

AMERICAN TURNERS



NATIONAL COUNCIL MINUTES

AUGUST 9, 2026
CLINTON TURNERS, MA



MINUTES
2026 NATIONAL COUNCIL MEETING
of AMERICAN TURNERS
August 9, 2026
Hosted by Clinton Turners

The meeting was called to order by President John Beary, Jr. at 9:14 am.

Council members recited the Pledge of Allegiance

National Corporate Secretary Dan Hoisington read the roll call.

National Officers and Chairs:

President:	John Beary, Jr.
Vice President:	Michelle Lesperance
National Corporate Secretary:	Daniel Hoisington
National Treasurer:	Cindy Law
National Health & Physical Education Chair:	Emily Miesner
National Cultural Chair:	Sue Knisley

District Representatives:

Central States:	Mike DeBolt
Illinois:	Nick Barts
Lake Erie:	Bill Severns, Jr.
Middle Atlantic:	Dave Mulrooney
New England:	Frank Leonard
New York:	Marion Oppelt
St. Louis:	Sean Sendlein
Upper Midwest:	Andrea Boettger
Upper Mississippi:	Liz Eichner
Western Pennsylvania:	Tim Pettibon
Western United States:	Alexander Hast (absent)

Permanent Council Members:

Endowment Trust Fund:	Thomas R. Bozonelos
Jahn Fund:	Frank Wedl

National Administrative Assistant:	Kathi Colton
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President Beary introduced guest Jim Goetz.

President Beary made the following appointments:

Turner Topics Editor:	Craig Sniezek
National Historian:	Dan Hoisington
National Rules/Document Coordinator:	Michelle Lesperance
National Scholarship Committee:	Mike Dubis
Kuenzel Memorial Fund:	Tom Bozonelos

Motion was made by Dave Mulrooney and seconded by Sue Knisley to accept the minutes of the convention. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS:

It was reported that the New Jersey District along with its two societies, Carlstadt and New Jersey, has now been dissolved. Kathi Colton reported that Ray Virgens has paid to become an At-Large member. Colton reported that three societies have outstanding balances, including Providence and Athenaeum. Riverside has reported and paid for its membership on time but owes for a second batch of new members and has been in touch with the National Office.

Frank Wedl commented that the 2026 financial reports given to the convention made sense.

Tom Bozonelos reported that the Kuenzel Memorial Fund had donated \$25,000 to the Endowment Trust Fund for specific grants in the area of gymnastics.

The Scholarship Fund has provided four scholarships in 2026, which included one scholarship to Louisville, two to Illinois, and one to East Side with payments of \$1500 each mailed to the universities. The second half of each scholarship will be paid after the students finish this semester and provide their grades and spring schedules. Tom stated that the Scholarship Fund provided six scholarships last year.

For the Strategic Planning Committee, Dan Hoisington reported that only four people signed up for the Young Adults Leadership Conference (YALC). He stated that the district council representatives needed to do a better job of promoting this type of event. Cindy Law stated that she felt the age range was too restrictive and that the age range should be lowered to include ages 16 to 18. Frank Leonard asked if YALC was a good idea. Andrea Boettger stated that she felt it was a good idea. Leonard asked if the intent of YALC was to grow our membership. John Beary stated that this was not supposed to be a membership drive but instead was a training. Liz Eichner stated that she has a very small district and that the cost was prohibitive and the time commitment too much and suggested possibly a Zoom meeting to show what it is all about. Nick Barts felt we need to better define how things would be paid with commitments from the Endowment Trust Fund and Jahn Fund, as Strategic Planning would have spent one-third of its funds on this event. Dave Mulrooney felt that YALC was a good idea, but it was too rushed and the information should have gone out earlier with perhaps a more central location. Nick Barts stated that Turner Camp had its final show at the same time, so some of the people who might have come were busy with that. Barts suggested moving the time frame to June or July.

Emily Miesner stated that Denise Elsmann of the Goethe Institute did a great job with her presentation on communications through social media.

Sean Sendlein stated that the National Festival has a target audience. Frank Leonard noted that having a focused target enables societies to do promotional things and that it is not necessary to know what a Turner is.

STRATEGIC PLANNING: Dan Hoisington felt it was generally worthwhile to bring in younger members and future leaders. The Strategic Planning Committee needs to create a draft with a plan. Cindy Law felt that was a good idea and possibly use money to help people get to the Turnfest as her society (Louisville) rarely attends the Turnfest. Michelle Lesperance stated that we do have a Youth Transportation Fund. Law would like to push this for the Festival.

