

# TURNER TOPICS



VOL 79  
ISSUE 3  
SEPTEMBER - DECEMBER  
2025

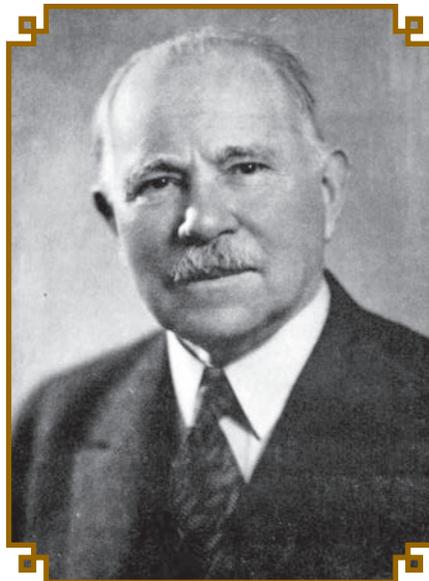
Official Publication of The American Turners

## INSIDE

Greetings from the President ..... 2-3  
 A Message from Your  
 Vice President..... 3  
 The Long Island Turners Celebrate Their  
 150th Anniversary ..... 4  
 Riverside Turners in IPA World  
 Championship in Las Vegas .....5  
 American Turners at the German  
 Turnfest ..... 6-7  
 New Ulm Turner Hall Hosts  
 Minnesota State Preservation Conference .....8  
 Toledo Oktoberfest ..... 8  
 Congratulations 2025 Scholarship Award  
 Recipients ..... 9

The Jahn Fund at 100.....10-11  
 60th Annual American Turner National  
 Golf Tournament .....12-14  
 American Turners 61st Nat'l. Golf..... 15  
 American Turners Offerings..... 16  
 American Turners Endowment  
 Trust.....17  
 NHPEC Message ..... 17  
 Cultural News: Preparing for the 2027  
 National Festival..... 18  
 Past President's Message..... 18  
 Thank You Letter Cleveland Eastside  
 Turnverein..... 19

## THE JAHN FUND AT 100



**Theodore Ahrens**

Original donor to the  
Jahn Fund



**George Siebel**

American Turner President 1926



Find us on Facebook — Follow us on Twitter



# GREETINGS FROM THE PRESIDENT



Hello Turner Members,

My name is John Beary and I am the new President of the American Turners succeeding President Craig Sniezek. I would like to thank President Sniezek for his dedication and commitment to the American Turners. Craig will continue to serve our organization as the editor of the Turner Topics. I will be serving as your President until the next convention when I plan to run for the next two-year term.

My Turner story began when I joined the Clinton Turn Verein in 1988. I was fortunate to have Turner friends who encouraged me to join the club. As a Physical Education teacher and high school football coach the Turner principle of "Sound Mind, Sound Body" was a perfect fit. My friends, Steve and Mark Sargent, Phil Johnson, Jr. and Chris Brandt, all had parents who were very active at our club. They encouraged me to attend the bi-weekly meetings to get a better understanding of the Turners and what they do. It was during this time that I was introduced to some mentors that greatly shaped the direction that I would take at our club. I would listen at meetings as reports were read and hear how passionate T. Roger Steele was about our gym program or how Miz O'Malley would encourage everyone to attend our festival and to support our club. It wasn't long before I was serving on the house committee and then eventually becoming President of our club. During this time, I was also a member of the New England District Board and began attending both District and National Events, namely the Convention and the National Golf Tournament. At these events, I met some great Turners and simply terrific people. This encouraged me to get involved at the National level by serving as the chairperson for the National Golf Tournament, Chairing the Convention and serving as the Parliamentarian for the Convention, serving as a Trustee on the ETF and as a member of the Scholarship Committee. Just after the 2022 Convention in Louisville, I was elected to fill the vacant position of Vice President. I have served as your Vice President until recently becoming your President. It is my goal to grow our Turner organization and promote our programs through a collaborative effort of effective communication at all levels: society, district and national. Communication builds Trust, Trust fosters Teamwork, Teamwork delivers Results. Together, we can see our gym programs flourish, our athletic and cultural events rise in attendance, and our membership grow.

