

TURNER TOPICS

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Official Publication of The American Turners

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▲ HOST OF THE 2023 NATIONAL SOFTBALL TOURNAMENT, FORT WAYNE, IN

◀ HOST OF THE 2023 NATIONAL GOLF TOURNAMENT, COVINGTON TURNERS



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THE PRESIDENT'S DESK



President's Message

The 2023 American Turners National Bowling Tournament has ended and prize checks should be out by now. There were 50 teams(200) participants that bowled at Liberty Lanes and socialized at Elgin Turners. Everyone had a great time.

American Turners National Golf will be in Covington, Ky hosted by Covington Turners. It will be held on Wednesday July 12 thru Friday July 14. American Turners National 12" softball will be held on Saturday June 24th and Sunday the 25th in Ft. Wayne, In.

Well I believe winter is over and spring/summer is coming which means it is 2023 American Turners National Festival time. It will be July 25 thru 29 at New Ulm, Minnesota. New Ulm Turners is planning on a great experience for all participants and guests. Get your entry in for this event as this is Turners premier event that is held once every four years. It includes physical and cultural competitions. There will be last minute updates for the festival in this issue of the Topics.

The 2023 American Turners Festival will have a longevity award given out to members that have participated in 15 festival that is 60 years of dedication to the festival.

One of the banners that was in the National office "Gut Heil" will be on loan for display in Stuttgart, Germany at the House of History from January 8/23 thru August 28, 2024. This banner and other Turner memorabilia will be on display at the 2023 American Turner Festival in New Ulm.

This year marks the 175th Anniversary of Cincinnati Turners the first establish club in America. Wow a society being still around after 150 years is just shocking. I hope they both last another 150 years.

The American Turners were founded in 1850 at the first national convention in New York and will turn 175 in 2025. With American Turners turning 150 we need to have some sort of celebration and I would some ideas on what we should do.

Reminder that American Turners offer a national scholarship for 2023-24 school year and the deadline to submit for a scholarship is July 1, 2023.

If you have not received you 2023 American Turners National Membership card, please contact your society and ask why? Membership is currently about 11,000 national dues paying members.

Craig Sniezek
American Turner's President

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to "A Sound Mind in a Sound Body"

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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 Sniezek
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 August 1st, 2023.

National Cultural Committee News

It's getting close to the National Festival. You need to register on the Official Festival registration form by June 10, 2023, in order to pay your \$5.00. Late entries may be received but there is a \$20.00 late fee until June 20. Nothing will be accepted after that. Cultural exhibits still need to fill out the cultural entry form and send that into New Ulm. There are new labels in this issue of Turner Topics. Either label will be accepted at the festival if you've already filled this out.

You don't need to attend the festival in order to enter however, you won't get credit for the festival pin unless you attend... **GET YOUR ITEMS READY, FORMS FILLED OUT, AND LET'S HAVE A GREAT COMPETITION.** On a sad note, the Youth Cultural Competition is being cancelled due to not receiving enough entries.

Sue Knisley

National Cultural Chair

National Health & Physical Education Report

Greetings to my fellow Turners. Summer is here and we look forward to seeing you at one or more of our national events.

- **National Softball Tournament hosted by Ft. Wayne Turners June 24-25, 2023**
- **National Golf Tournament hosted by Covington Turners July 12-14, 2023**

New Ulm Turners will be hosting the 56th National Festival: July 25-29, 2023. If you are not sure about participating, please give it some serious thought. The Festival is not just for "athletes"... it 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. 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.

Here are a few things to know:

- Go to amturners.org/Festival to find the following pertinent information:
 - o Updated Festival Rulebook, Supplemental Handbook and Cultural Redbook
 - o Video and instructions for the Marching and Mass Drill
 - o Tentative Schedule
 - o Registration and Roster forms
 - o A link to New Ulm's Festival website with hotel information, merchandise and things to do in New Ulm