Tom Bozonelos suggested taking this back to committee as there is plenty of money, but many challenges that cannot be achieved by offering one small target. What are our expectations and how will we follow up with interested people? Beary would like to have mentors at various clubs to work with people. Dan Hoisington mentioned that no money has yet been spent from the new Strategic Planning Fund to help grow societies.

Hoisington stated that Denise Elsmann's communication program that was presented at the convention will be available online, but the key is to have someone manage it at the society level. There is a grant from the Goethe Institute for marketing, but this is not a grant for Turners specifically, but for German organizations which is meant to teach people how to do better marketing.

Andrea Boettger stated that our brand messaging is not attracting younger people, and she felt we need to be on TikTok and Instagram where young people go. Bozonelos stated that the Strategic Planning Fund money could be used for some of the societies as the money is in unrestricted funds. Beary stated that a form needs to be put on the website to apply for money.

Frank Leonard made a motion, seconded by Nick Barts, to take the second \$100,000 of the Cleveland East Turners (PNC) money and apply it to Strategic Planning Fund (CLEST). Andrea Boettger commented that it should state, "up to \$100,000", and asked what the other \$100,000 is being used for. Bozonelos suggested moving the second \$100,000 to the Endowment Trust Fund. Motion was rescinded by Frank Leonard and thus no vote was taken.

Sue Knisley stated that we need a strategic plan to get more people active and help failing societies instead. John Beary stated that failing societies need to "have more skin in the game" and not just be handed money.

Frank Leonard made a motion to put all money from the second fund (PNC) into the Strategic Planning Fund (CLEST) and eliminate the second fund (PNC), seconded by Nick Barts. The motion passed unanimously. The committee was told to create the draft of a strong plan with proposals for how to apply the money and what the money will be used for.

Cindy Law suggested creating a survey for the societies to let us know what they might need from the national organization. Societies need to be involved and the district representatives could possibly create a survey for each district for local needs. Liz Eichner stated that she would need to know how much money is available and that district representatives need to be fully informed regarding available amounts.

JAHN GRAVESTONE: Arnold Jahn is buried at Graceland Cemetery in Chicago, and his monument has been funded. We would like to do a dedication at the cemetery chapel, but it would be best in the fall, perhaps October 24th or 25th. It was noted that the check for payment of the gravestone has not yet cleared.

HISTORICAL MUSEUM: John Beary mentioned that Peter had passed away from the 1850 Foundation and we are not moving forward with them using our name. Reasons given are that we would be unable to control our name, image and likeness. American Turners wanted control over the board of directors so we would be able to control the use of our name. The 1850 Foundation paid a lot of money for the museum and it wants to have control. President John Beary wrote a letter stating to cease and desist using our name and logo, but he stated that we can do exhibits for them. Beary stated that after sending the letter, he has never heard back from them. Frank Wedl stated that Peter did not have much input from his board of directors. This was going to be dedicated to an American Turners museum and sports hall. Wedl stated that there is a camp there with 4000 people attending. Its board of directors consists of five members with two American Turners members. It was stated that Bruno Klaus cannot be on the board of directors of the 1850 Foundation or museum. The 1850 Foundation is a stand-alone organization, and we have no control over its money. The 1850 Foundation pays taxes to New York and wanted a legacy that would include New York Turners. It was stated that it is only losing the American Turners logos and the name, "American Turners."

Jim Goetz stated that Sacramento is still using our emblem. Tom Bozonelos stated that efforts were made to try to get Sacramento back as a society. **Tom made a motion to draft a letter to Sacramento telling them to cease and desist using our logo, seconded by Frank Wedl. Motion carried. A letter to Sacramento will be drafted.**

It was stated that American Turners has two logos. The older one is covered by copyright, and the newer logo is covered by trademark.

NATIONAL OFFICE: Beary noted that he needed to include some of his personal information for unemployment compensation with the state of Illinois, and that any new president will need to be reminded to do the same. He also stated we need new job descriptions for people coming into the organization. Kathi Colton stated that Quickbooks is in good shape. She is using OneNote to store information and emails which will be used to put procedure manuals together. The National Directory has been updated and is available on the Google Drive. Colton stated she will add Tim Pettibon to the Finance folder on the Google Drive.

The National Council Meeting was adjourned for a short break at 10:30 am.

The National Council Meeting was reconvened at 10:40 am.

There were no questions for the Endowment Trust Fund.

NEW BUSINESS:

Sue Knisley made the motion to destroy the ballots, seconded by Dave Mulrooney. Motion carried and the ballots will be destroyed.

