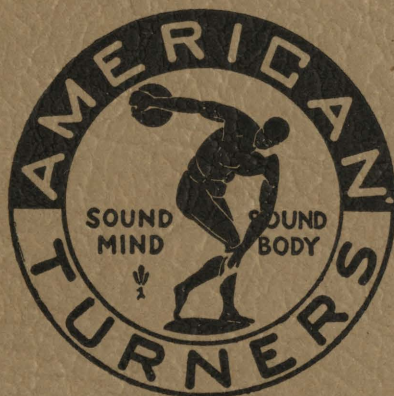


*Official Minutes of the*  
**FORTIETH CONVENTION**  
*of the*



Held at  
**Johnstown Turnverein**  
**Johnstown, Pa.**

*June 29th, 1944 to July 1st, 1944*

# Opening Ceremonies

THURSDAY EVENING — JUNE 29, 1944

Following an excellent short concert given by Boyer Allen's Orchestra, the Fortieth National Convention of the American Turners was called to order at 9:45 P. M., in the gymnasium of the Johnstown Turnverein, by George H. Nenstiel, who asked that the official ceremonies be opened by singing of the first verse of America. Turner Nenstiel, who was Chairman of the Johnstown Convention Committee, then officially welcomed the delegates and assured the delegates that everything possible would be done to facilitate the work of the Convention.

Turner Nenstiel then introduced Charles J. Wild, President of the Johnstown Turnverein, who added a sincere welcome on behalf of the Johnstown Turners.

Arthur L. Schwing, Mayor of the City of Johnstown, and a Turner, then cordially welcomed the delegates on behalf of the citizens of Johnstown, and expressed the hope that the delegates and friends would enjoy themselves to the fullest possible extent during their stay.

The Harmonie Singing Society, Hans Roemer, Director, then presented two choral numbers which were very much appreciated.

National President, Judge Carl M. Weideman, was then presented to the Convention. Turner Weideman thanked the Johnstown Turners and the Mayor of Johnstown for the cordial welcome extended to the visitors. He then briefly reviewed the progress made in certain of the districts during the past two years, and laid particular stress upon the distinct character of the Turner organization, which is the provision of physical development, mental development and social advantages for all the members of the family. Turner Weideman further urged all the Turners to cooperate in carrying out the mission for which the Turner cause was established, and stressed the fact that progress in the Turner organization is a problem to be solved by all of the members of the American Turners, and not only the National Executive Committee. Turner Weideman recited many of the contributions of the Turners to American history, and urged all Turners to so develop their organizations that they will all be proud to be a Turner.

Following Turner Weideman's stirring talk, the Germania Quartette Club, Theodor Koerner, Director, rendered two splendid choral numbers and an encore, after which Mrs. Alice Moore, President of the National Ladies Auxiliary of the American Turners, briefly outlined the program for the ladies' sessions and introduced those officers of the National Ladies Auxiliary who were present.

President Weideman then announced that he had appointed the following Turners to serve as a Committee on Credentials, and asked that their report be ready for submission to the convention Friday morning: William Voelker, Chairman; Herman Eisele, Secretary; Edward L. Hohenstein, Edward Groth, Bob Stahl, Eric Kempcke, Robert V. Hall, John A. Trockels, Archie H. Wilson (ex officio).

The ceremonies ended with the singing of the first verse of the Star Spangled Banner.

## FIRST OFFICIAL SESSION OF THE CONVENTION

JUNE 30, 1944

This session was called to order in the gymnasium of the Johnstown Turners at 10:00 A. M. by President Weideman, who immediately called for the report of the Committee on Credentials. This report was submitted by the Secretary of the Credentials Committee as follows:

### REPORT OF THE CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE

To the 40th Convention of the American Turners:  
Greetings:

We hereby submit our report including data covering the Federal Votes, attendance and names of delegates and alternates of the several districts.

The total number of Districts in the American Turners is 18.

The total number of Federal Votes in the American Turners is 212.

The total number of Districts represented is 13. The total number of Federal Votes represented at the convention is 207. The number of delegates present as indicated in the Credentials is 98 representing 207 Federal votes.

In accordance with the above, the number of votes to which the Districts are entitled at this Convention and the delegates and alternates listed on the credentials received and present at the Convention are as follows:

District	Votes	Delegates
New York .....	8	3
Central States .....	18	4
New England .....	17	5
Illinois .....	16	6
St. Louis.....	11	1
Lake Erie .....	30	20
Western New York .....	15	4
Middle Atlantic .....	8	1
Wisconsin .....	6	3
Pittsburgh .....	36	31
New Jersey .....	6	2
Kansas-Missouri .....	1	0
South Central .....	1	1
Minnesota .....	1	0
Upper Mississippi .....	35	17
North Pacific .....	1	0
Middle Pacific .....	1	0
Southern California .....	1	0
Totals .....	212	98



The names of the delegates and alternates present and registered from the Districts are as follows:

**NEW YORK:**

Louis Cullman	Martin Nolde	Bob Stahl
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**CENTRAL STATES:**

Fred Olt	Edward Groth Waldemar Eickhoff	Dr. K. J. Koegel
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**NEW ENGLAND:**

Julius O. Laffert	Oscar Klopfer	William Franke
Helmut H. Kopp	Emil Hallbauer	

**ILLINOIS:**

L. O. Greiner	W. T. Meisner	Theo. Gross
Eric Kempcke	Jos. J. Strohmeyer	A. Rayner

**ST. LOUIS:**

Edward L. Hohenstein

**LAKE ERIE:**

Jos. J. Zimmermann	A. J. Burnett	Bruno Uhl
Wm. J. Uttley	Geo. M. Heeschen	George Foerster
Jack Nickels	Henry Ihsen	Alvin M. Steinke
John Kovats	Joseph Shawl	Helmuth Hohman
Carl F. Hein	Fred Folberth	Julius Boenisch
George Huhn	John Kipp	Frank E. Eiler
Herman Eisele	Marshall Troester	

**WESTERN NEW YORK:**

Robt. V. Hall	Oliver Pasch	John M. Stocker
	John A. Trockels	

**MIDDLE ATLANTIC:**

Richard G. Nack

**WISCONSIN:**

Anthony J. King	Fred L. Bartels	William Beutel
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**PITTSBURGH:**

Hans Oeschle	Paul Braeuer	Fred Paterline
A. H. Niehaus	Oscar N. Simmen	Wm. J. Kramer
Chas. Geber	Wm. Voelker	Wm. Zell
Carl Steinkopf	Harry Dippold	Wm. Rosengarth
Fritz John	Richard Lucht	J. T. Whitla
Henry Schledt	Geo. Nenstiel	Web. Seigh
Harry Shook	Dan Matthes	Richard Turnt
Henry Miksch	Henry Hild	Ernest Spickerman
Clifford Anderson	V. Hall	Ira Rhodes
Ernest Reigel	Lorenz Ruhl	Eric Frosberg
	George Seibel	

**NEW JERSEY:**

Fred Scheerle	Conrad Daum
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#### KANSAS-MISSOURI:

No Delegates Present.

#### SOUTH CENTRAL:

Albert Waller

#### MINNESOTA:

No Delegates Present.

#### UPPER MISSISSIPPI:

Vern Thorngren

Al Lehne

Harry J. Best

Harry Erickson

Art Kneberg

Fritz Degan

Ray Huth

Frank Jenkins

Bernard Wahe

Lester Swanson

George Hamilton

Fred R. Largent

George Frick

Henry J. Schiget

Virginia Klier

Dave Henschen

Fred Biffano

#### MIDDLE PACIFIC:

No Delegates Present.

#### NORTH PACIFIC:

No Delegates Present.

#### SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA:

No Delegates Present.

In addition to the above delegates and alternates, the following members of the National Executive Committee are present:

Carl M. Weidman

Archie H. Wilson

Wm. M. Ludwig

#### *Regional Members Present:*

Julius A. Laffert

Edward Groth

Louis O. Greiner

E. L. Hohenstein

Computation of the votes to which the several Districts were entitled was based on the number of membership cards issued and paid to the National Executive Committee for the year preceding the Convention plus the number of members of Turner Societies in the various services of the United States directly prosecuting the war, plus the number of 50 year honorary members in the several Districts, all in accordance with Paragraph 54 of the Statutes as amended at the 39th Convention of the American Turners and in accordance with Paragraph 18 of the Report of the Committee on National Affairs adopted at the 39th Convention of the American Turners. The actual data upon which the calculations were based were up-to-date reports submitted to the Credentials Committee of

National Secretary Emil Pletz and National Treasurer Archie H. Wilson listing the three separate classes of members for each society in each District.

