

TURNER TOPICS

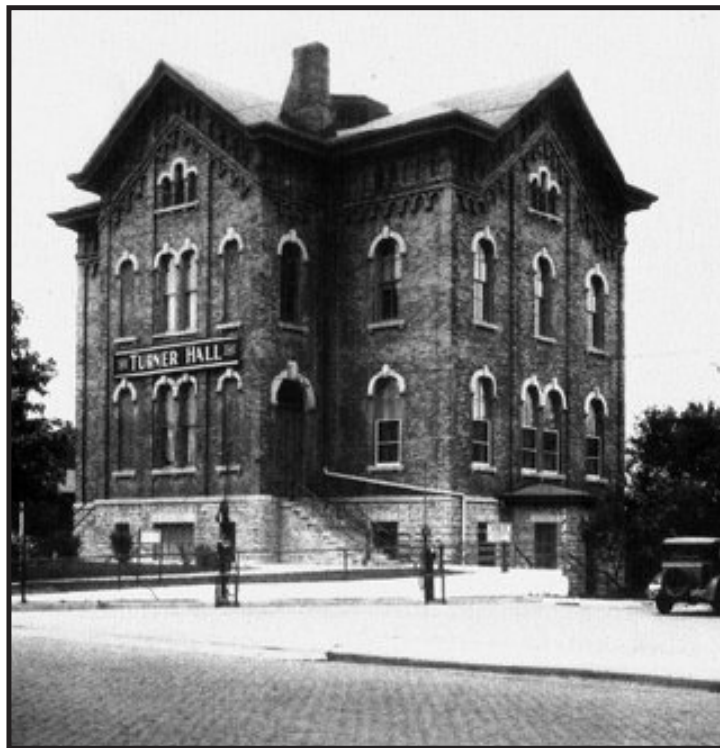
VOL 77
ISSUE 1
JAN / FEB - 2023



Official Publication of The American Turners

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HOST OF THE 2023 NATIONAL BOWLING TOURNAMENT
ELGIN, ILLINOIS



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AMERICAN TURNER TOPICS

ISSN 0746-3480

is published up to 4 issues per year in
Jan-Feb-Mar, Apr-May-Jun,
Jul-Aug-Sept, Oct-Nov-Dec.
PO Box 696,
North Aurora, IL 60542.

AMERICAN TURNER TOPICS,
PO Box 696
North Aurora, IL 60542

Normal Office Hours:

8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Monday thru Friday

(outside of these hours, please leave a message)

Phone (630) 389-7087

Email Address:

nationaloffice@amturners.org

American Turner Topics

Official Publication of the
American Turners Dedicated
to "A Sound Mind in a Sound Body"

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THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

President's Message

First, I would like to inform everyone that my wife, Debra, of 34 years passed away on November 8, 2022 of health issues. We held a "Celebration of Life" for her at Aurora Turners on December 18. There is an obituary in this issue. For all who

already heard I would like to thank you for the words of condolences.

The convention saw several changes that have started as of January 1st. National dues have increased to \$12 as this was passed at the convention. This is the first dues increase in about 10-12 years. This will enable American Turners to perpetuate the organization in the future. Dues are also due by March 31, 2023 and if they are not paid participation in National events will not be permitted. The National Bowling chair is now part of the NHPEC committee but the bowling committee will still function as it has in the past. Emily Miesner of Louisville was elected as the new NHPEC Chairperson. Michelle will work with her for the intermediate future to get her up to speed; mainly thru the 2023 National Festival in July of next year. The 2024 American Turners National Convention will be held in Aurora, Ill. sometime in the summer of that year.

We have pulled the O & P manual off line to review and make sure it is accurate. The plan is to have it completed by February 1st. The executive team, President, Vice-President, Corporate Secretary and Treasurer are establishing rules for employee reviews. This will be done annually. We are also looking at any other items that need to be established.

This issue has the forms for scholarships in for the current calendar year. The scholarship form and rules will be reviewed for the 2023-24 scholarship year.

The biggest event next year is the 2023 National Festival to be held in New Ulm, MN and hosted by New Ulm Turners. If you have never been to New Ulm it is a quaint city founded by Turners. There is a brewery in town, Schell Brewery, which was established by a Turner Member and is still owned by a Turner member. I would encourage everyone to start planning on going to and participating in the festival next July. You can do a number of athletic events, cultural activities or go and just cheer on your society. The Turner Topics for March/April will have information on the Festival, athletic events, cultural events, housing, food, map and entertainment.

