent owner for them. No motion was made, and action was deferred pending the evaluation of the physical assets of the American Turners that was approved at this council meeting.

The discussion then turned to the guidelines for hosting the National Convention. This is not about approval of the location, but the required actions and procedures for the host. The general agreement was that a review of the hosting guidelines for National Council meetings also be included. It was decided that the committee previously appointed to review the Bylaws and O & P Manual address this issue. No motion was made.

Kate Payne has begun work on organizing a Turners dart league working with local societies. Craig Sniezek made the following motion: “That the American Turners have initiated a Virtual Dart League that may be marketed as a national activity.” It was seconded by Thomas Bozonelos. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

Daniel Hoisington introduced a records retention policy, a copy of which has been distributed to the council members. It is based on standard nonprofit policies, including that of the National Council of Nonprofits. Sue Knisley made a motion to adopt the policy as presented, seconded by Marion Oppelt. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

### **National Committee Meetings**

The President then asked about upcoming national committee meetings.

NHPEC: Michelle Lesperance (WI), chair, stated that a spring 2023 meeting in New Ulm is planned and asked that the money not come from the festival fund but from the general fund. Craig Sniezek so moved, seconded by Nick Barts. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

Cultural. Sue Knisley, chair, asked for an in-person committee meeting in Aurora on October 22, 2022. Craig Sniezek so moved, seconded by Nick Barts. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote. Sue also stated that Stephanie Minster will serve as co-chair of the Cultural Committee.

No Bowling Committee meeting is needed in 2023.

President Zeller asked whether there were bids to host the 2023 National Council meeting. Sniezek suggested that the most economical approach would be to hold it in the Illinois District, with its exact location not determined yet. John Beary made a motion that the Illinois Council host the 2023 National Council meeting, seconded by Sean Sendlein. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

Kate Payne asked for clarification for reimbursement policy for the council meeting. As established at the 2022 council meeting, reimbursement will be for Sunday night’s hotel room, travel home, and Sunday dinner. Daniel Hoisington asked to make clear that his reimbursement should be paid by the national office since he is a national officer. Thomas Bozonelos made a motion that Hoisington be reimbursed for full travel expenses. John Beary, as convention chair, was added to the motion. It was seconded by Sean Sendlein. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

Discussion then began about whether any of the dues increase will be designated funds. Kate Payne recommended that we wait one year and evaluate the policy after a year’s experience. NHPE Michelle Lesperance stated that the O & P Manual requires that the Festival Fund should have twice as much as the Festival costs. Given rising expenses, that will not be the case in 2023. Payne stated that there was \$142,720 in the Festival Fund. \$70,000 of that is in the general fund and will be transferred over to a money market account for the festival.

Lesperance then brought up the need for a new laptop for the NHPEC. Sniezek made a motion to approve up to \$2,000 for a new laptop, with the potential for reimbursement from the ETF and/or Jahn Fund. Sue Knisley seconded. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

Kate Payne requested an increase in compensation by January 1, 2023. Hoisington noted that the council committed to a timeline no later than October 31, 2022.

Finally, the Festival contract with New Ulm was discussed. Lesperance stated that New Ulm submitted a contract with some changes. Boettger said that they were given the Fort Wayne contract as a template. After reviewing it with our Festival chair and our society president, New Ulm updated several items were minor except it included a variance of 10% of the overall budget, and not a 5% per line item. Sue Knisley made a motion to approve the contract that New Ulm has returned and submitted. This is an exception and not a standard policy. It was seconded by Sean Sendlein. The motion passed by a voice vote.

### **Good and Welfare**

The President called for anything for the Good and Welfare of the organization.

The President read the schedule for upcoming national events.

#### 2023 events

- National Bowling: Elgin, Ill.
- National Softball: Louisville, KY
- National Golf: Covington, KY
- National Festival: New Ulm, MN

#### 2024 events

- National Bowling: Louisville, KY
- Possible Pickleball National Tournament
- Junior Golf: Unscheduled

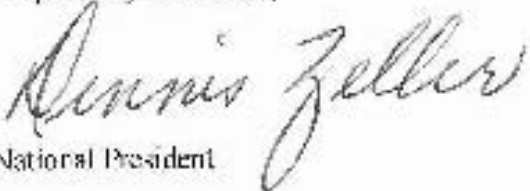
Junior Bowling will be a virtual event and the process is in place for it done in February/March 2023.

There are no bids for the following national events: Senior Volleyball, Open Volleyball, Basketball, and Gymnastics.

Craig Sniezek said that Turner Topics is planning on three issues next year. He observed that it is still difficult to get information to fill the issues. Discussion followed. There were no motions.

Nick Barts made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Sean Sendlein. The motion was approved by voice vote. Meeting adjourned at 3:52 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Dennis Zeller  
National President



Corporate Secretary

MINUTES  
AMERICAN TURNERS, INC.

AUGUST 7, 2022

*Hosted by Louisville Turners*

Annual meeting of American Turners, Inc.- Called to order at 3:55 p.m. by Dennis Zeller, President.

The American Turners, Inc. was incorporated on the 15<sup>th</sup> 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 supply information on the verification form received from the Secretary of State's Office along with the appropriate fees each year that it is received.

Craig Sniezek read the roll call.

National President	Dennis Zeller
National Vice President	Craig Sniezek
National Corporate Secretary	Dan Hoisington
National Treasurer	Cindy Law (excused)
National Health & Physical Education Chairperson	Emily Miesner
National Cultural Chairperson	Sue Knisley
National Bowling Chairperson	Craig Sniezek
District Representatives	
Central States	Kevin McCart
Illinois	Nick Barts
Lake Erie	Bill Severns, Jr.
Middle Atlantic	Keith Mulrooney
New England	John Beary (excused)
New York	Marion Oppelt
St: Louis	Sean Sendlein
Upper Mississippi	Liz Eichner
Western Pennsylvania	Allen Fredricks (absent)
Western United States	Dennis Fredricks (absent)
Wisconsin	Andrea Boettger

Funding bodies-

Endowment Trust Fund	Thomas Bozonelos
Jahn Fund	Frank Wedl

Sean Sendlein moved and Liz Eichner seconded 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.

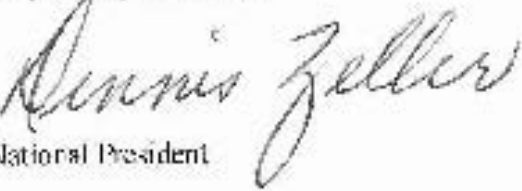
Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

The President called for anything for the Good and Welfare of the organization. There were no responses.



Nick Barts moved for adjournment for the American Turners, Inc. meeting for 2022. Sean Sendlein seconded. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

Respectfully Submitted,



Dennis Zeller

National President



David J. Wright

Corporate Secretary