Respectfully submitted, with Turner Greetings,

William Voelker, Chairman

Herman Eisele, Secretary

Edward L. Hohenstein

Edward Groth

Bob Stahl

Eric Kempcke

Robert V. Hall

John A. Trockels

Archie H. Wilson

Ex Officio

(During the submitting of the above report a few minor alterations were made in respect to matters regarding which the Credentials Committee had no information during its sessions, these changes being embodied in the report as printed above.)

A motion was then made and seconded that the report of the Credentials Committee, as revised, be adopted. This motion was carried.

President Weideman then directed that the next order of business would be the election of a permanent chairman of the convention, whereupon Louis Cullman of the New York District placed in nomination the name of Walter T. Meisner of the Illinois District. This nomination was in succession seconded by Turner L. O. Greiner of the Illinois District, Bruno Uhl of the Lake Erie District and Richard Turnt of the Pittsburgh District. A motion was then made that the nominations be closed and Turner Meisner was declared elected permanent chairman of the convention.

At this point President Weideman announced that Albert Waller, a delegate from the Chattanooga Turnverein, comprising the South Central District, was in attendance at the convention and he asked Turner Waller to briefly speak to the convention. Turner Waller told the convention of the facilities of the Chattanooga Turnverein and of their plans, which were very ambitious and which made a very excellent impression on the convention.

President Weideman then exhibited a framed honor roll of the survivors of the 20th Turner Infantry Regiment of the Civil War from New York City which was donated by Turner Louis Cullmann of the New York District and which will be preserved in the archives of the American Turners.

President Weideman then turned the gavel over to Turner Meisner, who thanked the convention cordially for the courtesy extended and

stated that he would conduct the proceedings of the convention impartially and asked for the indulgence of the delegates and their full cooperation to the end that the proceedings may be concluded expeditiously.

At the suggestion of Chairman Meisner, Richard Turnt of the Pittsburgh District made a motion that the delegates stand in silence in respect to our Turners in the military service who are fighting for the preservation of those principles for which the American Turners fought and stand. After the intent of this motion had been carried out, Chairman Meisner asked Turner Voelker to lead the delegates in the singing of the first verse of the Star Spangled Banner.

Chairman Meisner then directed that the next order of business would be the election of a permanent Vice Chairman of the convention, in response to which Joseph J. Zimmermann of the Lake Erie District presented the name of William Voelker, of the Pittsburg District. This nomination was seconded by several delegates, whereupon, the nominations were closed and Turner Voelker was elected permanent Vice Chairman of the convention, by acclamation.

The Chairman then asked for nominations for permanent Secretary of the convention, in response to which Herman Eisele, of the Lake Erie District, was nominated, and, there being no further nominations, was declared elected permanent Secretary of the Convention.

The Chairman then asked for nominations for Assistant Secretary of the convention, whereupon Turner Fred Olt of the Central States District was nominated and unanimously elected.

The Chairman then suggested that nominations for Honorary Chairman would be in order, whereupon Turner George Seibel, Turner Fritz John and Turner Richard Turnt were nominated in succession. Upon motion duly made and carried, these three veteran Turners were elected Honorary Chairmen of the convention.

The Chairman then suggested that the convention adopt rules with reference to the limitation of debate, whereupon a motion was made and seconded, providing that:

"Delegates be permitted to speak for not more than three minutes at any one time, and no delegate be permitted to speak more than twice on the same subject except by permission of the convention, and that these regulations shall not apply to delegates submitting reports, who may speak as often as occasion requires to answer questions and may also have the floor after debate is closed."  
After some debate, this motion was carried.

At this point, Chairman Meisner stated that the convention was ready to receive the annual message of President Weideman, which he submitted from a prepared document, as follows:



## PRESIDENTS MESSAGE TO JOHNSTOWN CONVENTION

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I extend Turner greetings to you that are here to consider matters of vital importance to our Turner Movement and also matters which we believe will make for a better America.

Many things have happened since we last met at Moline, Illinois, in 1942. America has been placed on a full war-time basis and our Army has been increased to over eleven million men and women. American production and agriculture has been put in high speed so that we are not only feeding and arming ourselves, but millions of people in all parts of the world. American citizens are, by government edict, made a part of the plan through paying their taxes to the government and through their participation in the industrial and agricultural life of Americans helping to spread democracy throughout the world.

Nearly a hundred years ago in 1850, the Turners in America pledged themselves and this Turner organization to do the very thing the blood of our country is being spent for now. Two years ago, over seven hundred of our members were in the Armed Forces of the Government. On June 1st, 1944, 2598 dues-paying members of our organization had received Turner Service Membership Cards showing that they were members in good standing actively engaged in the participation of this war. This number does not include the hundreds of sons and daughters of Turners, who themselves were not active members of the Turner Societies.

In the past year, our American Turner Red Cross Committee has purchased three canteen wagons which were placed in various parts of the country by the American Red Cross, or used to feed our soldiers at various army posts in the country. While our

collections were not as great as we anticipated, we appreciate the tremendous effort made by some of the societies and districts to further the cause and good will of Turnerism among our Armed Forces, and regret that some of our societies apparently did not appreciate the importance of this Turner Red Cross Campaign, and did not do as much as they should have. However, these societies were probably contributing to their local Red Cross Chapter, and after all, the money all goes toward the same purpose.

The importance of physical fitness has been strengthened by the government in its training of our youth inducted into the Army. We do not believe that as yet, persons in the Armed Forces of the United States realize the tremendous importance of physical fitness for their own benefit and also for the benefit of the nation.

Today the American Turners work to the future. Your National Executive Committee has been seriously considering ways and means in which our strength could be increased. It might be well at this time to review some of the things that have been accomplished or happened since the present National Executive Committee was elected to control in 1937. We believe many things have happened which have resulted in our movement maintaining its strength during the present war.

During and shortly after the last war, the Turner Movement lost many of its members because of the effects of unintelligent propaganda toward the millions of people of German descent who lived in America and were mostly native born citizens and which included many naturalized citizens. Fortunately, during this present war,

our President, Franklin D. Roosevelt, and the Department of Justice and the Federal Bureau of Investigation have used more intelligent methods in ferreting those who were disloyal to America, and have not bothered people who exhibit their loyalty to our country. We are thankful and appreciate the fact that our Government of the United States did nothing to hinder or hurt the Turner Movement in America. The National Executive Committee has been glad to cooperate with the Government during the past two years in matters that had some connection with the cause that we are all fighting for. We believe it was a good thing to change our name to American Turners, and that many of our societies have tried to change their names generally so that each would be known as the Turner Society in its respective district. To be a Turner, one need only to be an American citizen of good character.

The change in the method of issuing membership cards, we believe, has resulted in our local members realizing that they are members of our national organization. The method of issuing the membership cards has resulted in erasing from our records the enormous amount of delinquent dues that were constantly carried on our books.

We believe that the absorption of the Turners Normal College, "The Normal College of the American Gymnastic Union," by the University of Indiana enabled the National Executive Committee to balance its books and helped us to show the present cash balance that we do. We were not in a position to privately support and maintain our Normal College, which was the oldest of its kind in America, in competition with those schools which were highly endowed or supported by public moneys. The National Executive Committee by your di-

rection is still sending scholarship students to the University of Indiana who are enrolled in our college, and we believe that your National Executive Committee should keep control of all of its funds and that this convention should not allot any of our funds for the use of scholarships to the control of any other board or group of members. We believe the National Executive Committee is the proper place to which your money should be kept in custody.

When the National Executive Committee was directed to act as such by order of the Los Angeles Convention, there was approximately \$20,000 in debts on our books. We had practically no cash to operate with. Since that time we have cleaned up every debt and obligation that the Turners owed and today have in liquid assets, approximately \$13,000.

In spite of the war, we have today, 17,700 dues-paying family members, 503 fifty-year honorary life members, 2,815 Turner members in Service, making a total of 21,028. While we are on the subject of membership, we wish to congratulate the Pittsburgh District for showing the largest membership gain since our last convention. Today, they comprise our largest district. We wish to congratulate the Moline Turners for the splendid job they have done in building up a strong Turners Society which definitely influences the community which it is in for the better. In passing, it might be well to say that while Moline has the largest Turner Society, it has also acquired a national reputation for better handling its Juvenile problems than any other community or city in America. We believe that the large Turner membership has a great influence on this problem.

