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Clinton Turner Gymnastics

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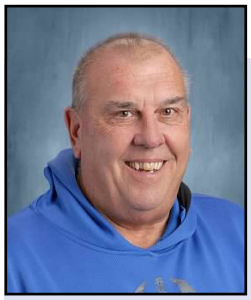
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Message From the President

Hello Turner Members,

I hope this message finds you in good health and looking forward to the beautiful fall season. The National Convention in Clinton, MA; "Pondering Our Past While Planning Our Future" was well attended and by all accounts a successful convention. I would like to thank all the delegates who took the time from their busy schedules to travel east and participate in our convention. Special thanks to the Clinton Society and especially Brittany Hisman the National Convention Support Team Chairperson. Through her efforts, the convention ran smoothly and effectively. Also special thanks to the kitchen crew, the IT guys, Dean and Sean, as well as the convention secretaries. Congratulations to George Zink of the Long Island Turners as this year's recipient of the "Edwin E. Colton Award" which was presented during the banquet of the Convention.

The National Council Meeting was held on Sunday, August 9 also at the Clinton Turners. One important action item coming out of the council meeting was to set up a policy and procedure for the use of a portion of the CEST donation. To that end, the Executive Committee will be meeting in the very near future to create a proposal for National Council approval.

On Saturday August 15th I was able to attend the New England District "Stephen L. Shires Memorial" Golf Tournament. 72 players participated in the event that was hosted by the Syracuse Turners at the Raddison Greens Golf Course. It is events such as these that support our Turner Values and keep our organization strong. Thanks to the local societies and districts that continually hold these events as you are the backbone of our organization.

With Turner Regards,

John Beary
President

A MESSAGE FROM YOUR VICE PRESIDENT

Greetings to my fellow Turners,

It was wonderful to see everyone at the National Convention in August. I enjoyed talking with so many of you, reminiscing and also taking care of important Turner business. We will keep moving forward because of your dedication to this organization. Thank you to all who supported me with a vote of confidence to continue as your National Vice President. I will strive to keep working towards our common goal of making Turners stronger and prosper.

There were a few changes to the Bylaws that will be implemented and I will be making those changes in the Bylaws document. The Operational & Procedural Manual will also be updated to coincide with those changes. That will be posted on the American Turner website, along with the National Festival (Turnfest) Rulebook. The Rulebook will have the changes highlighted in yellow so you can easily notice them.

Speaking of the National Festival (Turnfest), it's time to start preparing, if you haven't already done so. The whole National Executive Committee will be there cheering for you. We hope that you will join us at this historic and fun-filled event. We are going back to our roots by calling it the "National Turnfest" instead of the National Festival.

Feel free to contact me anytime with questions or concerns you may have.

Michelle Lesperance

vicepresident@amturners.org

NATIONAL BOWLING

The 2026 National Bowling Tournament was held in Aurora, Ill. The 2027 National Bowling Tournament will be held in Rochester, PA.

We are looking for a society to host the 2028 National Bowling 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 2028 Tournament please contact:

Craig Sniezek
National Bowling Committee Chair
1440 Crestwood Dr.
Aurora, IL. 60506

PH: 630-399-4736 (cell)
Email:cvs4209@sbcglobal.net

Bids for the 2028 Tournament must be postmarked by June 1st, 2027.

OKTOBERFEST MAKES A SPIRITED DEBUT AT THE AURORA TURNERS

As a beautiful autumn day dawned on Saturday, September 26th, the Aurora Turners welcomed approximately 500 guests to the Club on Mitchell Road for its inaugural Oktoberfest. With sunny skies, a light breeze, lively music, hearty German fare and a generous helping of Gemütlichkeit, the day proved to be a delightful first foray into Oktoberfest festivities—and one that left plenty of reason to look forward to next year!



The festivities offered something for everyone, from the youngest revelers to our most senior members. In attendance was Ed Colton, the Club's most senior Turner, who will celebrate his 100th birthday in 2027. His presence served as a lovely reminder of the generations of members who have helped make the Aurora Turners the community it is today.





Music provided a spirited backdrop throughout the day, beginning with Die Kellerknaben, whose lively oompah music and classic polkas brought an unmistakably traditional Oktoberfest flavor to the proceedings. Dr. John Novak followed with his accordion, delighting guests, particularly those gathered in the pavilion with him. As the afternoon gave way to evening, InFunktious kept the party going with classic favorites served up with a funky twist. Those who enjoyed the band's performance will be pleased to know that they'll return to the Club for New Year's Eve!

