

OFFICIAL MINUTES
OF THE
11TH CONVENTION OF THE
NORTH AMERICAN TURNERBUND
HELD IN
ROCHESTER, N. Y.
JULY 30TH TO AUGUST 12TH, 1860
1ST SESSION

The delegates met Monday, July 30, 1860 at 9:00 A.M. in the Rochester Turnhall.

The Second Speaker of the Baltimore Vorort, Turner John Gung opened the Convention with a short but impressive address. He stressed the advantages and the weaknesses of the Turnerbund Organization. Then he called for the election of a temporary Secretary. Turner Donai from Boston was then elected per acclamation.

The Speaker then appointed a Committee to examine the credentials.

The following Turners were appointed: Babo from Boston, Buehler from Pittsburgh and Gerhardt from Washington.

This Committee reported as follows:

Thirty-nine societies are represented by 24 delegates with 75 votes.

<u>SOCIETIES</u>	<u>NAMES</u>	<u>VOTES</u>	<u>SOCIETIES</u>	<u>NAMES</u>	<u>VOTES</u>
Albany, N. Y.	August Tolle	1	Peoria, Ill.	F. Buchhecker	1
Baltimore, Md.	Louis Dietrich		Peru, Ill.	A. Erbe	1
	C. H. Wiesner	6	Rochester, N.Y.	H. Lomb	
Buffalo, N. Y.	Louis Buehl			H. Buchhecker	2
	W. Wuerz	2	Racine, Wis.	A. Erbe	1
Bloomington, N.Y.	Carl Faerber	1	St. Louis, Mo.	J. Mueller	
Boston, Mass.	A. Donai			G. Finkelberg	9
	A. Babo	3	Shelbyville, Ind.	G. Tafel	1
Cleveland, O.	Wilhelm Wuerz	1	Strattenport, N.Y.	A. Irmsher	1
Cincinnati, O.	M. Jacobi		St. Paul, Minn.	L. Erbe	1
	G. Tafel	10	Toledo, Ohio	P. Dursy	1
Carlstadt, N.J.	W. Kirsten	1	Terre Haute, Ind.	E. Tafel	1
Chicago, Ill.	A. Erbe	2	Williamsburg, N.Y.	A. Irmsher	
Dubuque, Iowa	P. Dursy	2		F. Deck	2
Davenport, Iowa	A. Erbe	1	Washington, D.C.	J. Gerhardt	2
Detroit, Mich.	A. Erbe	1	New Haven, Conn.	Wm. Kirsten	1
Hudson City, N.J.	Wm. Kirsten	1	Utica, N. Y.	L. Roeffner	1
Hoboken, N. J.	Wm. Kirsten	1	Dayton, Ohio	F. Buchhecker	1
Indianapolis, Ind.	M. Jacobi	1	Covington, Ky.	M. Jacobi	1
Iowa City, Iowa	H. Lomb	1		TOTAL	75
Lebanon, Ill.	J. Mueller	1			
Milwaukee, Wis.	L. Erbe	3			
Newark Turnge.	W. Kirsten				
	M. Sternberg	2			
N. Brooklyn, N.Y.	F. Deck	1			
Ottawa, Ill.	H. Lomb	1			
Pittsburgh, Pa.	E. W. Buehler	3			
Patterson, N.J.	Wm. Kirsten	1			

The Vorort is represented by John Jung, 2nd Speaker and John Straubenmueller, Bookkeeper.

Moved by Jacobi to admit the delegates from Cincinnati with 13 votes to represent Cincinnati, Shelbyville, Terre Haute and Indianapolis. Motion was carried.

The following officers for the Convention were then elected by acclamation:

Gustav Tafel from Cincinnati as 1st Speaker

Wilhelm Kirsten from Newark as 2nd Speaker

G. A. Finkelburg from St. Louis as 1st Secretary

P. Dursy from Rochester as 2nd Secretary

Chr. Betz from Rochester as 3rd Secretary

After the officers took over, the last year order of business was somewhat modified and adopted.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

1. The procedure will be according to parliamentary rules unless changes are demanded.

2. Voting will take place when requested according to societies by calling the names of delegates in alphabetical order.

3. A Turner cannot talk more than 5 minutes and not more than 3 times on the same subject. However, the motion maker or report giver has in addition to the above rule, the last word.

