

Official Minutes of the Eighth Convention of the North American Turner Union Held in Cleveland, Ohio on May 26, 27, 28. and 29. 1878.

Chicago, Ill.

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Eighth Convention of the North American Turner Union held in Cleveland, Ohio on May 26, 1878.

First Day.

In accordance with the National Executive Committee's call, the delegates of the various Turner districts gathered for the Eighth Convention at 10 am in the hall of the Social Turner Union and were greeted by its spokesman Turner H. Müller.

The Executive Committee's spokesman Carl Lotz from Chicago opened the session with the following address:

"Hello and welcome to this convention. Please pardon my not giving a longer speech. The reason is a very good one – alas, no kind hearted fairy stood at my crib to present me with the gift of speech giving and, in addition, my career never was or currently is such as to give me an opportunity to practice and master the art of oratory. That is why I ask of you to receive kindly the crowded form in which I will clothe my thoughts. I do not doubt that after a careful assessment of all circumstances, we must reach the conclusion that this convention is one of

the most important of its kind to have taken place in the several years. There is no doubt that we have reached a point in our life as Turners at which we must direct our actions towards improvement. My fellow Turners, in the last few years, with a few exceptions, we embraced the dolce far niente far too much and lived off the glory of past times, when men such as Stallo, Dänzer and others belonged to our members. Those were the times when the name "Turner" was the epitome of all progressive and free spirited efforts and evoked high esteem. I am sorry to say, my friends, that these times are gone. The glory is exhausted.

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It is no longer enough to want to use the name "Turner" as a free pass valid everywhere because it simply isn't. It is crucial for us, through a new and more powerful life, through stronger actions on the sports field as well as in the union hall to take care of our members' intellectual education and training so that our name may reach its old harmonious sound. Delegates, at this convention, it will be up to you to deliberate and find ways how to accomplish this goal and I do not doubt you will succeed. In addition, we cannot disregard the fact that the Turner Union remained behind the times in its development. The population of the United States increased with each year. Its German element grew slowly but steadily. Only our Union remained at the status quo ante and, should no change occur, will move toward a gradual but sure dissolving. Even as it is, the place the Union currently occupies in society's life is not worthy of its station and should be a different one considering our principles, our endeavors and the average intelligence and capabilities of our members. Part of our German – American fellow citizens are familiar and sympathize with us, others know us and don't care. The largest number of our our German – American fellow citizens merely know our name but haven't the slightest idea of what we are all about and for what we strive.

Delegates, your duty will demand you pave the way for improvement. Recommend to the new Executive Committee, in fact, make it its urgent responsibility to take on all issues of general relevance that may arise, be they of political or social consequences, and to refer them to the unions for their acknowledgement and precise examination. And if we are able to see through

them and gain a correct understanding of those issues' positive and negative sides, so let us act in support of or against them. Let us enter the arena with all our power, and, using the spoken and written word, fight in the public life as well as at the ballot box.

Turner, I am confident that when we do this, we will be able "to make a mark in the world" as the English expression goes. We will show the world that we are still here and it has us to reckon with.

In addition, my friends, you will have to work diligently to resolve the so called issues within the Union. I hope, in fact, after I met and got to know you individually, I am quite convinced that you will deal with this matter from a completely objective standpoint, that you will discuss it calmly and without any prejudice and will reach a fair decision.

With this – cheers!"

Following his speech, he nominated Turner Wilhelm Pfänder, from St. Paul, Minn. for a temporary chair. The latter was elected unanimously and took his seat.

I. R. Fellmann from Baltimore was elected for temporary protocol secretary. The chair appointed Turners E. Höchster, C. Eberhardt, H. Gollmer, C. Riebsame and R. Porsch on the Committee for the Examination of the Mandates.

After a short break this committee reported the following representation:

The Executive Committee represented by: Carl Lotz, Harry Rubens, C. A. F. Hunck, A. Fürstenberg, A. Georg, Carl Plum, John Hanssen, Aug. Lang, John Gloy.

New York Turner District: 15 Union votes: Carl Stahl and P. Laukhardt.

Ohio Valley Turner District: 9 Union votes: L. Kimmel, C. Köhne, H. Miller, Carl Betz and Joseph Langknecht.

St. Louis Turner District: 18 Union votes: Hugo Gollmer, F. C. P. Tiedemann and H. Stamm.

New England Turner District: 13 Union votes: Carl Eberhardt.

Wisconsin Turner District: 34 Union votes: Emil Walker, 8 votes; F. B. Huchting, 8 votes;

W. Puipke, 8 votes; F. H. Plath, 8 votes; George Brosius, 1 vote and C. Dörflinger, 1 vote.

Chicago Turner District: 12 Union votes: H. Bellinghausen, Emil Höchster, H. Stahl, Max Stern,

F. M. Purrucker, Jos. Wertheim and Carl Heidweiler.

Southeast Turner District: 2 Union votes: I. R. Fellmann.

Philadelphia: Turner District: 8 Union votes: Anton Voight.

New Jersey: Turner District 5 Union votes: F. E. Schmidt.

Central New York Turner District: 3 Union votes: F. H. Biermann.

Pittsburgh Turner District: Not represented.

Missouri Valley Turner District: 7 Union votes: Philipp Andres.

Minnesota: Turner District: 9 Union votes: Wm. Pfänder.

Upper Mississippi: Turner District: 15 Union votes: A. Timm and Chas Miller.

Lookout Mt. Turner District: Not represented.

Rocky Mt.: Turner District: 4 Union votes: A. Kriegar.

New Orleans Turner District 1 Union votes: Hermann Sieboldt.

Peninsular Turner District: 2 Union votes: A. Ochsenhirt.

Cent. Illinois Turner District: 7 Union votes: Chr. Riebsame.

Pacific Turner District: 22 Union votes: Fred. Hohmann.

Northwestern Turner District: Excused.

Central Mississippi Turner District: 2 Union votes: Herman Junge.

Connecticut Turner District: 5 Union votes: M. R. Goldschmidt.

North Indiana Turner District: Not represented.

South Atlantic Turner District: Not represented.

Lake Erie Turner District: 2 Union votes: C. A. Zapp, John Sigfried, Ed. Bertsch, H. Müller, Karl I. Cobelli and R. Schröder.

West Wisconsin Turner District: 3 Union votes: R. Porsch.

Long Island Turner District : 5 Union votes: Alex Grünberg.

The report was approved with a few corrections included above. In addition, the committee reports that the following mandates have been submitted from:

Cincinnati Turner District: Moritz Jacobi, A. Stecher, W. Retzsch, Carl Haider and F. Wiesler.

West New York Turner District: 8 National votes: Daniel Schmeer, L. A. Bühl, G. W. Fischer and B. Wolf.

The Committee leaves it up to the Convention to decide whether the last two delegations are acceptable.