- On-line registration has started. 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 New Ulm Turners. The deadline for this entry form has been extended to June 20, 2023.
- Rosters – All people listed on a Roster form must also do their own individual registration online and pay their \$30 registration fee.
- Swimming - The pool at this facility does not have starting blocks. Therefore, all swimmers will start their race standing on the edge of the pool.
- Volleyball– The team captain/coordinator must complete the Roster form. If you do not have a team, complete the Roster form and indicate you are looking for a team. The NHPEC will do their best to find you a team to play on.
- Pickleball is played as doubles only. One person is to complete the Roster form. If you do not have a partner, then complete the Roster form and indicate you are looking for a partner. We will do our best to find you a partner. The schedule should remain relatively the same, however some of the start times might be adjusted an hour earlier or later, depending on how many players we get in an age group.
- Golf is set up for foursomes. The team captain/coordinator must complete the Roster form. If you do not have a foursome, complete the Roster form and indicate you are looking for a team. The NHPEC will do their best to find you a team to play on. Each golfer will pay their greens fees in New Ulm.
- Gymnastics – Please note that the schedule for women ages 7-29 could change based on the number of people that register in the various levels. We will try to keep it as is, however we must try to avoid having one session overflowing and another session with only a few gymnasts. If there is a change in dates/times, your coach will be notified prior to arriving at the Festival.
- Parade – Remember to bring your society banner/flag to carry in the Parade on Wednesday. District flags are also welcomed. We will walk a short route through downtown New Ulm and end at the German Park for Opening Ceremonies. I hope every society is represented in the parade.
- Transportation Fund for ALL participating adult members, children of members and youth members. To qualify, a person must be a member, a child of a member or a youth member and they must attend and participate at the Festival. This includes members entered in the cultural competition, as long as they are at the Festival. Complete details and the request form will be found on the American Turner website in the near future.

**As always, if you have any questions feel free to contact
Michelle at mwlproperties1@gmail.com or Emily at nhpechair@amturners.org**

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

Emily Meisner, NHPEC Chairperson

Michelle Lesperance, NHPEC Past Chairperson

AMERICAN TURNERS OFFERS SCHOLARSHIPS

TO ITS MEMBERS ENROLLED IN AN UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAM IN THEIR JUNIOR AND SENIOR YEAR.

MORE INFORMATION CAN BE FOUND AT:

<https://americanturners.org/scholarships>

AMERICAN TURNERS CULTURAL COMPETITION LABELS

SECURE AT EXTREME LEFT SIDE ONLY

ENTRY# _____	# OF SOCIETY _____ ITEM# _____	SOC.# _____ ENTRY# _____ ITEM # _____
AGE GROUP _____	SOCIETY NAME _____	AGE GROUP _____ NAME _____
CLASS# ___ Sub-Class _____ -- Front--	NAME _____ FOLD BEHIND! AFTER JUDGING FOLD OUT!	CLASS# _____ Sub-Class Letter _____ Description _____ EXHIBITORS RECEIPT
ENTRY# _____	# OF SOCIETY _____ ITEM# _____	SOC.# _____ ENTRY# _____ ITEM # _____
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CLASS# ___ Sub-Class _____ -- Front--	NAME _____ FOLD BEHIND! AFTER JUDGING FOLD OUT!	CLASS# _____ Sub-Class Letter _____ Description _____ EXHIBITORS RECEIPT

A TURNER YOU SHOULD KNOW

Over the last several years I have gotten to know a Turner that goes over and beyond. Let me tell you about him. Usually people say things about people that have passed and recognize their achievements and contributions post mortem. I think this guy should be recognized and appreciated now.

Several years back, I co-chaired the swimming pool committee at Illinois Turner Camp. My counterpart Scott Garelli, really needed to step down for family reasons, and his father, Tony, approached Dave Zweifel, a Lincoln Turner. He said "sure no problem". Since then he has been the backbone of operations at the swimming pool. Very few people that visit that pool realize the hundreds of volunteer hours that Dave puts in every year to keep it that way.

At Turner camp and at societies he has been part of a lot of Turner projects and events. He's accomplished so many things I could probably fill a book with them. I'm sure there are many I don't even know about. I will touch on a couple that reside in memory.