Please remember to support your society by attending events hosted at your society, running for office at your society as things don't happen on their own, volunteer to help run or work at events at your society and lastly just get involved.

Craig Snizek

American Turner's President

SOCIETY NEWS



Akron

Akron Turners Auxiliary members held a food drive for Akron's Food Bank on November 9th prior to their monthly meeting. Their donation totaled 275 pounds and will provide 229 meals for Akron's needy families. In addition to the food, they also made a monetary donation that will provide another 2,500 meals for a total of 2,729. Our thanks to Tracy and John Goodyear for delivering the food. Tracy reported that the volunteers were very excited and pleased with our donation but they also said they never heard of the Akron Turner Club – they have now.



Ruth Vera and June Ewing

Cincinnati

Turner Greetings!

In November, we honored our veterans with a free meal and drink. We also did our 2nd annual Food Drive for a food pantry in our community. We are partnered with one of our community school districts and provided 4 less fortunate families a full Thanksgiving dinner and started our 1st annual Sharing Tree. In all, we were able to collect 368 pounds of food for the food pantry, provided gifts for 20 children and helped 9 families in our community. We also had our annual Christmas Party for the children. Always a great turnout.

Our current administration is working hard to make improvements in and around the building. Our Entertainment Committee is continually working to bring different events back, monthly dart tournaments, poker tournaments, dances and bands. We currently have a Monday night pool league, and we offer a homemade cooked meal on Monday's. We also have cornhole tournaments on Tuesdays and a Thursday night dart league. We look forward to what 2023 will bring to our society and are excited to be looking forward.



Lee Pollard, Treasurer

Cincinnati Central Turners

56th American Turners National Festival

We have roughly 6 months to get in shape, choreograph routines, organize volleyball or pickleball teams, do some fund raising or create some arts and crafts. If you are not sure about participating, please give it some serious thought. The Festival is for everyone! If you can jog/walk 3 miles, swim some laps in the pool, swing a golf club, or just have fun on the Volleyball or Pickleball court, you should join us. So, if you think you are not good enough because you do not work out in the gym every day, think again. Some Turners go for the competition, others go just to have fun. Either way, we all enjoy the camaraderie. So don't miss out on a good time with fellow Turners.

A special issue of Turner Topics will be sent out in the near future packed full of Festival information. But here are a few things I would like you to note:

- Go to <https://americanturners.org/national-festival> or <https://turnfestnewulm.com> to find the following pertinent information:
 - o Updated Festival Rulebook and Supplemental Handbook (all changes are highlighted)
 - o Video and instructions for the Marching and Mass Drill
 - o Tentative Schedule
 - o Hotel information
 - o Festival Pin letter
- On-line registration will start in April. The last day to register, without paying a late fee, is June 10, 2023. You can still register between June 10 and June 20, 2023; however, you will have to pay a late fee of \$20.00 per person. Absolutely no registrations will be accepted after June 20, 2023.
- Cultural competitors must register on-line and also mail their separate "cultural entry form" to Sue Knisley.
- Members must follow the rules as stated in the Festival Rulebook:

"Competitors, if eligible for membership in their Societies, must be a member in good standing, with a membership number issued by the National Office, prior to the Festival registration deadline. All other contestants must be either a spouse of a card-carrying member, a child of a card-carrying member under the age of eighteen (18) or a Youth Member for 90 days or more. All competitors in any American Turners National competition must present their membership card at the tournament site.

Pursuant to the 2008 National Convention, it is acceptable for a child under the age of 18 to participate in Turner National events (physical and cultural competition) even if their parents are not members. However, that child must be a paying enrolled student of a Turner society for at least 90 days prior to the National event and show proof of same. There will be an extra fee for a non-member (child under the age of 18) to compete at the National event. All adults must still be a Turner member in order to participate at a National event."

So make sure you get your membership paid in a timely manner and that your society sends the payment into the National Office no later than March 31, 2023. This will allow Kate time to process the application and get the membership cards to the individuals before they try to register for the Festival. I will follow up with the Societies to confirm that "non-member children" are enrolled in their society program(s).
- Keep checking the website for more Festival information.