TRAVEL EXPENSES: It was stated that people should not book first class or business airline tickets. Rules for air travel are on the reimbursement form. **Tom Bozonelos made a motion to limit air travel expense not to exceed \$750.00, seconded by Dan. Motion carried.** Mileage payouts should be updated to the current federal rate and with the date removed from the reimbursement form.

FESTIVAL UPDATE: Andrea Boettger updated all contracts that were sent to Dan Hoisington for review and signing. Emily Miesner stated that Fred Sontag is working with Cognito to update scoring and registration with a trial run in November or December. Boettger stated that there are online scoring programs that should be explored as well.

Beary noted that the swearing-in of officers during the convention was a good change.

It was mentioned that Fort Wayne had requested to do a buyback of years for some of its auxiliary ladies. Colton did contact them with information on what years would need to be purchased but never heard back.

Michelle Lesperance stated that the National Convention Hosting Guide has been updated, which is currently available on the website. **Sean Sendlein made a motion to approve the National Convention Hosting Guide, seconded by Michelle Lesperance. Motion carried.**

SOCIAL MEDIA: Sean Sendlein stated he started the Facebook page and Nick Barts created a second one; however, we were unable to get the rights back, so a new Facebook account was created by Sendlein. Sendlein stated he unpublished our old Facebook account. The question was asked as to who wants managerial control of Facebook. Currently Sendlein and Colton have owner permissions, and Law has editorial permissions. Articles should be sent to the National Office for publication. It was stated that TikTok gets stale quickly and needs updating constantly. YouTube videos can be posted. A photo release needs to be available in the National Office.

COMPUTER: Colton stated she is running out of room on her hard drive. Frank Leonard stated he would provide a new desktop computer with more storage capacity.

CONVENTION MANDATES: Mandates are due by July 1st, but mandates for most societies were not turned in on time. When there are no-shows, the club gets stuck with the cost of food. Societies should reimburse the host for the cost of no-shows. Colton was told to create a spreadsheet of everything that needs to be done for the convention. Additionally, delegates should be added no later than 30 days before the convention.

FINANCE: The Finance Committee gave a mandate to transfer \$120,000 from the general checking account to a short-term money market or other account, which will be taken care of.

Michelle Lesperance stated we need to reach out to other societies to host National Council Meetings as well as District Meetings.

Jim Goetz suggested contacting Denver Turners to attend one of its membership meetings and to let them know what American Turners has to offer.

Barts stated that he felt the NHPEC meeting did not have enough time to cover everything on its agenda. Bill Severns mentioned the possibility of moving the opening session to Saturday morning.

Michelle suggested possibly opening registration on Thursday afternoon and Friday morning and scheduling the Credentials and Nominating Committee meetings on late Friday morning. Law suggested holding the NHPEC after the first session on Friday evening and then meeting again on Saturday morning. Sendlein suggested skipping the breakout sessions for more meeting time for the NHPEC. Beary stated that the president sets the agenda for meetings and requested feedback to revise the agenda. Miesner stated that all sports are now covered by the NHPEC, so more time is needed.

Dave Mulrooney stated that he felt elections should be the last thing that is done at the convention. Also, what happens if someone wants to run for an office but is unable to be present at the convention? It was stated that he or she should send a nomination request letter to the National Office with "ATTN: Nominating Committee". Lesperance stated that there should be a deadline for letters of nomination.

Hoisington asked to authorize an annual historical publication.

Law remarked that aeriels are becoming very popular and asked if the Jahn Fund would help her go to societies to teach aerial skills to gymnastic groups. Law was asked to put together a plan for societies with the time commitment and the benefit to American Turners.

Hoisington stated that New Ulm is going to teach standard exercise skills.

Miesner stated that a virtual NHPEC Festival planning meeting is planned for late November or early December, as well as an in-person meeting in New Ulm for late March or early April.

Law and Boettger plan to reach out to gymnastic societies to hold a gymnastic tournament.

SOFTBALL: There is currently no Softball Chair and no tournaments planned at this time.

GOLF: The 2027 Golf Tournament will be held at Monaca Turners, and the 2028 Golf Tournament will be held at Keystone Turners.

PICKLEBALL: Louisville is hosting the first-ever Pickleball tournament. Bids are needed for a 2027 Pickleball tournament.

BOWLING: A new Bowling Chair, Tyler Hammond, was announced. Rochester is holding the Bowling Tournament in 2027. There are no Bowling Tournament bids for 2028. It was stated that Craig Snizek needs to give access to the bowling program to Emily Miesner.