Recently, the Akron Turner Club hosted the yearly National Council Meeting. This is the meeting when much of the national business gets conducted. Many items were discussed, one of which was an election to fill the vacant Vice President spot on the Executive Committee. It is with great pleasure that I announce to you that Michelle Lesperance of the Upper Mid-West District has been elected to serve in that capacity. Every District has the opportunity to appoint a representative to serve on the National Council. If you are a representative, please ensure that you report back to your District or local society regarding the items that were discussed and voted on. Next year is a National Convention year and the Convention will be held at the Clinton Turn Verein, in

## 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:**  
**10 a.m. to 3 p.m. CST**  
**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"

Send all copy for Turner Topics to:  
**Craig Sniezek, Editor**  
**1440 Crestwood Dr.**  
**Aurora, IL 60506**  
**topicseditor@amturners.org**

- President.....**John Beary**  
president@amturners.org
- Vice President.....**Michelle Lesperance**  
vicepresident@amturners.org
- National Treasurer.....**Cindy Law**  
nationaltreasurer@amturners.org
- National Corporate Secretary.....**Dan Hoisington**  
corpsec@amturners.org
- National Bowling Chair.....**Craig Sniezek**  
cvs4209@sbcglobal.net
- National Cultural Chair.....**Sue Knisley**  
sueknisley@prodigy.net
- NHPEC Chair.....**Emily Miesner**  
nhpechair@amturners.org
- ETF President.....**Thomas R. Bozonelos**  
etfpresident@amturners.org
- Jahn Fund President.....**Frank Wedl**  
jahnpresident@amturners.org
- National Office Administrative Assistant....**Kathi Colton**  
nationaloffice@amturners.org

Turner Seal and Emblem registered in  
U.S. Patent Office #390643 and #393750.  
Use is restricted to bona fide  
Turner Societies authorized by  
the American Turners.

# *GREETINGS FROM THE PRESIDENT (CONTINUED)*

Clinton, MA. If you are interested in attending as a delegate, reach out to your Society and start the planning process to do so.

In closing, it is my hope that you find me to be open and approachable when you have something to share that will perpetuate the well-being of our Turner organization. To that end, you can always communicate with me via the email address below.

Turnerly,

**John E. Beary, Jr.**

president@amturners.com

## *A MESSAGE FROM YOUR VICE PRESIDENT*

Greetings to my fellow Turners,

Let me introduce myself to those who don't know me. My name is Michelle Lesperance from the Upper Midwest District and your newly appointed Vice President. I am excited to start this new chapter in my Turner Life. It all began at Sheboygan Turners (WI) basically from birth but officially became a member in 1978. My parents, Al and Carol Udovich, met at the Sheboygan Turner Hall, got married and had two daughters. My sister, Roxanne St. Pierre and I spent our childhood at the Turner Hall. As a family we competed in local, district and national Turner meet in gymnastics, volleyball, track & field and cultural competitions. We were and still are a Turner family.

I was enrolled in Sheboygan Turners gymnastic classes as a child and started teaching classes at the age of 14. That led to being on the high school gymnastics team and upon graduation I continued working with the team as Co-coach with my mother. From 1989 to 1999 my husband's job had us traveling all around the country. Even though I was coaching at private gym clubs wherever we were living, I still remained a member of Sheboygan Turners. When we returned to Wisconsin in 1999, I picked up where I left off at the Turner gym, teaching gymnastic classes and supporting Sheboygan Turners.

In 2001 I was inducted into the Wisconsin Turner District Hall of Fame. That started my involvement on the District Board, which led me to becoming a member of the NHPEC in 2003. In 2007 I became Co-Chairperson of the NHPEC with Dot Steinlage. At the following Convention Dot retired and I was elected as the NHPEC Chairperson. Since then, I have been involved in National Council, National Conventions, National Festivals and the USA Gymnastics Advisory Council. Besides being involved with Turners, I have been a legal secretary/office manager for over 30 years.

As part of the Executive Committee, consisting of John Beary, Dan Hoisington and Cindy Law, we intend on working to make American Turners strong, with growth at the society level and encourage greater interest and participation at the district and national levels. I am proud to be a Turner and happy to serve as your new American Turner Vice President.

**Michelle Lesperance**

vicepresident@amturners.org

# *THE LONG ISLAND TURNERS CELEBRATE THEIR 150TH ANNIVERSARY*

The Long Island Turners celebrated their 150th anniversary this past April at the Plattdeutsche Park Restaurant in Franklin Square. The Long Island members commemorated this event with friends, family and members of ATNY, our neighboring club in the Bronx.

After socializing and viewing Long Island memorabilia (journals, plaques, awards and our well-preserved flags), President James Goetz gave a short speech and held a moment of silence for all of our past members. We had an enjoyable dinner while chatting about our history and all the good and fun times we experienced as Turners. It was entertaining rehashing our memories with our fellow members.

As a small society which hasn't had a Turnhall since 1980, but we are proud of our many accomplishments. We have representatives on various national committees, a national second Vice President, and three Honor Key holders, two Ed Colton Awards, members in the National Cultural and Athletic Hall of Fame. We have trustees on the endowment fund and the Jahn fund and two of our members are trustees of the 1850 foundation. We had several 40-year and 50-year members present at the celebration. Over the years, we marched in the NYC Steuben Day Parades and attended five German Turnfests.