Considering the importance of this question, it was referred to the special agenda for the afternoon session and assigned to a special committee consisting of the delegates Tiedemann, Schmidt, Timm, H. Müller, Dörflinger, Köhne and Eberhardt for deliberation and report.

Adjourned until 3 o'clock in the afternoon.

Afternoon Session.

It was only possible to open the session at 4:30pm. The special committee mentioned above submitted the following report:

The special committee appointed to discuss the issue of both districts Cincinnati and New York joining the Union takes the liberty to present the following report: your committee is of the opinion that the so called discrepancies within the Union result from the lack of clarity in the statutes and Union decisions. The consequence is that all involved parties have made mistakes.

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The Executive Committee had the official right to expel both districts, although your committee regrets that it took the most aggressive measure instead to refer the issue to the next Convention which action would not have inflicted any damage upon the Union's interests.

Meanwhile, both districts were convinced that the "Zukunft" ("Future"), through the tendency it adopted during the last president's campaign, violated the spirit of the agreement reached in New Ulm and compromised the Union. Although both districts meant well and did not intend the Union any harm, in their decisions there was an appeal to the individual Turner unions to reject their duties toward the "Zukunft", which is unjust.

This is why the committee asks of the Convention not to penalize any of the parties, to recognize the current situation and accept both suspended districts as members of the Union without further ado.

Signed:

F. C. P. Tiedemann,

Fr. E. Schmidt,

Carl Köhne,

August Timm,

Carl Dörflinger,

Hermann Müller,

Carl Eberhardt.

The committee's proposal was accepted unanimously and without any debate. Both delegations as well as the Executive Committee expressed their satisfaction and thanked the Convention for their prompt actions in the true spirit of the Turners.

In consequence, the delegates from both districts listed above are fully empowered to vote so the complete number is 56 delegates with 223 national votes.

The result of the following direct election of Convention officers was:

I. Chair: Emil Wallber from Milwaukee.

II. Chair: Emil Höchster from Chicago.

I. Protocol secretary: I. R. Fellmann from Baltimore.

II. Protocol secretary: Hermann Sieboldt from New Orleans.

A committee made up of C. Stahl, Huchting, Gollmer, Jacobi and Voigt was elected and given the task to appoint the standing committees used in previous conventions. After a break, it reported as follows:

1. Committee for Platform and Statutes: Pfänder, Lauckhardt, Köhne, Voight, Hohmann, Jacobi and Rubens.
2. Auditing Committee for the Bookkeeping and the Financial and Statistical Reports of the Executive Committee: Plath, Purrucker, Timm, Grünberg and Retzsch.
3. Committee for Categorization of the Instructions: H. Bellinghausen, Langknecht, Biermann, H. Junge, Goldschmidt, Bertsch and Schmeer.
4. Committee for Practical Gymnastics and the Gymnastic Teachers Seminary: Stecher, C. Stahl, Betz, Brosius, Heidweiler, Zapp, Schröder, Georg, Gloy and Lang.
5. Committee for Intellectual Efforts: H. Miller, Dörflinger, Chr. Miller, Porsch and Gollmer.
6. Committee for Complaints and Appeals: H. Stahl, Ochsenhirt, Siegfried, Haider and F. Wiesler.
7. Committee for General Union Affairs: Kimmel, Tiedemann, Eberhardt, Huchting, Wertheim, Kriegar and Wolf.

1. Committee for the Union Publication: Puepke, Schmidt, Riebsame and Bühl.

The agenda of the last Convention was read and adopted for this Convention.

A letter from D. Fausel, dated Boston, 23. May, regarding the print and publication of a lecture held by H. Metzner about “The German Turner Movement” was read and submitted to the Committee for Intellectual Efforts.

Adjournment.

I. R. Fellmann,

Meeting secretary

Second Day.

The session was called to order by the First Chair. All delegates were present with the exception of: Wertheim, Bertsch and Fischer.

The minutes from the first day were read and approved. Turner I. H. Sorg from the Pittsburgh Turner District submitted his mandate and was recognized as a delegate. Together with delegate M. Stern, who had also just arrived, he was assigned to the Union Publication Committee.

The Committee for Categorization of the Instructions reported that it finished its task. The Committee submitted various instructions it had received to the respective committees.

The Committee for Practical Gymnastics and the Gymnastic Teachers Seminary submitted a partial report from which the following items were adopted:

1. It is up to the National Executive Committee's discretion to bestow mandates upon suitable faculty attending the German Gymnastic Fest in honor of Jahn's one hundred year anniversary in Breslau and thus appointing them for representatives of the North American Gymnastic Union. This will be accomplished with no cost to the Union.

2. The youth competitions will be removed from the Union gymnastic fests, however each fest's hosting union will be obligated to hold a gymnastic demonstration of its gymnastics school.

3. The Gymnastic Teacher Seminary will remain in Milwaukee and under the same leadership. The Union will continue to support it to the best of its abilities.

The rest of the report was send back to the committee.

The Committee for Complaints and Appeals reported no issues were submitted for its attention.

The question whether the revision of current Union decisions ought to be assigned to the Committee for Platform and Statutes or the Committee for General Union Affairs was resolved in favor of the former. Its name was changed to "Committee for Platform, Statutes and Decisions".

Gymnastic teacher Brosius talked about the success of the Gymnastic Teacher Seminary which is demonstrated not only in the number of educated teachers but also, as the statistics show, in the increase of male and female gymnastics students in the Union which is a result from the work of those teachers.

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He presented a book he wrote describing his method of instruction in theory and praxis and recommended all delegates examine it.

Since no other standing committee was ready to report the session was adjourned until 3pm.

I. R. Fellmann,

Meeting secretary.

Afternoon Session.

The session was called to order by the First Speaker, a quorum was present. The minutes of the morning session were read and approved. Turner Bertsch from the Lake Erie district was absent and excused and his vote was given to Turner Cobbelli.

From all the committees required to present only the Committee for General Union Affairs was ready. After its report, the following decisions were adopted:

1. To keep the yearly Union dues.
2. Turner district St. Louis was elected for the Executive Committee district with 124 out of 234 votes.
3. Indianapolis was elected the place to hold the next National Convention with 130 out of 234 votes.
4. Philadelphia was appointed the place for the next Union Gymnastic Fest by acclamation after all other cities pulled back. Delegate Voigt thanked on behalf of the Philadelphia Turner District and promised to do his best toward the success of the fest.
5. The directors of the Gymnastic Teacher Seminary are authorized to cancel part of the course if they deem the number of attendees not sufficient or their skills and education not up to standard.
6. It is recommended to the districts and union to send diligent young members to the Seminary and to provide financial support to them during their education if necessary.