As always, if you have any questions feel free to contact us at:

Emily: nhpechair@amturners.org
Michelle: mwlpproperties1@gmail.com

Stay active in Turners and continue living our motto of a ***Sound Mind in a Sound Body***.

Michelle Lesperance
NHPEC Co-Chair

Emily Miesner
NHPEC Co-Chair

American Turners 58th Annual National Golf Tournament

July 12th, 13th, & 14th 2023

Hosted by Covington Turners

Covington Turners is proud to host the 2023 National Golf Tournament. The golf course to be used for the tournament will be at Kenton County Willows and Pioneer courses, 3908 Richardson Rd, Independence, Ky 41051, Phone-859-371-3200.

Tournament fees (includes cart, Wednesday night dinner, Friday night banquet, gifts and prizes):

18 hole-\$150

- Men-Open
- Senior Men 55+
- Women-Open

9 hole-\$90

- Women-Open(optional)
- Senior Women-55+
- Super Senior Men-65+

The entry deadline is June 30, 2023.

- Registration will take place at the Club on Tuesday, July 11 from 5:00 pm-7:00 pm.
- The National Golf meeting will take place at 7:30 pm.

Make all checks payable to:

Covington Turners National Golf

Please send completed entry with payment directly to:

Covington Turners, Attn: Kelly Conner,
11 Augusta Ave., Fort Wright, Ky. 41011

SPECIAL COUPLES EVENT:

A couple's golf tournament in memory of John Wischer, Covington's longtime golf ambassador, will be held on Tuesday, July 11.

Teams must be a man and a woman and the format is an 18-hole scramble. Scorecards can be turned in at the club Tuesday night. The results will be announced at the banquet on Friday.

PRACTICE/COUPLES EVENT TEE TIMES:

Practice Round and Couples Event pricing of \$32, including a cart, has been negotiated at Kenton County Willows and Pioneer Course. Golfers are responsible for making advanced tee times and is **HIGHLY RECOMMENDED**. Please mention Turners National Golf when calling the course to receive the special pricing for Monday and Tuesday, July 10th and 11th.

HOTEL INFORMATION:

Please mention "Turner Golf" when calling to make your reservations. To ensure negotiated rates, reservations must be made by **June 6, 2023**.

***Holiday Inn Express**

8 Hampton Ln., Wilder, Ky. 41076
(859) 815-8855

- Rate \$129 for king standard
- Indoor pool
- Free Breakfast

***Hampton Inn**

10 Hampton Ln., Wilder, KY. 41076
(859) 441-3049

- Rate \$129
- Indoor pool
- Breakfast included

***Comfort Inn & Suites**

10 Country Dr., Wilder, KY. 41076
(859) 441-3707

- Rate \$92
- Indoor pool
- Breakfast included

All hotels are approximately the same distance from both the club and golf courses.

Food will be available at Covington Turner Tuesday-Friday from 5:00 pm-8:00 pm.

Any questions or concerns please contact:

Chris Croger at chriscroger2@gmail.com
859-630-9432

American Turners 58th Annual
National Golf Tournament
Hosted by Covington Turners
July 12th, 13th, and 14th 2023

Fees: \$150 (18 holes w/cart daily) for Men, Senior Men, Women
\$90 (9 holes w/cart daily) for Women, Senior Women, Super Senior Men

Make check or money order to:
Covington Turners National Golf

Entry Regulations:

1. The members entered below agree to abide by the rules and regulations of the American Turners and the USGA. Violations will result in the loss of prizes and awards.
2. Only National Turner Members in good standing in the National American Turners, local districts, and societies are permitted to participate in this tournament. At Large members may participate in the tournament, however, their scores cannot be used for a society's score in a team event.
3. Participants must be members of a society of the American Turners at least three months prior to the tournament. Membership card must be available for presentation at registration.
4. Societies who do not permit members until age 21 are permitted to enter golf members(s) from age 18 by certification of the President of the society. The entry must state the age of the golfers(s) under this provision.
5. Any applications received after the deadline of June 30, 2023, may be accepted by the host society only if there is space available. The application must be accompanied by an additional \$10.00 processing fee. All applications sent to the host society must be filled out completely and include the full entry fee.

Divisions: Indicate below which division each player will be competing in.