The Long Island Turners participated in several volleyball nationals, the bowling nationals since 1984 missing only two tournaments. We attended and participated in the National Festivals since Milwaukee in 1971, including the past festival in New Ulm. We have always taken pride in all of our competitions whether on the district or national level and have reached our goals of participating, enjoying the competitions and just being with other Turners. Over the years we lost many members whose memories we honor, we are small but we remain steadfast as an active society in keeping with our Turner traditions. Our active members will travel far and wide to represent the Long Island Turners in competition and *gemutlichkeit*.

Congratulations to all our members!

Ziche Zake Ziche Zake Hoi Hoi Hoi!! Here's to many more years for the Long Island Turners.



# RIVERSIDE TURNERS IN APA WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP IN LAS VEGAS

I am writing today to inform everyone on the national level that the Riverside N.J. Turners APA pool team has qualified for the APA World Championships in LAS VEGAS! This is no small feat!

We had to win on several levels to reach the World Championship, which will be held in Las Vegas on Aug. 4th thru the 11th 2025. The local Turners has graciously donated team shirts for the 8 members on the team. I would also like to see if the national committee would find it worthy enough of a feat to post in the Turner Topics and be able to help in any way to support the team on its journey to try and win the World Championship.

Thank you in advance for anything, and all you do for our organization. As one of the 8 members I would personally like to Thank you!

Sincerely, Michael Samero.



# AMERICAN TURNERS AT THE GERMAN TURNFEST

At the last National Turner Convention, I had an idea to help send a delegation to participate in the German Turnfest in Leipzig, Germany. In the 1990's, when I was a coach at Swiss Turners, I sent a delegation to the Swiss Turnfest in Lucern. I also sent a group to Germany in the 1990's from Milwaukee Turners to participate in the World Gymnastrada in Berlin. We had an incredible adventure then and I wanted to get the German Turnfest experience.

We started inquiries in September to get information. There was a package for the trip, but we decided to put together our own agenda. We promoted the event and got a small response, but it is a really awful time of year for students. German students are out of school, but in the US it is exam and graduation time. We did get a small group of parents, two level 6 gymnasts, and later a group from the LA Turners who were also going. Our final group were 21

Turner members.



The online registration did not work for us since we have a different banking system than Europe and we could not get into their online system. We went round and round for three months with their officials to enter. They finally put us in manually.

The German Turnfest has 80,000 participants. We wanted to experience as much as we could. The LA Turners had a wider variety of ages with their delegation. They did tours, walking events, a fitness night, and swing dance. Both groups decided that we would engage in track events together. We had an amazing time supporting each other.

The two youths that were level 6 competed successfully with their routines. They were commended by the judges for their excellent technique and expression in their floor routines. When scores came in with 12.4 and 11.8, we did not know what that meant. We were using

international rules, which in the US is only used for elite competitions. The girls at vault asked, "Where do we start our run?" We quickly got out our calculators to convert feet to metric measurements. The equipment is not adjustable, but we never had issues with that. At the end of the 4 event performances, you get a participation medal, and places are given weeks later with published results. The girls really appreciated their cheering section from both the East Side Turners and LA Turners. Our two groups developed strong ties for the future.

Leipzig is the home for Bach. It was an East German City that had many Turnfests before unification. It was also the site for the War of Nations where Napoleon was defeated. It was a very walkable city with Turnfest stages and events everywhere. Transportation was free and everything was accessible. I also had lunch with Annette Hofman, who is a German professor who has written books about the North American Turner movement.



In addition to the Turnfest, the European Gymnastics Championships were held with the Turnfest. Many of the European delegations stayed in our hotel. The Memmels were recognized since their daughter is currently the US team coach. The World Senior Gymnastics Championships were held within the Turnfest. Teams were from the US, Great Britain, Germany, Canada, Japan, and Brazil. I met Julia and Nate Sharpe from Boston. Julia has participated in the Adult Camp at M&M. Both are very accomplished adult gymnasts still competing in their late 30's. We look forward to the next Turnfest in Munich in four years! Hopefully we will get a large group of youths for participation, now that we know what to expect.

**Special recognition goes out to the American Turners Jahn Education Fund and the Endowment Trust Fund for providing their generous financial support in representing the American Turners membership in grand fashion!**



# NEW ULM TURNER HALL HOSTS MINNESOTA STATE PRESERVATION CONFERENCE

For three days in September 2025, New Ulm Turner Hall became the center of Minnesota's preservation community as nearly 200 historians, preservationists, and heritage enthusiasts gathered for the annual Preserve Minnesota Conference.

Hosted by the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), the conference has rotated to a different community each year for more than four decades. This year, New Ulm took its turn. Participants attended 19 sessions, three tours, and a variety of events that highlighted both statewide preservation work and the city's unique German heritage. The event opened on Wednesday evening with a reception at August Schell Brewing, where attendees learned about the history of the second-oldest family-owned brewery in the nation. August Schell was the first vice-president of the New Ulm Turners in 1856. On Thursday, the conference hit full stride with seminars on topics ranging from heritage tourism and archaeology in the Minnesota River Valley to the ever-popular subject of historic tax incentives.