7. The recommendation by a majority of this committee (Tiedemann and Wertheim against) to create a death fund in the Union led to a long and exhaustive discussion. The idea was rejected with 131 1/3 out of 234 votes.

The Committee for Platform, Statutes and Decisions submitted a report in which it recommended the removal of various decisions put together and published by the Executive Committee after the last Convention. The session was not ready to adopt the entire report so the discussion was tabled until the next meeting.

Adjournment.

I. R. Fellmann,

Meeting secretary.

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Third Day.

The meeting was called to order by the First Speaker at 9 o'clock. A quorum was present.

The Committee for Platform, Statutes and Decisions' report was ready for discussion. As a result from the deliberations, the following current decisions were removed from the report because they were accepted in the statutes or they were the subject of other regulations:

Decisions of the First Convention:

Prizes – the Union will continue to issue diplomas and give laurel wreaths. The various unions may give additional prizes.

Public banks - the gymnastic unions must work toward establishing public banks according to the Schulze=Delitzsch system. To accomplish this, they must contact workers' unions and other similar organizations.

US Charter – the Executive Committee must see to it that the Gymnastic Union obtain a charter of the U.S. as soon as possible.

Decisions of the Second Convention:

Application fee for the unions – decided that from May 1 of this year on, all unions joining the national Turner Union have to pay a \$3 00 application in the Union’s treasury.

Decisions of the Third Convention:

Ordered exercises – decided that ordered exercises including a full range of military marching exercises are strongly recommended to all unions.

Prohibition of lotteries- decided to recommend the unions ban any kind of lotteries, raffles, etc.

Suspended members – decided that in future, the names of suspended members will be sent to the Executive Committee by the district committees. The Executive Committee will announce them every three months in special circulars. Such announcements will no longer be published in the Union’s newspaper.

Decisions of the Fifth Convention:

Voting at the conventions - decided that a vote according to districts votes will no longer be held if a preceding regular vote brought upon an agreement.

Women’s rights – decided that we must be supporters of women’s rights if we want to remain true to our program in which we promise to fight for equality of all people. For us, the women ought to be men’s partners in every respect and not suffer under limitations of their rights. However, we believe there is no infringement of the law supporting the consideration nature herself has made creating the genders differently physically and intellectually so that “women may not vote in public political affairs”.

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Savings Banks – decided the Schultze=Delitzsche System of the credit institutions cannot be viewed as practical for the affairs of the Union, however it is recommended for individual unions and districts.

Decisions of the Sixth Convention.

Salaries for the employees of the Executive Committee – decided to increase the salary of the honorary employees from \$250 to \$400.

Meaning of the instructions – decided that the instructions given to the delegates at the Union and districts conventions by the delegates' districts should express the views and intentions of the said districts, however, the instructions may not mean that the delegates are absolutely obliged to vote for them even against any different judgement the delegates may have formed as a result from deliberations at the Convention.

Following the report and recommendations of this committee, the following platform and statutes were adopted:

Platform of the North American Gymnastic Union:

We, the Turners of the North American Gymnastic Union, aim, through the connection under the name "The North American Gymnastic Union", to support each other in the education and training of physically and intellectually diligent people.

We acknowledge in the expansion of education and fostering of good morals the only way to a sound reform in the social, political and religious areas.

We support and strive for the development of the republic of the people on a truly humane people - oriented ground. We will fight against most determinedly against every attempt to

restrict the freedom of conscience as well as all infringements of the law which come in the way of the improvement of our institutions of freedom.

Statutes of the North American Gymnastic Union:

Organization:

1. Several Turner organizations located close to each other join and build one Turner district, however the districts should remain in their home states as much as possible. Any Turner organizations from the same city should belong to the same district.
2. The district's rules and regulations providing body is the district convention which takes place in every district at least once a year. The delegates to the district conventions are elected by the individual unions. Each district must regulate the ratio of delegates and members numbers of each union.

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3. The executive body of the district is the district committee whose members are elected by the district according to its own regulations.
4. The highest judicial body of the Union is the Union Convention which is attended by delegates from and sent by the districts. However, the decisions of the Union Convention regarding all principle and extraordinarily important management affairs should only then achieve the statute of a law after they have been approved by a majority of the Union members through a vote. The decision about which administrative issues should be presented to the unions for their vote is for the Convention to make. The National Executive Committee determines the modus according to which all preliminary votes are to be conducted.

As soon as 500 Turners of the N. A. G. U. demand a vote about any issue in written form, for instance to pass a law, the revision or elimination of an old law, etc., the Executive Committee will be obligated to submit this issue to the unions immediately and demand a vote about the relevant item within six weeks from the day of the submission, under the following conditions:

a) Only the votes in person shall count.

b) After the election results have been successfully gathered, it will be the Executive Committee's duty to announce the final result to the unions. Every proposition which receives the majority of votes in this manner will be effective within thirty days of the public announcement of the result.

c) The First Speaker and Secretary of each union will testify with their signatures to the accuracy of the votes given by the election.

d) The result of the vote in the individual unions, ordered by unions, will be published in the Union publication.

5. The highest executive authority is the National Executive Committee.

8. Government.

1. A convention will take place every two years. It determines the place where the next convention will be held. The Executive Committee determines its start date, when possible in the second half of the month May. The start date must be announced at least two months in advance.

2. Should a number of districts (representing at least 1/3 of the national votes) demand it, the Executive Committee is obligated to call an extra convention. The Executive Committee determines the place this convention will be held.

This convention may not begin sooner than thirty days from the moment it was announced. Should the Executive Committee refuse to respond to this request, the petitioning districts should call the convention themselves.

3. Only districts delegates will attend and have a vote in Union conventions. No delegate can represent more than one district.

4. Every district must be represented at the Union convention, either through its own or through delegates from other districts. The districts have the right to the following number of delegates:

one vote for the first fifty members, one additional vote for each next fifty or more members. One delegate can represent several votes from one district. However, districts represented by delegates from other districts do not have the right to select a candidate from the district in which the convention takes place. Districts with an outstanding dues balance for the fiscal year preceding the convention can only then have seats and votes in the convention when it decides to allow them to do so.

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5. Districts not represented at Union conventions should be expelled by the Executive Committee from the Union if they fail to submit sufficient reason for the absence within four weeks from the first day of the convention.

6. The Union convention determines the Executive Committee district. The convention of the latter elects the members of the Executive Committee for a term of two years. The members of the Executive Committee, whose number must be nine, elect among each other the employees of the Executive Committee, namely – one First Speaker, one Second Speaker, one Corresponding and one Meeting Secretary and one Treasurer.

The corresponding secretary and the treasurer should be paid for their time consuming work. The Union convention should provide sufficient funds to the Executive Committee to do this. It should be left up to the Executive Committee to determine how much the salaries will be.

