2025 NATIONAL COUNCIL MEETING

Hosted by the Akron Turners

September 26-27, 2025

The meeting was called to order at 6:07 p.m. by Turner President: John Beary, Jr.

Akron President, Tony Simms, welcomed the National Council.

Corporate Secretary Daniel Hoisington called the roll.

National Officers and Chairpersons

National President: John Beary
National Vice President: Vacant
National Corporate Secretary: Daniel Hoisington
National Treasurer: Cindy Law
National Heath & Physical Education Chairperson: Emily Miesner
National Cultural Chairperson: Sue Knisley

District Representatives

Central States: Eric Sammons
Illinois: Nick Barts
Lake Erie: Bill Severns, Jr.
Middle Atlantic: Dave Mulrooney
New England: Frank Leonard
New Jersey: Ray Virgens (Absent)
New York: Marion Oppelt
St. Louis: Sean Sendlein
Upper Midwest: Michelle Lesperance
Upper Mississippi: Liz Eichner
Western Pennsylvania: Allen Fredricks (Absent)
Western United States: Alexander Hast (Absent)

Permanent Council Members

Endowment Trust Fund: Thomas Bozonelos
Jahn Fund: Frank Wedl

National Administrative Assistant

Kathi Colton

President Beary introduced guests Gary Colton, Keith Mulrooney, and Andy Pappano.

President Beary made the following appointments:

Turner Topics Editor: Craig Sniezek
National Historian: Daniel Hoisington
National-Rules/Document Coordinator: Michelle Lesperance

The President stated that the National Scholarship Committee was appointed in 2023. It includes

Chair Thomas Bozonelos and members Keith Mulrooney, Dan Ahern, Giles Hoyt, John Beary, Mike Dubis (appointed in 2024).

The President recognized the Kuenzel Memorial Fund Committee members. Appointed in 2023, it includes Chair Thomas Bozonelos and members Michelle Lesperance, Bruno Klaus, Dave Mulrooney, Frank Wedl, Sean Sendlein (appointed in 2024), and John Beary.

Dave Mulrooney made a motion to accept all reports as submitted in lieu of reading all the reports. Frank Leonard seconded the motion. The motion was adopted by unanimous vote.

Old Business

The first order of old business was reviewing the status of the New Jersey District and its two societies: Carlstadt and Northern New Jersey. Ray Virgens, district representative, asked that both societies be dissolved. However, Sean Sendlein noted that each society has its own charter, and Carlstadt had paid 2025 dues. President Beary said that he would contact Virgens. Thomas Bozonelos moved to table a decision pending the president gathering more information. Marion Oppelt seconded the motion. The motion was adopted by unanimous vote.

Kathi Colton, national administrative assistant, informed the Council that Rochester and Syracuse were in good standing but needed to pay for new members. Buffalo has not submitted information or dues, and Colton will reach out to them.

Colton also noted that the national directory is 80% completed at present and will be completed soon.

Colton reported that she has upgraded QuickBooks to the advanced edition, which allows for budget setup and backups. Her current workplan is to reconcile transactions, matching Quickbooks with the bank statements.

There was a general discussion about the frequency and type of reports that the National Administrative Assistant should send to Council members. The Council agreed to monthly profit and loss and balance statements, plus quarterly reports of the same. There was a consensus that district presidents should take responsibility to send the information to their societies. No motions were made.

Thomas Bozonelos reported on the Kuenzel Fund. The judge restricted the use of the funds to a five-county region around Philadelphia. The committee plans to work with an attorney to explore whether the interest off the fund might be available without that restriction.

Thomas Bozonelos reported on the National Scholarship Committee. The Committee granted six scholarships for 2025-26. He strongly urged that Council members read the letter written by Hannah Schultz of the Toledo Turners.

President Beary introduced the subject of our American Turner trademark. No action is needed at this time.

The NHPEC has completed a review of National Festival rules. Sue Knisley discussed the changes to the Culture competition. Michelle Lesperance summarized the changes in the Physical competition. Thomas Bozonelos made a motion to accept the revised National Festival rules. Marion Oppelt seconded. The motion was adopted by unanimous vote.

President Beary then introduced the subject of changes to the Turner Bylaws. The recommendations will be needed no later than 90 days in advance of the 2026 National Convention. Thomas Bozonelos made a motion to form a subcommittee to review the Bylaws. Sean Sendlein seconded. The motion was adopted by unanimous vote. The subcommittee members are Thomas Bozonelos, Cindy Law, Michelle Lesperance, Sean Sendlein, and John Beary.

This was followed by a review of recommended changes to the Operation and Procedural Manual. Frank Leonard made the motion to accept the changes to the O&P manual. Sue Knisley seconded. The motion was adopted by unanimous vote.

Sean Sendlein made a motion to adjourn the meeting until Saturday morning, seconded by Cindy Law. The motion was adopted by unanimous vote.

End of Friday Session

Saturday, September 27, 2025

President Beary called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m.

President Beary asked Michelle Lesperance about the status of the Wildcard Turners application to become a new society. Lesperance reported that the application is no longer active.