Keynote speaker Daniel Hoisington, American Turner National Historian and president of the New Ulm Turners, drew a large crowd at State Street Theater with his address, "Gut Heil: New Ulm as an Intentional Community." His presentation explored the founding vision of the German Turners who shaped the community with their philosophy, culture, and dedication to civic life. SHPO coordinator Michael Koop noted that Hoisington was the natural choice for the role, given his extensive research on the Turners and his long-standing passion for New Ulm's historic Turner Hall.

Local involvement gave the conference a distinctive flavor. Andrea Boettger, executive director of New Ulm Turner Hall and president of the city council, participated in a panel discussion about heritage tourism. The city's mayor and Turner member Kathleen Backer gave a presentation on the restoration of the city's former post office, now home to the Brown County Historical Society.

The conference was made possible through close collaboration between SHPO and New Ulm's Heritage Preservation Commission. For organizers, the challenge lay in finding venues that were both large enough to host seminars and historically significant—a goal met by choosing Turner Hall, State Street Theater, and The Grand Center for Arts & Culture.

Reflecting on the effort, Knisley said the conference not only promoted preservation but also shone a spotlight on the city's historic businesses and enduring German character. The consensus was clear: New Ulm offered a rich and memorable setting for Minnesota's preservation community, blending scholarship, training, and local flavor in a way that honored both history and place.

## TOLEDO OKTOBERFEST



# CONGRATULATIONS 2025 SCHOLARSHIP AWARD RECIPIENTS



Riley Hettinger - ILD Aurora



Alexis Thomas – CSD Louisville



Hannah Schultz – CSD Toledo



Alyssa Perkins - CSD Concordia



Ray Koehler – ILD NorthWest



Mason Miesner – CSD Louisville

# THE JAHN FUND AT 100

In 1924, long time Turner President George Seibel had a visitor – Theodore Ahrens, his old friend from Louisville and member of the Turner executive committee. Ahrens was president of the Standard Sanitary Company – at the time, the largest manufacturer of bathroom supplies in the world. The company pioneered the use of enameled porcelain for its one-piece toilets and tubs, while developing combination faucets (that mix hot and cold water). It would soon merge with the American Radiator Company – and if you look in your bathroom, you might have an American Standard fixture.

That evening, Ahrens approached Seibel with the offer of a \$5,000 donation to the Turners. Seibel was concerned that the generous gift could “be spent very quickly and leave not a trace behind,” and suggested that it become the start of a restricted endowment. Recalling an old and oft-used phrase, that “mental training is the stepchild of Turnerism,” he suggested that the new fund would be “devoted to stimulating the mental work in our societies, that would be more effective than anything else to keep alive the spirit of the old Turners and the social ideals they had labored for.” Ahrens agreed and donated an additional \$5,000.

And so was born the Jahn Fund, governed by a Declaration of Trust, signed on July 13, 1925. It would be managed by its trustees, beginning with the original five, who then appointed their successors as needed. Seibel, a gifted writer, poet, critic, and radio personality, was chosen as its first chair. The first grant purchased books for the Girls’ Dormitory of the Normal College at Indianapolis. The second funded a competition for the best original poem in German. Throughout its history, the Fund has supported publication of American Turner Topics and hundreds of other worthwhile projects.

Through its 100 years, there have only been four chairmen: George Seibel, Rudolph Koenig, Henry Schroeder, and Frank Wedl. Under Frank’s leadership, with the help of his friend and trustee Hans Sammer, the Jahn Fund has grown into a substantial investment portfolio that continues to support the Turner philosophy.



**Theodore Ahrens**



**George Seibel**



Embassy  
of the Federal Republic of Germany  
Washington

Mr. Craig Sniezek  
President  
American Turners  
P.O. Box 696  
North Aurora, IL 60542

**Tobias Bergner**  
Director,  
Public Diplomacy Department  
Embassy of the Federal Republic  
of Germany Washington, D.C.  
4645 Reservoir Road NW  
Washington, D.C. 20007  
INTERNET: [www.Germany.info](http://www.Germany.info)  
TEL: +1 (202) 298-4000  
E-MAIL: [Dz-1@wash.diplo.de](mailto:Dz-1@wash.diplo.de)

Washington, DC, July 14, 2025

Dear Mr. Sniezek and Members of the American Turners,

It is my great pleasure to extend my heartfelt congratulations to the American Turners on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of the Jahn Education Fund. This centennial milestone is a testament to your enduring commitment to education, physical culture, and the values of holistic development that remain the cornerstone of the Turner movement.

