

**Official Minutes of the Twelfth Convention of the North American Turner Union Held in
Boston, Mass., on June 13, 14, 15, 16 and 17, 1886.**

Milwaukee, Wis.

Printed by the Doerflinger Book & Publishing Co., 1886.

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FIRST DAY.

Morning Session.

On Sunday, June 13, 1886, the delegates of the various districts of the North American Gymnastic Union gathered for their regular session in the hall of the Boston Gymnastic Society.

At 10 o'clock in the morning, the First Speaker of the Boston Gymnastic Society Turner A. J. Gutermuth called the meeting to order and greeted the delegates on behalf of his society with a warm welcome speech. Following this, he introduced Turner John Tönsfeldt, the First Speaker of the National Executive Committee who officially opened the Twelfth Convention with the following address:

“I welcome the delegates of the Twelfth Convention of the North American Gymnastic Union to earnest work, deliberations, examinations, observations, to a battle of the minds as well as friendly social gathering.

One tie connects us all – the sincere endeavor to contribute to the further development of the work so close to the hearts of all who are present here. Our union has a good right to take advantage of the prowess of men with high ideals before all other unions, its mission is the highest and most beautiful a citizen may choose to support.

Before all else, we are a union for education and upbringing, further a union for fostering physical exercises and lastly a social and political union.

In regards of the first quality – we made it our goal to put the education of a nation of over 50 million people on a completely new foundation by trying to introduce the principle that the nurture and development of the body is of the same validity as this of the mind. Fulfilling this task demands the entire intellectual power of men with a clear vision and understanding.

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This pertains even more to our striving to accomplish the social-political goals we have set for ourselves. The question at this point is whether we are capable to accomplish so many difficult and highly demanding tasks at the same time.

The experiences I gained during my eight years leadership of the Union affairs make me doubt that, especially in regards of the political efforts of our Union. The small number of Turners who strive to accomplish our principles with true comprehension would have to despair if they

didn't have their own inner satisfaction for the often thankless hardships they undertake. Indeed, great courage is required in order to uphold the principles of the Gymnastic Union today – courage when dealing with the inept members of the Union as well as with non-members outside of it. This may sound bitter, however the truth often has a harsh sound. It is truly dismal to find out what little understanding for our essential efforts there is in many gymnastic societies. Please allow me to provide a few examples for this statement, examples that speak not of individuals but entire societies. Just listen to this! Although propaganda against prohibition laws was made the duty of all Turners in the most expressive way, the gymnastic society in one large city made the following decision in an open meeting that they “do not want to deal with such political issues.”

The silly arguments another society used when sending back to the National Executive Committee the circular about removing of the Office of the President were published in the “Amerikanische Turnzeitung” (American Turner Magazine) are probably still fresh in your memory.

A gymnastic society (also in a big city) produced another “pearl of wisdom” recently with its decision “to ban all anarchists and socialists from the gymnasiums”. In that case, where will the Turners go, I ask you?

I gave a few glaring examples to point out the most important point of our reform work – this point lies in our own midst. If we are serious about implementing our wide reaching goals we must first make the members of our Union familiar with them. We must teach our members that everyone who carries the honorable name Turner has taken upon himself the duty to learn the free thinking principles of our Union and turn them into reality; we must teach them that every friend of humanity who sympathizes with the millions who are suffering and who can bring a sacrifice so that their situation may be improved is a socialist. We must also teach them, though, that we will not make friends with and will have no chance of acquiring a respected position among our fellow citizens with the loud rattle of beer glasses or sabers.

The Gymnastic Union must, like Luther, conduct its reformation within itself first. Only then it can preach the reforms outwards.

The way to this reformation within is paved by the tasks we have taken upon us. As mentioned before, first and foremost, ours is an educational organization. So let us concentrate on this goal first, let us educate the young people we can reach to become physically and intellectually healthy, free thinking and independently judging and acting individuals and let us turn our gymnasiums into places of education, health and virtue for all members of the Gymnastic Union!

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If we begin our collective work for the Gymnastic Union in this spirit and continue to do so in the next days, we can dare to challenge the critique of those who are only too willing to toss our efforts in the same pot as those of the red destroyers and who, carried away in the tumult of the reaction spreading vastly these days, cannot or do not want to make the difference between a friend of humanity and an anarchist.

I am convinced that all delegates came here determined to contribute to the further growth of our Union to the best of their abilities. As a sign of respect to the Union's noble and humane endeavors and a manifestation of our intent to devote all of our energy during the Convention sessions with a manly earnestness to the Gymnastic Union, I ask all present to rise from their seats.

I declare the Twelfth Convention of the North American Gymnastic Union in session."

Next, a temporary organization of the Convention was accomplished by electing the following officials:

Chair - Heinrich Huhn from the St. Louis Turner District.

Meeting Secretary - Louis Weide from the New York Turner District.

The Chair appointed the following Turners on the committee for the examination of the mandates: Jacob Heintz from the New York Turner District, Philipp Keller from the Rocky Mountain Turner District and Theodor Geiselhart from the Pittsburgh Turner District.

After a short break, the committee reported that 27 districts with 472 votes are represented by 144 delegates and that the following delegates have the right to seat and vote:

New York Turner District, 27 Votes: Jacob Heintz, Otto Weiß, C. A. Lang, Wm. Hennings, Louis Weide, C. Arnold, Gustav Scholer, Georg Günther, Emil Senn, J. G. Wolf, Anton Gündel, Louis Langlotz, Carl J. Rienert, H. Seibert, Louis Wolf, Edw. Stammel, P. Albertine, Albert Hoffmann, Wm. Heeseler, Hermann Dathe, Louis Friedrich, sen., Johann Heinemann.

Indiana Turner District, 6 Votes: Adolf Firnhaber.

St. Louis Turner District, 63 Votes: H. M. Starkloff, H. W. Ocker, Wm. H. Gehrmann, Heinrich Huhn, C. F. Conrad, Albert Häsel.

Wisconsin Turner District, 44 Votes: Emil Wallber, C. Hermann Boppe, H. Dorfner, Charles Hartung, J. Herberg, Theo. Fritz, A. Meißner, G. Burghardt, Georg Brosius.

New England Turner District, 19 Votes: Carl Eberhard, D. Fausel, Ad. Wörnle, A. J. Gutermuth, Jul. Meyer, Christian Eberhard, R. E. Weißenborn, Carl Wunderlich, Hermann Eckstein, Jul. Reinert, Max Rothenburg, Theo. Lange, Geo. Seuß, Wm. Heinig, August Dick, H. Schönland, Emil Scherr, H. F. Rödelsberger, Henry L. Pelkus.

Chicago Turner District, 39 Votes: Adolf Georg, John Gloy, Wm. Legner, Theo. Oehne, Chr. Steinmeyer.

Philadelphia Turner District, 30 Votes: A. L. Weise, A. Arnold, Anton Voigt, L. Gescheidle, Victor Kalf, E. Watzenborn.

New Jersey Turner District, 26 Votes: Wm. Schmidt, Alex. Wiederhold, E. Jünger, F. A. Götze, Fr. Cohrs, P. W. Roder, A. Spiller,

G. Seikel, N. Guter, J. G. Huber, A. F. Schlegel, M. de St. George, J. W. Wittigschläger, Wm. Schlatter, R. Schenk, G. Stickel, F. Zwecker, Christ. Stöttner, G. Claus, Otto Greubel, L. Eichhorn, Franz Richter, H. Heintz.

Central New York Turner District, 6 Votes: Werner Strecker.

Pittsburgh Turner District, 26 Votes: H. Viering, Max Gescheider, Bernhard Krug, A. Lang, Theo. Geiselhart, Wm. Wartmann.

Missouri Valley Turner District, 20 Votes: John Wallruss, Adolf Riedel.

Minnesota Turner District, 10 Votes: Titus Mareck.

Upper Mississippi Turner District, 15 Votes: Theo. Blunck.

Rocky Mountain Turner District, 7 Votes: Philipp Keller.

New Orleans Turner District, 2 Votes: Hermann Spiering.

Central Illinois Turner District, 11 Votes: A. L. Schimpf.

Pacific Turner District, 28 Votes: Jacob Weiß.

Northwest Turner District, 1 Vote: Carl Lindenthal.

Connecticut Turner District, 16 Votes: Aug. Voigt, Jacob Walter, F. Dietmeyer, Ch. Friedel, D. Ginand, Jacob Huber, Louis Zächer, H. Weidlich, Wm. Schlag, L. Ebel, A. Schmidt, Jos. Nett, Wm. Schumann, F. Geißler, A. Hirschfeld, Th. Hase.

South Atlantic Turner District, 3 Votes: H. C. F. Stahl.

Lake Erie Turner District, 14 Votes: Wm. C. Pollner.

Long Island Turner District, 9 Votes: A. Grüneberg, K. Stahl, A. Heseler, Heinrich Edling, H. Wollrab, F. J. Greisenstein, Ed. Gruber, Geo. Zahler, F. Rosenblatt.

West=New York Turner District, 12 Votes: John Meinhardt, Ehrhard Siebold.

Ohio Turner District, 28 Votes: F. Bertsch, Wm. Stecher, Franz Haffner, Adalbert Kriegar.

Central Michigan Turner District, 5 Votes: Rudolf Worch.

Florida Turner District, 1 Stimme: Louis Lepper.

North Pacific Turner District, 6 Votes: H. J. Oberschelp.

Not represented were: Southeast, Upper Missouri und Arkansas Turner Districts.

The Executive Committee was represented by John Tönsfeldt, First Speaker; Hugo Münch, Second Speaker; Richard Bösewetter, Treasurer; F. C. P. Tiedemann.

Upon motion passed, Turners John Hohl and J. H. Sorg from the Birmingham Turner District were given right to seat and discussion.

Next, the Chair appointed the following committees:

For permanent organization: C. Hermann Boppe, Theo. Blunck, Adolf Georg, H. W. Ocker, Jacob Weiß.

For the appointment of standing committees: E. Wallber, Carl Eberhard, Gustav Scholer, John Gloy, Fritz Bertsch, C. Stöttner, D. Ginand, A. Häsel, A. L. Schimpf.

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For receiving, categorizing und further referral of the available instructions: Jacob Heintz, Wm. Legner, Wm. Schlatter.

Next, Turner Tönsfeldt read the annual report of the Executive Committee and Turner Bösewetter read the summary of his treasurer report. Both reports as well as those of the other Executive Committee officials that were not read because printed copies of them had been provided, were submitted to the standing committees.

At this point adjournment until 2 pm.

Heinrich Huhn, temporary chair.

Louis Weide, temporary secretary.

Afternoon Session.

The session was opened by the Chair at the appointed time.

The minutes from the morning session were read and approved.

It was decided to conduct the election of permanent Convention officials according to district votes.

The committee for permanent organization made the following recommendations:

For First Chair: Heinrich Huhn and Jacob Heintz.

For Second Chair: A. L. Weise and Christoph Stöttner.

For First Secretary: Georg Günther and Wm. Stecher.

For Second Secretary: Heinrich Edling and Otto Greubel.