Men=M

Senior Men=SM

Super Senior Men=SSM

Women=W-18 or W-9

Senior Women=SW

Full Name, Address, Phone, Email	Society name	National Card Number	9/18 hole score average	Division

NATIONAL COMMITTEE NEWS

National Bowling Committee

The 2023 National Tournament is to be held in Elgin, IL and the 2024 National Tournament will be held in Louisville, KY.

We are looking for a Society to host the 2025 Tournament. Your District National Bowling Committee member or the National Bowling Committee Chairman can answer any questions you may have. For a set of forms to bid on the 2025 Tournament please contact:

Craig Snizek
Acting National Bowling Committee Chairman
1440 Crestwood Dr.
Aurora, IL 60506

PH: 630-399-4736

Email: cvs4209@sbcglobal.net

Bids for the 2025 Tournament must be postmarked by June 1st, 2023.

Cultural Corner

The National Festival will be here before you know, so keep going or get started on your cultural activities for individual awards and society points. All ages compete within their age group. Items for National Festival 2023 in New Ulm, Minnesota must have been created since last Festival dated July 2019 in Fort Wayne, Indiana.

There are over 50 categories for all ages to compete in. I would like to challenge every society to enter the cultural competition and show what we are made of. Every society can receive points for entries receiving 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place ribbons. There is musical and drama presentations that can earn you points. All of this could be what puts your society on to and receive the plaque for winning their group. The National Cultural Committee met via zoom and discussed changes. We added Diamond Art to the classifications with same sub-classes as Paintings and Drawings.

There is also a Miss Turner pageant that young ladies can participate in. They must be between the ages of 14 and 19 before June 1st, 2023. Each society is entitled to an entry for the Miss Turner pageant. A nice thing to do in your club is to hold a pageant for all the young ladies in your society and then pick a winner to represent your society. There are no changes to the Princess Contest for the 2023 Festival.

Find rules and information in the REDBOOK. americanturners.org website; from menu bar click on; Our Organization, Committees, Cultural.

A Sound Mind is important even if our physical activities have slowed down. See list of classifications in this issue with more information to come. Try something new, it's fun!

Sue Knisley

National Cultural Chair

National Health & Physical Education Report

Greetings to my fellow Turners. I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday season. We have much to prepare for in 2023. Please support our national tournaments with participation at one or more of the following events:

- **National Bowling Tournament hosted by Elgin Turners in April, 2023**
- **National Golf Tournament hosted by Covington Turners, July 12-14, 2023**
- **National Softball Tournament, TBD**
- **National Festival hosted by New Ulm Turners, July 25-29, 2023**

American Turners 55th Annual FLORIDA PICNIC

April 14th, 15th, & 16th 2023

Hosted by the Turner Members Retired in Florida

Picnic Weekend kicks off 6:00pm Friday evening with a gathering at a Turner's home. Bring a dish and BYOB.

Saturday: starts with a lunch followed by nine holes of golf at one of the Championship Country Clubs (optional.) Saturday evening a group dinner at 6:30pm (optional) hosted at one of the Country Clubs in The Villages.

Sunday Picnic: starts at Chatham Recreational Center, starting at 10:30am with our greeters and receiving your name tags. Lunch is a chicken plate with sides for \$7.00 that will be served at 12:00 noon. Bring Your Own Beverages for the day.

We have a group photo taken at 1:15/1:30pm.

After our lunch and the group photo we will start preparing for the Bocce Ball Tournament open to those who want to participate. For those not participating this is a good time catching up with old and new friends.

Contact Information: Joan Wiseman – email JWis7498@aol.com – (352) 617-0005
Cindy Ryba – email cindyr100@yahoo.com – (352) 751-5907

Lodging in The Villages:

The Brownwood Hotel & Spa @ Brownwood – (352) 626-1246
Waterfront Inn @ Sumter Landing – (352) 753-7535 (25% discount if a Villager reserves)
Holiday Express @ Spanish Springs – (352) 750-3888
Comfort Inn & Suites @ Spanish Springs – (352) 259-6578
La Hacienda Hotel – (352) 750-6863
Hampton Inn & Suites in Lady Lakes – (352) 259-8246
Townes Place Suites by Marriott @ Spanish Springs – (352) 753-8686