For a century, the Jahn Education Fund has helped to support and nurture cultural education in American Turner societies spread across the United States. It is only appropriate that an instrument used to ensure societies have the means to continue their work is named after the founder of the *Turnerverein* movement, Friedrich Ludwig Jahn, and cements his legacy across generations of American Turners.

The American Turners' roots in German heritage have enriched the cultural and educational fabric of the United States since the first society formed nearly 200 years ago. From the early German immigrants who brought the Turner ideals to American soil, to the communities that continue the tradition of training sound minds and sound bodies, the American Turners serve as a bridge between cultures.

As you celebrate this anniversary, I hope you take pride in the lives you've touched and the communities you've strengthened as the next generation of American Turners is raised on the timeless principles of a sound mind and a sound body.

Congratulations once again and best wishes for the future,

Tobias Bergner

# 60TH ANNUAL AMERICAN TURNER NATIONAL GOLF

Hosted by the Clinton Turn Verein

July 8th-11th

The Clinton Turners are happy to report that this year's tournament was well attended as 125 golfers from 14 different societies participated in the event. There were 18 Women, 15 Senior Women, 8 Super Sr. Men, 81 Men/Sr Men and 3 other participants. The golf portion of the event was hosted by Cyprian Keyes Golf Club. They provided two beautiful golf courses, a 9-hole Par 3 for the Senior Women, Super Sr. Men and other participants as well as an 18-hole Championship Course for the Women and Men/Sr Men. Cyprian also provided a more than adequate restaurant and most importantly a very gracious and well-trained staff. Due to the rainy weather, the course was deemed as cart path only for the first two days, but none the less all the golf was played as scheduled.

The club provided a pub menu on Tuesday and Wednesday and offered a Lobster Steamer or Steak dinner on Thursday night and a BBQ Chicken banquet on Friday. The club also provided live entertainment on Tuesday, Thursday and Friday evenings. All events were well attended and much Turner Good Will was shared amongst those gathered.

The Clinton Turners would like to thank all those who traveled to this event, our members who volunteered so much of their time, our hole sponsors and those that contributed to our program book! See you all next year in Akron and bring along a friend or two!



## Turner National Golf Tournament

### Awards

#### Medalists

<u>Medalists</u>	<u>Society</u>	<u>Division</u>	<u>Score</u>
<u>Jake Balsley</u>	Covington	<b>Men</b>	<u>75</u>
<u>Todd Lubbe</u>	Covington	<b>Men Sr</b>	<u>76</u>
<u>Joleen Gottwald</u>	Ft. Wayne	<b>Women</b>	<u>83</u>
<u>Charles McElheney</u>	Clinton	<b>Men SSr</b>	<u>40</u>
<u>Virginia Fuller</u>	Adams	<b>Women Sr</b>	<u>37</u>

#### Closest-to-the-Pin

<u>Closest-to-the-Pin</u>			<u>Distance</u>
<u>Landon Finn</u>	Covington	<b>Men</b>	<u>5'10"</u>

<u>Bernie "Skip" Galeski</u>	Clinton	<b>Men Sr</b>	<u>7'2"</u>
<u>Patsy Johnson</u>	Ft. Wayne	<b>Women</b>	<u>13'2"</u>
<u>James Sonich</u>	Syracuse	<b>Men SSr</b>	<u>12'5"</u>
<u>Virginia Fuller</u>	Adams	<b>Women Sr</b>	<u>39'1"</u>
<u>Norma Pierce</u>	Clinton	<b>Women Sr</b>	<u>12'11"</u>

## Long Drive

<u>Tyler Hollifield</u>	Clinton	<b>Men</b>
<u>Paul Devoe</u>	Clinton	<b>Men Sr</b>
<u>Audrey Haderlein</u>	Lincoln	<b>Women</b>

## Teams

		<u>Score</u>	<u>Place</u>
<b>Men</b>	<u>Covington</u>		<b>1st</b>

## Flights

<b>Champion/Runner-Up</b>			<u>Place</u>
<u>Landon Finn</u>	Covington	<b>Men/Sr Men</b>	<b>1st</b>
<u>Tyler Hollifield</u>	Clinton	<b>Men/Sr Men</b>	<b>2nd</b>
<u>Joleen Gottwald</u>	Ft. Wayne	<b>Women</b>	<b>1st</b>
<u>Patsy Johnson</u>	Ft. Wayne	<b>Women</b>	<b>2nd</b>
<u>John Kulesa</u>	Syracuse	<b>Men SSr</b>	<b>1st</b>
<u>Rick Darfler</u>	Aurora	<b>Men SSr</b>	<b>2nd</b>
<u>Virginia Fuller</u>	Adams	<b>Women Sr</b>	<b>1st</b>
<u>Diana Taft</u>	Adams	<b>Women Sr</b>	<b>2nd</b>