The Club's own gymnasts also took center stage—or, more accurately, center field! Guests were invited to an open house in the gymnasium, offering an opportunity to see where the Turners' gymnastics program takes shape. But the gymnasts weren't content to keep their talents indoors! They took to the ball field, performing a thrilling exhibition that stretched from first base to third, much to the delight of the assembled crowd. It was a wonderful opportunity to showcase another facet of the Aurora Turners and give Oktoberfest guests a glimpse of the athletic talent nurtured right here at the Club.







OKTOBERFEST MAKES A SPIRITED DEBUT AT THE AURORA TURNERS (CONT.)





There was plenty to do between musical sets, too. Family-friendly crafts and games encouraged participation across the generations, with sack races, jewelry-making, alpine-hat crafting and painted gourd birdhouses among the offerings. Miniature keg bowling brought a distinct Oktoberfest twist to the Club's outdoor bowling lanes, as participants attempted to knock down stacks of beer cans with tiny kegs.



And then there was pretzel-tossing! In a game reminiscent of cornhole, hand-sewn stuffed pretzels were tossed toward brand-new toilet plungers held against teammates' foreheads. The sight of participants trying their luck—and their teammates serving as decidedly unconventional targets—provided plenty of amusement for spectators and competitors alike!

Adults had their own opportunities to demonstrate strength, stamina and coordination. Numerous rounds of stein-hoisting and arm-wrestling tested individual mettle, while keg-rolling through a challenging obstacle course and a multi-player stein relay race brought out the competitive spirit. Whether competing for bragging rights or simply enjoying the spectacle, there was no shortage of spirited engagement.

Of course, no Oktoberfest would be complete without an abundance of good food and drink. Wurst Kitchen, a timeless Aurora classic, supplied bratwursts in both original and spicy "kicker" varieties, along with hot dogs, schnitzel, authentic homemade German potato salad, sauerkraut and strudel. The Club offered pretzel-bite "flights," pairing soft pretzel nuggets with bier cheese dip and a variety of mustards, as well as home-baked gingerbread cookies ready to be decorated with sweet cream cheese icing and an assortment of edible embellishments.



The beverage selection was equally inviting, featuring traditional favorites such as Hofbräu, Weihenstephaner Festbier, Krombacher Pils and Spaten Oktoberfest, alongside several other beers, wines, hard ciders and non-alcoholic options. Shot-skis offered a chance for four friends to raise their spirits together, with the layered Schwarzwald (Black Forest) Cake shot, featuring cherry and chocolate liqueurs topped with whipped cream, proving a favorite.

A large tent on the ball field, together with ample seating in both sunny and shaded spots, provided comfortable gathering places for guests to enjoy a bite, share a drink and catch up with family and friends. Indeed, Gemütlichkeit was enjoyed by all!

OKTOBERFEST MAKES A SPIRITED DEBUT AT THE AURORA TURNERS (CONT.)

Perhaps one of the most gratifying outcomes of the day was the number of visitors who discovered the Aurora Turners for the first time. Guests came from throughout the region, including some who had lived in the area their entire lives without ever having heard of the Club or knowing it was there. Numerous attendees inquired about membership, and several submitted applications that very day. What better testament to the value of opening our doors and sharing the Club with our surrounding community?

And none of it would have been possible without the more than 30 volunteers who gave their time and energy to make the day a success. From selling tickets and serving food and drinks to encouraging participation, judging competitions and helping guests feel part of the Aurora Turners experience, their contributions were invaluable. A heartfelt thank-you to each and every one of them!

The Club hopes to welcome an even larger crowd next year, but this first Oktoberfest was already a thoroughly enjoyable success. With good food, lively entertainment, creative diversions and wonderful company, the Aurora Turners have made a promising start to what may well become another cherished Club tradition. Prost!








CLINTON TURNER HALL OKTOBERFEST 2026: A DAY TO REMEMBER!

The Clinton, MA Turner Society held its annual Turner Hall Oktoberfest on Saturday, October 3, 2026—and this year's celebration is certainly one that may go down in history!