One day Dave said, "ya know that ball field looks like crap". People often say things and do little to nothing about them, not Dave. He went to meetings, got funding and got sports field grade clay delivered in bags by the pallet. What'd he do next - He grabbed a shovel. I know he had some help, not sure how much, but his hard work and determination got us a new ball diamond that looks outstanding. Elgin Turners hosts a softball tournament every year at this field. Grass wasn't cut this year before the tournament, so Dave got out a mower, a push mower. Don't think he did it to get his 35,000-step badge for Fitbit, he did it cause it needed to be done. He cut it at different heights infield vs outfield, went on different angles, took total pride in such a menial task. Maybe he had just watched Field of Dreams.

Dave likes to play pickleball, so when stuff like power washing courts, painting, crack filling or whatever needs to be done, there's Dave. Right now he has taken on filling all the cracks of the tennis and pickleball courts. This is a huge undertaking and is saving camp tens of thousands of dollars.

When he closed his hardware store in Chicago, whatever he thought camp could use, he donated it. Nuts, bolts, pipe, fittings, hardware, machinery, shelving, cleaning supplies and more, we got it all. Load after load he personally drove out here and delivered. Could have given it to scrappers and saved himself a lot of work. I don't think there is a building in camp that has not benefited from Zweifel Hardware donations.

From cooking for events, bartending, tree cutting, board and committee participation, landscaping and general maintenance to cleaning and taking out the trash, there's Dave. When he sees something that needs to be done he does it. When I ask him to help at Elgin Turners, there's Dave. He's a Turner through and through, not just a Lincoln Turner.

I would like to thank the late Herman and Clara Zweifel and his older siblings for raising Dave to be the Turner he is, his wife Janice for donating him to us every season and Dave for being Dave. He not only talks the talk, he walks the walk. I wish every Turner could put in half the efforts he does. I'm proud to call him my friend and look forward to seeing him in the Spring.



**Respectfully submitted by
Dave Williams, Elgin President**

SOCIETY NEWS

GUT HEIL!

New Ulm as a Turner Town



Gut Heil Display

The Brown County Historical Society and New Ulm Turner Hall are cosponsoring a new exhibit: Gut Heil! New Ulm as a Turner Town. It opens on June 8th. Following a vote at the 1855 National Convention, New Ulm was settled as a colony where its citizens could live according to “practical Turnerism.” The exhibit will tell the story of the continuing influence of Turnerism on the city and display collection items that illustrate the Turner motto: “A sound mind in a sound body.” The museum also has a cannon given by the Cincinnati Turners to New Ulm following attacks on the city by the Dakota in August 1862. The exhibit, guest curated by National Historian Daniel Hoisington, will be open through May 2024. The Brown County Historical Society’s museum is only a block from Turner Hall, so it will be a great place to stop during the National Festival.

Turner Hall will also be opening a new history display that features the drum carried by Turners during Abraham Lincoln’s first inauguration in 1861. Turner Hall is the oldest Turner Hall in the U.S. still

in its original use, and the club has the oldest gymnastics program and the oldest bar in Minnesota. This display was funded, in part, by grants from the New Ulm Area Foundation and the Carl and Verna Schmidt Foundation.

The drum carried by Turners at Lincoln’s first inauguration will be on display at Turner Hall. It was recently conserved by the Midwest Art Conservation Center thanks to a grant from the Carl and Verna Schmidt Foundation.



Two Turner heroes are seen in this postcard: Friedrich Jahn, the Turner founder, and Hermann, victor over the Roman Legions. Visitors to the National Festival can climb the historic Hermann Monument while in New Ulm.

Daniel J. Hoisington
National Historian



Arizona Turners Gather at the Holidays

Approximately 25 Turners, aged 1 to 80 gathered at the home of Scott and Pam Lau on Saturday, December 11th to toast the Holidays! This is the 2nd year in a row that the Lau family welcomed Turners living in Arizona to their home for a Christmas party. Last year's crowd of about 12 more than doubled in size and we hope that more Turners will join us in the future! It was wonderful to connect with fellow Turners while enjoying appetizers and spirited beverages in sunny Arizona.



Arizona Turners are no longer limited to retirees and several generations of Turners were present making it truly a multigenerational gathering that makes Turners so special. While everyone in attendance belonged to the Illinois District, we would welcome any Turner living in Arizona to join us. Send your email address to plauquilts@sbcglobal.net and we will be sure to notify you of future events. Several years back, Turners living in Arizona used to get together for an annual picnic and we hope that we would love to see those get togethers resume as more Turners become Arizona Snowbirds. Other suggestions for events are also welcome.

AMERICAN TURNERS NATIONAL BOWLING SITE HISTORY

1948	Davenport	1973	N. St. Louis	1999	Akron
1949		1974	Akron	2000	Aurora
1950	Social Turners of Chicago	1975	Ft. Wayne	2001	Cincinnati
1951	Syracuse	1976	Syracuse	2002	Elgin
1952	Cleveland STV	1977	Moline	2003	Syracuse
1953	Ft. Wayne	1978	Springfield	2004	Beaver Falls
1954	Johnstown	1979	Chicago NW	2005	Springfield
1955	Madison	1980	Toledo	2006	Ft. Wayne
1956	Akron	1981	South Bend	2007	Cincinnati
1957	Moline	1982	Rochester	2008	Elgin-
1958	Toledo	1983	Louisville	2009	Syracuse
1959	Detroit	1984	Wilmington	2010	Aurora
1960	Rochester	1985	N. St. Louis	2011	Ft. Wayne
1961	South Bend	1986	Syracuse	2012	Akron
1962	Chicago NW	1987	NW Davenport	2013	Kansas City
1963	Indianapolis	1988	Wilmington	2014	Elgin
1964	Syracuse	1989	Ft. Wayne	2015	Syracuse
1965	Ft. Wayne	1990	Aurora	2016	Akron
1966	Cleveland	1991	South Bend	2017	Rochester
1967	Aurora-?	1992	Louisville	2018	Ft. Wayne
1968	Beaver Falls	1993	Baltimore	2019	Aurora
1969	Louisville	1994	Aurora	2020	No Tournament- Covid
1970	Toledo	1995	N. St. Louis	2021	Akron
1971	South Bend	1996	South Bend	2022	Syracuse
1972	Johnstown	1997	Syracuse	2023	Elgin
		1998	Ft. Wayne		

Applicant for Member at Large

1st Notice



Hello American Turner members! My name is Fred Turoff. I'm a native Philadelphian seeking to become an American Turners Member at Large. I am married to Diane Eigner and have one adult child, Evan. I hold a Master of Education in biomechanics am an avid scuba diver and enjoy underwater photography.

My life-long passion has been gymnastics. My career began in the Philadelphia junior public league, where, until my family relocated to Connecticut, I competed with the Mannettes and the Philadelphia Turner Society which is no longer in existence. I served as the head coach of the Temple Owls Gymnastics Team for 41 years.

I started Philadelphia Boys' Gymnastics in 2003 as Temple University Boys' Gymnastics Team at Temple and moved the program to our current facility in 2015. Today, I am a program director devoted to "promoting the sport of gymnastics by offering life-changing opportunities for area youth so that they can realize their individual potential by developing in a safe, professional and challenge-seeking environment."

More information about me and my years of passion for gymnastics can be found online at: <https://www.philadelphiaboysgymnastics.org/about/fred-turoff/>

Thank you for your consideration in me becoming an American Turner Member at Large.

*Respectfully,
Fred Turoff*

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



American Turners Endowment Trust

IN MEMORIAM

Annette Asmus – New York Turners

Donors:

Peter A. & Carolyn M. Rohlf

Virginia Troll – New York Turners

Donors:

Peter A. & Carolyn M. Rohlf

Al Udovich – Sheboygan Turners

Debra Sniezek – Aurora Turners

Walter O'Malley – Clinton Turners

Donors:

New England District

Walter O'Malley – Clinton Turners

Donors:

Clinton Turners

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

OBITUARIES

ATNY



Annette Asmus

Annette Asmus came to America in 1962. As a member of the Turnverein in Germany, when she saw the Steuben Day Parade NYC, where the New York Turners marched, she said, "this is where I want to be, this is like my home". She joined the New York Turnverein and competed in the District and National gymnastics, track and field, volleyball and cultural events. She was also a class leader and taught gymnastics to the young girls at L. I. Turners.

Her first Turnfest was in Cleveland, and her last was Springfield. She organized the American Turners participation in the German Turnfest for six of their festivals, along with sightseeing trips for those who wanted to see more of Europe afterwards.

She was the the gymnastics teacher and coach for two private schools in Manhattan; Spence for 13 years and moved on to Brealy until 2003. She was a USGF judge and certified teacher achieving national official ratings.

She passed away March 11, 2023. Her smile and her friendliness will be missed by all.

Chicago NW



George Gebhardt

George H. Gebhardt passed in peace, Sunday, March 19, 2023 at the age of 94.

George will be fondly remembered as a loving father, loyal friend, a devoted 77-year American Turner member, proud patriot and U.S. Army Veteran.

George was married to Barbara Gebhardt for over 50 years. He was a loving father to John(Deb), Donna(Cory Litza) and Rick(Sonia). George was a proud grandfather of 9 and great grandfather of 2.

George grew up at Illinois Turner Camp in Algonquin and it brought him many happy memories. Whether spending his summers in a 1 room cottage (10' x 12') with his two siblings and parents or taking the train out from

Chicago to meet friends as he got older. George could always be found working on projects to support Turner Camp and every fall could be seen raking leaves for hours on end.

George and his brother Fred, also an American Turner member, made it their mission to replace the historic barrels that had been lost from the Rathskellar. They spent over a year rebuilding these key artifacts so future generations of Turners could appreciate our history. George took all the wooden chairs, a few at a time, from the Rathskellar home, over a 4-year period, and painstakingly restored them all. These chairs were purchased by the Vorwaert Turners after the 1893 World's Fair in Chicago. The chairs are in use today in the Rathskellar at Illinois Turner Camp.



George was a quite and gentle man. A man of few words but a man of great passion and deep devotion. He will be greatly missed.

www.americanturners.org

Official Publication of The American Turners

Clinton Turners



Walter P. "Miz" O'Malley

Walter P. "Miz" O'Malley, 97, passed away peacefully on Tuesday April 11, 2023 at the Rose Monahan Hospice Home in Worcester, MA. He is reunited with his beloved wife of 70 years, Teresa "Murphy" O'Malley, their son, Paul F. O'Malley, and daughter Kathleen O'Malley. He is survived by his daughter, Maureen Banks of Clinton; and son, Kevin V. O'Malley of Boylston; 5 grandchildren, Daniel O'Malley; Brendon O'Malley & wife Liz; Beth O'Malley; Brian O'Malley and wife Jess; and Paul O'Malley & wife Sarah; 9 great grandchildren: Avery, Rorey, Harrison, Madison, Kayla, Kelsey, Mary Kathleen, and Paul Michael O'Malley; numerous nieces, nephews, cousins, extended family and son-in-law Norman Banks.

A lifelong resident of the Germantown neighborhood of Clinton, "Miz" was the son of the late Walter & Lillian (Kappel) O'Malley. He graduated from Clinton High School Class of 1943 and enlisted to serve our nation in the US Marine Corps at the age of 17 before continuing his studies at Dartmouth College. He would soon be deployed for service overseas, where he, as a member of the 5th Marine Division, participated in the first wave invasion of Iwo Jima. Wounded in action, Mr. O'Malley was a recipient of the Purple Heart Award with numerous commendations for Meritorious Service. Upon his return home from service, Miz spent his professional career with the Great Atlantic & Pacific Tea Company, working as a meat manager in the Clinton and Fitchburg stores before becoming a corporate supervisor for the Northeast District. Mr. O'Malley later accepted a position as an Assessor for the Town of Clinton, where he worked until retiring.

Well respected in his community, "Miz" was a life member of the Clinton Turn Verein, joining through the gym program at the age of 17. At one time or another he held every position at the club except that of the Treasurer. "Miz" was the president of the New England District for over 15 years. He was the first recipient of the New England District Honor Award in 1973. He was presented the Clinton Turner Honor award in 1980, the Special Club Award in 1998 and the National Honor Key Award, the highest recognition an American Turner can receive, in 1988. Miz competed in many District gym meets and District Turnfests, his specialty being Track and Field.