4. When requested, a motion must be introduced in writing.

5. Standing Committees with a chairman for each should be appointed by the 1st Speaker to assist in the duties of the Convention.

6. The number of the 3 standing committees should be raised from 5 to 7 members. Additional committees should be appointed, namely, one

about "Vorort's Reports and Standings" of the Bund in general and secondly, about "Turner Affairs."

7. The Convention should meet regularly from 8 to 12 in the morning and from 2 in the afternoon until recess is taken.

VORORT'S REPORT

About Our Management From

October 15th to July 15th, 1860

The Vorort of Baltimore to the

Bundes Convention in Rochester, N. Y.

As we are rendering the eleventh report since the beginning of our Turnerbund, we have a happy inner feeling that we did fulfill our obligations in a sincere way and otherwise have the definite proof that our Turnerbund is outwardly and inwardly making healthy progress.

We held 57 meetings to find ways and means to make our Bund stronger and more active. We held true to our platform although we suffered attacks from our slave state. We did everything possible to keep our societies in a peaceful attitude.

In order to report in detail we take up first the:

TURNERPAPER QUESTION

We were obligated to enlarge the paper and to improve the mental contribution. When it was time to publish the first issue there was no editor nor any manuscript. The editor was taken ill. But our Turner-paper did appear on time and regularly since, without any interruption. Turner William Rapp took over with honorable satisfaction, the temporary editing and was greatly assisted by such Turners as Dr. Wiss, D. Roesch, R. Stallo, C. Goepf, E. Peissner, Dr. Scholer, etc.

The early death of our faithful editor, W. Rothacker, made it necessary to look for some able Turner who could take over the editing

of our Turnerpaper. The Vorort talked with Dr. Loewe and Dr. Wiesner in New York to find out if they had the desire and time to take over the editing of the Turnerpaper. Dr. Loewe declined and Dr. Wiesner did not reply for a long time, then the Vorort decided to urge Wilhelm Rapp and Dr. Wiss from Baltimore to take over the editing of the Turnerpaper jointly. Our choice was a lucky one. Since then our Turnerpaper is not only very popular in our Turner societies but also has gained popularity in other fields. Some issues are more rich on original articles than any other German newspaper.

If the number of subscribers is still somewhat small, it is due partly to the dropping off of membership in our strong societies, also the great number of other papers which are favored.

RE-UNITING

Due to the re-uniting of the Eastern Bund with the great Turnerbund we are happy to state that the efforts of repeated attempts brought about results.

A happy occurrence also was the uniting of various groups into one as was done in Baltimore, Washington, Chicago, Boston, and Memphis, etc.

With regret, we report that several new societies which were taken in had to drop out of the Bund again, due to the price of the Turnerpaper. In the previous Convention in Chicago, it was estimated that the subscribers for the paper after the re-uniting would be about 5,000.

This made it possible to reduce the cost of the paper to 2 cents per copy. This was a bad mistake.

The total numbers of subscribers never exceeded 4,000 because the stronger societies from New York and Philadelphia never came over. We had a weekly deficit from \$30 to \$40 which would ruin the paper in time. We ordered a Bundes vote to raise the price of the paper again to 3 cents per copy. Thirty-three societies with 54 votes were willing to pay the

3 cents and 7 societies with 9 votes held to a 2 cent payment. When the price was again set for 3 cents most of 7 societies who wanted the 2 cent paper left the Bund.

It seems that most of these societies never were sincere about re-joining the Bund and made the newspaper cost a convenient excuse to resign.

TURNING

Every year it becomes more imperative that a leader class must be organized and that a German Turnteacher must be engaged.

The Vorort explained this proposition carefully in a circular published December 29, 1859, but the support for it was not as good as expected.