The election followed. Heinrich Huhn was appointed permanent Chair of the Convention. He thanked for the confidence the delegates demonstrated by electing him to this position and said he takes on the responsibilities with some hesitation because he has never before presided over such a large and intelligent meeting. He asked for friendly lenience toward any oversights on his part and promised to lead the sessions with the strictest neutrality. If the delegates would stick to the issue in hand, avoid any unnecessary squabbling and keep in mind the idealistic vision of the Union, the work of the Twelfth Convention will bear results and further the development of the Gymnastic Union in the spirit of progress.

The results of the elections regarding the other officials' positions are as follows:

Second Chair: Christ. Stöttner.

First Secretary: Georg Günther.

Second Secretary: Heinrich Edling.

The newly elected officials took their seats.

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Upon the recommendation of the committee for appointing the standing committees, these were appointed as follows:

1. Committee for the Platform and Statutes: E. Wallber, W. C. Pollner, Theo. Blunck, John Wallruff, John Gloy, Carl Eberhard, H. M. Starkloff, C. Hermann Boppe.

2. Committee for Practical Gymnastics: Christian Eberhard, Karl Stahl, Wm. Stecher, H. C. F. Stahl, Carl Lindenthal, F. A. Götze, G. Seikel, Wm. H. Gehrmann, Louis Weide, J. G. Wolf, Georg Brosius.

3. Committee for the Gymnastic Teachers Seminary: A. Häsel, A. Hirschfeld, Adolf Riedel, Otto Greubel, August Dick, Wm. Heeseler, Gustav Scholer, Louis Lepper, H. Dorfner.

4. Committee for Union Affairs: F. Bertsch, L. Zächer, Wm. Wartmann, A. L. Weise, Adolf Georg, A. Firnhaber, Jacob Heintz, H. W. Ocker, Otto Meißner.

5. Committee for Intellectual Efforts: C. A. Lang, Rudolph Worch, Adalbert Kriegar, H. Wollrab, Max Gescheider, Chr. Steinmeyer, H. F. Rödelsberger, Theo. Fritz, Jacob Huber.

6. Committee for the National Union Publication: D. Ginand, Jacob Weiß, Theo. Geiselhart, Anton Voigt, Wm. Legner, Emil Senn, Geo. Claus.

7. Committee for the Examination of the Account Books and the Financial and Statistical Reports of the National Executive Committee: August Voigt, Franz Haffner, Titus Mareck, Werner Strecker, Victor Kalk, Theo. Oehne, Theo. Lange, C. F. Conrad, Charles Hartung.

8. Committee for Complaints and Appeals: John Meinhardt, H. J. Oberschelp, A. L. Schimpf, Herm. Spiering, Phil. Keller, P. Albertine, G. Burghardt.

The committee for categorizing the instructions reported they completed their task. It was instructed to submit the instructions to the various committees.

Upon motion passed, a letter from gymnastic teacher Carl Betz from Kansas City regarding his English guiding principles for the gymnastic classes in the public schools was submitted to the Committee for Intellectual Efforts.

An invitation from the Boylston School Society to their picnic on June 17 was read and the meeting secretary was instructed to reply and accept conveying the delegates' thanks.

A congratulatory address from the Central Gymnastic Society of the city of New York was received by telegraph.

It was decided to send greetings from the Convention to the veterans of the Turner Regiment (20th N. Y. Vol.), who, together with the New York Gymnastic Society will celebrate the 25th anniversary of their marching out onto the field on June 14.

In order to allow the committees to do their work, the session was adjourned until Monday, June 14, 9am.

Georg Günther, secretary.

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SECOND DAY.

Morning Session.

The First Speaker Turner Heinrich Huhn opened the session at 9am.

The list of delegates' names was read. This proved a quorum was present.

The minutes of the previous session were read and approved.

The Committee for the Examination of the Account Books and the Financial and Statistical Reports of the National Executive Committee submitted the following report which was approved unanimously:

The Committee declares the treasurer's logs in best order. There are a few small errors in the logs of the meeting secretary, however these do not change anything in the end result. We recommend the meeting secretary note the monthly balance of the cashiers carefully in the future.

We recommend the Convention thanks treasurer Turner Richard Bösewetter on behalf of the Gymnastic Union for his exemplary management of his affairs.

The Committee for Intellectual Efforts moved to be released from its obligation regarding the English guiding principles for gymnastic classes in the public schools by gymnastic teacher Betz and have this matter submitted to the Committee for Practical Gymnastics. Motion granted.

The Committee for the Union Publication presented its report. In it, the committee recommends to keep the "Amerikanische Turnzeitung" ("American Turner Magazine") in its current format and under the current conditions as the Union publication and to commend its editors for their work. In addition, the committee recommends to all Turners to be better patrons of the publication in the future so that the publishers of the magazine receive the necessary financial support.

This report was approved unanimously and without any debate.

The Committee for Union Affairs submitted an incomplete report that was approved as follows:

1. Decided that the Gymnastic Teacher Seminary will remain in Milwaukee.
2. The deadline for the submission of annual reports to the Executive Committee will be February 1.
3. The seat of the Executive Committee will remain in St. Louis for the next term and the St. Louis Turner District is given to task to elect the next Executive Committee.

The committee proposed the next National Union Convention in 1888 take place in Chicago.

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This proposal prompted a lengthy discussion during which the cities Minneapolis, Pittsburg, San Francisco and Denver were nominated as potential hosts for the Convention.

It was decided to conduct a vote by districts and after each vote to eliminate the city with the least votes until an absolute majority of all represented union votes for one of the nominated cities is achieved. The results of the first round were: Pittsburg 125 votes, San Francisco 118, Chicago 105, Minneapolis 69 and Denver 50. The results of the fourth round were: Chicago 277 votes, Pittsburg 147 and San Francisco 57. Accordingly, Chicago was elected to host the 1888 National Gymnastic Union Convention.

Turner Tönsfeldt moved to express the Convention's thanks to the organizers of the concert in honor of the Convention that took place last night in the Boston Theater. Motion passed. The meeting secretary was instructed to inform Mr. B. Listemann and Mr. C. Pflüger of this decision.

The following telegrams were read:

From the gathering of the veterans of the 20th New York Turner Regiment: "We send you greetings and wishes our goals may be accomplished."

From the New York Gymnastic Society: "A heartfelt "To your health!" to the gathered delegates of the North American Gymnastic Union."

An invitation to attend the promenade concert in the Music Hall on Wednesday night on June 16 was read and accepted with thanks.

Same about an invitation from the Orpheus Singing Society to a friendly gathering in their hall on the same evening.

At this point adjournment until 2 o'clock in the afternoon.

Afternoon Session.

After Chair Heinrich Huhn opened the session and the minutes of the morning session were approved, a letter from the Arkansaw Gymnastic Society was read. In it, the society asks to be excused for not having any representatives at the Convention. The excuse was accepted as sufficient.

The Committee for Practical Gymnastics submitted an incomplete report. After a thorough discussion of the various comments, the report was approved in the following form:

1. The National Executive Committee is authorized to send an official representative to the meeting of the Association for the Advancement of Physical Culture which will take place on the last Friday in November in Brooklyn, N. Y.

2. The Executive Committee is authorized to send out as many copies of its current annual report as it can spare to all publishers of gymnastic magazines in Europe.

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3. A regular uniform of light grey flannel athletic pants and light grey flannel shirt, no decorations whatsoever, with a collar and long sleeves must be required for the active Turners at national gymnastic fests.

Turner Lindenthal from the Northwest Turner District handed in a letter from this district in which they ask for pecuniary support for the hire of faculty for practical gymnastics. The letter was routed to the Committee for Union Affairs.

The Committee for the National Gymnastic Teachers Seminary submitted an incomplete report which was approved after thorough deliberations in the following form:

1. The sum of \$2000 is approved to be used to cover faculty salaries and for the hire of one assistant teacher in each discipline.

2. The sum of \$1000 per year is approved for the scholarship fund for the support of destitute students of the Gymnastic Teachers Seminary.

3. The two-year long Seminary course will continue. However, the National Executive Committee and the Board of Directors of the Seminary have the right to push the start of the next course until 1888 if there is no demand for new gymnastic teachers in 1887.

4. To ask the Milwaukee Gymnastic Society to continue leading the Seminary as a token of appreciation of the society's great accomplishments in the thriving of our nursery of gymnastics.

Next, the report of the observation committee about the final exam in the Gymnastic Teachers Seminary was read. Motion passed to express the Convention's gratitude to the Board of Directors and the entire faculty of the Seminary for their selfless work in the interest of this great institution. The Chair did this with a few warm words to Turner Boppe whom he asked to convey the thanks of the Convention to the other members of the Board and the faculty.

The following telegrams were received and read:

"New York, June 14. The veterans gathered at their fest thank for the greetings and convey their own. Good health to gymnastics!"

"The Philadelphia Turner District gathered at his 13th district fest, rained out but nonetheless fresh, free, strong and loyal sends Turner greetings and a three-timed 'Good health!'"

Chair Heinrich Huhn announced that Turner Christian Eberhard from Boston is celebrating his 42nd birthday and congratulated him on this occasion on behalf of the Convention. Turner Eberhard thanked him warmly.

Next, Turner H. M. Starkloff from St. Louis gave a long presentation about the prohibition issue and the Turners' duty against the effort of the temperance muckers to bring forth a so-called moral through forced laws.

Turner Dietmeyer from Waterbury, Conn. gave a similar address.

Both were followed by Turner Meinhard from Rochester and Boppe from Milwaukee who spoke briefly about the same topic.

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Turner Boppe proposed to instruct the National Executive Committee to have the presentations of Turner Starkloff and Turner Dietmeyer translated in English and circulate them as pamphlets.

At this point, the session was adjourned until Thursday, June 15, 9 am.

Georg Günther, secretary.

THIRD DAY.

Morning Session.

Chair Heinrich Huhn called the session to order at 9 am.

A quorum was present and the minutes from the last session were read and approved.

Various standing committees complained the time between the sessions is not enough to take care of their business. In response to that, it was decided to close the morning session at 11 o'clock and open the afternoon session at 3 o'clock.

The Committee for Practical Gymnastics submitted an incomplete decision which was accepted after a thorough deliberation as follows:

1. Paragraph 16 of the order of the gymnastic fest/gymnastic competitions must be replaced with: "Professional gymnastic teachers are not allowed to participate in the competitions in the physical exercises. They may only compete for prizes in the literary competitions."

2. The English gymnastics textbook by Carl Betz is recommended to all gymnastic teachers.

3. It is recommended the districts introduce societies' competitions in place of the team competitions at their gymnastic fests like it is done in the Ohio, Lake Erie and Wisconsin Turner Districts. The idea is to try this out in the next two years and perhaps do it this way at the national gymnastic fests.

4. We recommend the societies pay special attention to the part of the Executive Committee's Technical Committees report regarding "Aesthetic Education".

5. In regards of the societies' competitions, we recommend the following order of the gymnastic fests to the districts (N.B. See the Order of the Gymnastic Fest, Addendum B.)