AMERICAN TURNERS

**“Sound Mind
in a
Sound Body”**



National Office

PO Box 696
North Aurora, IL 60542

Phone: (630) 389-7087

Web Site: <http://amturners.org>
Email: nationaloffice@amturners.org

SCHOLARSHIP GRANTS FOR MEMBERS OF AMERICAN TURNERS

GENERAL INFORMATION

1. The American Turners National Organization is offering a Scholarship Grant annually to its members that are working in a degree program at a fully accredited College or University. Only applicants who are planning to major in a Physical Education, Sports Medicine, Physical Therapy, Occupational Therapy, or Recreational Therapy curriculum will be considered. Exceptions, however, are possible for students who have been involved over a number of years in Turner programs and pledge to continue service to the American Turners.
2. The By-laws of the American Turners provides the authority and purposes for the granting of Scholarship Awards by the American Turners. This By-law also provides that **“The Scholarship Committee of the American Turners shall develop a scholarship plan containing rules and regulations to determine the eligibility of the applicants seeking an award and a system of priorities to select the best possible candidates”**.
3. Scholarship recipients may apply for subsequent scholarships. However, they must submit a new application each year and meet all requirements to receive an additional scholarship.
4. A Scholarship Grant will be offered for the **Junior year** and **Senior year** only
5. Scholarships will only be awarded for Undergraduate College or University programs. No scholarships will be awarded for Post graduate programs, Professional or Trade Schools or for Community or Junior Colleges.
6. Special consideration will be given to applicants in one of the five (5) fields: **Physical Education, Sports Medicine, Physical Therapy, Occupational Therapy or Recreational Therapy**. Exceptions will be made for other majors for candidates who have been involved in American Turner programs and pledge to continue service to the American Turners.
7. Electronic courses pertaining to one of the five (5) majors listed in #6 must be offered by an accredited college or university.
8. Scholarship recipients may receive a maximum of two (2) scholarships. You may first apply going into your Junior year of study. If for some reason your application was denied going into your Junior year, you may then re-apply going into your Senior year.
9. The completed Application for an American Turner Scholarship must be received by the National Office of the American Turners postmarked no later than July 1st of any given year. Any applications received after July 1st will be returned to the applicant and will have to be resubmitted for consideration the following year.
10. All applications postmarked by July 1st, and qualified by membership, will be screened by the American Turners National Office and then forwarded to the National Scholarship Committee (NSC). The NSC will then review each application to determine if the applicant meets all the requirements as stated in these rules. The NSC has the final decision in the awarding of scholarships.
11. The National Scholarship Committee shall determine the number and amounts of Scholarships to be awarded each year.
12. After an application for an American Turners Scholarship Grant has been approved, the National office will make payment of ½ of the total amount of the Scholarship Grant paid directly to the College’s or University’s Admissions Office, Registrar’s Office or Financial Aid Office as indicated on the Application for American Turner Scholarship form chosen in the name of the applicant. The second ½ of the total amount of the Scholarship Grant will then be paid at the beginning of the second semester to the respective College or University upon notification from the school that the applicant is still enrolled as a full time student in good standing, and the submission of a transcript of grades for the completed semester along with a schedule of classes for the 2nd semester.
13. If the applicant’s Major or accredited College or University changes after the application was approved, the American Turner’s National Office and/or the National Scholarship Committee must be notified.

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National Office

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North Aurora, IL 60542

Phone: (630) 389-7087

Web Site: <http://amturners.org>
Email: nationaloffice@amturners.org

APPLICATION FOR AN AMERICAN TURNER SCHOLARSHIP GRANT

I, _____, am applying for a 1 year American Turner Scholarship Grant.
PRINT Applicant's Name

It is my understanding that American Turners will contribute an amount, to be determined (if) when this application is approved, toward the total cost of tuition and books and that I am responsible for the balance. I agree to fulfill all of the requirements as stated in the **Requirements Covering the Granting of Scholarships** attached to this application. In addition, I understand that my written essay may be used in Turner Topics or on the AmericanTurners.org website, to promote Turnerism.

Signature _____ Home Address _____

Applicant's Name _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ - _____ - _____ Date of Birth ____/____/____ Email Address _____

American Turner Membership: Date Joined ____/____/____ Official Membership Card # _____

The **applicant** must be a **member** of American Turners for a **minimum of twelve (12) months prior to July 1st** of any given year and be in **good standing** with his or her Society. The **official membership anniversary date** is the date printed by the National Office on the annual **Membership card**. Scholarships are awarded to full-time students beginning in their Junior year. A scholastic recipient may only receive a maximum of two (2) scholastic awards.