JR. BOWLING & GOLF: Jim Goetz stated that Gail Goetz coordinates Jr. Bowling. Societies that participate in Jr. Bowling receive monetary awards. There is no Jr. Golf.

DARTS: Barts mentioned starting virtual darts at the district level. Aurora did hold a virtual dart league at one time.

The National Council Meeting broke for lunch at 12:09 pm.

The National Council Meeting resumed at 12:49 pm.

Scheduled events are as follows:

2026 – Pickleball Tournament in Louisville, October 10-11, 2026

2026 – NHPEC virtual meeting, late November/early December, dates to be announced.

2027 – NHPEC in-person meeting at New Ulm, March/April, dates to be announced.

2027 – National Bowling Tournament in Rochester Turners.

2027 – National Golf Tournament at Monaca Turners.

2027 – National Council Meeting in Louisville Turners.

2027 – National Festival at New Ulm Turners (July 28-31, 2027).

2028 – National Golf Tournament at Keystone Turners.

2028 – National Convention at Aurora Turners.

Sean stated that our new Facebook page had 979 views. Viewer type is 66% non-followers, 34% followers, and the age range is 50+ for viewers.

Lesperance asked if we can call the National Festival the “Turnfest” again. Wedl stated that the word Turnfest is German. Law stated that Turnfest actually means “gymnastics festival”. Hoisington stated that the word “Turnfest” is a better marketing title. Boettger will be providing some marketing materials. It was suggested to have a heading with the word “TURNFEST” in big letters, and underneath in smaller letters, “American Turners National Festival” to clarify what the Turnfest is.

Beary reminded us that the National Convention is the highest governing authority of American Turners and we need to fix our agenda.

CLOSED SESSION OF THE COUNCIL:

Motion was made, seconded and approved to move into closed executive session. National Administrative Assistant Kathi Colton left the room.

When the closed session was completed, Colton was called back into the room where the Council informed her that she was being given a \$1500 bonus. Colton expressed her appreciation to the Council.

GOOD AND WELFARE: Sendlein made the comment that everything went very well for this convention. Hoisington felt that things ran very smoothly. He liked the German dancers from Toledo and received good feedback on the breakout sessions that were held. There was also very good feedback on the quality of the portfolios. Colton stated that the company, Totally Promotional, is sending regular discounts and we are also registered as a nonprofit organization with them. If we order 500 to 1000 portfolios in advance with just the name and logo but no dates, we will have them in stock for future conventions, and we will receive a volume discount, coupon discount, and nonprofit discount. Colton was told to go ahead and order more portfolios.

Hoisington made the motion to adjourn, seconded by Eichner. Motion carried and the National Council Meeting was adjourned at 1:30 pm.

Minutes by



Kathi Colton, Convention Secretary

Attested by



National President, John Beary, Jr.



2026 NATIONAL COUNCIL MEETING
of AMERICAN TURNERS

Hosted by the Clinton Turners
Sunday August 9, 2026 @ 9:00AM

Agenda

Called to order by Turner President: John Beary, Jr.

Pledge of Allegiance (Need Turner Flag and American Flag)

Roll-call by Corporate Secretary: Dan Hoisington

National Officers and Chairs:

President: John Beary, Jr.

Vice President: Michelle Lesperance

National Corporate Secretary-Daniel Hoisington

National Treasurer: Cindy Law

National Health & Physical Education Chair: Emily Miesner

National Cultural Chair: Sue Knisley

District Representatives:

Central States: Mike DeBolt

Illinois: Nick Barts

Lake Erie: Bill Severns, Jr.

Middle Atlantic: Dave Mulrooney

New England: Frank Leonard

New York: Marion Oppelt

St. Louis: Sean Sendlein

Upper Midwest: Andrea Boettger

Upper Mississippi: Liz Eichner
Western Pennsylvania: Tim Pettibon
Western United States: Vacant

Funding bodies:

Endowment Trust Fund: Thomas R. Bozonelos
Jahn Fund: Frank Wedl

Introduction of guests and honored dignitaries:

Appointments:

Turner Topics Editor- Craig Sniezek
National Historian-Dan Hoisington
National-Rules/Document Coordinator-Michelle Lesperance
National Scholarship Committee- Mike Dubis
Kuenzel Memorial Fund- Tom Bozonelos

Reports:

Motion to accept all reports as submitted in lieu of reading all the reports.