The district convention of the Executive Committee's district which elects the members of the Executive Committee must take place within thirty days after the Union convention. In addition to the nine members of the Executive Committee, it must elect three associate employees who would fill out any occurring vacancies as first, second and third associate according to the votes they receive.

Should a vacancy occur in one of the five employees' positions of the Executive Committee, the Executive Committee, augmented by the new associate, will elect a new employee from its members.

7. The Executive Committee district is responsible for the financial management of the Union treasury through the Executive Committee. The Union's treasurer must present a sufficient surety by the district's committee.

8. The Executive Committee members have all rights of the other delegates except the right to vote and therefore cannot represent any district.

The Executive Committee members cannot take on any district's positions.

9. The fiscal year of the Union as well as the districts begins on January 1 of each year.

10. Every Union district pays yearly Union dues of 20 cents for each member within the first half of the fiscal year.

11. Newly joined districts pay an application fee of three dollars for each organization to the Union treasury. If they joined within the first nine months of the current fiscal year, they must pay the full dues for this year. If they joined in the last three months of the year, they will pay the dues for the next fiscal year.

12. Organizations leaving a district union and failing to join another district union within sixty days will be treated as newly joining organizations after that time.

13. No district has the right to accept a Turner organization which has not fulfilled their financial or other obligations toward the district to which it previously belonged.

14. The districts committees are responsible before the National Executive Committee for the dues of their membership according to the statistical reports from the beginning of the fiscal year.

15. Districts which have not fulfilled such managerial obligations after having received two reminders from the Executive Committee can be suspended by the latter without any further process. When this happens, it must be published in the Union publication.

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However, only the Union convention can determine their expulsion from the Union.

Expelled districts can join the Union again at any time after they have fulfilled their obligations. However, these districts must pay the regular new member fees. Any districts which have not sent in their complete statistical reports to the Executive Committee by March 1 of the following year should have to pay a 10 percent tax on the membership they submitted the previous year. They will be responsible for this tax even if their statistical reports are submitted to the Executive Committee in their complete form after March 1.

The same tax will be assigned to any districts with one year past due balance. The year in question should begin on July 1 and end on July 1 of the next year.

In years when there is no Union convention, the statistical report should include only the membership of the districts, the number of active Turners and the number of male and female gymnastic students. In the years when a Union convention takes place, the statistical report must be submitted in the form currently available.

At this point adjournment.

Afternoon Session.

The session was called to order by the Second Speaker, a quorum was present.

The committee reports were resumed under the facilitation of the First Speaker.

16. Candidates to join a Union Turner organization must be at least 18 years of age, have a flawless character, must be US citizens or have taken steps to become citizens, may not have been suspended or expelled from a Turner organization within the last year, must submit to a four week long probation period and when they are accepted into the organization, they must

pledge to abide strictly by the platform and statutes of the Union as well as the statutes of the organization in question.

17. The National Executive Committee provides forms for Turner passports to the districts by request. Only such passports stamped with the Union seal are valid in the entire Union.

18. Every Turner who owns such a passport, prepared by the corresponding organization employees, should be accepted into a Turner organization without a probation period, vote and application fee if he joins a Turner organization within sixty days of the issue of his passport if he pledges to abide by the specific statutes of that organization.

Every Turner who leaves his organization after fulfillment of his obligations can receive a passport if he so wishes.

19. Every Turner who leaves his organization without fulfilling his obligations to the same and joins another organization, even after a successful probation period there, should be suspended from the former until he has fulfilled his obligations to the first organization.

20. A Turner who moves to a different city must join the Union organization if there is one there. Should he wish not to do that, the district committee of the district he is leaving must give its permission.

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21. Turners who belong to a gymnastic organization which refuses to join the Union for material reasons or on principle should not have the privileges the Union members have when joining, etc.

In addition, such gymnastic organizations should not receive any other kind of support from the Union.

22. Any kind of lottery to whatever purpose are prohibited.

23. One of the main tasks of the gymnastic organizations and the Union must be to urge the inclusion of systematic gymnastic classes in the existing schools as an essential part of a robust education for young people.

24. The gymnastic unions are obligated to practice gymnastics according to rational principles and pay special attention to the fact that only gymnastic teachers, trainers and Vorturners may be hired who comprehend those concepts and are able to teach accordingly.

In addition, it is the duty of the unions to work toward building and improvement of good German – English schools where music, singing, drawing and gymnastics are represented to their full advantage. The unions must work toward obligatory school attendance and take care that German is taught in the public schools.

25. It is the duty of the unions to hold monthly instructional presentations, lectures or debates for the education of their members.

If the individual unions require it, the district committee will provide the topics.

The unions must inform the district committee what results were accomplished by those events using the forms provided by the district committee within four weeks. These reports will be sent on to the Executive Committee in an orderly fashion. The Executive Committee will publish a compiled report.

26. Every two years, alternately, a Union Gymnastic Fest will take place. The convention will determine the host city.

27. The judges for these fests will be appointed by the Executive Committee. Their travel expenses will be covered by the Union.

The number of judges should be set to nine according to the current system, namely assigning judges to the various gymnastic apparatus. The Executive Committee has also the right to appoint three judges for the fencing and swimming competitions from the host district or from a nearby district.

28. The Union prizes are in form of diplomas and laurel wreaths. At individual organizations' and districts' fests, other prizes are permitted as well.

The topics for the literary competition, one of which must be about physical exercises, will be determined by a special committee appointed at the Union convention.

Gymnastic teachers may participate only in the literary competition.

The literary works that won diplomas at a Union gymnastic fest should be published in the Union publication.

29. The districts' committees must submit an accurate statistical report to the Executive Committee every twelve months, at the begin of the fiscal year. The Executive Committee submits a yearly report to the Union as well.

30. The Union platform and statutes must be the guidelines for all districts' constitutions. The latter may not contain any policies that are in conflict with the Union's Constitution.

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Members, unions or districts not abiding by any one of the regulations of the platform or statutes of the Gymnastic Union must be reprimanded by the next highest authority. Should they refuse to comply, they can be expelled.

31. The punishment of expulsion may only be applied to a member of the Union for dishonorable conduct. The district committees must submit all such transgressions to the National Executive Committee. It should make them public to the unions every six months.

32. Accusations or suspicions may never be announced to the public. However, if there are well substantiated reasons for an accusation or complaint, it is the duty of the the individual Turner as well as of the particular union or district to bring those to the suitable organization.

33. When the town determined by the last convention to host a Union fest or a Union convention turns out to be impossible or absolutely unsuitable for unexpected reasons, the

Executive Committee should suggest two places and provide its reasons for selecting them. The city which receives a majority of votes will host the event. If there is no time for such vote, the Executive Committee has the right to postpone the convention to allow a vote be conducted.

C. Accusation and Appeals.

The Accusation.