For the first time ever, our Oktoberfest had to be postponed. Mother Nature had other plans when a nor'easter rolled through on September 26, forcing us to make the difficult decision to postpone the celebration until the following Saturday. Although postponing an event of this size at the last minute was no easy task, our members, volunteers, vendors, and Entertainment Committee pulled together and made it happen.

And what a difference a week made! Saturday, October 3 turned out to be a gorgeous day, and thankfully, the beautiful weather helped make our Oktoberfest a tremendous success.

Of course, postponing the event did come with some challenges. Because of the change in date, we unfortunately lost several of the craft fair vendors who had originally planned to join us. We also lost some volunteers who were unable to make the new date. But once again, our members came through! The Entertainment Committee and our members reached out at the last minute for additional craft fair vendors and volunteers, and we were fortunate enough to have people step up and fill the gaps. Everyone came together to make sure Oktoberfest could go on—and they certainly delivered!

Our craft fair was once again an important part of our Oktoberfest, giving local crafters and vendors an opportunity to showcase and sell their handmade items and unique products. Despite the last-minute changes caused by the postponement, we were thrilled to have vendors join us and help make the craft fair a success.

The day got underway at 8:30 a.m. and continued until 5:00 p.m., with plenty of food, drinks, games, raffles, shopping, laughter, and fun throughout the day.

One of the biggest successes of this year's Oktoberfest was the tremendous support from our generous sponsors. Their contributions helped us raise funds for children's prizes as well as the Walter "Miz" O'Malley Scholarship Fund. We are incredibly grateful for their continued support of our society and our community.

Our raffle tables were once again a huge attraction, featuring more than seventy baskets and gift cards generously donated by local businesses and our members. We also held our popular 50/50 raffle, which reached approximately $914, with $457 going to the lucky winner!

There was certainly no shortage of entertainment. Adults enjoyed games including the wheel and our hilarious stein-holding contest. The stein contest had everyone laughing and cheering as both men and women competed to see who could hold their stein the longest. Congratulations to Adam Prentis, winner of the men's division, and Turner member Jeanne Rich, winner of the women's division!

Our children's activities were also a big hit, giving our younger guests plenty of fun and excitement throughout the day.

Of course, no Oktoberfest would be complete without great food! Our kitchen crew worked hard serving up a delicious variety of German favorites, including bratwurst, knackwurst, German potato salad, sauerkraut, and gehacktes. American favorites were also available, including hamburgers, cheeseburgers, hot dogs, and nachos with dip.

A special thank you goes to our wonderful kitchen crew, Frank Leonard, Paul Gadoua, Jeanne Rich, and Molly Benson—for all their hard work keeping everyone well fed throughout the day.

The bar was also busy serving a variety of spirits, including plenty of German beer, with our fantastic bartenders keeping the drinks flowing and the good times going!

None of this would have been possible without the incredible volunteers who worked their tails off all day. From setting up first thing in the morning to selling food and game tickets, selling baked goods, preparing and selling raffle tickets, raffling off prizes, supervising the children's activities, and helping with tear-down and cleanup, our volunteers stepped up wherever they were needed—even at the very last minute.

CLINTON TURNER HALL OKTOBERFEST 2026: A DAY TO REMEMBER! (CONT.)

The Entertainment Committee would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to every single person who volunteered their time and energy. You know who you are, and we truly could not have done it without you!

An incredibly special thank you also goes to our Entertainment Committee members—Amy Hisman, Brittany Hisman, Adrienne Maillet, Michele Hutcheon, and Maureen Center—for all of their hard work organizing and coordinating this year's Oktoberfest.

After everything we went through to make this event happen, we could not have asked for a better outcome. What started with a disappointing postponement turned into a beautiful day filled with friendship, laughter, great food, German beer, games, raffles, shopping, and community spirit.

Overall, the 2026 Clinton Turner Hall Oktoberfest was a tremendous success—and one we certainly will not forget!

Thank you to everyone who helped make it possible. We are already looking forward to next year with a rain date added!

Best Regards
Frank Leonard, Clinton President



CONGRATULATIONS GEORGE ZINK!

The 2026 Edwin E. Colton Award Recipient



81ST NATIONAL CONVENTION WRAP UP

Clinton TurnVerein Corp.