On January 22nd, and 23rd, 1944, a round-table discussion was held at Detroit, Michigan, at which were pres-

ent all of our regional members and many of our District Officers and the local leaders of many societies. This meeting was called by the National Executive Committee to seek the instructions and guidance of our leaders whom we could assemble at that time, and to inquire as to whether this convention should be held. It was the unanimous opinion of those Turners present that it was important that we have a conference this year and that is why we are in Johnstown. They thought that the termination of the war would be brought about within the next year or two, at least in some areas, and that the Turner movement should be in a position to accept the returning soldiers in our ranks as fellow Turner members in order to enable them to continue and maintain a sound mind and strong body in the same manner as impressed upon them when they were inducted into the Armed Forces.

These members also discussed the present increase in juvenile delinquency in America, and thought that one of the best methods of stopping this increase would be the growth of the Turner organization, knowing full well, that we, in our Turner Societies, have no juvenile delinquents, and none of the members present at the conference could remember when any of our young Turners had ever been subject to the control of our Juvenile Courts. If the Juvenile Courts or Juvenile Penitentiaries in America depended on Turners for their support, they would close tomorrow. We believe that this exceptional record among our members was made possible by the facilities and ideals of our organization, which always has and always will recognize the family as the social group around which to build our society. They realize that as long as we maintain our present plan of operation of throwing our halls open at all times to our

members, their wives and their children, that we have a strong weapon for promoting good in our country.

For the past few years our National Executive Committee has made public the minutes of our National Executive Committee meetings and have printed the financial report from time to time in the "American Turner Topics." We have done this deliberately so that all of our members could know what was happening in the National Executive Committee. We had no secrets and believed that if our membership at large knew some of the problems and were somewhat familiar with our plans, they could better understand our actions. We believe that the National Executive Committee should give some thought toward strengthening our national organization and our method of control over societies that have grown weak and have lost their power and ambition to grow. We wonder what you think about a plan of incorporating our national organization and strengthening and broadening our power in order to progress toward a stronger and more powerful organization.

Up to the out-break of the war, cultural activities were not what they should have been and at present, they are not developing. Prior to the war, the Lake Erie District had made part of its program, an "Annual Cultural Activities Day." It fulfilled the same purpose in our cultural and educational endeavors that our national tournament filled in the developing of a sound body. At these "Annual Cultural Days" there were hobby exhibits and competition among our members for excellence in needlework, woodwork, mechanical sciences, photography, painting and so forth. There was also competition in various forms of singing and elocution and public speaking. We believe that this form of cultural activity, which was very popular and drew hundreds of peo-



cover the best things to do to promote Turnerism.

We believe that we should have a stenographer or assistant secretary in our office. We believe that if the dollar per capita tax, which should be collected from your local members over and above your local dues and collected at the start of each year, is not granted by this conference for the use of the National Executive Committee and if your loyalty to Turnerism is not worth fifty cents more per year, exceedingly difficult to obtain in the future officers and leaders to carry on under such discouraging conditions. Our National Executive Committee cannot do a good job with our present income. We have been saving all of our funds for the past few years until such a time as we thought we had sufficient moneys together with our proposed increase in per capita tax to try out an honest-to-goodness method in rebuilding the Turner Movement. We may fail, but we are willing to try to rebuild our fences. If we fail and you condemn, we are willing to take it. The only person who was never criticized was the person who had never tried, and the only person who ever failed, was that person who had tried to do something. We want to try to rebuild our movement and if you do not see fit to let us try by the increase in per capita tax, then we beg that you relieve us of the responsibility of the stewardship of our organization.

We believe that you should determine whether or not we should have a separate youth committee in our national set-up, or organize a movement of its own. Some members have said that the set-up or our gymnastics classes in our organization was in itself a youth movement and around which our youth movement should build in order to do things. During the past year our Youth Committee has been practically inactive.

ple to it, should be developed by all of the districts as soon as our war time economy will permit, and believe that with a broader and more educational program, our movement as a whole would be benefited. Incidentally, our youth were also encouraged to submit entries in competition with each other. Remember, we must keep our youth interested, or our organization will sink back to the depths of decadence of several years past.

Out of our round table discussion came the thought that now is the time to determine whether we wanted to try to rebuild to our former strength or to allow our organization to continue as is, and eventually disintegrate.

The round table conference thought and passed a resolution to the effect that our national per capita tax should be increased. Your National Executive Committee thinks it should be increased and believes that it must be increased in order for us to grow. We believe that the lease increase that we could recommend is an increase to one dollar per year per capita. Many members will wonder why we need an increase in per capita tax when we have a cash balance of \$13,000. It is for this reason: the weakness of our organization has been in the lack of a permanent executive and field secretary. We are unwilling to put this plan into effect unless we have an increase of per capita tax so that this plan could be given at least a four-year tryout. In forty years, little constructive has been done in the way of a conscious attempt to build our membership because the cost was too high. We believe it is necessary to have a secretary on duty at all times, giving his full time to Turner business. His various duties will have to be discovered after a so-called "trial and error method." We will have to try many plans and undoubtedly will make some mistakes before we dis-

Even if our per capita tax is raised, I do not promise that the "Turner Topics" would be sent to all of our members. We might ask those members who are willing, to subscribe to "Turner Topics" as to some time as the growth in our membership would allow the National Committee to include "Turner Topics" to be sent to you out of the per capita tax collected.

The limitations in our expenditures for maintaining our office has been set forth in paragraph 32 of our Principles and Statutes of the American Turners as published in 1941, should be cancelled.

The resolution passed by the round table discussion recommending an increase in the per capita tax is here for your determination.

The assistance that the National Executive Committee has received from the Jahn Fund in the past few years has enabled the National Executive Committee to continue the publishing of "American Turner Topics" and the administration of that fund by its present Board of Trustees is commended.

I want to thank the officers of all our local societies and districts and the regional members of the National Executive Committee for the help given the National Committee during the past two years.

While I believe the future of the Turner Movement and the Government of the United States are tied up together, the most important matter before us today, more important than the saving of the Turner movement itself, is the saving of our country. I

urge you to do more than your share in buying bonds. I also urge upon you and ask each society to make a real effort, both individually and as a society, to do what you can to conserve our national assets and to save those things that are so necessary to help in the prosecution of the war. We should pledge ourselves never to waste any food and to eat all the food that is placed before us at our table and not to take such quantities of food that result in waste. We should promise not to buy more food in public restaurants than we need to consume for a normal healthful diet. We should promise ourselves to conserve gasoline and rubber; to save waste paper and scrap, and to help, finally, in all things in our national economy that will tend to build up the strength and resources of America and to prevent the waste and destruction of other resources so that this war may be speedily brought to an end. That men and women may live in quiet and in harmony with all the others so that all peoples, no matter what their race, color, creed, religion or geographical location may be, may be helped to a better and fuller understanding of a normal and reasonable free existence and manner of living.

I want to thank our National Treasurer, Arthur Wilson, and our National Secretary, Emil Pletz, for the many jobs they have taken off of my shoulders and the wonderful assistance to our National Executive Committee.

With Turner greetings, I am

—CARL M. WEIDEMAN,  
National President

At the conclusion of the President's Annual Message, which was enthusiastically received, a motion was made and carried to express the thanks of the convention to Turner Weideman for this message and instructing the Secretary of the convention to embody this address in the proceedings of the convention.

President Weideman then presented the annual report of the Secretary and Treasurer of the American Turners, embodied First: in the Eight page printed 93rd and 94th Annual Report of the National Execu-

tive Committee, and Second: in the five mimeographed pages headed "Report on Per Capita Tax Collected to 5-31-44", and Third: in a one page mimeographed sheet, entitled "Statement of Receipts and Disbursements—January 1 to May 31, 1944". Upon motion duly made and carried, these reports were ordered accepted by the convention, subject to the approval of the Finance Committee of the convention.

(Convention Secretary's Note: The reports referred to in the preceding paragraph are not reproduced in these proceedings as the first item is available in printed form at National Headquarters and the second and third items cover periods beyond the end of the Fiscal year reviewed by this convention which terminates Dec. 31, 1943. Copies of the mimeographed second and third items may, however, be obtained in limited quantity from National Headquarters.)

After submission of these reports, a motion was duly made, seconded and carried that the Chairman appoint a Committee to extend the felicitations and good wishes from this convention to the Thirteenth Biennial Convention of the Ladies Auxiliary of the American Turners, meeting simultaneously at the Forty et Eight Home at Johnstown, Pa.

Pursuant to this motion the Chairman appointed Vice Chairman William Voelker, Honorary Chairman, and Honorary Chairmen George Seibel, Richard Turnt, and Fritz John to extend our greetings to the Convention of the Ladies Auxiliary.