1. When a Turner is accused of an offense either by a union or another member, he should be notified of the meeting at which the accusation will be presented to the committee at least one week in advance.
2. The notification must include a brief description of the accusation.

The Process.

1. At the committee meeting where the process takes place, the plaintiff or the speaker must first explain the charge. This is followed by the questioning of the witnesses for the prosecution and then the witnesses for the defense. If the prosecution wishes to debilitate the statements of the witnesses for the defense, it may question the witnesses again. The same is true for the defense if it wants to debilitate the statements of the witnesses for the prosecution.
2. Every defendant is free to have a representative who has to be a Turner, however. This representative can submit the witnesses for the prosecution to a cross-examination. The same is true for the plaintiff's representative who also has to be a Turner – after the direct questioning is over, he can question the witnesses for the defense.
3. These processes are led by the First or possibly the Second Speaker. Both parties must abide by his orders.
4. After the witnesses have been questioned, the defendant, or his representative and then the plaintiff or his representative are allowed to speak on behalf of their party and make their case.

5. The deliberation of the verdict must be done in a private meeting excluding all persons who are not committee members.

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6. The committee has only then the right to preside over a matter of accusation if at least two thirds of its members are present.

7. To issue a verdict, it is necessary to have a majority of votes from all committee members.

8. The record keeper must record the witnesses' statements in their essence. The statements must be verified by the plaintiff and the defendant or their representatives.

The Appeal Process.

Appeal to the Union.

1. In case one of the disputing parties is not satisfied with the verdict, it can appeal it to the union within two weeks.

2. The union has to schedule an appeal and notify the other party at least three days in advance.

3. The appeal must be conducted in a private meeting of the union. The meeting must begin with reading the charge and the witnesses' statements, following which either parties or their representatives are allowed to make statements. A simple majority decides whether to confirm or reject the verdict.

4. No new proof material is allowed at the appeals meetings in the union.

Appeal to the District Executive Committee.

1. If one of the parties wishes to appeal the decision of the union to the district executive committee, it must send a written notification to the union as well as the district executive committee within fourteen days.
2. In the case of an appeal to the district executive committee, the union, whose verdict the appeal is brought up against, is obligated to submit all relevant documents and verified witnesses statements to the district executive committee immediately.
3. The process must be the same in the district executive committee as it is in the union executive committee with the only difference that new proof material may be allowed only when a majority of the executive committee members decides that there are compelling reasons for that.
4. The appeal to the district convention is removed. An appeal against the decision of the district's executive committee must be submitted to it directly.

Appeal to the National Executive Committee.

1. When an appeal is submitted to the National Executive Committee in regards of a decision of a district's executive committee, it should be proceeded in the same way as when a union verdict is appealed to the district executive committee. However, under no circumstances may new proof material be accepted.

Appeal to the Union Convention.

1. When an appeal is made to the Union Convention, it must be submitted by the National Executive Committee within fourteen days.
2. The convention will declare its own process.

D) Revision of the statutes.

1. These statutes can be changed only in a regular national convention when there is a two thirds majority of the represented national votes.

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Principle Decisions.

In its efforts to realize the principles included in the platform of the N. A. G. U., the Convention affirms the following:

The sovereignty of the people is unsalable and cannot be given to its representatives in the legislative and executive areas. Just as all must be done for the people, so then all must be done by the people. That is why the people must secure the constant and direct dependence and responsibility of those it entrusts with its interests. For this purpose, it must retain the right to remove those representatives when they do not fulfill their obligations in a satisfactory manner and hold them accountable under conditions and provisions capable of preventing abuse. At the same time, it must retain the right to submit nominations and to make the merit of all important laws passed by its legislators dependent on its subsequent approval.

Complicated representations and artificial power distribution borrowed from the government system of the old world hinder and ruin true democracy and foster reactionary tendencies. The people need only one group of responsible and accountable agents for its legislature and government. This group will put its decisions into action via an executive or administrative commission under its direct supervision, a commission, it elects from candidates from the entire population. The Senate and the Office of the President are both copies of monarchical institutions and ought to be destroyed as not democratic and not suited for a republic.

The right of the individual states to pass laws or introduce policies which are against the spirit of the national constitution, namely such pertaining to the freedom of the press, religious affairs and the right of assembly, must be revoked completely.

The Convention recommends the following as suitable ways to lift poverty and improve the social conditions: defend work against exploitation and secure its real wage; sanitary support of the citizens through control of factories, food and housing; statistical assessment of the work conditions through the government; ban of children's work for industrial purposes; stop to all further gifts or sales of land to individuals as well as corporations. The public land must remain the property of the people under all conditions and for all time. It may be given to real farmers to use under secured conditions. Free education in all educational institutions supported through state or community funding must be provided to everybody. Public financial support must be made available to the poor. A progressive income and inheritance tax and tax exemption for the minimum family income must be introduced. Destroying of all monopolies, deep reforms of the judicial system, removing of all indirect taxes.

An important catalyst for the improvement of our poor social conditions may be the reduction of the work time and determination of a lawful workday. Therefore, the Convention urges all unions to learn more about this through lectures and debates.

Religious views and beliefs are an individual's own spiritual and moral need according to individuals' private view and education. Due to their nature, these views cannot be controlled or influenced with violence. On this account, all institutions, laws and decrees created and passed by the government in that regard,

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are measures that are tyrannical and against good reason as well as against the spirit of the Constitution. They must be viewed and counteracted as violations of individual rights and freedom of conscience.

Some of these measures are: the requirement of the Sunday festivities; tax exemption for church property; hiring chaplains in Congress, the legislatures, the army, the prisons and other institutions supported by public taxes; arrangement of religious holidays and fasting days by the President and the state governors; requirement to swear on the Bible or in any other religious

form; the support of religious tendencies or institutions through federal funds or declarations; print of religious slogans on coins and documents.

Upon the recommendation of the committee, it was decided additionally: given the difficulties encountered by the propaganda for progress in the area of religion especially in Anglo-American circles, the efforts of individual agitators for a free human race must be acknowledged even more. Therefore, the Convention of the N. A. T. (North American Turners) believes it its duty to express its greatest recognition to Mr. Rob. Ingersoll for his brave work in this area.

The meeting secretary of the Convention is instructed to send a copy of this decision to Mr. Ingersoll.

Final decision: The current National Executive Committee is instructed to publish the platform and principle decisions adopted in this convention immediately and send them out to all districts so that the votes can be conducted as soon as possible.

Wm. Pfänder, Chair.

Harry Rubens, Secretary.

Anton Voigt,

Chas. Koehne,

Fr. Hohmann,

A. B. Laukhardt.

The Auditing Committee for the Bookkeeping and the Finance and Statistics Reports presented the following report:

We examined the logs and records of the treasurer thoroughly and found them correct. However, to make the work of the future conventions' committees easier and enable a

speedier overview, we recommend the treasurer may be instructed to use double entry in his accounting.

