

AMERICAN TURNERS

November 12, 2025

Walter Spann
11028 Brookview Dr
Brecksville, OH 44141

Dear Mr. Spann,

On behalf of all American Turners, we thank the Cleveland Eastside Turnverein for their generous donation. In particular, we acknowledge the efforts of President Richard Lung, Vice President Patrick Carney, Secretary Walter Spann, and Treasurer John Dzatlik. Their hard work and dedication to Turner principles made this gift possible. We are grateful to the society's board and members.

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