The Chairman then asked for the report of that portion of the Credentials Committee, listing the assignments of the delegates to the several committees. This report was submitted by the Secretary of the committee as follows:

### **REPORT OF CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE ON COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS**

To the 40th Convention of the American Turners  
Greetings:

This Committee has prepared a list of assignments of the Delegates to the various Committees of the Convention, compiled from the preferences indicated on the credentials submitted by the District officers, these assignments being as follows:

#### **COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL AFFAIRS:**

Louis Cullmann  
Fred Largent  
A. J. Burnett  
Frank Jenkins  
Robt. V. Hall  
Geo. Seibel  
Paul Braeuer  
E. Spickermann  
Marshall Troester  
E. L. Hohenstein  
Albert Waller  
Edw. Groth  
Les Swanson  
Jack Nickels

Lorenz Ruhl  
Fred Bartels  
A. H. Niehaus  
Henry Miksch  
Walter T. Meisner  
H. Erickson  
R. G. Nack  
J. J. Zimmermann  
Richard Turnt  
H. H. Kopp  
Julius Laffert  
Ray Huth  
Fred Folberth  
Wm. Voelker  
Louis Greiner

Wm. J. Kramer  
Ira Rhodes  
Alvin Steinke  
C. M. Weideman,  
Ex Officio  
J. J. Strohmeier  
Waldemar Eickhoff  
Conrad Daum  
Geo. Frick  
Harry Best  
Theo. Gross  
Frank Eiler  
Anthony King  
Fritz John  
Henry Schledt



#### COMMITTEE ON PHYSICAL EDUCATION:

Theo. Gross	Chas. Geber	Helmuth Hohman
Carl F. Hein	Al Lehne	Dave Henschen
Virginia Klier	John Trockels	Bob Stahl
Oscar Simmen	Henry Schiget	Web Seigh
Dr. K. J. Koegel	Harry Dippold	Hans Oechsle
Bruno Uhl	Fred Biffano	Geo. M. Heeschen
		J. T. Whitla

#### COMMITTEE ON SCHOLARSHIPS FOR NORMAL COLLEGE OF A. G. U. OF INDIANA UNIVERSITY (Combined with Committee on Physical Education):

John M. Stocker	Eric Frosberg	Richard Turnt
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#### COMMITTEE ON YOUTH MOVEMENT (Combined with Committee on Physical Education):

William J. Uttley	John Kovats	V. Hall
Richard Lucht	Joseph Shawl	

#### COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL PUBLICATION AND PUBLICITY:

Martin Nolde	F. Paterline	Wm. Ludwig,
Geo. Hamilton	Wm. Franke	Ex Officio
Clifford Anderson	Wm. Rosengarth	Bernard Wahe
Fred Olt	John Trockels	

#### COMMITTEE ON CULTURAL EDUCATION:

Jos. J. Strohmeier	Wm. Beutel	Wm. Zell
George Nenstiel	Harry Shook	Ernest Reigel
Fritz Degan	Oscar Klopfer	Verne Thorngreen
George Foerster	Julius Boenisch	

#### FINANCE COMMITTEE:

Edw. L. Hohenstein	Oliver C. Pasch	Carl Steinkopf
Al Rayner	Arthur Kneberg	Archie H. Wilson,
Henry Hild	E. Hallbauer	Ex Officio
Henry Ihnen	George Huhn	

#### COMMITTEE ON PLATFORM, STATUTES AND GRIEVANCES:

Martin Nolde	John Kipp	Eric Kempcke
William Voelker	Dan Matthes	

Respectfully submitted with Turner Greetings,

Wm. Voelker, Chairman  
Herman Eisele, Secretary  
Edward L. Hohenstein  
Edward Groth  
Bob Stahl  
Eric Kempcke  
John A. Trockels  
Archie H. Wilson, Ex Officio

During the submission of the report, the convention, by motion duly made and carried, ordered that the membership of the Committee on Scholarship for Normal College of A. G. U. of Indiana University, and the membership of the Committee on Youth Movement be combined with the membership of the Committee on Physical Education, and that all matters properly coming before these committees be referred to the Committee on Physical Education.

The above report is printed to conform to these changes directed by the convention and to other minor changes in committee assignments requested by the delegates and approved by the Credentials Committee.

Upon motion made, seconded and carried, this report was adopted by the convention.

The Chairman then asked that all resolutions intended to be referred to committees be brought to the convention officers, but entertained a motion which was carried, providing that resolutions may be presented during the session of the committees by delegates in person.

The Secretary of the convention then announced the procedure to be followed in the committees in order to expedite the proceedings and announced the place of meeting of the committees.

The Chairman then asked for a motion, directing the time to which this session of the convention is to adjourn. Upon motion duly made and carried, the convention directed that when the meeting is adjourned, we adjourn to meet at 9:30 A. M. Saturday morning, July 1, 1944.

A motion was then made, seconded and carried that the meeting adjourn to reconvene in accordance with the preceding motion, and the Chairman declared the convention adjourned at 12:27 P. M. (Following the adjournment of the convention the delegates assembled to permit a local photographer to take photographs.)

## **SECOND SESSION**

### **SATURDAY MORNING, JULY 1, 1944**

The Second Session was called to order at 10:10 A. M. by Chairman Meisner who directed that the proceedings be opened with the singing of the first verse of "America", which was led by Turner Wm. Voelker.

The Chairmen then directed that the first order of business would be the reading of the minutes of the preceding session of the Convention, but in accordance with a motion made, seconded and carried, the reading of these minutes was dispensed with.

A committee consisting of Mrs. Herman Eisele of the Cleveland East Side Turners, Mrs. Marie Lehman of Dayton Turners and Mrs. Deters of Northwest Davenport Turners conveyed the sincere greetings to this convention from the 13th National Convention of the Women's Auxiliary of the American Turners, which convention was meeting simultaneously at the 40 and 8 Home at Johnstown. The Committee briefly reviewed the activities of the Ladies Auxiliaries in their own Societies, and called attention to the Scholarship Fund made available by the National Organization of the Auxiliaries. Chairman Meisner cordially thanked the ladies for the courtesies extended to us and for their greetings and good wishes.

The following letter was read from Dr. Carl B. Sputh of the Central States District:

"American Turner Convention  
c/o Johnstown Turn Verein  
Johnstown, Pa.  
Greetings:

I regret more than words can express my inability to attend the national convention which is the first one that I have missed since the one held in Louisville in 1917.

I trust that the deliberations will not only deal with the immediate future but that you will map out a constructive program for years to come.

Although I am unable to be with you, I assure you that I shall be with you in spirit.

With best wishes for a very successful convention, I am, with heartiest greetings to all.

Sincerely yours,  
Carl B. Sputh"

The Assistant Secretary was instructed to acknowledge receipt of this letter and to extend the greetings of this convention to Dr. Sputh.

At this point, the Chairman ordered that the Convention was ready to receive the report of the Committee on National Publication and Publicity which was submitted by Bernard Wahe, Chairman of this Committee as follows:

COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL PUBLICATION AND PUBLICITY  
To the 40th National Convention of the American Turners:

Greetings:

The following members of the committee were present: Martin Nolde, George Hamilton, Clifford Anderson, Fred Paterline, Fred Olt, William Rosengarth, John Trockels, Bernard Wahe and William Franke. William Ludwig, ex officio.

1. We, the Committee recommend that the National Executive Committee once a year distribute sufficient copies of an issue of Turner Topics to each society to be mailed to their members for promotional purposes. All societies should be requested to send in news items and pictures for this issue.

2. We recommend that the convention express their appreciation for the money appropriated from the Jahn Fund for the purpose of stimulating cultural and mental activities in our Turner Societies through the medium of American Turner Topics, as set forth in the Declaration of Trust of this Fund.

3. We, the Committee recommend the National Executive Committee and the Editorial Staff of the American Turner Topics, be complimented on their efforts during the past year in bringing out the Turner Topics and further that the magazine be continued under the present editorial staff.

4. The present day problems confronting us give particular reason and need for bringing to the attention of members our Fundamental Prin-

ciples. These self-evident truths should be reiterated periodically in our official publication, The American Turner Topics.

5. We urge that each local society appoint a correspondent whose duty it shall be to send to American Turner Topics, such news items concerning his Society as may be of interest to the national membership.

7. On request, cuts of pictures appearing in the National paper *may* be loaned to the various society publications, *the expense incident thereto to be borne by the Society using the service.*

8. We urge each individual society to appoint a publicity chairman whose duty shall be to furnish the newspapers in his area the news items of his society.