<b>2nd Flight</b>			<u>Place</u>
<u>Brian Gottwald</u>	Ft. Wayne	<b>Men/Sr Men</b>	<b>1st</b>
<u>Jeffrey Hung</u>	Rochester	<b>Men/Sr Men</b>	<b>2nd</b>
<u>Bonnie Jablonski</u>	Clinton	<b>Women</b>	<b>1st</b>

<u>Darla Medernach</u>	Aurora	<b>Women</b>	<b>2nd</b>
<u>Janice Ashton</u>	Akron	<b>Women Sr</b>	<b>1st</b>
<u>Louise Hammond</u>	Aurora	<b>Women Sr</b>	<b>2nd</b>
<b>3rd Flight</b>			<u>Place</u>
<u>Mark Sargent</u>	Clinton	<b>Men/Sr Men</b>	<b>1st</b>
<u>Nick Bockweg</u>	Covington	<b>Men/Sr Men</b>	<b>2nd</b>
<b>4rd Flight</b>			<u>Place</u>
<u>Drew Vaneck</u>	Rochester	<b>Men/Sr Men</b>	<b>1st</b>
<u>Gary Hollifield</u>	Clinton	<b>Men/Sr Men</b>	<b>2nd</b>
<b>5th Flight</b>			<u>Place</u>
<u>John Miller</u>	Clinton	<b>Men/Sr Men</b>	<b>1st</b>
<u>Steve Spurgeon</u>	Keystone	<b>Men/Sr Men</b>	<b>2nd</b>
<b>6th Flight</b>			<u>Place</u>
<u>John Beary</u>	Clinton	<b>Men/Sr Men</b>	<b>1st</b>
<u>Dan Moran</u>	Syracuse	<b>Men/Sr Men</b>	<b>2nd</b>
<b>7th Flight</b>			<u>Place</u>
<u>Gary Kinman</u>	Covington	<b>Men/Sr Men</b>	<b>1st</b>
<u>Donald Ambrass</u>	Rochester	<b>Men/Sr Men</b>	<b>2nd</b>
<b>8th Flight</b>			<u>Place</u>
<u>Frank Leonard</u>	Clinton	<b>Men/Sr Men</b>	<b>1st</b>
<u>Mike Ruefer</u>	Davenport NW	<b>Men/Sr Men</b>	<b>2nd</b>

# AMERICAN TURNERS 61ST ANNUAL NATIONAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

HOSTED BY AKRON TURNER CLUB ON JULY 8, 9 AND 10, 2026

Akron Turner Club (ATC) welcomes fellow Turners to the 2026 Tournament. The golf courses will include Brookledge Golf Club and Paradise Lake Country Club.

Each club can enter more than one four man team in the Club Team Division competition: Total gross of four players, all three days scores. All players record their own scores for July 8, 9, and 10. Skins games will be held for each division at the National level. Flights will be drawn & posted Thursday evening for Friday tournament play.

The entry deadline is May 30, 2026

- Chip & Putt Pentathlon @ ATC, Tuesday, July 7 from 4:00 to 5:30
- Registration will take place @ ATC Tuesday, July 7 from 5:00 to 7:00
- The National Golf meeting will follow Tuesday @ 7:30 p.m.

2026 Couples Traditional Scramble Event

- The 2026 couple's golf tournament is dedicated to the memory of Akron's Mary and John Paxton; held on Tuesday, July 7th @ Paradise Lakes C.C.
- Teams must be a man and a woman and the format is an 18-hole scramble. Scorecards are turned in at the club Tuesday night. The results will be announced at the banquet on Friday.
- Golfers are responsible for making their own tee times. Mention **Turners National Golf** to receive special pricing for **Mon. and Tues., July 6th and 7th.**

Watch the ATC website for future activities.

Rock & Roll Hall of Fame / Jack Casino

Stan Hywet Tour <https://stanhywet.org>

Closest to hole Big Prize / Band Jam Session

HOTEL information:

## Hilton Garden Inn Akron \$139

1307 East Market St., Akron

330.733.2900 Best Choice

Overall closest location

Shuttle to Club Tues-Fri

Book by 6/13/2026

## Sheraton Suites \$179

1989 Front Street, Cuyahoga Falls

800-325-3535 or 330-929-3000

Preferred Upgrade, Quad rate \$209

1.5 mi. to Brookledge. Six mi. to ATC.

16 miles to Paradise Lakes

Book by 6/6/2026

## Holiday Inn Express \$139

3150 W Market St., Akron NW Fairlawn

20 mi. to Paradise, 16 mi. to Brookledge,

15 mi. to ATC

330-869-9000

Includes Breakfast, book by 6/15/2026

## The Hampton Inn \$119

4331 Lakepointe Corporate Dr., Stow

833-372-4422, 330-945-4160

Best Rate, book by 6/15/2026

Mention **Turners National Golf** to receive special pricing. Various cancelation dates apply.