The Executive Committee's annual report is composed very well and according to its goal. The tables included in it are clear to view and, as far as your committee was able to recognize, correct. The only error is a typo in the treasurer's report – it says, the Union's income has increased with \$313. 42, however it should be \$413. 43. However, in most logs, this error has been corrected by pasting the right number over the wrong one.

The logs of both Executive Committee's secretaries are in exemplary order. For this, the full recognition of the Convention goes to those officers.

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Because we find an expense for the use of the hall in both reports of the treasurer of the Gymnastic Teachers Seminary 1877-1878 and because such an expense contradicts the decisions of the St. Louis Convention (1866) stating that no money may be allowed for rent, light and heating costs, we recommend to void the above mentioned decisions of the St. Louis Convention.

Respectfully,

John F. Plath,

Alexander Grünberg,

Wm. Retzsch,

John M. Purrucker,

August Timm.

The recommendation to use double entry in the treasurer's accounting included in the report above was rejected. On the other hand, the decisions of the St. Louis Convention were voided.

According to motion passed, the Chair appointed the following committee to put together quiz questions for the next National Gymnastic Fest: C. Lotz, Lauckhardt, Hermann Müller, Brosius and Andres.

The Committee for Intellectual Efforts presented their report which, after a few changes, was approved as follows:

1. Decided to reject the proposal from the Connecticut district for the National Executive Committee to send an agitator to the New England states because the same need exists in other states and the Union does not have the funds to help all in the same manner.
2. Decided to join the Executive Committee's leadership in its recommendation regarding the books by Prof. H. M. Rottinger.
3. Decided to instruct the National Executive Committee to work toward creating a temporary collaboration with other German and English free minded organizations to promote common goals.
4. Decided to elect a committee of three members which should send out an inspirational appeal to the Turners on behalf of the Convention to support the National German – American Teachers Seminary through powerful and meaningful propaganda.
5. Decided that the Executive Committee, the district committees and the individual unions should work diligently to obtain or educate gymnastic teachers who will provide general science instruction with their solid subject knowledge.
6. Decided to give one \$10 prize each month for the best original lectures held by Turners in various gymnastic unions in one year. The committee for intellectual efforts at the Executive Committee will conduct the judging process. The winners will be published in the Union newspaper.

No Union member may receive more than one prize per year. If the committee deems no entry prize worthy, it has the right not to give away a prize.

7. Decided that the Executive Committee has to report about the advisability of a lecture bureau suggested by the Lake Erie district before the next convention.

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8. Decided to recommend to all Turners Metzner's lecture "About the German Gymnastis" published by D. Finsel in Boston.

H. Miller,

Chr. Müller,

R. Porsch,

H. Gollmer,

Karl Dörflinger,

The Committee.

The Committee for Practical Gymnastics, etc. submitted the following recommendations:

General Policies by Gymnastic Fests and Competitive Gymnastics.

1. The Executive Committee appoints nine judges who can stand in for each other if needed.
2. The Executive Committee must send out printed copies of 16 grouped exercises for each part of the gymnastic apparatus and for each level to all gymnastic unions six months before every gymnastic fest. The judges will elect the obligatory exercises for the competitions through a drawing.

Every Turner in the Union should be encouraged to send in suggestions. The Executive Committee will send out the above described 16 exercises from the received suggestions.

3. Only Turners and teams who received 75% of the highest possible number of points at the gymnastic apparatus and the athletic exercises performed there are eligible to receive a prize.

4. No prizes 'a' and 'b' will be given; their numbering will be done strictly according to the points received.

5. Individual prizes will be given in the following branches of athletics: free high jump, free long jump, running, rope climbing, weight lifting, stone throw, high jump with a pole, javelin throw, club swing, wrestling, slash and thrust fencing, swimming and shooting.

Before the begin of the competition, the judges must select from the first eight exercises those four exercises that are to be combined with the apparatus gymnastics.

6. The team competitions will be combined with the individual competitions. The same will take place on the horizontal and parallel bars, the horse (side and back flip) as well as in four sections of athletics.

7. The number of athletes in one team may not exceed twelve and be fewer than six.

8. The average score a team receives determines its prize, the highest score a Turner receives determines the individual prize.

9. Turners whose unions or districts do not build a team will be assigned to other teams, however their accomplishments will be judged only as individual ones.

10. The apparatus competition will be conducted in two sections. The first section competes in the third, and the second section in the second gymnastics level.

11. The three best results in the apparatus gymnastics will be rewarded with a diploma and a wreath.

12. There will be no taxes for any Union members who compete.

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Special Regulations.

Athletics.

Free High Jump.

1. We will begin to count by a height of 42 Zoll [1 Zoll = 1.03 in.]: 42" = 0 points, for each 2 additional Zoll up to 60 Zoll one point will be given; over 60 Zoll, one point will be given for each 1 Zoll.
2. Every jump must be completely free, without any touch of the cord, however every Turner is allowed a second jump at every height.

Free Long Jump.

1. We will begin to count by a distance of 12 feet: 12 feet = 0 points, for each additional foot up to 14 feet one point will be given; over 14 feet, one point will be given for each $\frac{1}{2}$ foot.
2. Regarding touching the cord the same rules apply as by the free high jump. If the body falls back, this will lead to disqualification even if the feet of the gymnast have passed the cord.
3. The landing space will be created by filling a ditch with bark or mulch instead of using mats.

The runaway will be made from a plank suspended in the ground and will begin from the landing space. It is ca. 15 Zoll (=ca. 15.55 in.) wide and 20 ft. long.

Running.

1. The track will be ca. 656 ft. or ca. 200 m. long, in a straight line if possible.
2. The judging will be done with a stopwatch: finishing the track in 42 secs. = 0 points, each second less counts for 1 point.

Rope Climbing.

1. The rope will be ca. 1 ½ Zoll thick and at least 40 ft. long: a height of 20 ft. = 0 points, one point will be given for each additional 2 feet.
2. The reached height will be measured by securing a tape measure at the neck of each gymnast. The reached height will be read when the gymnasts get down.
3. The legs must be held stretched in any position, any fidgeting and pushing of the legs will lead to disqualification and the exercise will be given 0 points.

Weight Lifting.

1. The hand weights used will be the following: 2 weights, 50 lbs. each, 2 weights, 75 lbs. each and 1 weight, 100 lbs.
2. Method of weight lifting: both 50 lb. hand weights will be lifted with both arms; both 75 lb. hand weights will be lifted with each arm alternating and the 100 lb. hand weight will be lifted with one arm left and right.
3. Judging: each kind counts separately.

Lifting the 50 lb. weight once counts for ½ point, lifting the 75 lb. weight once counts for 1 point and lifting the 100 lb. weight once counts for 1 point.