9. Attention is again drawn to the publicity given to Turnerism by displaying our official emblem on automobiles, and the wearing of our insignia as emblems of identification. These insignia may be procured from the National Secretary.

10. We commend the action of the National Executive Committee in sending American Turner Topics free to all Turners serving in the armed forces of the United States and in sending additional copies to Army Camp Reading Rooms and we recommend that the National Executive Committee continue this practice.

11. We recommend that all society papers stress the purchase of War Stamps and War Bonds to the full financial capacity of the members of their societies.

12. We recommend that it shall be the duty of the Regional Directors to increase the subscriptions to American Turner Topics by urging all members in their respective territories to subscribe to our official Turner publication, to bring the ultimate result of a 100 per cent subscription all paid for.

13. We recommend that each society take every opportunity to participate in every local, State, or national Celebration, as this will add prestige to their society.

14. We recommend that each society acquire a standard, bearing the emblem of the American Turners.

15. We recommend that the societies use more paid advertising as a means of advertising their society to secure more new members.

16. We recommend that each society consider furnishing each member a copy of the Turner Topics, at the expense of the society.

17. We recommend that there be printed in the Turner Topics the names and addresses of all Turner Societies affiliated with the American Turners for the benefit of the Turner members in the armed services, who may be in camp in the vicinity of a Turner Society and we further recommend that each society forward this list to each of their members in the armed services.

Respectfully submitted,  
Committee on National Publication and Publicity

Bernard Wahe, Chairman  
Fred Paterline, Secretary



Paragraphs 3, 4, 5, 8, 9, 10, 11, 13, 14, 15 and 17 of the above report were acted upon and approved in succession by the Convention without much discussion in most cases. Paragraph 7 was adopted after it had been amended by the Convention as indicated in italics above.

Action on Paragraphs 1, 2, 12 and 16 was deferred by vote of the Convention until after the consideration of the report of the Committee on Cultural Education on the alleged grounds that the subject matter of these paragraphs overlapped with the report of the Cultural Education Committee and, these paragraphs having been approved at a later point in the convention proceedings, are included in the report as above printed in order that all of the actions of the convention relating to National Publication and Publicity may be grouped together.

Note is further made that this report originally contained a Paragraph 6 providing that a National Publicity Chairman be appointed whose duty it shall be to send news releases of events of National Turner interest to the editors of various society papers. This paragraph was defeated after some discussion principally because of the uncertainty of financing this work.

After the consideration of the Report of the Committee on National Publication and Publicity, the Chairman directed that the next report to be considered would be the report of the Committee on Physical Education which report was submitted by Theodore Gross, Chairman of this Committee as follows:

### **REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON PHYSICAL EDUCATION**

To the 40th National Convention of the American Turners:

Greetings:

The following delegates attended the meetings of this Committee: Theo. Gross, Carl F. Hein, Virginia Klier, Oscar Simmen, Web Seigh, Dr. K. J. Koegel, Bruno Uhl, Chas. Geber, Al Lehne, John Trockels, Henry Schiget, Harry Dippold, Fred Bifano, Helmuth Hohman, Dave Henschen, Bob Stahl, Hans Oechsle, Geo. Heeschen, J. T. Whitla.

The Committee was organized with Theodore Gross as Chairman, and Virginia Klier as Secretary and submits the following report:

1. Since the National Turnfest and other National competitions have been eliminated, we recommend to keep up interest for the Ladies and Junior Classes by continuing District Competitive Meets.

2. We recommend that the National Physical Education Committee make a more extended effort to facilitate, through simple forms, the gathering of statistics, pictures, reports and etc., on any and all types of physical competitions held between societies or districts. This is to insure that material will be available for publication in National Sports Publications such as are put out by the National Volleyball and other sports associations.

3. We recommend that a sound program of Physical Education similar to that sponsored by the Turners, be inaugurated *as a National Policy in our educational institutions*, in preference to military training in peace time.

4. We recommend that continued effort be made to conduct Turner Leader Courses.

5. The Committee on the Youth Movement was combined with the Committee on Physical Education with William J. Uttley, Richard Lucht, John Kovats, Joseph Shawl and V. Hall of the Committee present.

We recommend that our societies support and encourage movements formed in local communities to eliminate Juvenile Delinquency now a national problem.

This can be done by offering Counsel, our activities, and our facilities to such organizations as the Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Playgrounds, Youth Clubs and other Social Agencies.

6. The Committee on Scholarships for the Normal College of A.G.U. of Indiana University was combined with the Committee on Physical Education with John M. Stocker, Eric Frosberg, Richard Turnt of the Committee present.

We recommend that the scholarships annually granted in the Normal College of A.G.U. of Indiana University by the American Turners be continued under the full direction and supervision of the National Executive Committee.

7. As a matter of record the Physical Education Committee offer the following ways and means of increasing the membership of the Children's Classes. These proved very satisfactory in different parts of our country.

(A) Cooperation between the local school directors and teachers with the Turner Directors.

(B) Give free tuition *for a period of three months* to neighborhood children who *are invitees of members of Turner Gymnasium Classes*.

(C) Members without children should be permitted to sponsor a child for free tuition.

(D) Change the class period of certain classes to a more suitable time if the class hour conflicts with other outside activities.

(E) Reevaluate methods of teaching to see that variety and interest is maintained.

(F) Sponsor more social affairs and parties in the class schedule.

(G) Give recognition to pupils for obtaining new members such as a Letter or Button.

(H) Encourage contact between Dad's Clubs and Parent and Teacher Associations.

(I) Encourage father and sons nights and mother and daughters days as get-togethers.

(J) Ask the Ladies Auxiliary to help sponsor outings and social affairs for children.

(K) Have an "Open House" for the public.

(L) Invite local youth groups such as the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts to attend a class period.

Respectfully submitted with Turner Greetings,  
Committee of Physical Education,  
Theodore Gross, Chairman  
Virginia Klier, Secretary

Paragraphs 1, 2, 4, 5 and 6 of the above report were adopted by the Convention in succession after little discussion. Paragraphs 3 and 7 were amended by the Convention as indicated in italics above and were then adopted by the Convention.

This report was then adopted as a whole by motion duly made, seconded and carried.

In answer to a question by Ed Groth delegate from the Central States District as to why the report of the Committee on Physical Education contained no paragraph referring to the holding of a National Turnfest, President Weideman on behalf of the National Executive Committee, promised to initiate activity toward the holding of a National Turnfest as quickly as possible after the present emergency.

At this point Chairman Meisner turned the chair over to Vice Chairman Voelker who directed that the Convention would take up the consideration of the report of the Committee on Cultural Education which report was submitted by the Secretary of this Committee, Joseph Strohmeyer, as follows:

## **REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON CULTURAL EDUCATION**

To the 40th National Convention of the American Turners:

Greetings:

The Committee organized by electing Joseph J. Strohmeyer, Chairman, and Julius Boenisch, Secretary.

The following members were also present: George Nenstiel, Fritz Degan, George Foerster, William Beutel, Harry Shook, Oscar Klopfer, William Zell, Ernest Reigel, and Verne Thorngren.

1. Your Committee wishes to stress the point that Cultural Education is the second half of the dual activities of any Turner Society, (physical and educational) and should be developed to the fullest extent in each society of every district. That a fully rounded out program shall include speakers of note, that regular cultural education programs be held at least once a month, under the guidance of a permanent chairman, (who should be on the Executive Board of the Society), which will give favorable publicity to the societies, promote intellectual leadership in the societies, and add prestige in its community as well.

2. On prestige and leadership depends the life, strength and growth of Turner Societies and the Cultural Educational Committee becoming the Training School for future leaders. Only too often has this department been allowed to lie idle and dormant in many societies. The National Chairman on Cultural Education should hold each District Chairman on Cultural Education responsible for regular activity report from each society: giving numbers and types of programs, and stating attendance of each program, showing percentage of increase or decrease of such programs, and attendance from previous annual reports.

3. That each District Committee shall visit the District Societies at least once each season to assist in the building up of a regular Cultural Educational Program. Expenses incurred shall be born by the District Treasury.

5. Since the "Little Theater Movement" is growing, the societies should foster and promote dramatics. For most of the Turner Halls have excellent stage equipment in their auditoriums.

6. The National Committee Chairman on Cultural Education should arrange for singing competitions of: Male, Womens and mixed choruses in connection with the Cultural Activities for the next and succeeding National Tournaments. That entries and prize awards, shall be governed by the rules published by the National Executive Committee of June 1, 1941.