60 Branch St., Clinton, MA 01510

The 81st National Convention of American Turners, held on August 7th and 8th, 2026, brought together 70 delegates and guests from 10 districts to collaborate on the organization's growth and its core philosophy of a "Sound Body & Sound Mind." Hosted by the Clinton Turners, the weekend featured committee debates, voting on bylaws, and cultural and athletic showcases including the Toledo Turners' Deutsche Volkstanz Gruppe and the Clinton Turners' gym exhibition. Attendees also participated in committee meetings, to include the "Communication That Works" presentation delivered by Denise Elsman of the Goethe-Institute. A standout moment of the weekend's event was honoring long-time Long Island Turner member George Zink, who was awarded the Ed Colton Award in recognition of his years and dedication to the American Turners organization. The weekend's events were capped off with evening gatherings of a Friday BBQ chicken dinner and a Saturday lobster and steak dinner, accompanied by live music performances.

The Clinton Turners extends their gratitude to all attending delegates and guests who participated in the weekend's events. Thanks to Clinton Turner's Paul Gadoua and Molly Benson for providing and serving all the food, and to Clinton Turner's Dean Mellis and Sean Hughes for managing the sound and video equipment throughout each event. We express our appreciation for American Turners President John Barry and his coordination of the convention alongside all of our volunteers who kept the event running smoothly. The convention was a true success and look forward to the next one in 2028!

With Turner Spirit

Frank Leonard
President Clinton Turners

HEINZ BRODERSEN TURNS 88

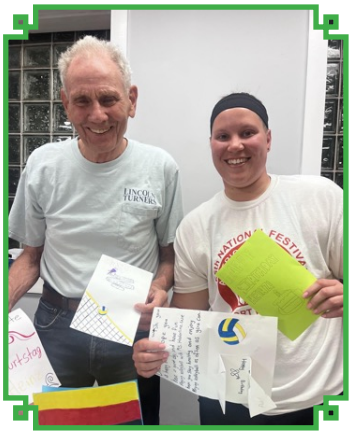
Way back in the last century a young man named Heinz arrived in the USA from Germany. The first things he did were sign up for English classes at Lakeview High School and join the Turn Verein Lincoln of Lake View, ILL (currently Chicago, IL).

Leaping forward to June 22, 2026 at Lincoln Turners Volleyball Heinz celebrated his 88th birthday by going undefeated for the evening.

Renee surprised Heinz by having her Lakeveiw High School freshman health class craft birthday cards (in German, Spanish, and English) for the birthday boy.

The celebrations continued with a feast, dice and song. Happy Birthday Heinz Brodersen






CONGRATULATIONS
2026 SCHOLARSHIP AWARD RECIPIENTS



Stephanie (Sam) Miller
ILD Aurora



Reagan Payne
ILD Aurora



Avery Adele Kurtz
UMWD Eastside



Mason Miesner
CSD Louisville

IN MEMORIAM

Adolph & Margaret Zink – NY Turn Verein

Donors:
George Zink

Holger & Annette Asmus – Long Island Turners & NY Turn Verein

Jim & Gail Goetz

FOR THE GOOD & WELFARE

Donors:
Clinton Turn Verein

***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

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 to be found on the American Turners website. https://amturners.org under heading “Grants & Scholarships”.

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 Tuners Scholarship Fund

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.

AMERICAN TURNERS OFFERINGS (CONT.)

Jahn Educational Fund

1. Award monetary prizes to American Turner Societies reporting the largest proportionate gains in membership.

2. Provide financial assistance to American Turner Societies for necessary restoration and/or capital improvements to their facilities.

3. Recognize members whose missionary activities result in the formation of new American Turner Societies.

CLEST Fund Loan Program

Due to the generous donation of the Cleveland East Turner Society, American Turners has created a new CLEST Loan Fund Program! This new fund will be used specifically to help our member societies with repairs, renovations, and improvements to their buildings. The maximum loan amount is $25,000 with the terms of the loan to be negotiated prior to approval. A society applying for a loan must provide collateral up to or exceeding the amount of the loan.

OBITUARY

Long Island Turners



LEO IOANNA JULY 24, 1942 – SEPT. 24, 2026

Leo Ioanna, 84, passed away peacefully at his home in Port Washington on September 24th, surrounded by his family. Leo was born in 1942 in Nusco, Italy, and came to America when he was 13 with his mother and father. He was one of eight children and remained very close with his brothers and sister throughout their lives, he was the last surviving sibling.