No funds was the reason this matter had to be postponed. However, the great necessity of a Leader Class under the direction of a competent Turnteacher remains the same. We again made an appeal in our Turner-paper issue No. 27 about the necessity of getting a trained teacher; therefore, we request this Convention to decide that every member of our Turnerbund pay weekly 1 cent into our National Treasury in order that a National Turner School may be started, a teacher hired and to cover other expenses which will occur in this undertaking.

From Louis Winter in Philadelphia and Conrad in Pittsburgh, we had made new drawings in pyramids. Also sent to various societies, plates which were in possession of our ex-Vorort in Washington.

We made an effort to get in touch with the Turn Verein in Hamburg and Gmuend by letter but up until now we received no answer.

On earlier discussed Memorial about Turnerism, there was nothing to be found; for that reason nothing was done to make this proposition better known. However, more important than all printing and writing, one could find evidence that our Turner aims were accepted by American Turner organizations and carried through.

Only one inquiry was received about a Turner song book. The collection of songs consisted mostly of old and not original songs, therefore, we did not publish same and did not care to make our deficit any larger.

LECTURES

These were started in many of the larger cities. In the smaller places we did not send lecturers because in general, there was no request for same and in some cases no suitable hall. We made an effort to group societies into districts for the lectures, also gave them a list of speakers.

The speakers preferred to be paid by the societies instead of the Vorort. So that Paragraph 25 which had the ruling to collect 25 cents from every member was not enforced by the Vorort. We are thankful to the speakers who made such a fine contribution. The Vorort is sorry that there are no funds with which to make us of such a useful part of our Turner aims.

OUR FINANCES

The finances are in no way in a desired condition although the Vorort in Baltimore made every effort to keep down the expenses.

We mailed monthly bills to the Bundes societies also to societies who do not belong to the Bund and to private people who receive the paper at some time. We again did send reminders to them but all without gaining the proper results. We are somewhat fortunate to say that the blame in general lies not in the will of the societies but more so in the passing situations and in the heavy pressure of the time.

STATISTICS OF THE BUND

The Bund consisted at the time of 73 Turner societies with a membership of 4,080. When we took over there were 70 societies with 3,600 members. Many of these were questionable and 4 of the same re-

Through the re-uniting of the Eastbund, we have taken in 21 societies with a membership of 800. Six of these were questionable. In reality, only 14 societies joined our Bund. Mostly on account of the kept price of the paper or due to their poor financial condition eleven of them resigned from the Bund from time to time.

Two societies made application to join but only one of them was accepted.

On account of a malicious and hostile attitude toward the Vorort and the principles of the Turners, it was necessary to expel the Jefferson City Turnverein from the Bund. One society was temporarily taken in but the permanent membership was left to the Convention to decide. (Newark Turngemeinde.)

According to states the societies are listed as follows:

Illinois 14, New York 10, New Jersey 9, Ohio 7, Iowa 5, Missouri 3, Indiana 3, Wisconsin 3, Minnesota 3, California 3, Kentucky 2, Pennsylvania 2, Kansas 2, Maryland 1, Virginia 1, Tennessee 1, Michigan 1, Connecticut 1, District of Columbia 1.

Turner societies who are with us in communication but do not belong to the National Organization total up to 65 and are distributed as follows:

Illinois 12, Wisconsin 8, Iowa 5, Missouri 5, Indiana 5, Kansas 3, Connecticut 3, Canada West 3, Ohio 4, New Jersey 2, Minnesota 2, Pennsylvania 2, New York 2, Massachusetts 1, Alabama 1, Louisiana 1, Delaware 1, Texas 1, Georgia 1, South Carolina 1, District of Columbia 1 and Nebraska 1.

Junior Turners total 801 in 20 societies.

Girl's classes are in 2 societies.

Three societies are connected with public schools. The following table should give us an over all picture of the Bund.

1860

Bundes Societies 73, membership 4,080.

Junior classes 20, membership 801.

Shooting company 11, membership 296

Singing sections 21, membership 500

Theatre sections 9

Plastic art sections 3

Dayschools 3

Libraries 30, with a total of 7,000 books

Debating schools 14

The half yearly reports came in very slowly. We received up to July 15, 1860 a total of 904 letters. We answered 188 and through the paper another 51.