7. That all programs, in Districts and Societies, of Cultural, Educational, and Recreational Activities be designed to make an appeal to members of our teen-age groups, thus helping to counteract the so-called Juvenile Delinquency Problem (which actually does not exist in our Turner Societies).

8. We urge the founding of dramatic sections, public speaking, debating, male, ladies and mixed choruses, junior and children's choral groups, Needlecraft Hobby Groups, Camera and Art Photography Clubs, and Baton Twirling Clubs. Efforts should be made to organize annual Cultural Educational days in the respective districts, and secure publicity space in their society bulletins for these Cultural Activities. That each society keep in close touch with the District Chairman of Cultural Education for the exchange of ideas and experiences.

9. We commend the Trustees of the Jahn Fund for making available a portion of the proceeds of the fund as prizes for Cultural Educational Contests at National Tournaments. These prizes should consist of trophies, plaques, medals, ribbons, or similar awards other than cash, in order that the winners may receive prizes of a distinctive and permanent nature.

10. We recommend that our boys and girls in the Armed Services be remembered frequently by their societies with letters, society bulletins, and gifts whenever possible, and that this practice be continued and encouraged.

11. It is the consensus of this Committee that the present conditions should not interfere with any cultural educational activities within the societies, especially the singing and dramatic sections. And every effort should be made to maintain present groups and foster interest as far as is humanly possible.

12. We suggest that efforts be made to urge the members returning from the Armed Forces to not only rejoin our gymn classes, but to get them interested also in the various cultural activities groups.

Respectfully submitted with Turner Greetings,

Committee on Cultural Education,

Joseph J. Strohmeier, Chairman

Julius Boenisch, Secretary



Paragraphs 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12 of this report were adopted in succession by the Convention after brief discussion. This report originally included a Paragraph 4 covering several recommendations relative to the Turner Topics and National Publication which were deleted by the Convention from this report on the grounds that these recommendations were not proper subject matter for inclusion in a report on Cultural Education and Paragraph 4 is accordingly not included in the above report.

In accordance with a motion duly made and carried, the report of the Committee on Cultural Education of the Convention was adopted as a whole.

At this point, Chairman Meisner returned to the Chair and entertained a motion that the Convention return to the completion of the consideration of the report of the Committee on National Publication and Publicity. This motion having been carried, the Chairman directed that the Convention would return to the consideration of Paragraphs 1, 2, 12 and 16 of the Report of the Committee on National Publication and Publicity.

After having been re-read, Paragraph 1 was adopted by the Convention after considerable discussion and Paragraphs 2 and 12 and 16 were adopted in succession by vote of the Convention. All of the Paragraphs of the Report of the National Publication and Publicity Committee having been considered by the Convention, the motion was made and seconded that this report as amended be adopted as a whole. This motion was carried and the complete report as adopted appears in printed form above at a point in these proceedings shortly subsequent to the opening of the second session of the Convention.

The Chairman then directed that the Convention would hear the Report of the Finance Committee which was submitted by the Chairman, Henry G. Ihsen, of this Committee as follows:

## **REPORT OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE**

To the 40th Convention of the American Turners:

Greetings:

The Finance Committee met with the following members present: Chairman, Henry Ihsen, Secretary, George Huhn, Ed. Hohenstein, Al. Rayner, Henry Hild, E. Hallbauer, Oliver Pasch, Art. Kneberg, Carl Steinkopf and Archie Wilson, ex officio, Treasurer of the National Executive Committee.

1. We recommend that we accept the Treasurer's Report as submitted by F. J. and W. A. Wolf, certified Public Accountants of Detroit, Michigan as of May 23, 1944, for the period to December 31st, 1943, showing a cash balance of \$8,147.02 on deposit in bank plus \$940.00 in U. S. Defense Bonds, making the total of \$9,087.02 plus additional assets as shown in the reports less liabilities as shown therein leaving a net bal-

ance of \$22,871.93. This report we find to be correct to the best of our knowledge and belief.

2. We find the records in excellent condition, we therefore recommend that this convention commend the National Treasurer for his efforts and work in bringing this about.

3. We recommend that the National Executive Committee depreciate to the extent of at least 10 per cent annually the value placed on furniture and fixtures.

4. We recommend that the National Executive Committee charge off as non-collectable the following amounts due to the fact that the Societies owing these amounts are no longer members of the American Turners:

Schiller T. V. Jamaca Plains, Mass., New England Dist.....	\$ 15.00
Hudson City T. V. New Jersey District.....	113.00
Portland T. V. North Pacific District.....	227.46
Sacramento T. V., Pacific District.....	176.50
Spartan Club T. V., Pacific District.....	25.00
San Francisco T. V., Pacific District.....	25.00
Rock Springs T. V., St. Louis District.....	186.78
Utica T. V., Western New York District.....	22.50
Total .....	\$791.24

Respectfully submitted,

Henry G. Ihsen, Chairman

George L. Huhn, Secretary

The above report was discussed and adopted by paragraphs by the Convention and was then subsequently adopted as a whole.

Convention Secretary's note: The Treasurer's report as submitted by F. J. and W. A. Wolf referred to in Paragraph 1 of the report of the Finance Committee is as follows:

To the National Executive Committee

American Turners:

We have examined the books and records of the American Turners and accounting procedures to the extent we deemed appropriate, without making a detailed audit of the transactions.

In our opinion, the accompanying balance sheet and related statement of income and surplus present fairly the position of the American Turners at December 31, 1943, and the results of its operations for the year then ended.

F. J. and W. A. WOLF

Public Accountants

Detroit, Michigan  
May 23, 1944.

# THE AMERICAN TURNERS

## BALANCE SHEET

December 31, 1943

### ASSETS

Cash in Savings Account .....	\$ 4,048.41
Cash in Bank .....	4,098.61
Accounts Receivable—Supplies .....	147.79

#### Unpaid Per Capita Taxes of Districts

Illinois .....	\$ 99.00	
Indiana .....	718.50	
Kansas-Missouri .....	74.00	
Lake Erie .....	850.50	
Middle Atlantic .....	58.00	
Minnesota .....	80.00	
New England .....	693.50	
New Jersey .....	359.21	
New York .....	198.50	
North Pacific .....	227.46	
Pacific .....	331.00	
Pittsburgh .....	676.50	
St. Louis .....	2,240.15	
South California .....	23.00	
Upper Mississippi .....	611.00	
Western New York .....	1,327.04	
Wisconsin .....	218.00	8,785.36

Red Cross Campaign Loan Account .....	709.83
Notes Receivable .....	1,612.67
Inventory, Material and Supplies .....	1,837.99
Furniture and Fixtures .....	899.38
United States Defense Bonds .....	940.00

Total Assets .....	<u>\$23,080.04</u>
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### LIABILITIES AND SURPLUS

Employee Tax Fund .....	119.53
Federal Excise Tax .....	87.58
Unpaid Per Capita Taxes (Credit Balances) .....	1.00

Total Liabilities .....	<u>208.11</u>
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Surplus December 31, 1943 .....	<u>\$22,871.93</u>
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Total Liabilities & Surplus .....	<u>\$23,080.04</u>
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**THE AMERICAN TURNERS**  
**STATEMENT OF INCOME AND SURPLUS ACCOUNT**  
**January 1, 1943—December 31, 1943**

**INCOME**

Per Capita Tax Billed.....	\$8,256.56	
Interest Received.....	69.41	
Sales—Promotional Supplies.....	\$575.75	
Less: Cost.....	336.81	238.94

Total Income ..... \$ 8,564.91

**EXPENSES**

Nat'l. Turnfest .....	\$ 52.50	
Normal College.....	245.00	
Turner Topics.....	565.00	
Postage and Telephone.....	152.78	
Office Rent.....	240.00	
Office Salaries.....	1,800.00	
Printing & Office Supplies.....	478.20	
Technical Committee .....	49.00	
Traveling.....	110.73	
Payroll Taxes .....	22.50	
Miscellaneous.....	249.70	

Total Expense..... \$ 3,965.41

**NET INCOME—JAN. 1, 1943—DEC. 31, 1943..... 4,599.50**

**Deductions:**

Adjustments to Per Capita Tax Accts. Rec..... 205.46

4,394.04

Surplus Balance—Dec. 31, 1942 ..... \$18,477.89

Surplus Balance—Dec. 31, 1943..... 22,871.93

**THE AMERICAN TURNERS**  
**STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS**  
**January 1—December 31, 1943**

Cash on Hand Jan. 1, 1943 ..... \$ 4,619.09

**RECEIPTS**

Employee Tax Funds .....	\$ 94.50	
Per Capita Tax .....	8,447.38	
On Notes Receivable.....	274.95	
Supplies, Emblems, etc.....	692.93	
Interest Received .....	69.41	9,579.17

\$14,198.26



#### DISBURSEMENTS

U. S. Defense Bonds .....	\$ 740.00	
National Turnfest .....	52.50	
Normal College .....	245.00	
Turner Topics .....	565.00	
Salaries .....	1,800.00	
Purchases, Supplies, Emblems, etc.....	645.00	
Rent .....	240.00	
Telephone & Postage .....	152.78	
Printing & Office Supplies.....	478.20	
Technical Committee .....	49.00	
Miscellaneous Items .....	240.70	
Traveling .....	110.73	
Payroll Taxes .....	22.50	
Red Cross Campaign Loan Account.....	709.83	6,051.24

Cash on Hand Dec. 31, 1943..... \$ 8,147.02

At this point a motion was made that the Convention adjourn to reconvene at 2 P. M. This motion being carried, the Chairman declared the Second Session of the Convention adjourned at 12:40 P. M.