Leo graduated from Paul D. Schreiber High School in 1961 and enlisted in the United States Air Force, where he served as an aircraft mechanic during the Vietnam War. He loved telling stories about the planes he worked on, the places they took him, and his time stationed in Charleston, South Carolina.

Leo was introduced to Ida, who was in Italy. A mutual friend who had come to the United States put the two of them in touch, and for a year, Leo and Ida got to know one another through letters sent back and forth across the ocean. In January 1972, Leo traveled to Italy to meet her in person. Two months later, they were married in Pompeii. They returned together to Port Washington, where they built their home and their family. Ida passed away in 2009.

Leo became a member of the L.I. Turners in 2010 when he joined the Bowling League. He attended and participated in the Bowling Nationals from 2010 through 2024, until he was no longer able to do so due to his health.

He also served on the society's Board of Officers for several years as a Trustee. His friendly smile and contributions were always welcome.

From 2010 until 2017, he joined L.I. Turner members, along with ATNY members, participated in weekly volleyball games at ATNY's facility in the Bronx, which was usually followed by some racquetball. He also enjoyed playing golf and softball.

Leo is survived by his three children and his six grandchildren, and loving companion, Agnes.

GETTING READY FOR THE 2027 NATIONAL TURNFEST IN NEW ULM

A practical guide for Turner families, competitors, and supporters

The 2027 National Turnfest will bring Turner members from across the country to New Ulm, Minnesota, for competition, fellowship, and celebration. Whether you plan to compete, volunteer, cheer from the sidelines, or reconnect with longtime friends, preparing early will help you enjoy the full experience.

Begin by watching official American Turners and host-society communications for confirmed dates, registration instructions, fees, lodging information, and the final schedule. The current National Turnfest rules cover registration, competitor requirements, uniforms, the parade, field regulations, and awards. They also describe activities that may include cultural, gymnastics, track and field, swimming and diving, volleyball, pickleball and many more.

Prepare for Your Events

Competitors should review the 2027 rulebook and supplemental handbook with their coaches. Confirm eligibility, age division, routines, equipment, uniforms, music, and required roster forms. Because requirements vary by event, do not rely on information from previous Turnfests. Practice under competition conditions, label personal equipment, and bring backup copies of music when needed. Cultural participants must complete both the new electronic cultural registration and the festival registration to be entered in cultural events.

Enjoy the Turner Experience

Turnfest is more than a series of contests. Plan to participate in the parade, ceremonies, social gatherings, and opportunities to meet members of other societies. New Ulm's German heritage makes it an especially fitting setting for Turner fellowship, so leave room in the schedule to explore the community, visit local attractions, and support the hosts and volunteers.

Above all, stay flexible. Schedules, venues, and transportation details may change as plans are finalized. Check official updates before leaving home and again after arrival. With thoughtful preparation—and a spirit of friendship, the 2027 National Turnfest can be a safe, memorable, and rewarding experience for Turners of every age.









LATIN AMERICAN BASEBALL CLASSIC 2026

Aurora Turner member John Seppelfrick is proud to announce that his son, Grant Seppelfrick has been chosen to play on the USA team in the Latin American Baseball Classics in the Dominican Republic taking place August 9 – August 14, 2026. He will be in the 16-year-old age group playing against teams from Canada, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Puerto Rico, and Venezuela. It is a great honor for him to be able to represent the United States of America.



CLASS OF 2028 C RHP

Grant
SEPPELFRICK
Oswego East (HS) · IL
5' 10" · 195LBS
R/R · 16yr 2mo
Travel Team: Canes Illinois

RANKINGS

@GRANTSEPPY @GRANTSEPPY

2028 NATIONAL	2028 STATE
Rankings available to Premium Subscriber	Rankings available to Premium Subscriber
LOG IN SUBSCRIBE TO PREPBSL PLUS	LOG IN SUBSCRIBE TO PREPBSL PLUS

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NATIONAL CALENDAR

2027

National Bowling-Rochester Turners
April 3 & 4 and 10 & 11

National Golf-Monaca Turners
July 7 to 9

American Turner National Festiva l- New Ulm
July 27-31

National Pickleball - TBD