All points are added up and whoever reached the highest number is the winner.

4. The lift must be done from the horizontal position of the upper arm.

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Stone Throw.

1. The same rules for measuring the distance apply here as by the long jump.
2. The stone must be in the form of a dice and weigh $37 \frac{1}{2}$ English lbs. or 17 kilogram.
3. The stone may be thrown with the right or the left arm.

High Jump with a Pole.

1. A height of 6 ft. = 0 points; for up to 8 ft. 4 in., 4 Zoll receive 1 point; over 8 ft. 4 in., each 2 Zoll receive 1 point.
2. The cord may not be touched neither by the gymnast nor by the pole. Two jumps are allowed for each height.

Javelin Throw.

1. The target for the javelin throw will be a disc with a 2ft. diameter, divided in 10 rings. The distance for the horizontal throw is 35 ft. and for the arc throw 40 ft.
2. Each Turner is allowed three throws. Those who cannot reach at least 50% of the targeted rings, are not eligible to receive a prize.

Club Swing.

1. For this, 10 lb. and 5 lb. clubs will be used, the first for the duration of 5 and the latter 10 minutes.
2. The judges must consider the following: number of swings and connections performed, the beauty, choreography and duration of the performance.

Wrestling.

1. All participants stand according to their height.
2. Every participant must tell how much he weighs.
3. The division in pairs is done by a committee from three of the judges. This committee will consider the weight, height and muscular build of the competitors and assign the pair partners as equally as possible.
4. After all the pairs wrestled once, the gymnasts who lost, will participate in a narrowed down wrestling competition. The winners from that match will wrestle with the first winners so everyone wrestles with everyone.
5. Judging: Whoever was thrown in the second competition receives 1 point, whoever has the lowest number of points is the winner, for example: 0 points - first place, 1 point – second place, 2 points – third place, etc.
6. Each pair has 3 minutes to achieve a hold. If this did not happen, the pair will take equal hold left over the shoulder, right over the hip or vice versa.

Fencing, Swimming, Shooting.

The district hosting the gymnastic fest creates the policies and appoints the judges for these three disciplines.

Team Competitions, Free and Program Exercises.

1. Teams must have at least six members.
2. Each team gets twelve minutes.
3. The teams may choose the exercises.
4. The judges must consider the difficulty of the exercises as well as the smoothness, regularity and beauty of performance and choreography.

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5. Each judge will submit his decision according to the general impression on a scale from one to ten.

6. A team that failed to receive $\frac{2}{3}$ of the highest possible score is not eligible for a prize.

Apparatus Gymnastics.

1. On each of the individual equipment, horizontal and parallel bars and horse (side jump and back flip), three exercises must be performed, namely two obligatory and one free style exercise.

2. The numbering of the judges' scale will be from one to ten.

The committee recommends the Turners and gymnastic unions obtain the following handbooks:

For men's gymnastics: Ravenstein's "Athletics", Lion's "Exercises for Mixed Jumps", Lion's "Free Style and Program Exercises", August Lang's "Turntafeln" [set of lithograph plates of gymnastic exercises for instruction], Puritz' "Guidelines for Vorturners" and August Lang's "Guidelines for Club Swing".

For boys' gymnastics: O. Schettler's "Gymnastic School for Boys".

For girls' gymnastics: O. Schettler's "Gymnastic School for Girls", M. Klos' "The Art of Female Gymnastics".

In addition, the committee proposed the following decrees:

Decided to instruct the Executive Committee to have all regulations for competitive gymnastics published immediately and send out several copies to the gymnastic unions.

Decided to express the Convention's gratitude to the executive leader of the Gymnastic Teacher Seminary in Milwaukee, Mr. Georg Brosius, for his extraordinary accomplishments in German gymnastics. With this, the committee acknowledges the fact that it is mostly due to him that the practical gymnastics of the N. A. T., which were going steadily downward, awoke to a new and fresh life.

Decided to have the Convention appoint a committee of the Turners Carl Dörflinger, John Cloy, Aug. Lang, H. Metzner and C. A. Zapp to examine the book "Principles of All Gymnastics" compiled and written by Georg Brosius, and present to the Executive Committee about it. Their examination should assess first and foremost its degree of completeness and usefulness for the Union. If the report is favorable, the Executive Committee is authorized to order one hundred copies at \$2 00 each on the Union's account from the publisher Mr. Georg Brosius. The Executive Committee should send free copies to those gymnastic unions it deems need them most.

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Decided to have the Gymnastic Teacher Day take place at the same time as the Convention and hold its festivities on the first day of the Convention. Any submissions and proposals must be sent to the Executive Committee at least four weeks in advance, be published in the national newspaper and submitted to the corresponding committee at the Convention for its report about them.

A. Stecher, Chair,

C. A. Zapp, secretary of minutes,

Carl Betz,

Carl Stahl,

C. Heydweiler,

A. Georg,

Aug. Lang,

John Gloy,

G. Brosius,

R. W. Schröder,

Ph. Andres,

The committee.

Several of the recommendations from the report above were approved and adopted as decisions of the Convention.

In addition, it was decided: gymnastic teacher C. A. Zapp is instructed to gather all previous decisions about gymnastics and competitive gymnastics not included in the report above and send them in to the Executive Committee.

Another decision was made to state that any gymnastic union which has the word "independent" in its name can still be accepted into the National Gymnastic Union.

At this point, adjournment.

I. R. Fellmann, meeting secretary.

Fourth Day

The session was called to order by the First Speaker, the list of the delegates' names was read and the following were noted as absent: Sorg, Schröder and Fischer. The minutes were read and approved.

The Committee for the Union Publication submitted a majority and a minority report, both were read and received. Below, the majority report:

Report of the Committee for the Union Publication to the Convention:

From the instructions submitted to your committee, it is clear that twelve districts definitely wish not to renew the contract with the publishers of the "Zukunft" ["Future"]. Two districts are in favor of a union newspaper published by the Union itself under certain conditions. Six districts proposed to renew the old contract with the "Zukunft", however in a modified format. Four districts were in favor of the

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"Freidenker" ["Freethinker] published by Mr. C. Dörflinger. Considering all these requests, the Committee came primarily to the conclusion that a change must be made in regards of the Union publication.

Regarding a journal published by the Union - the Committee uses the Union's own experience and for that reason, it recommends the Convention does not decide in favor of a newspaper published by the Union. During its meetings, the Committee received not only the above mentioned requests, but some offers as well, as listed below:

1. Mr. Alex Törges, publisher of the "Cincinnati Freie Presse" ["Cincinnati Free Press"], offers to provide a newspaper in the format of the "Zukunft" under the conditions of the current contract with the "Zukunft" for the price of \$2 00 per year.
2. Mr. Carl Dörflinger offers to provide the "Freidenker" he publishes now including a four-page long supplement from which 2 ½ pages will be dedicated to the Gymnastic Union for the price of \$3 00 per year.
3. Mr. C. Kron from Milwaukee, Wis. submitted a draft for a new "American Turner Newspaper" to be published bi-weekly in sixteen pages including the cover for the cost of \$2 50 per year.