Parent or Legal Guardian's name: _____
(Only needed if the applicant is under 21 years of age)

College or University _____ Declared Major _____

Remit Scholarship Payment to the Address of: _____
Admissions Office / Registrar's Office / Financial Aid Office / Other

Certification and Endorsement of Society, District and National Office

I have reviewed this application for a Scholarship Grant submitted by the above named applicant and find, to the best of my knowledge, that he or she meets all of the requirements. Therefore, I recommend that he or she receives an American Turner Scholarship Grant.

Name of Society _____ **Signature** _____
Society President

Name of District _____ **Signature** _____
District President

Endorsement of the National Scholarship Committee

The American Turners agree to contribute \$ _____ as a Scholarship for _____
Applicant's Name
while a student at _____ for a period of one year provided that he or she fulfills
Name of College or University
all of the requirements as stated in the **Requirements of Applicants (Rev. 2018)** of the American Turners.

Signature _____ **Signature** _____
Chair - National Scholarship Committee President/Secretary - American Turners

Effective January 1st, 2020



American Turners Endowment Trust

Trustees: *Thomas R Bozonelos (Pres), Michelle Lesperance (VP), David Mulrooney, Marion Oppelt, Jim Goetz, John Beary, Craig Sniezek (Nat Pres), Appointed Treasurer/CPA Mike Coakley, Honorary Edwin Colton*

Greetings Turners,

First and foremost, I'd like to extend an apology to Inge Pape Trampler for stating she was a member of New York Turners in my last report. Inge has been a member of LIT (Long Island Turners) joining in 1955 although she has been and still is quite involved in ATNY.

I'm pleased to inform you that in 2022, the Endowment Trust provided seventeen (17) grants, one (1) donation, and three (3) honorary awards disbursing \$29,103.30. There was \$518.33 in administrative costs totaling \$29,621.63 in expenditures. Nineteen (19) donations were received equaling \$7,230.00. As of this writing, the current holdings of the American Turner's Endowment Trust Fund are: \$9,347.01 in the Old Second National Bank checking account and \$560,147.88 invested with Moloney Securities for an unaudited balance of \$569,494.89.

As a reminder, the ETF's offerings are available January 1st through November 30th. You are encouraged to visit the web address: <https://americanturners.org/endowment-trust-fund> to see all the offerings of the American Turners Endowment Trust Fund and to fill out an application form to start the process.

Notable changes to the Endowment Trust Fund offerings starting January 1st, 2023 are:

- For an American Turner District or Society to receive any offering of the Endowment Trust, they MUST be in Good Standing with American Turners. This means that 1) the annual membership fees must be paid in full and 2) the National Directory information formerly referred to as the Statistical form must be submitted to the National Office.
- First Aid/CPR/AED Grant: This grant has been extended from one (1) American Turner Teacher/Instructor/Coach per Society to include one (1) American Turner member per Society that is on-premises where no gymnastics or physical education classes are regularly being held.
- Edwin E. Colton Honorary Award: The due date to receive the Endowment Trust application, a summary of the nominee's contributions and written and signed letter of acknowledgement must be either postmarked or received by June 1st.

In closing, I'd like to express my sincere gratitude and appreciation to each of the Trustees and to the American Turner's membership. Together we share in the successes of perpetuating American Turners motto of a Sound Mind Sound Body through gymnastics and physical education. Your efforts and contributions are greatly appreciated!

Respectfully & With Turner Greetings,

Thomas R (Tom) Bozonelos

President

Endowment Trust

American Turners

Phone: (630) 621-0117

Email: etfpresident@amturners.org

Web: <https://www.americanturners.org/cpages/endowment>



American Turners Endowment Trust (ETF)

IN MEMORIAM

Debra Snizek - Aurora Turners

Donors:

Bill Hartford

Ken and Sharon Kish

Larry and Carol Eichelberger

Thomas R Bozonelos and Ellen Reeves

John and Linda Schiradelly

Denise Duran

Barb Pennington

Nyla Hartman

Bob and Pat Hartman

Mike Neid

FOR THE GOOD & WELFARE

American Turners – Baltimore, Inc.