Old Business;

1. Status of Districts
 - A. New Jersey District-Dissolved
 - B. Society delinquencies: Kathi
2. Financials
 - A. Review of Financial Statements (google drive), budget/forecast, income/expense report 2025-2026: Cindy and Kathi
3. Review National Council Sub-Committees
 - A. KMF: Tom Bozonelos
 - B. Scholarship: Tom Bozonelos
 - C. Strategic Planning Committee: Dan

4. Misc.

- A. Arnold Siegfried Jahn Gravestone
 - 1. Dan Hoisington Update
- B. American Turners Historical Museum
 - 1. President update
- C. Unemployment Compensation update.
- D. National Office Update:
 - Quick Books
 - "One Notes" Job Descriptions/Requirements
 - National Directory-Available upon request
 - Other:

New Business:

- A. Travel Reimbursement: Discuss First Class Flights
- B. Festival Update:
 - a. Contract
 - b. Scoring/registration
 - c. Participation of non-member children.
- C. Swearing in of Elected Officers from the Convention.
- D. Ft. Wayne Turner Ladies membership-is this resolved.
- E. National Convention Hosting Guide update and approval.
- F. National Council Hosting Guide update and approval.
- G. Facebook Page Update: Corporate Account?
- H. National Office desk top computer: Kathi
- I. Mandates and reports due **30 days before convention**; discuss the amount of duplicate work the late entries cause the NAA
- J. Finance Committee Meeting motion to transfer \$\$ out of the checking account.

National Meetings/Events: Where/When

NHPEC-2027

Cultural-2027

2027 National Council Meeting - Louisville, KY

2027 National Festival - New Ulm, MN, July 27-31

2028 National Convention - Aurora, IL

National Bids (NHPEC):

Gymnastics:

Bowling:

2027 Rochester (Pending NHPEC Approval)

2028: National Softball:

National Golf:

2027 Monaca, PA July 14-16 (Pending NHPEC Approval)

2028 Keystone, Iowa July 12-14 (Pending NHPEC Approval)

National Pickleball Tournament:

2026 Louisville October 10th & 11th

2027:

Are these society, district or national level events?

Jr. Golf:

Jr. Bowling:

CLOSED SESSION OF THE COUNCIL:

Any Business to conduct:

- Honor Key Nominations
- NAA Job Performance
- Any other Awards

END OF CLOSED SESSION

Good and Welfare:

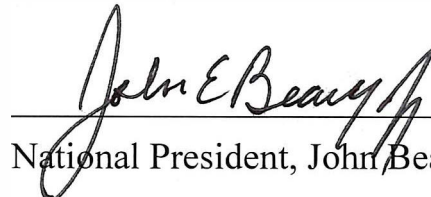
Motion to Adjourn.

Minutes by



Corporate Secretary, Dan Hoisington

Attested by



National President, John Beary, Jr.

ANNUAL MEETING of AMERICAN TURNERS, INC.

Sunday, August 9th, 2026

Annual meeting of American Turners, Inc.- Called to order at/: .i/nby,
President 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.

1. Roll call by Corporate Secretary:

National President-John Beary
National Vice President-Michelle Lesperance
National Corporate Secretary-Dan Hoisington
National Treasurer-Cindy Law
National Health & Physical Education Chairperson-Emily Miesner
National Cultural Chairperson-Sue Knisley

District Representatives:

Central States- Mike DeBolt
Illinois - Nick Barts
Lake Erie - Bill Severns, Jr:
Middle Atlantic - Dave Mulrooney
New England - Frank Leonard
New York- Marion Oppelt
St. Louis - Sean Sendlein

Upper Midwest - Andrea Boettger
Upper Mississippi - Liz Eichner
Western Pennsylvania - Tim Pettibon
Western United States-Vacant

Funding bodies-

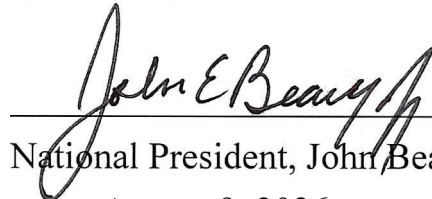
Endowment Trust Fund-Thomas Bozonelos
Jahn Fund-Frank Wedl

2. Tom Bozonelos moved and Liz Eichner 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. Motion carried.
3. Good and Welfare
 - Registered Agent for the state of Illinois is now Kathi Colton
 - Registered Agent for the State of Kentucky is now Cindy Law
4. Sue Knisley moved and Marion Oppelt seconded to adjourn the American Turners, Inc. Meeting for 2025. Motion Passed.



Corporate Secretary, Dan Hoisington

August 9, 2026



National President, John Beary, Jr.

August 9, 2026