Your Committee carefully deliberated all offers. It is its belief that the members of our Union want a publication which matches our platform in every aspect. In addition, the Committee believes the members of our Union can and will receive a well maintained gymnastic newspaper if the subscription does not make them pay for a reading material meant for others and perhaps even opposing their own views. Your Committee is convinced that Mr. Carl Kron is the man who can publish such a newspaper with the required prudence and energy and make it a success.

So your committee decided to recommend to the Convention that the Executive Committee sign a contract with Mr. Carl Kron. We recommend this contract be signed under conditions which, with the exception of the contents of the "American Gymnastic Newspaper", do not stray essentially from the current contract which we presume to include if the Convention so wishes.

Please find the above mentioned draft included.

Signed,

Max Stern,

H. Pueppke,

Louis A. Bühl,

I. H. Sorg.

This draft was read. Following this, the minority report was read:

In consideration of the importance and relevance of this matter, the signed below members of the Committee for the Union Publication believe it is their duty to present to the Convention their views which do not conform to those of the majority in this report. We recommend to the Convention to accept the offer of Turner C. Dörflinger instead of the one from Mr. Carl Kron and recognize the "Freidenker" in the form presented by Turner Dörflinger as the Union's newspaper.

Below, find summarized the reasons for this decision:

1. Because the newspaper does not yet exist, it is not certain, even though there is a plan about the composition and structure of the reading material, that it will meet the standards we expect a gymnastic paper to meet. On the other hand, the "Freidenker" has a longer publication history, so everyone knows in advance what to expect.

2. It is a well-known fact that the establishment of a new newspaper, which is to be distributed widely, demands big sacrifices regarding time and money and, in most cases, is a difficult enterprise. We have no guarantee that Mr. Kron's abilities and resources are of such capacity as to support the existence of the newspaper. We do not deem it wise for the Union to make his publication a newspaper whose long term existence is doubtful.

3. In the draft submitted by Mr. Kron, all and everything which looks like a progressive principle is timidly avoided. However, we believe it is the duty of the Gymnastic Union to further its members' grasp of the new world views. That is why we are of the opinion that the "Freidenker" will best fulfil this task – the principles it manifests are, with a few exceptions, identical to those of the Union platform.

4. The antecedents of the "Freidenker" give the certain guarantee that it will never alter its beliefs, that it will never partner with one of the currently existing parties. In addition, it already has a circulation of three thousand copies and for this reason it is suited to bring the efforts of the Gymnastic Union to its audience.

Hermann Stamm,

C. Riebsame,

F. E. Schmidt.

The Committee.

After a thorough deliberation and discussion of this matter, a proposal to submit the same for vote in the individual unions was rejected with 188 votes against 34.

Another proposal to keep the "Zukunft" was tabled.

At this point, a vote was conducted about the majority report, namely to accept Kron's offer. The result was only 46 1/3 votes for and 175 2/3 against. The vote about the minority report showed agreement in favor of the "Freidenker". Accordingly, it was decided to instruct the current Executive Committee to sign a contract with Mr. Dörlinger under the current conditions and on the basis of his drafts.

The Chair appointed a committee to compose an address to promote the German Teacher Seminary: Dörflinger, Jacobi and Pfänder.

The earlier appointed committee for the composition of two quiz questions for the next Gymnastic Union Fest recommended the following, which were then adopted:

First question:

What must happen to make the position of the Gymnastic Union in the United States more meaningful and one that will make a stronger impact on the political and social life?

Second question:

What methods should be employed in the gymnastic schools to educate a next generation Turners of high diligence and integrity?

Next, the following decisions were made:

Decided to ask each district committee to try and have its unions organize gymnastic demonstrations twice a year, if possible. The unions are required to invite the town employees, doctors, teachers and education council members to these events and secure their attendance in order to promote introducing gymnastics in the public schools.

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Decided to recommend to the district which hosts the gymnastic fest not to have any trade at the begin of the fest, but to do this at the end of the fest only among the Turners.

Decided: the districts should not have their own publications but to use the Union newspaper for their announcements.

Decided to express the gratitude of the Convention to the editorial staff of the "Zukunft" for their high accomplishments in the area of gymnastics.

Decided to express the gratitude of this Convention to the current Executive Committee for the loyal performance of its responsibilities.

Decided: the current Executive Committee is instructed to convey the regards of this Convention to the educational council of Milwaukee for introducing gymnastics classes into the curriculum of the local public schools.

Decided: the Convention thanks the German Press of Cleveland and the representatives of non-local newspapers for their truthful reports about the Convention sessions.

Decided: the Executive Committee is instructed to consider the merge of the Gymnastic Teacher Seminary with the German American Teacher Seminary and to be prepared to report about it in the Convention.

Decided: the Executive Committee is instructed to contact individual gymnastic unions and free minded speakers who present in German or English to create a broad system of lectures. This enterprise will make it possible for the unions to hear lectures on progressive topics at a low cost to them.

Decided: the individual unions are encouraged to celebrate the one hundred year anniversary of Jahn's birthday, namely in a way that will promote the adoption of gymnastics in Anglo-American circles and in the public schools.

Decided to convey the gratitude of the Convention to the citizens of Cleveland for the friendly reception and to the ladies who put much effort to make the social festivities as pleasant as they were.

Decided to deny the participation in the physical exercises competitions to those Turners who have had a position as a paid or otherwise renowned gymnastic teacher in the last six months.

Decided to convey the gratitude of the delegates to the Convention officers for their skillful and untiring performance of duties.

Adjournment until the afternoon.

I. R. Fellmann, meeting secretary.

Afternoon Session.

The session was called to order by the First Speaker, a quorum of the delegates was present.

The minutes of the morning session were read and approved.

Next, the following decisions were made:

1. The meeting secretary is instructed to publish the notes of gratitude of the Convention to the citizens, Turners and ladies in Cleveland in the "Wächter" ("Guardian").
2. The Executive Committee is instructed to have the platform of the Union translated in English and published so that it may be distributed among the English press through the unions.

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3. The opening address of the president of the Executive Committee should be added to the official minutes at a suitable place.

4. The Executive Committee must publish the platform and statutes and send them out to the gymnastic unions.

5. Together with the decisions made at this Convention regarding practical gymnastics, gymnastic fests, etc., all previous and still existing decisions must be published.

Adjournment indefinitely.

I. R. Fellmann, meeting secretary.