REMINDER: Please to send any **memorial donation(s)** directly to:

Endowment Trust of American Turners
c/o Thomas R. Bozonelos, President
324 S. Buell Avenue
Aurora, IL 60506-4628



First Aid CPR/AED Grant



The Endowment Trust Fund has a **First Aid CPR/AED Certification Reimbursement Grant**. Let's make it a goal to have at least one person, who is regularly at your club, to get this certification. This could potentially save the life of a fellow Turner member. The American Turners, the Endowment Trust Fund and the National Health & Physical Education Committee wishes everyone a **safe** and happy New Year.

TURNERS IN NAMIBIA

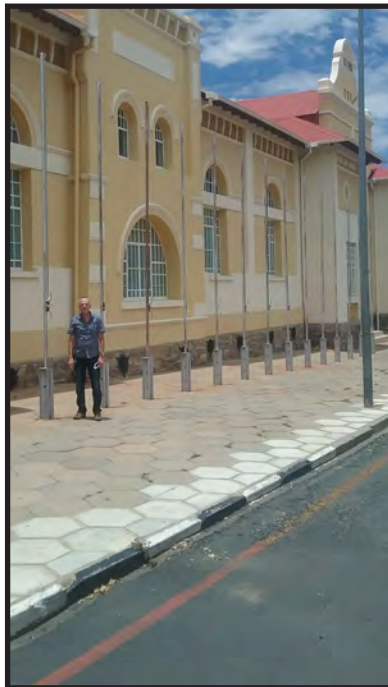
Beyond the borders of Germany, the appeal and reach of Turnerism reached far and wide. Of course, this was most evident in regions of the world where there were concentrated populations of German immigrant who brought this concept with them when settling in distant areas which were often quite culturally different from Germany. The attached 4 photographs are from present day Namibia, formerly German Southwest Africa. Turner Halls were located in several communities in this German colony including the capital city Windhuk, the coastal communities of Lüderitzbucht and Oranjemund, and other towns such as Keetmanshoop, Karabib and Kolmannskuppe.

Northwest Davenport (Iowa) Turner member Kory Darnall recently returned from Namibia where he met with a representative of the Lüderitzbucht Männer-Turnverein to deliver a letter of greetings from The Northwest Davenport Turner Society President Marcia Gray-Lossing. Marion Schelkle received the letter on behalf of the Vorstand of the Lüderitzbucht Männer-Turnverein, which read as follows:

On behalf of the membership of the North West Davenport (Iowa, USA) Turner Society, I wish to extend to you and your members our greetings from across the ocean.

Our two communities have much in common regarding our shared cultural heritage and our mutual struggle to keep it alive and vibrant. We wish your organization continued successes now and in the future.

Gut Heil!



OBITUARIES

Akron Turners-Bill Severns Sr.



Bill Severns Sr.

Bill Severns, Sr. passed away on October, 31st 2022 at the age of 81. Born in Akron, OH on September 20th, 1941. Preceded in death by mother Pauline McIntyre, stepfather Frank McIntyre, father William Severns, and grandson Zachary Boatwright.

He is survived by

his wife Linda, children William Severns, Jr. and Christine (Thomas) Boatwright, granddaughter Haley Boatwright; and stepdaughter Alexis McDonald.

Bill was a graduate of Buchtel High School, and attended the University of Akron. He worked most of his career at Americhem, Inc. in Cuyahoga Falls, OH. While employed at Americhem, Bill did a Tour of Duty in Vietnam, and was always proud to be a Veteran.

Bill officially became a member of the American Turners when he was 18. He was a member for 63 years, but was exposed to Turnerism all his life, his parents being active Turners, themselves.

Since the age of five, Bill was active in Turner programs. As a junior, he was a Turner gymnast, fencer, and track & fielder. He competed in Turner AAU and was a National Festival Medalist, as well as compiling collections for presentations in the National Cultural Competitions.

Bill had not only competed as a contestant in National Festivals, but he also coached teams in at least five National Festivals in Track & Field and Volleyball. On a local and district level, he also taught fencing classes to our Turner youth. In 1995, Bill was presented with The American Turners' highest honor, The National Honor Key Award.