The following proposal of the Committee for Practical Gymnastics was tabled until the Committee for Intellectual Efforts submits its report:

"We recommend German be maintained on the sports fields."

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The Committee for Intellectual Efforts submitted its report. It was read, discussed by individual paragraphs and accepted in the following form:

"After viewing the statistical material received, your Committee for Intellectual Efforts is especially pleased to declare that there is greater activity on the intellectual front in many districts. We flatter ourselves with the hope that the Twelfth Convention will be able to turn the Gymnastic Union into a massive temple of the mind building upon all that has been

accomplished already. However, let us not forget the experience gained by building the Babel Tower.

Our predecessors on similar committees at previous conventions provided numerous tips and well-meant suggestions. So, when we now try to add some new ideas, we believe we ought to use the current good financial position of the Union to accomplish more and bigger things in the area of intellectual development than it was possible before when there were financial constraints.

The decisions from the Ohio Turner District submitted to us regarding debates about the tenets and in regards of the diffusion of leagues for personal freedom exist in full power already and the decision about the burning of corpses surely does not belong in the scope of this committee. We recommend this issue be sent on to the committee for decisions.”

The following congratulatory telegrams were received:

“St. Louis, June 14. Our best wishes for the Twelfth Convention. Signed, Gollmer, Rathmann, Stifel, Bollinger, Hertwig, Braun and Kaufmann.”

“Petaluma, Cal., June 14. The Turners of the Pacific Turner District gathered for the twelfth gymnastic fest in Petaluma send their greetings to the delegates of the Convention and a thundering ‘Good health’ for the well-being of the Gymnastic Union.”

Adjournment until 3 pm.

Afternoon Session.

Chair Heinrich Huhn called the session to order at 3 pm.

After the minutes of the previous session were read and approved, the following proposal by the Committee for Intellectual Efforts that was not resolved at the morning session was discussed:

“As before, it is the responsibility of the gymnastic teachers to use the German language in their interactions in classes with our Turners, trainees and students. Only in classes where all participants can speak only English it is allowed to use English, as necessary.”

In addition, the proposal made by the Committee for Practical Gymnastics which was submitted earlier and tabled

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was picked up for discussion and amended by Turner Tönsfeldt as follows:

“The commands given on the sports fields and in the gymnasiums must be in German. However, in order to make our gymnastic schools stronger in the propaganda efforts for introducing gymnastics in the public schools, it is recommended to give the commands in English as well.”

A long and thorough discussion followed. Afterwards, Turner Münch moved to adopt the amended version as a substitute for the original proposal from the Committee for Intellectual Efforts.

During the debate, Turner Wallber suggested the following substitute for Münch’s substitute and the original committee proposal:

“Regarding the introduction of the English language on the sports fields – let us not forget that we live in America and that English is the national language. On the other hand, we may not dismiss the fact that it is in fact the gymnastic societies that have taken upon themselves to maintain and keep the German language and to procure recognition for the German customs and culture in this country. In addition, let us also keep in mind that our young people are only too inclined to prefer English in every situation. Our gymnastic teachers ought and must be capable of conducting gymnastic classes in English; however, it is different in the gymnasiums, which are places of German life and German ideas, where it is thought in German and it should be spoken

in German. Therefore we should take care that the German language remain the reigning language on our sports fields.”

At the vote, Wallber’s substitute was rejected and Münch’s substitute was accepted as the Convention’s decision with 282 against 190 district votes.

Upon the recommendation of the Committee for Union Affairs, all instructions regarding the annual gymnastics statistics that were submitted to it were referred to the next National Executive Committee for its attention when it prepares the annual statistics of the Gymnastic Union.

Next, the Committee for the Gymnastic Teachers Seminary submitted its final report which was accepted in the following form:

“The following words must be inserted after the word “certify” in §9, b of the rules for the Seminary: ‘The final decision is made by the doctor appointed by the Seminary’.

In points g, h and i of the section regarding admission, ‘leadership of the gymnastic society must be replaced with ‘leadership of the gymnastic district’.

In point l, after the final word “Seminary”, the following sentence must be inserted: ‘It is the duty of the Board of Directors to reject any candidates who do not perform sufficiently at the exam that the Board administers.’

The report of the Committee for the Platform and Statutes was submitted, acknowledged and tabled until the evening session.

The following telegram from Turner Adolph Frey in Indianapolis was received and read:

“Indianapolis, June 15. Greetings to all. Forward for freedom and justice! Signed, Adolph Frey, former publisher of the Union Publication and Turner since 1853.”

Turner Tönsfeldt congratulated the Convention on behalf of the National Executive Committee for its successes accomplished today through the decisions about the use of the German language as these will mark the path to achieving our goals and make German gymnastics culture a common value for the American people.

At this point, the session was adjourned until 7 pm.

Evening Session.

Chair Heinrich Huhn called the meeting to order at 7 o'clock.

The minutes of the afternoon session were not read at this point.

Next, the report of the Committee for Platform and Statutes was presented for discussion and approved in the following form:

Tenets.

“Even though all reform demands necessary for the realization of the principles stated in the platform of the North American Gymnastic Union cannot be accomplished at the same time, a rational long-term evaluation of the political and social development demands they be summarized and a timely evaluation of all essential needs for reform be initiated. Therefore, we advocate the following:”

After the above introduction of the Tenets was approved unanimously, Turner Jacob Heintz moved on behalf of the New York Turner District to cancel the part of the Tenets that seeks the removal of the Office of the President and Senate.

A long and deep discussion followed this proposal and ended with the result that this motion was rejected with 395 votes against 74.

Turners Arnold and Dathe from the New York Turner District gave their personal statement for the record that, although, in principle, they are against the removal of this part of

the Tenets, they are forced through their instructions to vote for the proposal of the New York Turner District.

An invitation from the Central Turner District in New York to all delegates who travel through New York on their way home to visit the gymnasium of their gymnastic society was accepted. Turner Jacob Heintz was instructed to send a reply.

It was announced to the meeting that Governor Robinson accompanied by his staff has arrived on the upper level and wishes to greet the delegates on behalf of the state of Massachusetts so the Convention adjourned until Wednesday morning 8 o'clock.

Georg Günther, secretary.

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FOURTH DAY.

Morning Session.

Chair Heinrich Huhn called the session to order at the appointed time.

The list of delegates' names was read. This showed a quorum was present.

The minutes of both previous sessions were read and approved.

Next, the report of the Committee for the Platform and Statutes was discussed and the following proposals of the committee were approved:

Paragraphs 1, 2 and 3 of the Tenets remain the same.

Paragraph 4 will be changed, as follows: "We recommend the following as suitable ways to lift poverty and improve the social conditions: defending work against exploitation; reducing the working hours and implementing a normal work day (of 8 hours) for industrial work; sanitary support of the citizens through control of the factories, food and housing; statistical assessment of the workers' conditions through the government."

A minority report of the committee recommended the above paragraph be approved except the words "of eight hours". After a longer and thorough discussion, the minority report of the committee was rejected and the majority report approved in the version above.

In addition, it was decided that the Executive Committee shall order a vote throughout the Gymnastic Union about the question whether the words "of 8 hours" ought to be kept in the paragraph above or removed.

Paragraph 5 of the Tenets was changed, as follows: "Ban of factory work for children under 14 years of age".

Paragraph 6 remains the same.

Paragraph 7 was changed, as follows: "Mandatory school attendance for all and free of charge education for everybody in all education institutions that are supported by government or community funds. Public support will be lent to the poor. Energetic propaganda for the introduction of German and gymnastics classes in the public schools as well as keeping all confessional influences at bay.

Progressive income and inheritance tax with tax exemption for the minimum income necessary to support a family. Transfer of all means of public transportation (railways, telegraph, etc.) to the government. Deep reforms of the judicial system. Removal of all indirect taxes."

Paragraph 8 remains the same, except at the end "the Convention recommends" will be replaced with "we recommend."

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Paragraph 9 is removed completely.

Paragraphs 10 and 11 remain as they are.

The same with paragraph 12, except “reign of the people” will be replaced with “government of the people” and “the Convention” will be replaced with “the Gymnastic Union.”

Paragraphs 13 and 14 are removed, however paragraph 14 will be inserted into the statutes at the appropriate place.

Statutes.

It was decided that in order to make possible a thorough revision that can weather any critique, the Executive Committee must appoint a committee of three members during its next term. This committee must prepare proposals for revision of the statutes and the rules of order to be presented to the attention of the 13. Convention.

The following changes to the statutes were submitted by the Committee for Platform and Statutes. They were discussed and approved with two thirds of all represented district votes:

B. Government.

§3. Only delegates in the possession of district mandates have seat and vote at the national conventions. These delegates are elected by the district conventions. No delegate may represent more than one district.

§9. The administrative year of the Union will begin on September 1, the fiscal year will begin on April 1.

§11. The second sentence of this paragraph must be: “If they join between January 1 and October 1.”

§33. must be added to the statutes, as follows: “The National Executive Committee is instructed, whenever memoranda in support of any decisions or law reforms in accordance to our platform and statutes need to be sent to Congress or state legislatures to write these (memoranda) and circulate them among the gymnastic societies.

C. Complaints and Appeals.

§1. must read: "Whenever a complaint is lodged against a Turner by his society or a member of this society or by another Union society or its member, a written notification must be given to this Turner at least one week before the meeting at which the complaint is reviewed by the leadership."

The Lake Erie Turner District submitted the motion: "The gymnastic societies in those states where the right to vote is restricted, made dependent on private property or the amount of direct taxes like Pennsylvania are urged to begin an active, energetic and systematic propaganda against such restriction of the civil rights and not rest until these laws that exist despite all constitutional guarantees are removed." Motion passed.

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In addition, the following decisions submitted by Turner Starkloff on behalf of the Committee for Platform and Statutes were approved:

"Every attempt to restrict the immigration in this country is against the free and noble institutions and therefore dangerous. It should be avoided under all circumstances, provided that through the immigration of one particular people the interests of the intelligent and diligent citizens who are useful to the country in every imaginable way are not endangered.

However because the current in masse hauling of Chinese, known under the term 'coolie importation', brings immeasurable damage to this country and its intelligent population striving for humane accomplishments; because there is absolutely no use to our republic's institutions, it is recommended to the gymnastic societies to put all their energy into legislative efforts to create laws to fight this enormous importation of serfs."

The following proposal by Turner Boppe was routed on to the 13. Convention and it was decided to include it in the minutes:

"1. A sum in the amount of \$200 is allotted so that the Gymnastic Union obtains the right to vote in the National German American College Association.

2. The Gymnastic Union declares that a sum in the amount of \$300 will be allotted for scholarships for the next two school years of the National German American Teachers College beginning with September 1, 1886. The National Executive Committee will award the scholarships to such students who have either completed a course in the College or commit to receive gymnastic teacher education in the Gymnastic Teachers Seminary after graduating from the Teachers College.

3. In case the Gymnastic Teachers Seminary and the Teachers College are located in the same place, the Board of Directors of the former must aim that as many faculty of the Teachers College as possible be utilized as teachers in their school. Should this produce any savings for the Gymnastic Teachers Seminary, the National Executive Committee will have the right to manage those funds in the interest of both schools.”

The following proposal submitted by the Committee for Union Affairs was declared a decision:

“When a district leadership requests it, the Executive Committee is authorized to hire suitable instructors in subjects of intellectual and physical education for a short-term duration and when possible from a close location – when it is in the interest of the North American Gymnastic Union and for those districts or societies that need this assistance. However, the total expenditures for this purpose until the next national convention may not exceed \$2,000”.

The Committee for Physical Gymnastics reported as follows:

“We recommend the score committee at the national gymnastic fests consists of 11 men, 8 of whom must keep the general and 2 the main lists under the supervision of a foreman.

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Like the judges, this committee is appointed by the Executive Committee. Its travel expenses will be covered.

We recommend tents for the protection of the competitors be procured at the union gymnastic fests.

We recommend a combined meeting of the judges and the observation committee take place at the end of the fest so that both groups' members exchange their impressions from the fest.

We recommend printed fest programs be provided to all Turners at the gymnastic fests.

We recommend to forbid entrance charges to any part of the fest grounds from Turners who are in possession of a fest badge.

We recommend the technical committee of the National Executive Committee be instructed to acquire newly published works in the field of gymnastics, then review or have them reviewed and publish the reviews in the 'Amerikanische Turnzeitung' (American Turner Magazine). Afterwards, these materials must be given to the Seminary's library.

Because there will not be a gymnastic fest before the next convention, the committee did not deem it advisable to implement more changes to the order of the gymnastic fests or instructions about them other than those listed here.

In addition, we recommend to the Convention:

1. To recommend to the districts to establish schools for pre-fencing where appropriate and to hold fencing competitions at their gymnastic fests.

2. To adopt the performance and score tables for competitive fencers created by the New York Gymnastic Society and use them at competitions."

The report was approved and it was decided to submit it to the technical committee of the Executive Committee so that the latter may insert the changes at the appropriate places (See Order of the Gymnastic Fest, Addendum B.).

Turner Adolf Georg moved to hold the next gymnastic fest in 1889 in Cincinnati. Motion passed.

The Committee for Complaints and Appeals submitted the following report which was approved:

“The Committee for Complaints and Appeals appointed by the Convention can only report the happy fact that it had absolutely nothing to do because not one single complaint had been filed. Surely, this must be proof that despite the lively times and some quite heated debates during this Convention, a conciliatory, harmonious and peaceful atmosphere reigns the Union for the most part in. The committee hopes this may remain the case in the future so that a committee for complaints becomes superfluous as was the case this time.”

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The following proposal submitted by Turner Tönsfeldt was declared a decision:

Decided: To pay the amount of \$118.60 which the St. Louis Gymnastic Society deposited in the Union treasury in the usual installments to the father of our adoptive son F. L. Jahn. However, after this money is spent we will stop any further payments and leave the care of the old man to his son.

Turner Weise from Philadelphia offered the hospitality of the Philadelphia Gymnastic Society to all delegates who pass through the ‘city of brotherly love’ on their way home. The invitation was thankfully accepted. The same with an invitation from Turner Heeseler on the behalf of the New York Gymnastic Society.

Turner Tönsfeldt submitted the following decision which was approved unanimously:

The desire to keep and disseminate the German culture and language in our adoptive fatherland as well prompts the 12. Convention of the North American Gymnastic Union to draw its members’ attention to the fact that the German family has to be the shelter for these gems. Therefore the Convention urges all Turners to make sure every member of their families, young and old, uses only the German language at home.

It was decided to issue the following letters of thanks:

To the gymnastic society, the ladies' gymnastic society and the citizens of Boston for their warm reception and charming care they provided to the delegates.

To the English and German press for the loyal and conscientious reports.

To the National Executive Committee for the dedicated and unflagging fulfillment of its duties.

Turner Tönsfeldt graciously acknowledged this praise on behalf of his colleagues in the National Executive Committee.

In addition:

It was decided to express the Convention's full recognition and gratitude to the faculty and Board of Trustees of the Gymnastic Teachers Seminary and especially Turner C. Hermann Boppe for the ceaseless work in the interest of the school.

Decided to acknowledge and thank the Convention officials for their conscientious and neutral management of the business.

At this point, the session was adjourned until Thursday, 8 am.

Georg Günther, secretary.

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FIFTH DAY.

Final Session.

Chair Heinrich Huhn opened the session at 8 am.

The list of delegates' names was read. This showed a quorum was present.

The minutes of the previous session were read and approved.

Turner Bertsch's proposal was declared a decision unanimously:

To send a telegram with the Convention's greetings and wishes for quick recovery to the corresponding secretary of the National Executive Committee Turner Hugo Gollmer in St. Louis. In addition, when Chair Heinrich Huhn arrives in St. Louis, he will thank Turner Gollmer in person on behalf of the Convention for his dutiful and untiring work for the Gymnastic Union and express the regret of the Convention delegates that they did not have the honor to greet him in their midst.

In addition, it was decided to instruct the Executive Committee and the Convention Chair to prepare the official minutes of the Convention for publication.

After the minutes of the final session were read and approved, the Chair dismissed the 12. Convention of the National Gymnastic Union by urging the delegates to support the resolutions of this convention in their societies support as hard as they possibly can so that these do not remain dead letters on paper but live inspiration for accomplishing the great task the Gymnastic Union has set for itself.

He closed with a triple "Good Health" to the continuous growth and strength of the North American Gymnastic Union.

Heinrich Huhn, Chair.

Georg Günther, secretary.

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ADDENDUM A.

Platform and Statutes of the North American Gymnastic Union.

Platform.

We, the Turners of the North American Gymnastic Union, united under the name “The North American Gymnastic Union”, aim 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 government of the people on a truly humane ground. We will fight most determinedly against every attempt to restrict the freedom of conscience as well as all infringements of the law, which impede the improvement of our free institutions.

Tenets.

Although all reform demands as they are necessary for the realization of the principles presented in the platform of the North American Gymnastic Union cannot be fulfilled at the same time, a rational and future oriented examination of the political and social development requires they be consolidated and a timely and complete assessment of the essential reform needs be attempted. Therefore, we affirm the following:

The sovereignty of the people is unsalable and cannot be assigned to its representatives or employees neither in the legislative nor 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 them 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 needs only one group of responsible and accountable agents for its legislature and government. This group will put its decisions into action through 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 monarchial 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.

We recommend the following as suitable ways to lift poverty and improve the social conditions: reduction of the work time and implementation of regular work day of eight hours* for industrial purposes. Sanitary support of the citizens through supervision of factories, food and housing; statistical assessment of the work conditions through the government; ban of factory work by children under 14 years of age. Stop to all further gifts or sales of land to individuals and 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.

Because the efforts toward social reforms supporting the socialization of land and the means of production are capturing the attention of the nations, the Convention urges all Gymnastic Union societies to hold lectures and discussions about these topics so that the members of the Gymnastic Union may gain the most correct opinions possible about them. In

addition, the Convention recommends to the societies the acquisition of relevant literature to add to their libraries collections.

Religious views and beliefs are an individual's own spiritual and moral need according to individuals' private view and education.

*This regulation of the duration of the work day is subject to ratification through votes in the states of the Union.

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

Some of these measures include: 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.

The tenets below were added at later national conventions:

The principles and demands for reform expressed in the tenets build the program for creating the system of the pure government of the people, which must be established with persistent work in our republic if it does not want to share the fate of the republics of the antiquity. Therefore, the employees and members of the Gymnastic Union are urged to make

this the topic of thoughtful debates, to expand an active propaganda in the Union itself and among the people of the United States, so that the government of the people is understood better. The Union must try everything to achieve this government. However, the Convention does not find it against the program if Turners, as long as no physical organization is established to reach this goal, participate individually in the public political life according to their preferences.

Statutes.

A. Organization.

1. Several gymnastic societies located close to each other, which join an organization build a District, however the Districts should be confined as much as possible to their own state borders. All societies from the same township must belong to the same District.

2. The legislative body of the District is the District Convention, which takes place at least once a year.

The delegates to the district conventions are elected by the individual gymnastic societies. Each District may determine the ratio between the number of delegates and its members as it deems appropriate.

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3. The executive authority of the District is the District Committee. Its members are elected for one year by the District according to its own regulations.

4. The highest legislative body of the Union is the National Convention. Delegates from all districts are sent to this convention. However, the decisions of the National Convention in all principle and governing matters of exceptional importance must be declared laws only when they have been approved by a majority of the union members who actually have the right to vote through a ballot. The decision about which leadership issues ought to be presented to the

societies for a ballot is reserved for the National Convention. However this ballot must be conducted as soon as at least ten delegates from six different districts have requested it.

As soon as 600 Turners of the North American Gymnastic Union ask in written form for a vote about any issue: the passing of a law, the reform or the removal of an old law, etc., the Executive Committee will be required to present this matter immediately to the unions and require a vote about the matter in question within 6 weeks from the day of the announcement. The following further regulations will be observed:

- a) Only the votes in person shall be counted.
- b) After the successful gathering of the elections results, the Executive Committee will be responsible for announcing the end result to the individual societies. Every decision, which received the majority of votes shall come into effect within 30 days of the official announcement.
- c) With their signatures, the First Spokesman and the secretary of each society must certify the truthfulness of the votes from the elections.
- d) The election results of the individual societies, organized by district, must be published in the Union newspaper.

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

B. Government.

1. A National Convention meets every two years. It determines the location for the next convention. The Executive Committee determines the day the Convention starts, when possible, in the second half of May. The date must be announced at least two months in advance.

2. Upon demand from such a number of Districts representing at least $\frac{1}{3}$ of the union votes, the National Executive Committee is obligated to call an extra convention. Its location is determined by the Executive Committee. This convention may not take place in less than 30 days

from the time of the call for it. Should the Executive Committee refuse to respond to this demand, the districts that submitted the petition would call the convention on their own.

3. Only delegates who possess a district mandate have a seat and a vote at the National Union Conventions. No delegate can represent more than one gymnastic district.

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4. Each district must be represented at the National Union Convention, either through its own or delegates from other districts. The districts are entitled to the following number of delegates: one vote for the first 50 members, for each next 50 members or over half of that number they receive an additional vote. A delegate can represent several votes in a district, however, the districts that want to be represented through candidates from other districts, do not have the right to elect a delegate from the District hosting the convention. Districts with outstanding dues for the year preceding the convention can be allowed a seat and a vote only if the convention grants it.

5. Districts that are not represented at national conventions and do not submit sufficient excuse to the Executive Committee within four weeks from the first day of the convention must be expelled from the Union. The Executive Committee's decision must be published in the national Union newspaper.

6. The National Union Convention determines the Executive Committee District; the convention of the Executive Committee District elects the members of the Executive Committee and three substitutes. An absolute majority is necessary for the election of the substitutes. The members of the Executive Committee, no fewer than 9, appoint the officials among themselves, as follows: one first secretary, one second secretary, one corresponding and one meeting secretary and one treasurer. The corresponding secretary and the treasurer must be remunerated for their time consuming work. The National Union Convention must provide the Executive Committee with sufficient funds for this purpose. It is up to the latter to determine the actual wages. The Executive Committee's District convention elects the Executive Committee's

members and must take place within 30 days after the National Union Convention. The Executive Committee's District convention must elect the nine members of the Executive Committee and the three substitute officials whose job it is to fill any vacancies as first, second and third substitute according to the received votes.

Should a vacancy open in one of the 5 officials positions, the new Executive Committee, reinforced through the substitute, will elect a new officer from its midst.

7. The Executive Committee District is responsible for the management of the Union treasury by the Executive Committee. The treasurer of the National Executive Committee must provide a sufficient surety to the District committee.

8. At national conventions, the Executive Committee members have all rights of the delegates except the right to vote and therefore cannot represent any district. The Executive Committee members cannot accept any district positions.

9. The fiscal year of the Union begins on July 1 and ends on July 1 of the next year.

10. Every Union district pays yearly dues of 20 cent for each member in the first half of the year.

11. Any new districts joining the Union pay an application fee of 3 dollars for every local society to the Union treasury. If they joined during the first 9 months of the current fiscal year, they will pay the dues for the full year.

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If they joined in the last 3 months of the current fiscal year, they will pay the dues for the next year.

12. Gymnastic societies that leave a district will be viewed as new members if they do not join another district within 60 days.

13. No district will have the right to accept a club, which has not fulfilled its financial and other obligations toward the district it belonged to previously.

14. The district committees have a responsibility to the National Executive Committee for the dues of as many members as recorded in their statistical reports on January 1. However, the National Executive Committee has the right to pardon member's taxes not paid by the societies.

15. Any districts, which, after having received a second reminder from the Executive Committee regarding any management affairs, do not resolve these, can be suspended by the Executive Committee without any further process. This action must be published in the Union newspaper. However, only the Convention can expel them from the Union.

Any expelled districts can be accepted back in the Union anytime if they fulfil their obligations; however, they must pay the regular application fees remitted by new districts.

Any districts that have not submitted their complete statistical reports to the Executive Committee by February 1 of the following year, must be charged a 10 per cent increase over the dues of those societies who owed members' dues last year.

The same charge will be applied if they submitted their complete statistical report to the Executive Committee after February 1. The same charge will be also applied to districts with outstanding dues for more than one year.

16. Candidates to join a gymnastic society must be at least 18 years of age, have an unblemished character, must be US citizens or have taken steps to become citizens, may not have been suspended from a gymnastic organization or, within the last year, expelled from such one. They 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 club and district they joined.

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 Union.

18. Every Turner who owns such a passport signed by accredited employees must be accepted in a gymnastic organization without a probation period, vote and application fee if he joins it within sixty days of the issue of his passport (or six months if the passport was issued abroad) and if he pledges to abide by the specific statutes of that organization. However, it is absolutely required,

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that a Turner who entered the country on a foreign passport must be an American citizen or have submitted a legal application to become one before he surrenders his original passport. Every Turner who leaves his gymnastic society after fulfillment of his obligations can receive a passport if he so wishes.

19. A Turner who leaves his organization without fulfilling his obligations to it and joins another organization, even after a successful probation period there, should be expelled from the new organization until he has fulfilled his obligations to the original one.

20. A Turner who moves to a different city must join its gymnastic organization if there is one. Should he wish not to do that, the District committee of the District he is leaving must give its permission. No Turner may belong to two Union clubs in the same town.

21. 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.

22. The gymnastic societies are obligated to practice gymnastics according to rational principles and pay special attention to the fact that only gymnastic teachers, instructors and Vorturners [Vorturners were the most gifted and skilled gymnasts in a group who assisted the gymnastic teacher by demonstrating the new exercises to the other gymnasts who then learned and practiced them under the guidance of the Vorturners] may be hired who grasp those concepts and are able to teach accordingly.

In addition, it is the duty of the societies 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 mandatory school attendance and make sure that German is taught in the public schools.

23. It is the duty of the unions to hold monthly instructional presentations, lectures or debates for the education of their members. It is highly desirable the topics for these presentations pertain to the Union's decisions and principles. If the individual societies require it, the district committee will provide the topics.

The societies must inform the district committee what results were accomplished at the lecture or debate within four weeks. For this, they will use the forms provided by the district committee. These reports will be sorted and sent on to the Executive Committee, which will publish a compiled report.

24. The Union Convention will determine where and when the next Convention will take place.

25. The judges for these fests will be appointed by the Gymnastic Teacher Congress, which takes place in the year before the fest. Their travel expenses will be covered by the Union.

26. The Union prizes are in form of diplomas and laurel wreaths. At the societies and districts fests, other prizes are permitted as well. A special committee appointed at the Union Convention will determine the topics for the literary competition, one of which must be about physical exercises.

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Gymnastic teachers may participate only in the literary competition. The literary works that were awarded diplomas will be published in the Union newspaper.

27. The Districts' committees must submit an accurate statistical report to the Executive Committee every twelve months, on January 1 of every year. The Executive Committee submits an annual report to the Union as well.

28. If necessary, the corresponding secretary of the Executive Committee has the right to contact the societies in question directly when gathering the annual statistical reports.

29. 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 Constitution of the National Gymnastic Union. Members, societies or districts that break any regulations of the platform or statutes of the Union must be held accountable by the next highest authority. They can be expelled if they refuse to comply.

30. The punishment of expulsion may only be applied to a member of the Union for dishonorable conduct. The district committees must submit all such expulsions to the National Executive Committee. The Executive Committee will make them public to the societies semi-annually.

31. 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 individual Turner as well as of the particular society or district to bring those to the suitable authority.

32. 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 must suggest two other 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.

33. The National Executive Committee is instructed, in cases when memoranda pertaining to any decisions or law reforms in accordance to our platform or principles must be sent to Congress or the individual states legislatures to create these memoranda and distribute them among the societies of the Gymnastic Union.

C. Accusation and Appeals.

The Accusation.

1. When a Turner is accused of any offense by either a society or another member, he must 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.

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The Process.

1. At the committee meeting during which the process takes place, the plaintiff or the spokesman must first explain the charge. This is followed by the questioning of the witnesses for the prosecution and then of the witnesses for the defense. If the prosecution wishes to debilitate the statements of the witnesses for the defense, it may question them again. The same applies to the defense if it wants to debilitate the statements of the witnesses for the prosecution questioned last.
2. Every defendant is free to have a representative who must be a Turner, however. This representative can submit the witnesses for the prosecution to a cross-examination. The same applies to the plaintiff's representative who also must 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 Spokesman. Both parties must abide by his orders – provided, he has no personal interest in the matter.
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 prove their case.

5. The deliberation of the verdict must be conducted in a closed meeting excluding anybody who is not a committee member.

6. The committee may preside over a grievance matter only 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 Chair, the plaintiff and the defendant or their representatives.

The Appeal Process.

Appeal to the Society.

1. In case one of the disputing parties is not satisfied with the verdict issued by the committee, that party can appeal the verdict to the society within two weeks.

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

3. The process must be conducted in a private meeting of the society. The meeting must begin with reading the charge and the witnesses' statements, after 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 appeal meetings in the society.

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Appeal to the District Executive Committee.

1. If one of the parties wishes to appeal the decision of the society to the district executive committee, it must send a written notification to the society as well as the district executive committee within 12 days.

2. In the case of an appeal to the district executive committee, the society, whose verdict the appeal is brought up against, is obligated to submit all relevant documents, papers and a certified copy of the witnesses statements to the district executive committee immediately.

3. The process in the district executive committee must be the same as it is in the executive committee of the society, 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 to do so. The district executive committee has the right to examine the accuracy of the minutes if that is challenged.

4. The appeal to the district convention is removed. An appeal against the decision of the district executive committee must be submitted to it directly. Appeal to the National Executive Committee.

1. When a decision of a district's executive committee is appealed to the National Executive Committee, the procedures must be the same as when a society verdict is appealed to the district executive committee. However, under no circumstances may new proof material be accepted. Such appeals must be submitted to the National Executive Committee within 14 days after receiving the decision of the district.

Appeal to the National Union Convention.

1. When an appeal is submitted to the National Union Convention, it must be submitted by the National Executive Committee within 14 days.

2. The convention will determine its own procedures.

D. Revision of the statutes.

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

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ADDENDUM B.

The Order of the Gymnastic Fests of the North American Gymnastic Union.

I. General guidelines.

1. Organization, Management and Program.

§1. Organization.

The Gymnastic Fests of the North American Gymnastic Union last three days. One of these days must be a Sunday. The city hosting the fest will be determined by the previous convention. Should it turn out to be impossible or absolutely unsuitable for unexpected reasons to hold the fest there, the Executive Committee must 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 a vote, the Executive Committee has the right to postpone the fest to allow a vote be conducted.

§2. Management.

The Executive Committee of the North American Gymnastic Union or the technical committee of the North American Gymnastic Union oversees the fest. The gymnastic fest committee appointed by the host union (or unions) is in charge the following: a) creating the program of the fest and submitting it to the National Executive Committee no later than twelve weeks before the fest begins; b) preparing and furnishing the place for the fest and any other necessary rooms, for instance locker rooms for the competing athletes, meeting rooms for the judges, a wrestling ring furnished with saw dust or mulch, etc.; c) making arrangements for the lodgings of the guests; d) collecting the registrations for the fest and distributing the tickets.

Additional regulations to b): the following gymnastic equipment and tools in good condition must be supplied – 3 horses, 3 horizontal bars (with spare poles), 3 parallel bars, several vaulting horses and swinging rings as well as a ladder or climbing equipment (the last apparatus is for elected exercises and gymnastic demonstrations).

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Four pieces of each of the gymnastic equipment must be provided for the following athletic exercises: high, long, three jump and jump with a pole, as well weight lifting, stone throw and rope climb.

In addition, a smooth area or a floor covered with boards for the competition, free and choreographed exercises, as well as a straight track of 656 feet (200 meter).

The horse must be set at 3½ ft. height in the saddle from the upper end of the springboard. Javelin vaults must be 9 feet long and 1⅞ Zoll thick and be made from hickory wood. The poles for vault jump must be 11 – 14 feet long and ca. 1½ Zoll in diameter.

The gymnastic field dimensions must be 150 feet by 250 feet.

The union hosting the gymnastic fest is required to prepare for inclement weather so the competitions can be finished in a sheltered location.

The National Executive Committee will appoint five members to form an observation committee three of whom will be gymnastic teachers. Their travel expenses to the gymnastic fest will be covered by the Union. This observation committee will not interfere in any way in the management of the fest. Its role is only to observe the procedures at the fest. Each of its members must submit a report about his work to the technical committee of the Executive Committee. The latter must compile the reports and, if necessary, publish them separately.

§3. The Gymnastic Fest Schedule.

A welcoming party will take place on the night before the fest begins. At that event, the management of the gymnastic fest is handed over to the technical committee of the National Executive Committee.

Usually, the schedule is as follows:

First day: a) general free and choreographed exercises; b) competitive athletics;
c) gymnastic demonstrations of various prize awarded teams.

Second day: competitive gymnastics;

Third day: a) if necessary, continuation of the competitive gymnastics and the award ceremony; b) an excursion for all participants.

If possible, the competitions must take place at the same place. If a Turner parade is organized, it will be held on the third day together with the excursion.

§4. An exhibition of gymnastic apparatus and equipment must be organized at the gymnastic fests.

2. Participation in the National Union Gymnastic Fests.

§5. Access.

Only gymnastic societies members of the North American Gymnastic Union, resp. their members, who fulfill their obligations to the same societies and their districts in accordance to the statutes, have access to the Union gymnastic fests. Gymnasts and gymnastic clubs outside of the North American Gymnastic Union can be invited by the National Executive Committee and, provided its agreement, by the fest committee of the host town. Both authorities may invite other individuals accomplished in gymnastics or the public life.

All participants, those who have a right to attend and those who received invitations, have the same rights and obligations. The National Executive Committee must notify the fest committee of the host town of all participants four weeks before the fest.

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Each fest participant will receive a lodgings and an event ticket from the local fest committee.

It is not allowed to charge admission to any parts of the festivities grounds from Turners who possess a fest badge or a fest ticket.

§6. Registration.

The fest participants must be registered with the local fest committee of the host town fourteen days before the fest.

§7. No Turner may appear in unusual dress at the gymnastic fest. In addition, it is forbidden to carry drinking horns.

§8. Only those Turners will be admitted at the competitions who participate at the specified group, free and choreographed exercises. Gymnastic teachers and instructors are required to encourage all other capable gymnasts to participate at those.

II. Organization of Gymnastics and Competitive Gymnastics, its Judging and Award Criteria.

1. General policies.

§9. The entire preparation and management of all types of gymnastics is the responsibility of the gymnastic committee of the host city. It is required that a gymnastic teacher is a member of this committee. He is its Chair and first leader of the gymnastic part of the fest. The duties of the committee are: a) setting up and furnishing the sports field and various locations as described in §2; b) providing the necessary gear for the competitions, including the wreaths for the winners; c) creating the free, choreographed and general exercises.

§10. Judging.

The National Executive Committee will determine the judges for the National Union fests and have their names published in the Union newspaper one month before the fest. The union will reimburse them for their travel expenses. There are 16 judges. The Executive Committee may appoint 3 judges for the fencing and swimming competitions from the host district or one close by. If necessary, the judges appointed by the Executive Committee can help each other out in their duties during the competitions.

In order to organize themselves, the judges elect a Chair and a record keeper among themselves. The Chair leads the judging process, oversees the work of the judges, provides the correspondence between the judges and the score keeping committee. The Chair may not work as a judge at the competitions. The record keeper creates the records and writes a report about the judging process for the National Executive Committee within two weeks after the fest. In addition, the record keeper is responsible for providing the judges with writing and measurement materials. At the beginning of each meeting of the judges, he must announce their names and note any absences in his official report.

At the competitions, three judges must be assigned to each piece of the gymnastic equipment (for the horse exercises, three judges each for the side jump and back flip). Two judges must be assigned to each type of athletics.

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All available judges with the exception of those who are team leaders must work at the free and choreographed exercises.

The score keeping committee is made up of 11 members. Eight of them keep the general and two the main lists under the supervision of chairman. The Executive Committee will appoint the score keeping committee just like it appoints the judges. Its members' travel expenses will be reimbursed.

2. Specific policies.

A. Gymnastics for Attendees.

§11. Only free and choreographed exercises will be conducted for all attendees. The Chair of the gymnastic committee will publish the free exercises two months before the fest at the latest in the Union newspaper. The fest attendees must practice the exercises in advance.

B. Gymnastics of the Individual Districts and Clubs.

§12. Every district and club/other group of fest participants has the right, given there is sufficient time and opportunities, to perform exercises it has prepared in advance on the first day. These exercises must be registered with the gymnastic committee four weeks before the fest. Level of gymnastic difficulty, what kind and how much gymnastic apparatus, size of the required location and projected duration (may not exceed 20 minutes) must be provided with the registration.

The gymnastic committee must decide immediately which exercises are acceptable and has the right to reduce performance time if necessary. Any rejections regarding required location, apparatus or too high a number of entries can be issued, however, only in exceptional circumstances, when a gymnastic performance is not possible even at the end of the second day. Such rejections may only be applied to the groups registered last.

C. General Elective Gymnastics.

§13. Every fest attendee who desires to participate in the general elective gymnastics may do so. These take place at the end of the first day. The gymnastic committee determines the duration of the event.

D. Competitive Gymnastics.

§14. Registration for the competitive gymnastics must be done four weeks before the fest with the Technical Committee of the Executive Committee and the gymnastic committee of the host town.

§15. Young adults' teams are not allowed at the Union gymnastic fests.

§16. Turners who have held a position as a paid or otherwise remunerated gymnastic teacher in the last six months before the fest may not participate in the physical exercises competitions. They may only compete in the literary works competitions.

§17. The judges will organize the competitive gymnasts and teams, write them down in the participants' lists and announce them before the exercises begin. To simplify the record keeping of the results lists, the competitive gymnasts and teams will be assigned numerical badges after registration. Any registered participants who are absent at the start of the exercises will be removed from the competitions.

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§18. The competitions include team and individual competitions. Both take place at the following gymnastic apparatus: horizontal and parallel bars and the horse (side and back flip) as well as in four types of athletics. In addition, as far as the team competitions are concerned, free and choreographed exercises (with or without apparatus) will be included. There may be no fewer than six athletes in a team. Turners whose societies or districts do not build a team will be assigned to other teams, however their accomplishments will be judged only as individual ones. The competitions at the apparatus will be conducted only in one section.

§19. At each of the gymnastic apparatus - horizontal and parallel bars, the horse (side and back flip) - three exercises must be performed, namely two mandatory and one elected. The mandatory exercises will be selected among the familiar exercises of level three as follows:

It is the duty of each gymnastic teacher employed in a gymnastic union to send in two exercises for each of the gymnastic apparatus to the Technical Committee of the National Executive Committee no later than four months before the fest. Failure to do so will result in the reprimanding publication of his name in the Union newspaper.

The Technical Committee must select eight exercises for each gymnastic apparatus and announce them in the Union newspaper one month before the fest. Via a drawing, the group of judges determines the mandatory competitions exercises from those submissions on the

morning of the second day. The Technical Committee must provide suitable materials for the drawing.

§20. Every time before the start of the competition, the judges must select four sections from the athletic disciplines listed below and combine the exercises with the apparatus exercises as mandatory exercises (where only the movement of the Turner's body weight is caused) : 1. free high jump; 2. free long jump; 3. three jump (back limp step and jump); 4. running; 5. rope climb; 6. weight lifting; 7. high jump with a pole; 8. stone throw; 9. javelin throw; 10. club swing; 11. wrestling; 12. thrust fencing; 13. slash fencing; 14. swimming; 15. shooting.

§21. All results will be recorded by the judges using the American foot measure and/or a stopwatch.

§22. The judges must consider the following three criteria: 1. smooth performance; 2. beauty; 3. difficulty of the exercises.

§23. The judges will evaluate the execution of an exercise. No zero points may be given under any circumstances unless the Turner refuses to do an exercise. The evaluation is done as described next: a) By apparatus gymnastics, the maximum score is five points in compliance with the following rules: 5 points for excellent execution, 4 points = very good, 3 points = good; 2 points = quite good; 1 point = poor. Half points will be counted.

b) By athletics: according to the regulations set in the following paragraphs.

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In athletics, the numbers achieved must be written down next to the points.

In athletics, any points over 10 may not be added to the apparatus gymnastics.

§24. The Union prizes are diplomas and laurel wreaths.

Only teams whose members participate in all events of the competitive gymnastics and individual gymnasts who do the same are eligible for a prize. They are entitled to a prize only if: by teams – they have received at least two thirds of the highest possible score (160 points) and by individual gymnasts – they have received at least half of the same. The average score a team receives determines the team's prize and the highest score an athlete receives determines the individual prize. (The average score is determined by dividing the total score of all team members by their number). No prizes 'a' and 'b' will be given; their numbering will be done strictly according to the points received.

The two best teams and the three best individual gymnasts who have performed all mandatory exercises will be awarded a laurel wreath and a diploma, all other teams and individual athletes will receive only a diploma. For every type of athletics, there will be three prizes – the first will be a laurel wreath and a diploma, the second and third only diplomas. Individual gymnasts may participate in all types of athletics, independently from the apparatus gymnastics. Gymnasts who received several prizes at the fest will be awarded only one laurel wreath and one diploma. All athletic disciplines in which the gymnasts received an award will be written on the diploma. The accomplished score will be written on the diplomas as well and be published.

§25. An intellectual competition will be conducted in combination with the physical competitions. It includes recital and literary papers. The former takes place on the evening of the first day of the fest. The topics for the literary papers, one of which must be from the area of physical exercises, are determined at the Union Convention preceding the Union gymnastic fest by a committee appointed specifically for that purpose. The papers must be received by the Executive Committee's Committee for Intellectual Efforts at the latest four weeks before the fest. The Committee for Intellectual Efforts will evaluate the papers and must submit the names of the authors of the best works to the group sent by the Executive Committee to the fest. This group will announce the names at the award ceremony.

The Executive Committee judges group will elect three competent fest guests for judges for the reciting competition. The latter will submit their decision to the Chair of the Executive

Committee judges group. The best recital and the best literary paper will be awarded a diploma and a laurel wreath, the runner-ups in each category only a diploma. The literary papers that received awards at a literary fest must be published in the Union newspaper.

Every submission may only be marked with a motto, while the author's name must be in a sealed envelope bearing the same motto.

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The envelope may be opened by the judges only after the decision has been made. The Executive Committee has the right to give material prizes for the literary papers.

§26. No taxes may be bestowed upon any Gymnastic Union member who competes.

3. Special Regulations for the Individual Exercises.

Free Jump.

§27. 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 [1 Zoll = ca. 1.04 in.] wide and 30 ft. long.

Free High Jump.

§28. We begin to count by a height of 42 Zoll: 42" = 1 point, for each 2 additional Zoll up to 60 Zoll, one point will be given; over 60 Zoll, one point will be given for each additional 1 Zoll. In future, no springboard may be used. A narrow wooden stick will be used instead of the string. If the pole has been overturned by the gymnast twice, no more jumps will be allowed. However, touching the pole will not mean a disqualification.

Free Long Jump.

§29. We begin to count by a distance of 12 feet: 12 feet = 1 point, for each additional foot up to 14 feet one point will be given; over 14 feet, one point will be given for each half foot.

Every Turner is allowed three jumps from a clearly marked spot. Only the best of those three jumps will count. A fall back of the body will mean disqualification.

Three Leap.

§30. We begin to count by a distance of 26 feet. 26 feet = 1 point; for every 2 additional feet up to 30 feet 1 point will be given; over 30 feet, for every additional foot 1 point will be given.

Running.

§31. The track will be 656 ft. or ca. 200 m. long, in a straight line if possible.

Finishing the track in 35 secs. = 0 points, each second less counts for 1 point.

Rope Climb.

§32. The rope will be at least 40-50 ft. long and ca. 1 ½ Zoll thick: a height of 20 ft. = 1 point, one point will be given for each additional 2 feet. The legs must be held stretched in any position, any fidgeting and pushing of the legs will lead to immediate disqualification. A tape measure will be attached to the foot of each athlete and the reached height will be read below. When the athlete gets to the top, he must take leg grip.

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Weight Lifting.

§33. Only the 112 lb. barbell will be used. Every lift counts for 1 point.

High Jump with a Pole.

§34. A height of 6 ft. = 1 point; for up to 8 ft., 4 Zoll receive 1 point; over 8 ft., each 2 Zoll receive 1 point. The same rules apply here as by the free high jump.

Stone Throw.

§35. The stone must be in the form of a dice and weigh 37 ½ English lbs. or 17 kilogram. The same rules for measuring the distance apply here as by the long jump. The stone may be thrown with the right or the left arm.

Javelin Throw.

§36. The target for the javelin throw will be a disc with a 2 ft. diameter, divided in 10 rings. Only six throws at a 35 feet distance may be performed. Only throws that hit the target will be counted. The two best results will be awarded a price.

Club Swing.

§37. 5 lb. clubs will be used and for the duration of 10 minutes. The judges must consider the following: a) number of the performed swings and connections; b) the beauty choreography; and c) the duration of the performance.

Each Turner may select the clubs provided they meet the prescribed weight requirements.

Wrestling.

§38.

- a) All participants stand according to their height;
- b) Every participant must tell how much he weighs;
- c) A committee of three of the judges will divide the competitors in pairs. It will consider their weight, height and muscular build and assign the pair partners as equally as possible;

d) After all pairs wrestle once, the competitors who lost, will participate in a narrowed down wrestling competition. The winners will wrestle with the first winners and so everyone will wrestle with everybody else;

e) 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.;

f) Each pair has 3 minutes to achieve a hold. If this does not happen, the pair will take equal hold left over the shoulder, right over the hip or vice versa. Whoever touches the floor with both shoulders has lost.

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§39. Competitive Fencing.

I. General Regulations.

1. Fencing competitions will be conducted at every Union gymnastic fest.
2. There must be two kinds of competitive fencing: thrust and slash fencing.
3. The thrust fencing must include foil and weapon fencing and the slash fencing must include saber, rapier and fencing with a long pole.
4. Among these five types of weapons, the technical committee of the National Executive Committee must select one type of thrust and slash fencing; for the latter, the type of stance. The technical committee must announce its selection at the same time as the mandatory apparatus exercises.
5. The judges will determine the order of execution of the different types of weapons.
6. Registration for competitive fencing is the same as by the individual exercises.
7. Only individual fencing competitions will take place.

8. There will be 5 judges for the fencing competitions appointed by the National Executive Committee. If necessary, they will stand in for each other.

9. The fencing competitions will begin at the same time as the athletic competitions.

10. A suitable place must be provided for the fencing competitions. Its floor must be covered with floor boards and sectioned off and the entire place must have a roof.

11. The following protective gear must be used at fencing competitions:

a) By thrust (foil) fencing: a thrust mask, a breast pad and short gauntlets;

b) By slash fencing: a slash mask, padded gauntlets with sleeves reaching the shoulders, a breast plate with an apron.

c) By weapon (bayonet) fencing: a thrust mask, two padded gauntlets and a breast plate with an apron.

II. Specific Regulations.

12. Every fencer must compete against everyone else, and that in every type of fencing where he is competing for a prize.

13. Every fencer pair must execute five rounds.

14. In every single fencing round, a regular hit must be accomplished. A round ends as soon as the hit sits.

15. Valid hits are:

a) school-regulated thrusts that hit the body parts above the hip and under the chin with the tip of the blade;

b) school-regulated slashes that hit the body parts above the hip with the sharp side of the blade;

c) school-regulated thrusts that hit the body parts above the hip with the weapon butt;

d) school-regulated thrusts and slashes that hit the opponent directly when he is disarmed completely; and

e) school-regulated thrusts and slashes of the eliminated fencer that hit the opponent in the course of action when the latter does not parry and holds out uncovered.

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16. Simultaneously hitting thrusts, slashes and strikes¹, blows², after-blows and after-slashes in release³ and thrusts with strike weapons are not allowed and, what's more, not valid.

17. Attacking⁴ the opponent and backing off before the attack by jumping back⁵ is not allowed.

18. Before the first round, every fencing pair must take front stance to each other, the regular⁶ stance and the usual distance between one another and tie the weapons.

19. Every fencer who gets a valid hit must return to the "first position" and announce the place where the hit happened with the word "seat".

20. Every fencing pair must tie the weapons before each round and after the opponent's disarmament.

21. Every competitive fencer is allowed to use his own weapon, however the weapons must be of equal length.

III. Scoring.

22. Every valid hit will earn 1 point for the fencer who executed it.

23. After the end of the rounds, every fencer will receive from ½ to 4 points depending on his position, stance, attack and defense during the rounds, as follows: excellent performance - 4 points, very good - 3 points, good – 2 points, quite good - point, poor performance – ½ point.

24. The winners will be determined by adding all points each fencer received. Only those fencers who fought until the end of the competitions and received half of the highest possible number of points will be awarded diplomas. The best fencer will be awarded a wreath as well. The highest possible number of points is based on the number of participating fencers and is derived by subtracting the numeral 'one' from the number of all competitors and multiplying the remaining number by five.

IV. Special Regulations.

25. If there are more than ten competitors in fencing, two or more stations as necessary must be built so that two or more pairs can fence at the same time. However, the competitors must be divided in a way that everyone fences the same number of rounds at each station.

1) tempo=hit.

2) passes.

3) recapitulation: after-hits, performed in release without a parade in between.

4) opposite to the school-regulated forward step.

5) opposite to the school-regulated backward step.

6) quart.

7) the English 'touch'.

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26. Four judges are required to be present at every station. They must elect one foreman and two fight assistants among themselves. The latter must stand at the left side of each fencer

during the fencing rounds and confirm the correctness of the hits. The foreman and the remaining judge must take place across from each other on both sides of the fencing pair, keep logs of the results and enter the points earned.

27. The foreman of each station must give the start sign for every round with “Attention – go!” and mark its end with “Attention – out!” after the required rounds have been executed.

28. If a fencer feels forced to or leaves the competition on his own accord, his points and the points of the fencer(s) who earned points fighting with him must be removed from the results logs.

29. In everything else, the same rules apply by fencing as by the athletic competitions.

Swimming. Shooting.

§40. The society hosting the gymnastic fest creates the rules and appoints the judges for these two disciplines. The athletes participating in shooting can use their own weapons if the latter comply with the regulations.

Free and Choreographed Exercises.

§41. The following rules apply to the free and choreographed exercises:

- a) Teams must have at least eight members.
- b) Each team will be given fifteen minutes – however, if the team has more than eight members it may be allowed five additional minutes for every eight members.
- c) The exercises are selected freely by the teams.
- d) The judges must consider the difficulty and number of the exercises as well as the number of members in the team. A team of eight receives 1 point, an additional point is given for every eight additional members. No team may receive more than 5 points for the number of its members.

III. Prize Awards.

§42. The Chair of the judges group announces to them to decisions of the score keeping committee. After the judges' approval, the Chair hands in the result to the Chair of the Executive Committee's fest committee. The latter announces the winners at the appropriate time and presents them with their awards. It is the judges' duty to keep their evaluations secret until the winners are announced.

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Order for the Gymnastic Societies Competitions at the Union Gymnastic Fests.

The competitions between the gymnastic societies will replace the team competitions currently organized in most of the gymnastic districts. The former will be conducted together with the individual and athletic competitions. Therefore, the following program is recommended:

Competitions between the Gymnastic Societies.

1. Every district society should participate in these competitions. At the judges meeting on the night before the gymnastic fest, every participating society must report the following:

a) its register of active Turners/an explanation of the number of its actually exercising members from the last quarter verified by its speaker and athletic instructor;

b) the number of its team competitive gymnasts;

c) the number of its individual competitive gymnasts;

d) the number and the names of its athletics competitive gymnasts;

e) what apparatus (or what kind of gymnastics) exercises it plans to perform as a society and four copies of the exercises it will execute.

These reports must be done through the society's gymnastic instructor or the overseer of the fest exercises.

2. Societies will be admitted to the competitions when they have at least six members participating in the competition.

3. The participating societies may not bring in members of other societies. The registration of a "first society team" for the competitions is not allowed either.

4. The society competitions consist of:

a) execution of general free exercises;

b) mandatory apparatus exercises;

c) freely elected exercises of any elected type of athletics.

5. The technical committee of the district will determine and announce the free exercises, the required apparatus and the exercises to be conducted at it half a year before the fest.

The mandatory and the elective exercises must be performed in a group, which means that several Turners will execute the same exercise simultaneously. The judges will take in consideration the performance of all in the group as well as walking to and from the apparatus.

6. All Turners of the participating society must perform all mandatory exercises. By the elective exercises, the less skilled Turners may perform the easier and the more skilled Turners the more difficult exercises.

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7. The execution of a elective group of exercises may not exceed ten minutes.

8. The judging of a competing society will take in consideration the following:

a) the number of participants

5 points;

b) the execution of the mandatory free exercises	10 points;
c) the execution of the mandatory apparatus exercises	10 points;
d) the execution of the elected exercises	10 points;
e) for every participant over six, ½ additional point will be given up to five points	5 points;
Total	40 points.

9. By the judging, the number of participating members of a competing society will be taken into account as follows: the participation of four fifths or more active Turners will be awarded 5 points, three fifths or more – 4 points, two fifths or more – 3 points, one fifth or more – 2 points and less than one fifth – 1 point.

10. The judging of the exercises and achievements by all types in the intellectual and physical competitions, especially by the societies competitions, is conducted as follows: for excellent performance – 9 and 10 points; very good – 7 and 8 points; good – 5 and 6 points; quite good – 3 and 4 points and poor – 1 and 2.

11. The societies that received 30 or more points at the competitions must receive one wreath with a diploma, those that received 20 or more points only a diploma. No prize will be awarded for less than 20 points.

12. The participating societies must register with the district gymnastic instructor no later than two weeks before the fest. They must list the elected apparatus.

Individual Competitions.

1. Every Turner who participated in the general exercises and/or the exercises of his society can participate in the individual competitions.

2. The individual competitions consist of the following:

- a) two required exercises at three types of apparatus;
- b) one elective exercise at the three mandatory types of apparatus;
- c) three athletic exercises.

3. Six months before the fest, the technical committee will announce four exercises for each particular apparatus. At their first meeting, the judges will select two mandatory exercises for each apparatus from them. It is to be noted that the one exercise is more a power exercise whereas the other an exercise marked by the swinging of the body.

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4. For their evaluation, the judges will consider the exemplary and skilled execution and the beautiful posture and by the elected exercises the difficulty of the exercise as well.

5. The three types of athletics that are to be performed together with the apparatus gymnastics will be announced at the same time as the apparatus exercises.

6. Those Turners who received at least 75 points after the score committee finished their addition will receive diplomas when their names are announced. Their accomplishments will be noted on the diplomas. In addition, the top half of the winners will receive wreaths.

7. The registration for the individual and athletic competitions is permitted up to the begin of those competitions.

8. The first and last name of the Turner as well as the name of his society must be written down in the lists and spelled correctly.

Athletics – according to the order of the Union gymnastic fests.

General Rules.

1. If necessary, a practice of the public demonstrations must be conducted on the morning of the first day. This is followed by the societies competitions, the public demonstrations, a general parade and the required general free exercises. Next, in the afternoon, athletic demonstrations and perhaps a game must be conducted.

2. The morning of the second day will begin with the individual competitions, athletics and military exercises will follow in the afternoon.

3. The society hosting the gymnastic fest must provide all the gymnastic apparatus necessary for the societies demonstrations.

4. The demonstrations are led by the gymnastic teachers or instructors of the societies. The district gymnastic instructor leads the general demonstrations.

5. The district committee will provided the required forms for the physical exercises according to the request of the district gymnastic instructor.

We refer to various articles published in the “Amerikanische Turnzeitung” (American Turner Magazine) in regards of the execution of the exercises.

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ADDENDUM C.

Rules for the Gymnastic Teachers Seminary.

I. Main Laws (rules set by the National Gymnastic Union Convention; can be changed only by the same).

1. The purpose of the institution is the theoretical and practical education of gymnastic teachers who should be able to not only lead physical exercises but also influence the moral and intellectual development of the gymnastic youth and inspire the life of the Gymnastic Union. In order to increase the role of the college, it must remain in the same city as long as possible.

2. To accomplish this goal, the following methods are proposed:

A. Systematic classes in accordance with the duration of the course in the following disciplines:

a) Practical gymnastics, gymnastic terminology, apparatus science, goals of the gymnastic education, preparation of curricula for the consecutive classes;

b) History of the development, systematics, methods and literature of the entire gymnastic culture with special emphasis on the modern time;

c) Cultural history of the human race in connection with the history of gymnastics;

d) Principles of anatomy and physiology;

e) Dietetics, physical therapy and medical aid on the gymnastic field;

f) Principles of pedagogy and its applications;

g) German and English language and literature;

h) Simple gymnastic and folk songs;

i) Thrust, slash and bayonet fencing;

k) Swimming.

Subjects a) through f) will be treated as the primary and g) through k) as the secondary subjects. The latter must be taught if possible. If they are included in the curriculum of a course the attendance of these classes becomes mandatory for the students.

B. Frequent observations and samples of teaching in the gymnastic schools, at the men's practices and in those public schools where physical exercises are implemented in the curriculum.

3. Upon the request of the Seminary's the Board of Trustees, the National Union Convention will approve a maximum amount of funds from the Union treasury

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that may be used to cover expenses for supplies, teaching and management during each course. In addition, this money may be spent toward any scholarships for capable students of modest means. The individual scholarships may not exceed the amount that covers food and housing during the course. No more than twelve such scholarships may be awarded during one course. The National Executive Committee must send all funds to the Board of Trustees directly.

If a student leaves the Seminary before the end of the school year for reasons other than having been suspended by the Board of Trustees on sufficient grounds, it is his duty to repay any scholarship money he was awarded to the Board of Trustees.

4. The National Union Convention elects an incorporated gymnastic society member of the Union that has a good gymnastic school for boys and girls, a well-kept gymnastic field, offers financial guarantees and has proved itself worthy of such honor through its support of the progressive goals of the National Gymnastic Union as seat of the Seminary.

If the host society requests it, the costs for lighting, heating and cleaning of the facilities for the duration of the course will be covered from the Seminary's treasury.

5. The management of the institution is in the hands of the Board of Trustees, which consists of five members and is appointed for a term of two years. The National Executive Committee appoints the five trustees upon the recommendation of the town hosting the Seminary. If there are several societies that belong to the Union in the same city, the host town has the right to recommend members of those societies for the Board of Trustees as well.

6. The Seminary's host is liable to the National Gymnastic Union for the Seminary's treasury and any Union property provided to the college.

7. Each course must last at least ten months; however, the Board of Trustees may expand it provided the National Executive Committee grants its permission.

8. The Board of Trustees is accountable to the National Union Convention for its business affairs. The Board must submit an exhaustive annual report to the Union through the Executive Committee.

The National Executive Committee must make sure that the Seminary is managed in accordance with the regulations of the National Union Convention. The National Executive Committee will send an observation committee of three members to the Seminary's final exam.

9. The requirements for admission in the Seminary are:

a) Moral character;

b) Healthy, well-developed body, certified by a document from a practicing physician;

c) Sufficient practice in gymnastics;

d) Command of at least one of the two national languages – German language skills to a certain degree are absolutely necessary;

e) Any other characteristics that give hope the student is capable not only to teach but also to raise and educate diligent young Turners, the future material for the gymnastic Union;

f) The moral obligation to apply the knowledge and skills acquired in the Gymnastic Teacher Seminary in the interest of the Union.

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Every applicant must fulfill the following requirements:

g) He must submit his application to the leadership of his gymnastic society;

h) The gymnastic society committee, or a competent commission appointed by it, submits the candidate to an oral and written exam regarding his general education and command the German and English national languages;

i) If the candidate passes the exam, the committee will mail a report about it signed by the committee or the exam commission, including the written exam, the application, the self-created curriculum vitae of the candidate and a certification about the requirements listed above under a), b), c), d), e) and f) to the address of the Board of Trustees within the deadline;

k) The candidate may be admitted to the Board of Trustees' exam only upon the receipt of this certification, the recommendation and submission of documents;

l) Every applicant must present himself to an exam given by the Board of Trustees regarding the listed requirements. The result of this exam decides the admission in the Seminary.

10. If the Board of Trustees finds the number of qualified for admission candidates too low, it has the right to cancel the anticipated course. No course may be held with fewer than six students.

11. Individuals who are not members of the National Gymnastic Union may participate in course for a fee of one hundred dollars. They must abide by all laws of the Seminary and are not eligible for scholarships.

If close relatives of Union members apply to receive an education as female gymnastic teachers, the Board of Directors has the right to decide about their admission, as it deems appropriate and take measures to facilitate their education. No scholarships applications will be accepted in this case.

Students, who failed the exam in a previous course due to reasons other than absolute inability, may be admitted to another course, however they may not be awarded a scholarship the second time.

12. The date for the final exam must be announced to the Executive Committee at least three weeks in advance. The exam is conducted by the individual teachers in the presence and with the participation of the Board of Trustees and the Executive Committee.

The decision about awarding diplomas is made in a conference following deliberations by the trustees, the members of the examination committee and all teachers.

The trustees and the teachers for the primary subjects have the right to vote. By equal votes, the observation committee of the Executive Committee will make the decision.

The grade in each subject is determined primarily by the teacher for that subject.

13. Only a National Union Convention can add or change these regulations.

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II. By-laws (Regulations that may be adopted or changed by the Board of Trustees with the permission of the National Executive Committee).

1. The Board of Trustees is structured by electing the positions below. In addition to the special duties described below, Its members will assume all other duties these positions would usually fulfil:

a) Chair; b) Co-chair; c) Secretary; d) Treasurer; e) Archivist.

2. The Chair presides all meetings of the Board, managed the exams during the course and has the special duty of overseeing the classes. By vote equality, his vote will decide.

3. The Co-chair steps in for the Chair when the latter is unable to work and supports him by overseeing the classes and managing the exams.

4. The Secretary keeps the minutes and manages the correspondence and reports to the Executive Committee; in addition, he provides all written documentation unless instructed otherwise by the Board in special cases.

5. The treasurer manages the funds, keeps exact logs of income and expenditures and prepares and submits written reports about the treasury and the distribution of funds as often as the Board demands it. He must provide a surety to the Seminary's host as required.

6. The Archivist oversees the library, the gymnastic equipment and all mobile property of the Seminary. He keeps a chronologically organized, occasionally compiled in volumes collection of all proclamations, circulars, reports and any other publications of the Board and its employees, the important letters sent to it, as well as the convention minutes and society reports. Lastly, he stores all expired documentation of the Board and copies of the inventories of the library catalog and the training equipment created at the end of each course.

7. When the Board steps down, it must hand in all books, logs, documents and any other Seminary property to its successor. The same applies to each of its members should a Board's meeting decide it or if the member leaves the Board.

8. The Board must hold at least one meeting during the course. It determines its order of business and rules, manages faculty hire, makes the final decision about the syllabus and class schedule of the various disciplines, creates the required rules for order and student conduct, plans and schedules the monthly exams and decides about all Seminary expenditures.

9. The Board members are obligated to be present at all exams and sit in on the classes taking turns occasionally. The teachers must write about these visits in their monthly reports.

10. The Board elects the following positions from the student body:

a) One secretary who keeps a log about all classes, the attendance and absence of students and teachers and submits a monthly report;

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b) One librarian who checks out the books, reports monthly and is responsible for the safe keeping of the library books, boards, etc. entrusted to him.

c) One custodian who keeps all gymnastic equipment, reports monthly and is responsible for the property.

11. The Board takes care that the students are not overburdened. The number of classes assigned for training may not be exceeded by much. Lessons must be conducted mostly during the day to keep students refreshed and energetic at all times.

12. It is desired the students build a group amongst themselves for entertainment as well as mutual encouragement and study support. However, any excessive feasts damaging their strength, any staying up late and irregular life must be absolutely avoided because it is the duty of the students to stay in a condition, which allows them to obtain the maximum profit for themselves and for the Union from the education they freely chose.

13. Since the Board of Trustees is primarily accountable for the entire result of the education process, the students must abide by the rules and regulations provided to them at the beginning of the course. This applies for any locations they may find themselves in - the dining halls, on school trips and the like, as well as on the sports field.

14. Every month, one practical and one theoretical exam are conducted to test the material learned in the past month. In addition, the Board sets one exam/ repetition, or a visit for one or several of the other subjects each month.

15. Every month, all teachers must submit the students' grades to the Board on the forms supplied to them. In the week before the final exam, their reports will be especially detailed.

16. The final exam contains all classes included in the curriculum. In gymnastics, fencing, swimming, singing and in part for physical therapy and medical aid on the gymnastic field, this is a practical exam as far as it is possible; in all classes, there is a theoretical exam, in part oral and in part written.

The written exam in the various subjects can be held before the oral exam, however it must be conducted according to the regulations and under the supervision of the Board.

Test lessons with school classes are required in free and choreographed exercises.

The explanations and commands are given part in German and part in English.

17. By the signing of contracts, the Board requires all teachers submit a general syllabus (draft for such one) for their respective disciplines.

18. The students will be supplied with college notebooks for all classes. The latter are subject to the Board's inspection at any time and must be presented at the exams each month.

19. Any potential additions or changes to these by-laws may not be in contradiction to the rules of the Convention.

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