Also, we mailed out to all societies 6 general letters, namely, 1 when we took over the National Office, 2 about lectures, 2 about the Turnteacher situation and 1 about the Turnerpaper question.

Two write ups in our Turnerpaper were for the support of the early departed editor Wilhelm Rothacker and for the Junior who met with an accident, G. Dieterich. The Turners gave generously toward these collections.

Another 40 letters, as reminders, recommendations and reports were also sent to all societies. These were namely, expulsions, only 17 made public, invitations to celebrations 20, warnings 6, resignations 11, death notices 6, summons 31, announcements 9, and obituary notices 3.

REFORM PROPOSALS

As more requests were made on the Turner societies so were more declarations demanded, the person who is least satisfied with the effort that is made has more reason to complain and make plans.

As we cultivated ideals, materialism made a deep inroad.

Many societies made speculations and the drive to get property, real estate and their own Turnhall was the reason that so many Turner societies were entirely ruined.

The very unsettled time made its impression on individual members, as well as on societies, also on the Bundes management. Instead of receiving cash money, we would receive complaints, excuses, and discouragement for future consideration.

A continued financial shortcoming prevented us from promoting and executing many desirable considerations - we were tied hand and foot. Therefore, it became very necessary 1) that the National dues must be sent in promptly and 2) that definite savings must be made.

To date we held a National Turnfest every year which was an exhibition of our German Turnring. This would make many friends among the Germans and Americans and from the standpoint alone, it was considered essential. However, the expense for this Turnfest is very high.

The society which is honored to have such a Turnfest is generally left with great costs which may be a set back for years and causes many headaches for their membership.

Other societies who attend the Turnfest in Mass. also take on a big expense. Then the Vorort is directed to furnish the Turner prizes.

At the close of the Festival, hundreds - yes, thousands of dollars are spent and the Turnfest did not make the desired impression. The last Turnfest was visited by a small number.

If a Turnfest should earn its name more effectively, it should have participation from the entire Bund. Therefore, let us change from a yearly Turnfest to one that will be held every 3 or 4 years. In this way, we will not only save a large amount of money but we will get better participation, without which a National Turnfest is a lost

proposition. In addition, the month of May or September seems to be a better time for such Olympic games.

A big expense is the yearly National Convention to which the Vorort must send 2 of its officers and the societies must send their delegates. What is accomplished? With considerable time and decision, part of the Bundes Constitution is revised, a new Vorort elected, and the places for Bundes Turnfest and Convention will be settled, also the Vorort books will be examined.

Could not such propositions be settled by a small committee of 3 delegates, who would represent 3 societies and could meet once a year in the place where the Vorort holds its office?

The Vorort has the power, if very important matters must be decided, to call a Convention together. Also the ruling is, if the majority of the Turner societies demand a special Convention, it must be granted.

It seems to be advisable that the Convention be held every 3 or 4 years and at the place where the Vorort holds office. In that case, the traveling expenses of the Vorort members would be eliminated.

A big expense is the yearly change of the National headquarters.

The transport of the National property and the traveling expense of the editor runs into hundreds of dollars which could be saved if the Vorort would be elected for a period of 3 to 4 years.

The offices of bookkeeper, corresponding secretary, and treasurer could be placed in one person who should receive \$750 wages which would give him a good living.

When voted into office by the Convention, this person will have a permanent position so long as he does a good job and shows his willingness.

The editor will also have a permanent position or at least for a period of 3 to 4 years. He is also requested to attend all Convention

sessions in order to be in a position to learn more about the societies, as to their needs and advantages and to be in a better position to publish in our Turnerpaper more complete and interesting articles about our Turner activities.

All expulsions of societies or individual Turners from the Bund and other unpleasant situations should hereafter, not be published in the Turnerpaper but instead should be printed in an extra edition. This would eliminate many of the unfavorable impressions made on a large number of readers.

The newspaper ads did not bring in much revenue so that these could be entirely eliminated. This would reduce the paper about two pages if one wishes to save money or on the other hand it would give us that much more space for articles. To make the paper more interesting, a drawing could be added monthly to illustrate; this would give our technical articles more understanding, of course, it would also increase the cost of the paper.