Michelle Lesperance discussed the revised guidelines for hosting a National Convention. Copies have been distributed via email to the National Council. She briefly reviewed responsibility for chairing of committee meetings and for recording of the convention minutes. No motions were made.

President Beary introduced the subject of the response time for communications. His expectation is that there should be a 24-hour response time, including for poll votes. There was general agreement that this was appropriate.

Kathi Colton presented an update on the national office. She asked for permission to purchase a new laptop and docking station. She also noted that the current Microsoft Office subscription expires on October 8th. Frank Leonard offered to donate a new laptop and will work with Kathi to select the best one. No motions were made.

Colton then discussed our current insurance policies. A summary report was distributed to Council members. If there are any questions, our agent has welcomed phone calls.

Michelle Lesperance stated that the revised Honor Key and Hall of Fame applications are up on the website. Lesperance made the motion to discontinue the Hall of Fame award for bowling and allow bowling to submit nominations through the NHPEC. Thomas Bozonelos seconded. The motion was adopted.

Daniel Hoisington presented an update on the traveling exhibit grant approved last year. The exhibit consists of nine retractable panels which will cost approximately $1,200 to produce. Societies will be able to make reservations on a first come-first served basis with the hosting society expected to pay incoming shipping costs. No motions were made.

President Beary asked Hoisington to discuss the strategic planning committee. Hoisington distributed a chart comparing society membership in 2000 and 2025, noting that several have closed. There followed a wide-ranging discussion. The strategic planning committee will be Frank Leonard, Thomas Bozonelos, Cindy Law, Nick Barts, and John Beary.

New Business

After the first of the year, it appears that all non-US government and churches with 501 C3s may be required to pay unemployment compensation. This is not legally definitive yet. Daniel Hoisington made the motion to begin paying unemployment compensation insurance as of January 1, 2026. Thomas Bozonelos seconded. The motion was adopted by unanimous vote.

President Beary described the current process of payroll. Kathi Colton texts when she clocks in and out, writes down her hours, and sends time sheets every two weeks. Our CPA cuts her payroll check. The Administrative Assistant reported that office hours have been changed to Monday–Thursday, 9:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m., effective October 7. No motions were made.

President Beary explained the efforts being made to change the authorized signers for PNC bank account. At present, those signers are Kathi Colton and Thomas Bozonelos. The executive committee will work with Kathi Colton to add the president, vice president, corporate secretary, and treasurer as authorized signers, while removing Thomas Bozonelos. Kathi Colton will serve as controller for the account. Beary also noted that we are working to retitle the account to American Turners Inc. He will send an update to the National Council.

Emily Miesner, chair, NHPEC, stated that the committee had received a letter of intent from the New Ulm Turners to host the 2027 National Festival. She made a motion to accept the letter of intent. Nick Barts seconded the motion. Following discussion, the motion was adopted by unanimous vote.

The meeting then addressed travel reimbursement rules. Thomas Bozonelos made the motion to change the reimbursement amounts to $15 for breakfast, $20 for lunch, and $35 for dinner. The motion includes eliminating the stipulation that attendees must eat at the host society. Sean Sendlein seconded the motion. Following discussion, the motion was adopted by unanimous vote.

Sean Sendlein made a motion to change the rate for reimbursement for travel to 100% of the current IRS rate at the time of travel and airfare to no more than $750. Sue Knisley seconded the motion. The motion was adopted by unanimous vote. The new reimbursement rate will be immediately effective for travel expenses.

Emily Miesner, NHPEC chair, reported that there would be a new scoring system for the 2027 National Festival. Fred Sonntag is developing the system using Microsoft Excel, and is being assisted by his daughter, Aubrey. Michelle Lesperance added that we would still use Cognito for registration and payments. She will be an NHPEC member, so her travel expenses would be reimbursed. Emily commented that Microsoft 360 is required to run the program. There was a discussion about purchasing laptops for the festival. No motions were made.

President Beary announced that the 2026 National Convention will be hosted by the Clinton Turners on August 7-8, followed by the National Council meeting on Sunday, August 9.

There was a discussion about reaching out to fill non-active Council seats, particularly in New Jersey West, Western Pennsylvania, and the Western U.S. The president will reach out to societies in Western Pennsylvania to set up a meeting. The president will reach out to Denver and Los Angeles to figure out how to get representation back to the meeting. No motions were made.

The meeting recessed for lunch.

The afternoon meeting proceeded to the election of a new Vice President. Sean Sendlein nominated Michelle Lesperance. Frank Leonard seconded the nomination. Daniel Hoisington nominated Thomas Bozonelos. The two candidates made brief presentations followed by a vote by ballot. Frank Leonard, temporary Sergeant-at-Arms, announced that Michelle Lesperance was elected on a vote of ten to five.

Sean Sendlein moved that the ballots be destroyed with a second from Dave Mulrooney. The motion was adopted by unanimous vote.

Thomas Bozonelos made a motion to give an honorary membership to Tim Remson. Remson has worked with the American Turners on Turner Topics for nearly twenty years. Sean Sendlein seconded the motion. The motion was adopted by unanimous vote.