He was an active member of National events including golf and Festivals. His most memorable Festival was in 1948, when a private train (with a club car) departed from New Hampshire then proceeded through several communities picking up Turner members along the way (Manchester, Lawrence, Boston, Pawtucket, Providence, Worcester, Holyoke, Springfield, Hartford and Albany) culminating in St. Louis for the National Festival. During these competitions, "Miz" made many life-long friends including Al LaBaff, a 65 year member of the Springfield Turners, who said, "He is one great Turner!" Indeed he was and will be sorely missed in the Clinton Community.



Ft. Wayne Turners



Dona M. Schaefer

Dona passed away peacefully on Friday, March 10, 2023 at the age 91, at Ossian Health and Rehabilitation Center. Born May 15, 1931, in Fort Wayne, Dona was a daughter of the late William C. and Late Ada (Roesener) Schaefer.

Dona was employed at Indiana Michigan power for more than 40 years. She was active in organizing and playing for the Fort Wayne Women's Softball League. She held office of the president for many years. Dona was also active in the Fort Wayne Turners, holding many offices and was involved with the friends of Wyneken.

Surviving are three sisters, Ila Jesse, Marvine (Donald) Weaver and Karen Heller; brother, Weldon (Janeen) Schaefer; sister-in-law, Donna Schaefer; and many nieces and nephews. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her brother, Dwight "Whity" Schaefer; and brothers-in-law, David H. Jesse and Roger A. Heller.

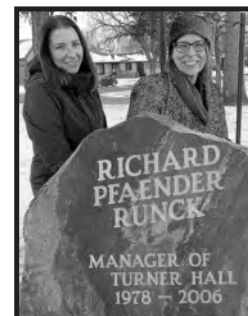
New Ulm



Virginia "Ginny" Suker-Molden

While Turners have a strong tradition of volunteerism, for some larger clubs, the burden of day-to-day operations falls to a manager.

In November 2022, the New Ulm Turners honored the service of Richard Runck by placing a stone marker on its property and planting a tree. The tree symbolized his roots as a descendant of one of the founding Turners of New Ulm, William Pfaender. He was a walking encyclopedia of Turner history. As manager for almost thirty years, Richard was a rock that kept the place going – a challenge with an aging building. He worked long hours and sometimes used his own money to make sure



that a needed repair was done. Turners faced challenges in the 1980s and 1990s, but Richard kept it going. He once said, "There's no other organization like the Turners. Its success is due to the people of New Ulm, who kept it going. Credit it to plain, hard dedication." Runck passed away on May 12, 2021, at the age of May 12, 2021.

Richard was followed by Virginia Suker-Moldan, who brought New Ulm Turner Hall into the twenty-first century. She was the general manager from 2007 to 2018 – the first woman to hold that position. She led the move to break another tradition – that Turner Hall was only for members, tourists, and those who attended private events. Now open to the general public, Turner Hall has become a central gathering place for the community.

Continuing the Capital Campaign begun under Runck, Virginia supervised a significant upgrade to the historic building – the oldest Turner Hall in the U.S. in its original use – including the addition of a newer, larger rear entrance, the addition of an elevator and interior breezeway, improved bathrooms, and a business office. Later, the kitchen underwent a substantial renovation.

In 2016, Virginia, working with the board, successfully organized a project to expand the Turner gymnastics facility and bring together two existing youth programs. As a result, the Turner Gymnastics Academy has now moved into its new home at the New Ulm Recreation Center, where many of this year's National Festival events will be held.

Ginny was generous with her time and worked to improve her community, serving on numerous boards and volunteer positions. She was involved with the Oak Hills Living Center Foundation board, the Brown County Historical Society board, and the Heart of New Ulm Project Community Leadership Team.

www.americanturners.org



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NATIONAL CALENDAR

2023 EVENTS

National Golf - Covington
July 12, 13, 14
National Softball - Ft. Wayne
June 24 & 25
National Festival - New Ulm
July 25-29
National Council Meeting - Aurora
September 15 & 16

2024 EVENTS

National Bowling - Louisville
National Convention - Aurora