### THIRD SESSION

#### SATURDAY AFTERNOON—JULY 1, 1944

The Convention was called to order at 2:30 P. M. by Chairman Meisner.

The Chairman directed that the convention would proceed with the reports of the Committees and called for the report of the Committee on National Affairs.

This report was submitted by the Chairman of the Committee Jos. J. Zimmermann, as follows:

#### REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL AFFAIRS

To the 40th National Convention of the American Turners:  
Greetings:

The Committee was called to order by Temporary Chairman Louis Cullman. Permanent officers as follows were elected: J. J. Zimmermann, Chairman Les Swanson, Secretary.

All resolutions were read and then taken up individually and acted upon.

Recommended resolutions:

1. We recommend that the present membership card system for the collection of National and District per capita taxes be continued.
2. We recommend that a full time Executive Secretary be employed when found feasible.
3. We recommend that local societies participate in affairs pertaining to all defense measures and morale, such as parades, exhibitions, entertainment or other contributing affairs.
4. We recommend that all societies shall cooperate with the proper authorities in the furtherance of National Defense, such as promoting and

providing for first aid, air raid wardens, Red Cross and other defense classes.

5. We recommend that all societies establish a permanent honor roll of all Turners in service, keep these Turners informed of all activities of their society by sending them the society publication and writing them personal letters, and that they arrange some method of raising funds to provide remembrances such as cigarettes, magazines, cookies, and the like, to the Turners in the Armed Forces.

6. Whereas, the principles of the American Turners constitute important fundamentals upon which the economic processes of our nation should be based, Be it resolved: That the Principles as published by the National Office be read at Society meetings at least two times each year and that the objective substance thereof be supported wherever opportunity or occasion presents itself.

7. We recommend that Societies and individual members of the American Turners make contributions to the Instructors' Fund of the American Turners, which was established for the purpose of aiding Turner Instructors who have served faithfully and who are seriously in need of financial assistance. We particularly urge all Instructors and all Societies employing Instructors to contribute to this Fund.

8. We recommend that the National Executive Committee collect information relative to money-making activities used by various Societies in the American Turners from time to time, covering all essential details of the activity and that the National Executive Committee report this information periodically in condensed form to the Societies of the American Turners in order that the experience of one Society may be conveniently available to all other Societies.

9. We advise the Societies that women are eligible to become members in Local Societies *and are eligible to full membership rights* subject to governing rules of the individual organizations.

11. We recommend that the Headquarters of the National Executive Committee of the American Turners be seated in the Detroit Turners, Detroit, Michigan for the next two years and that we express our sincere appreciation for the services they have rendered and extend to them a rising vote of thanks.

13. We recommend that each American Turner pledge to buy U. S. War Savings Stamps and Bonds up to his maximum ability.

15. We recommend that the National Executive Committee purchase \$500 in U. S. War Bonds.

16. We recommend that the Convention ratify the National Executive Committee's action in exempting members in the various services of the United States of America directly prosecuting the war, from paying per capita tax during their period of such service.

17. We recommend that the host for the next National Convention be decided by the delegates upon a motion from the floor of the assembled delegation, *or in the absence of a motion, that the selection of the seat of the next National Convention be left to the National Executive Committee.*

18. Whereas, in 1940 the Farm Security Administration made a study of 2,500 families in twenty-one rural counties in seventeen states, as a kind of Gallup poll sample of health on the farm, which disclosed that more than seventy percent of the 11,000 individuals included in the survey were in immediate need of medical care, and

Whereas, the Public Health Service has estimated that a family needs to spend at least \$60.00 a year to receive minimum medical care which would eliminate almost four million farm families with cash income under \$1,000 who therefore could not meet the standard and

Whereas, It is said that in large cities, only the very rich and the very poor have their health properly attended to because the rich can pay their doctors, while the poor are not too proud to go to free clinics, therefore be it

Resolved, that the American Turners in convention assembled, endorse group medical and hospital plans such as the Milwaukee Medical Center and the Group Health Association, Washington, D. C., and that an effort be made to disseminate information regarding cooperative or group health plans to every Turner member, so that, in accordance with Turner principles, lasting health and vigor will be assured by proper health education and by efficient medical attention at minimum rates.

19. Whereas, the Federal Government has through the necessity of waging an efficient war been compelled to acquire and accumulate millions of acres of land an enormous amount of industrial property and a tremendous amount of consumers goods necessary for the prosecution of the war and

Whereas, upon the cessation of hostilities, this property and these goods would become surplus commodities which if offered on the open market to the highest bidders, through so called auction sales, would disrupt the economic stability of our Country and thereby cause unemployment and destroy many types of real estate and commodity values:

Be it resolved: By the American Turners, assembled in Convention at Johnstown, Pennsylvania on this 30th, day of June, 1944 that the members of the American Turners protest against the rapid liquidation of the surplus goods and properties at forced sale and be it further

Resolved, that the Government of the United States be urged to appraise said properties it deems advisable to dispose of, and to dispose of these properties and commodities gradually at as close as possible to their appraised valuation through the regular channels of trade as the Home Owner's Loan Corporation has done to a great advantage to the government and the Tax Payers of the Nation.

21. We recommend that all Societies, who have not already done so, having Germanic endings to their names, such as Verein, Gemeinde, etc., be requested to discontinue the use of such endings and Americanize their name.

22. Whereas, there has been passed before the House of Representatives, House Resolution No. 230, known as the Kelly Resolution, having been introduced by Congressman Augustine B. Kelly of Pennsylvania, which provided for the establishment of a Committee of the House of

Representatives, to investigate, survey and develop a NATIONAL PROGRAM FOR ALL OF THE PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED, to provide for them to receive necessary medical care, education and practical training for practical work for each, to provide artificial limbs, braces, appliances, etc. to help them to procure remunerative employment, and similar aid, to enable them to be self-sustaining through their own efforts, to enable them to become taxpayers instead of a burden on anyone, and to lead lives of usefulness and self-respect therefore.

Be it resolved, that the National Convention of American Turners adopt this resolution approving the favorable action by Congress in passing the House Resolution.

Be it further resolved, that a copy of this resolution be sent to each of the following: To Hon. Adolph J. Sabath, Chairman, House of Representatives Rules Committee, House of Representatives Office Building, Washington, D. C., and to Mary T. Norton, Chairman, House Labor Committee, House of Representatives Office Building, Washington, D. C.

23. We recommend that the National Executive Committee be authorized to inaugurate measures for the creation of a maintenance Fund to insure the future efforts of the organization in furthering physical training and the advancement of liberal and progressive measures and the perpetuation of the ideals and principles of the American Turners.

Respectfully submitted with Turner Greetings,  
Committee on National Affairs,  
J. J. Zimmermann, Chairman  
Les Swanson, Secretary

This report was considered by paragraphs and Paragraphs 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8 were adopted in succession with little or no discussion.

Paragraph 9 was adopted after having been amended from the floor of the convention as indicated in italics.

Paragraph 10 related to the appointment of a committee for the consideration of hospitalization or death benefit, which had already been adopted at the 39th Convention and was therefor deleted from the present report.

Paragraph 11 was enthusiastically adopted by rising vote of the Convention.

Paragraph 12 related to the purchase of Red Cross ambulances by the American Turners, which had been adopted at the 39th Convention and the campaign for which was still in progress. The Convention therefore deleted this paragraph from this report.

Paragraph 13 was adopted by the Convention.