The hotels are offering similar rates for the prior weekend, July 3<sup>rd</sup>, July 4<sup>th</sup> and July 5<sup>th</sup>.

Please contact Anthony if requesting rooms prior to Monday, July 6<sup>th</sup> to help with rates.

Any questions can be directed to Anthony Brautigam. [anthonybrautigam@gmail.com](mailto:anthonybrautigam@gmail.com)  
Cell (330) 604-1439



# AMERICAN TURNERS OFFERINGS

American Turners offer various grants to financially help societies and scholarships for our college age members. The offerings are listed below. Detailed information and requirements can be found on the American Turners website. <https://amturners.org>.

## Endowment Trust Fund (ETF)

- 1. Gym Instructor Safety Certification Reimbursement Grant:**  
The Endowment Trust will reimburse any American Turner Gymnastic Instructor who has taken, passed and paid for their personal Safety Certification, otherwise known as "U101 Safety & Risk Management", offered through USA Gymnastics.
- 2. 50/50 Physical Education Equipment Grant:**  
This grant is to help those Societies offering physical education classes to provide the latest in equipment to meet competition, safety and insurance regulations beneficial to both students, instructors and their Society.
- 3. 50/50 Computer Grant:**  
This grant is to provide Societies with electronic capabilities to communicate and manage records efficiently in all business dealings internally and externally with other Districts, Societies, the National Office and the American Turners membership as a whole.
- 4. Physical Education Payroll Compensation Grant:**  
The Endowment Trust of American Turners offers an "Instructors Payroll Compensation Grant" to any Society, in good standing, that has teachers/instructors/coaches in their employ and control who are instructing regular scheduled classes of Physical Education
- 5. First Aid/CPR/AED Grant:**  
The Endowment Trust will reimburse any American Turner Teacher/Instructor/Coach that is currently providing instruction of Physical Education in regularly held scheduled classes of a Society in the American Turners organization or one member that is physically on-premise, who has taken, passed and paid for their personal "Adult & Pediatric First Aid/CPR/AED Certification, offered by the American Red Cross.
- 6. 50/50 AED Physical Equipment Grant**  
The Endowment Trust will reimburse any American Turner Society that has a building and/or a gymnasium up to 50% of the total cost with a maximum ETF contribution of \$1,500 for the purchase of an AED (Automated External Defibrillator) device. The purpose of this grant is to provide a medical device where a person is experiencing a sudden cardiac arrest.
- 7. William R. Meyer Honorary Scholarship:**  
Established in 2010, this special scholarship award is being offered to an individual applicant who not only meets all the requirements of the National Scholarship Award but also possesses leadership qualities by being actively involved in their local Turner Society or local community events while exemplifying our Turner motto, "A Sound Mind In A Sound Body".
- 8. Edwin E. Colton Honorary Award:**  
To recognize a 'grass roots' or foundation level member that has sacrificed their time and talents at their Society and/or District.

## American Turners Scholarship Awards

- 1.** American Turners offers scholarships to its members entering their Junior or Senior year working in a degreed 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, Recreational Therapy, or Public Health (environmental health, epidemiology, behavioral social sciences, biostatistics, health policy and management) curriculum will be considered. However, consideration will be given to members that have been involved for several years in American Turner programs.

## Jahn Educational Fund

- 1.** Awards monetary prizes to American Turner Societies reporting the largest proportionate gains in membership.
- 2.** Provides financial assistance to American Turner Societies for necessary restoration and/or capital improvements to their facilities.
- 3.** Recognizes members whose missionary activities result in the formation of new American Turner Societies.



## American Turners Endowment Trust

### IN MEMORIAM

Barbara Horn – New York Turners

Donor(s):

Peter A. & Carolyn M. Rohlf  
-----

Larry Miller – FT Wayne Turners

Donor(s)

Richard C. Darfler  
-----

Dora Sammer – New York Turners

Donor(s)

Frank Wedl & Theresa Buchler  
-----

Ernest Menze, PhD. – Mt Vernon Turners - New York Turners

Donor(s)

Peter A. & Carolyn M. Rohlf  
-----

\*\*\*Please to send any **Memorial or Good & Welfare donation(s)** directly to:

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

## NHPEC MESSAGE

I want to thank Michelle Lesperance who has been a great mentor to me this last year as NHPE Chair. She has also put in countless hours editing and recommending changes to update our National Festival Rule Book and O&M Manual. It truly is a thankless job, and we all appreciate her more than she knows.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank each of the societies who hosted a national event this year. Without you, these events would not happen. It takes a village, and I commend you for stepping up and taking on the task. Cincinnati Turners hosted a successful National Bowling Tournament and Clinton Turners the did an outstanding job hosting the National Golf Tournament. In 2026, Bowling will be in Aurora and Golf will be in Akron. We are excited to announce that Pickleball will be added to the National Tournament list with Northwest Chicago to host the inaugural event in October 2026. Follow the National Turners Website for more information on our National Events. We will be having teasers in the next few Topics to promote the 2027 National Festival, which will be held in New Ulm Minnesota. Save the date will be coming soon.