Bill was President of the Akron Turners during its most volatile period. If it was not for his dedication and leadership, this society could have reached its demise. Bill held the position of President for ten of the thirteen years that The Akron Society was going through its transitional period. While moving from its original and beloved location, he helped hold

together this organization as it faced a new and uncertain future. After playing an integral role in securing the current location, and building a new and prosperous facility, he helped grow the organization in membership through many of the programs that he led. Bill also served on the Board of Directors of The Akron Society as Treasurer, Bar Manager, and Budget Director. Up until his passing, he served as an advisor to the board in many capacities.

During the time that he was helping The Akron Society, he also took over a floundering Lake Erie District. The district had been experiencing much dissension and the ultimate loss of one of the strongest societies. Bill's counsel has contributed to its return to a fully functioning and nationally recognized district.

Bill served as National President for two terms, and was on the National Council for several years. He served as President of the Lake Erie District for 20+ years, served as Regional Councilor, and District Representative. He was also a Region IV Councilor for several years until regions were dissolved. He continued to serve as a leader and Director of Lake Erie delegates to the National Conventions and had done so until the early 2000's.

Bill continued to make himself always available to societies and districts as a source of information, direction, guidance, and any other assistance he could offer. He also did this on a National Level by writing and co-writing articles for the Turner Topics.

Turner Severns dedicated much of his life to furthering the cause of Turnerism and was outstanding in promoting Turner principles on all levels of the American Turners.

Thank you very much Bill, and you will be missed by all who had the pleasure to be in your presence.

OBITUARIES

Aurora Turners



Debra Sniezek

Loving and devoted wife, mother and grandmother Debra (Lewis) Sniezek went to join our Lord and Savior on Wednesday, November 9th, 2022 at the age of 66. She was born on June 18, 1956 in Aurora, IL. Debra is preceded in death by her parents Robert and

Phyllis Lewis, step-mother Sharon Lewis and sister Patty (Jim) Goodrich.

Debra is survived by her husband Craig Sniezek, daughter (Heather Stadel), son (Joshua Sniezek), daughter-in-law (Megan Sniezek), sister (Vickie Felker), brother (Bobby Lewis), grandson (Danny Zwart) and several nieces and nephews.

Debra graduated from West Aurora High School and Olivet Nazarene University obtaining a Degree in Teaching Physical Education. She married her husband Craig on 10/23/1988 recently celebrating 34 years of marriage.

For twenty plus years Debra was employed by

Symphony at The Tillers in Oswego, IL where she was a Licensed Dietician and held managerial positions. She completed her career as a substitute teacher at West Aurora High School.

Debra was a devout Christian expressing her faith as a member of St Paul's Lutheran Church. She was an avid bowler participating in several USBC Tournaments, American Turners National Bowling Tournaments, and outdoor bowling competitions at Aurora Turner Club where she was a twenty-four-year member. Debra was a die-hard Dallas Cowboy fan, and a Chicago Cubs and Chicago Blackhawks fan. Her favorite Nascar driver was Kyle Busch, No. 18. Debra's favorite places to relax and unwind were on a beach or in the Great Smoky Mountains. She was excited about hearing the news of the future birth of another grand-child, Charlotte May Warrior Sniezek, due in April 2023.

A celebration of her life was held on Sunday December 18th at the Aurora Turner Club. Many family members and friends were present. In lieu of flowers, donations were made to the American Turners Endowment Trust Fund.

Louisville Turners



Bobbie Stovall Chitwood

Louisville Turners is saddened by the loss of a very precious Turners member last month. Bobbie Stovall Chitwood always had a hug, smile, or compliment ready for

anyone she met. She was a positive for all the kids and teens making every event one to remember. Her light and love will be greatly missed, and we all feel the void from her passing. She loved our club and all of its members just as much as we all love her.



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**Deadline for next issue: MARCH/APRIL
This will be a 2023 Festival issue**

Copy to Editor - February 15, 2023
Copy to Printer - February 23, 2023
In mail by March 10, 2023

NATIONAL CALENDAR

2023 EVENTS

National Bowling - Elgin
April 15 & 16, 22 & 23, 29 & 30
National Golf - Covington
July 12, 13, 14
National Softball - Covington
TBD
National Festival - New Ulm
July 25-29
National Council Meeting
Illinois District

2024 EVENTS

National Bowling - Louisville
National Convention - Aurora