Paragraph 14 repeated a paragraph adopted at the 1942 convention relating to the adherence of the American Turners to the principles upon which the government of the United States was founded and this paragraph was deleted from this report on the ground that there was no need for this reiteration.

Paragraph 15 and 16 were adopted by the Convention.



Paragraph 17 was adopted by the Convention after having been amended as indicated in italics above.

Paragraphs 18 and 19 were adopted.

Paragraph 20 being identical with the previously adopted Paragraph 7 was withdrawn by the Chairman of the Committee.

Paragraph 21 was discussed at length and a motion was made and seconded that this Paragraph be deleted. After considerable additional discussion this motion to delete was lost and Paragraph 21 was subsequently adopted by affirmative vote of the Convention.

Paragraphs 22 and 23 were adopted in succession.

A motion was then made that the report of the Committee on National Affairs as amended be adopted as a whole. This motion was carried.

Secretary's Note: During the consideration of the above report the Convention recessed at 3:05 o'clock and reconvened at 3:25 o'clock in order to permit Phillip Murray who was visiting in Johnstown and who was a friend of past President Seibel to address the Convention.

The Committee on National Affairs, by its Chairman, J. J. Zimmermann submitted the following report comprising an amendment to the Statutes of the American Turners:

June 30, 1944

To the 40th National Convention of American Turners:

Greetings:

We recommend that paragraph 32 of the statutes of the American Turners be amended to read as follows. The National Executive Committee shall be authorized to expend at its discretion any sum from the funds in their possession.

Respectfully submitted with Turner Greetings,  
Committee on National Affairs,  
J. J. Zimmermann, Chairman,  
Les Swanson, Secretary.

After brief discussion this supplementary report comprising an amendment to the Statutes was unanimously adopted by voice vote of the Convention.

The Committee on National Affairs by its Chairman, Jos. J. Zimmermann then submitted the following additional supplementary report comprising an amendment to the States of the American Turners:

June 30, 1944.

To the 40th National Convention of American Turners:

Greetings:

We recommend that the first sentence of paragraph 61 of the statutes of the American Turners be changed to read as follows: Each Society shall pay to the American Turners, through its district, an annual per capita tax of \$1.00 for each member.

Respectfully submitted with Turner Greetings,  
Committee on National Affairs  
J. J. Zimmermann, Chairman,  
Les Swanson, Secretary.

Previous to voting on the above supplementary report and amendment to the Statutes, it appeared that several districts had received instructions or alleged instructions from their districts with reference to voting on this proposed amendment to the Statutes, and requested instruction from the Chairman as to the interpretation of these instructions. During these discussions it appeared that action on this proposed amendment to the Statutes would not be unanimous and a vote by districts was ordered by the Chairman. The roll call of the districts resulted as follows:

District	Votes	For	Against
New York .....	8	4	4
Central States .....	18	6	12
New England .....	17	17	...
Illinois .....	16	15	1
St. Louis .....	11	11	...
Lake Erie .....	30	30	...
Western New York.....	15	15	...
Middle Atlantic .....	8	1	...
Wisconsin .....	6	6	...
Pittsburgh .....	36	33	3
New Jersey .....	6	3	3
Kansas-Missouri .....	1	...	...
South Central .....	1	1	...
Minnesota .....	1	...	...
Upper Mississippi .....	35	35	...
Pacific (middle) .....	1	...	...
North Pacific .....	1	...	...
Southern California .....	1	...	...
Totals .....	212	177	23

The vote being 177 for to 23 against, the Chairman declared the amendment to the Statutes carried.

The following report was then submitted by the Committee on Platform, Statutes and Grievances by its Secretary Eric Kempcke:

## REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON PLATFORM, STATUTES AND GRIEVANCES

To the 40th Convention of the American Turners:

Greetings:

This committee consisting of five delegates, Martin Holde, William Voelker, John Kipp, Dan Matthes and Eric Kempcke elected as Chairman Turner John Kipp and as Secretary Eric Kempcke.

A proposed change to the statutes of the American Turners was submitted by the Pittsburgh District in order to clarify several ambiguous paragraphs and this committee concurs in the recommended changes as follows:

Para. 94 includes the clause "Said Trial Committee to be chosen", we recommend that "chosen" be changed to "elected".

Para. 95 includes the clause "Majority of which shall be necessary to render a decision". We recommend that this be changed to read: "A majority of which shall be necessary to conduct the trial and render decision".

Para. 103 now reads: "Penalties may consist of: 1.—Reprimand, 2—Divesting the member of his right, 3—Suspension, 4—Expulsion".

Sub. Paragraphs a, b, c deal with explaining the penalties mentioned above in respect to 1, 2, 4, omitting 3—suspension.

We recommend that paragraph 103 be changed to read as follows: "Penalties shall consist of: 1—Reprimand, 2—Suspension, 3—Expulsion".

(a) Reprimand: must be given in writing by the tribunal

(b) Suspension: the party must be divested of all membership rights for a certain period of time, according to the severity of the offense, founded upon the findings of the tribunal. At the expiration of this period the party shall be reinstated.

(c) Expulsion: Members, societies or districts if expelled, may not be readmitted before the expiration of the time set by the tribunal in charge. The length of time should be based upon the seriousness of the offense, and in no case should be less than 5 years. The procedure for readmittance after the expiration of their expulsion shall be the same as with new applicants for membership.

Art. 109 paragraph 3 now reads as follows: "In case of temporary divestiture of membership rights the District Executive Committee". We recommend that this article be changed to read: "In case of suspension, the District Executive Committee".

Art. 109 paragraph 4 now reads as follows: "In case of suspension the National Executive Committee. In this case appeal to the District Convention shall be omitted".

We recommend that the word "suspension" in the above paragraph be changed to "expulsion".

In addition to the above, we recommend to change the clause in paragraph 110 which now reads: "In the case of temporary divestiture of membership right" to read: "In the case of Suspension".

Respectfully submitted with Turner Greetings,  
Committee on Platform, Statutes and Grievances,

John Kipp, Chairman,  
Eric Kempcke, Secretary.

After a brief explanation by Turner Wm. Voelker of the Pittsburgh District where this proposal originated, the report of the Committee on Platform, Statutes and Grievances and the amendments to the Statutes proposed therein were adopted unanimously by the voice vote of the Convention.

At this point a motion was made by Turner Anthony King from the Wisconsin District requesting that two resolutions presented by the Wisconsin District to the Committee on National Affairs and defeated in that Committee be printed in the official minutes of the Convention. This motion was seconded. After considerable discussion this motion was defeated.

Turner King then made an additional motion that the resolutions

referred to be read to the Convention. This motion was declared out of order on the ground that the matter was disposed of by the preceding motion, and this decision was not appealed from, due in part no doubt to the fact that neither the Secretary of the Convention nor any member present from the Committee on National Affairs had a copy of the resolutions referred to.

The following recommendation for an amendment to the Statutes was submitted by Turner Geo. Heeschen, a delegate from the Lake Erie District:

July 1st, 1944.

To the 40th National Convention of the American Turners:

Greetings:

I move that the following addition, to be known as paragraph 42 (a), be made to our Statutes:

42 (a) In order to maintain its charter and membership in the American Turners, each member society is required to conduct regular gymnasium classes. If not, the society shall be suspended or expelled by the National Executive Committee, or by the National Convention, unless good cause be shown to the contrary.

Respectfully submitted with Turner Greetings,

George M. Heeschen, Delegate.

When Turner Heeschen moved the adoption of the amendment the Chairman declared the motion out of order on the ground that this resolution had not been properly submitted to and considered by a committee of the Convention. This decision of the Chairman was not appealed.

A motion was made that a sincere vote of thanks be extended to the Johnstown Turnverein for the splendid facilities which they had made available for the convenience of the officers and delegates of the convention and for the willing and ready cooperation offered by all of the members of the Johnstown Turnverein for the conduct of the business of the Convention and particularly for the ample stenographic help and efficient mimeographing facilities which had been provided. This motion was seconded and enthusiastically carried.

A motion was then made that a sincere vote of thanks be extended to the officers of the Convention for the efficient manner in which they conducted the business of the Convention. This motion was seconded and enthusiastically carried.

The Chairman then asked for any further business to come before the Convention, and, there being no further business, declared the Convention adjourned at 5:00 P. M.

Respectfully submitted with Turner Greetings,

Walter T. Meisner, Chairman  
George Seibel, Honorary Chairman  
Fritz John, Honorary Chairman  
Richard Turnt, Honorary Chairman  
William Voelker, Vice-Chairman  
Herman Eisele, Secretary  
Fred Olt, Assistant Secretary.