Thanks for a GREAT 2025! Looking forward to what 2026 has in store for Turners!

Emily Miesner

NHPE Chair

# *CULTURAL NEWS: PREPARING FOR THE 2027 NATIONAL FESTIVAL*

## **Getting Ready for the 2027 National Festival**

The time has come to begin preparations for the upcoming National Festival, which will take place in New Ulm, Minnesota, in 2027. All cultural entries submitted must be newly created since the last festival.

## **Recent Cultural Committee Meeting Highlights**

The cultural committee convened in August to discuss several important topics related to the festival. One of the most exciting developments is the introduction of a new youth cultural competition, titled American Turner Youth Ambassador.

## **Details of the Youth Cultural Competition**

The full competition rules will be updated in the Redbook, but here are several key points:

- Youth participants must be between the ages of 14 and 18.
- Each society may submit no more than two entries.
- The competition is an essay contest, with a maximum length of 25 words or a five-minute time limit.

## **Festival Registration and Submission Process**

Participants will need to register for the festival as they have done in previous years. An electronic form will be included to list all cultural items, similar to the format used before. All relevant dates will remain the same to ensure clarity and avoid confusion.

Sue Knisley

National Cultural Chair

## *PAST PRESIDENTS MESSAGE*



Welcome to the Holiday season. I hope everyone had great summer. I want to thank everyone for allowing me to be your National President for the last three years. I submitted my resignation effective August 28. My reason is due to a health problem. I broke my leg in February and the surgery to repair my leg never healed the bone properly. I am having surgery on Monday, November 17 to get a replacement hip.

I apologize that I could not accomplish more for the organization. Societies need help in so many areas, and help is not the same across all societies. Some need help with building maintenance, some need new computers, some need to get some help on enhancing their sports programs. I guess one program does not fit all. Let us hope the executive committee can do something together to help. Time will tell.

Once again thank you for your support, I will still be your Turner Topics Editor

Craig Sniezek

# AMERICAN TURNERS

---

October 8, 2025

Walter Spann

Dear Mr. Spann,

On behalf of all American Turners, we thank you for the generous donation from the Cleveland Eastside Turnverein.

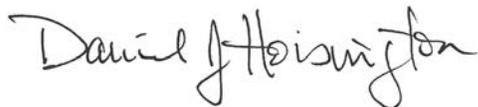
Cleveland East is part of the long and distinguished history of the American Turners. The city's first Turnverein was the fourth to be organized in the United States, and Cleveland has hosted both Turnfests and National Conventions. On my bookshelf sits a copy of *Gymnastics*, edited by W. A. Stecher and published in 1895 by the North American Gymnastics Union, as the American Turners were then known. Within its pages are numerous essays by Cleveland Turner Karl Zapp, who played an important role in introducing physical education into the public schools.

On a personal note, when the 1855 national convention debated a plan to create a Turner colony in the West, Jacob Nix, the Cleveland delegate, was the first to speak in its favor. Later, Nix moved to that colony in New Ulm, Minnesota, where he became a significant community leader. So my Turner Hall owes a debt of thanks to Cleveland's Turners.

Life has changed dramatically since your society was first organized in 1876, but the Turner principle of a sound mind in a sound body still holds true. It is our plan to use the Cleveland Eastside donation to further that goal. At the recent National Council meeting, we decided to set aside funds to strengthen our societies at the local level.

One final note: it is our hope that your members will remain active Turners, either by joining another society or as at-large members. Great things are ahead of us.

With Turner regards,



Daniel J. Hoisington

Corporate Secretary and National Historian



American Turners National Office  
PO Box 696  
North Aurora, IL 60542

Non-Profit  
Organization  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Rockford, IL  
Permit No. 2495

If you would prefer to receive an electronic copy opposed to a hard copy of future publications, please send your most current email address to:

[nationaloffice@amturners.org](mailto:nationaloffice@amturners.org)

### NATIONAL OFFICE

PO Box 696  
North Aurora, IL 60542  
(630) 389-7087

### Deadlines for next issue (Jan./Feb.)

Copy to Editor-January 1,2026  
Copy to Printer-January 15,2026  
In mail by February 1, 2026

## NATIONAL CALENDAR

### 2026

National Bowling-Aurora  
April 11 & 12, 18 & 19  
National Golf-Akron  
July 8, 9, 10  
National Convention-Clinton  
August 7 and 8  
National Council Meeting-Clinton  
August 9

### 2027

National Bowling - Rochester PA  
  
National Golf  
July 2027  
  
American Turner National Festival-New Ulm  
July 27-31