President Beary said that Daniel Hoisington wished to discuss the publication of Turner Topics. Hoisington asked Council members for their thoughts on the importance of the printed publication. Although there were no motions made, there was a consensus that we should continue the print version with at least two issues per year. Societies will be encouraged to move members to the email/ pdf version.

Kathi Colton reported that the National Office requires a cell phone for authentication of accounts and programs. She explained that the previous authentication was linked to a previous employee's personal information, causing issues. Sue Knisley made the motion that the National Council approve the use of a cell phone for authentication. Marion Oppelt seconded. The motion was adopted by unanimous vote.

Frank Wedl, Jahn Education Fund chair, spoke about a request from Ernest Rohr, the third great-grandson of Friedrich Jahn, for funding for a grave marker for Arnold Jahn, Friedrich's son, who is buried in Graceland Cemetery, Chicago, Illinois. Tom Kostopoulos contacted the cemetery director and arranged for a more prominent stone to be placed, costing around $3,200. Frank Leonard made the motion to approve the funding for the grave marker. Cindy Law seconded. The motion was adopted by unanimous vote.

President Beary stated that the Cleveland East Society has dissolved and sold their property. They are donating approximately $150,000 to the American Turners. There was a lengthy discussion about the use of the gift.

Nick Barts made the motion that half of the funds be set aside for use by the strategic planning committee. Sean Sendlein seconded the motion. Following discussion, the motion was adopted by unanimous vote.

Sue Knisley moved that half of the funds not designated be placed in a CD. Marion Oppelt seconded. Following discussion, Knisley rescinded the motion with consent of Oppelt.

Dave Mulrooney made a motion that the funds set aside for the strategic plan be placed in one of the investments currently held by the American Turners. Frank Leonard seconded. Following discussion, Mulrooney rescinded the motion with the consent of Leonard.

The discussion concluded with a summary by the National President that the check from Cleveland East will be put in the general fund until we receive advice from Scott Everhart, financial counselor for the

Endowment Trust Fund. Once we receive the check and Everhart's advice, the Council will act on investment. No motion was made.

Michelle Lesperance asked that the National Council approved the revised national Council meeting guidelines. Sean Sendlein moved that we accept the guidelines. Marion Oppelt seconded. Following discussion, the motion was adopted by unanimous vote.

National Meetings

NHPEC will meet in New Ulm in 2026

Cultural will meet but time and place not determined

2026 National Convention will meet in Clinton, August 7-8, 2026

2026 National Council will meet August 9, 2026

CLOSED SESSION OF THE COUNCIL

Sean Sendlein made a motion to move into closed executive session. Daniel Hoisington seconded. The motion was adopted by unanimous vote.

President Beary updated the Council on the separation agreement and unemployment insurance of former administrative assistant. Payne did not sign the separation agreement. Several boxes of Turner records were moved from her house to the National Office. There was discussion about a final payment to her for final retirement compensation. No motion was made.

Thomas Bozonelos asked to approve Carole Brennan's Honor Key application, describing her efforts on the local and national level. Brennan is a Member-at Large. Sean Sendlein seconded the motion. Following discussion, the motion was defeated by a vote of 8 to 2.

Kate Payne's final retirement payment was again discussed. Sean Sendlein made a motion to pay the additional $130.33. Sue Knisley seconded the motion. The motion was adopted by unanimous vote.

Sean Sendlein made a motion to end the closed session of the Council. Sue Knisley seconded the motion. The motion was adopted by unanimous vote.

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

President Beary reviewed 2026 events.

- Jr. Bowling: Not scheduled
  - National Gymnastics: Not scheduled
  - National Bowling
    - 2026 Bowling- Aurora
    - 2027 Bowling- Rochester
- National Softball: Not scheduled
- National Golf: Akron, July 8-9-10, 2026.
- Pickleball National Tournament: Chicago NW: Nick Barts
- Jr. Golf: Not scheduled

Dave Mulrooney moved that the Council meeting be adjourned. Michelle Lesperance seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously by voice vote.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:38 p.m.

Daniel J. Hoisington

Daniel J. Hoisington
Corporate Secretary
Date: October 14, 2025

John E Beary III

John Beary
National President
Date:

ANNUAL MEETING of AMERICAN TURNERS, INC.

Friday, September 26, 2025

The annual meeting of American Turners, Inc. was called to order at 6:01 p.m. by President John Beary.

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 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.

Corporate Secretary Daniel Hoisington called the roll.

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Permanent Council Members

Endowment Trust Fund: Thomas Bozonelos
Jahn Fund: Frank Wedl

National Administrative Assistant

Kathi Colton

Dave Mulrooney moved, and Sue Knisley 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. The motion carried.

Frank Leonard moved, and Thomas Bozonelos seconded to adjourn the American Turners, Inc. meeting for 2025. The motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 6:05 p.m.

Daniel J Hoisington

Daniel J. Hoisington
Corporate Secretary
Date: October 14, 2025

John E Beary

John Beary
National President
Date: