

OFFICIAL MINUTES OF THE  
PROCEEDINGS OF THE 2ND CONVENTION  
OF THE

NORTH AMERICAN TURNERBUND

HELD IN

ST. LOUIS, MO. FROM APRIL 1ST TO 4TH, 1866

MORNING SESSION - SUNDAY, APRIL 1ST, 1866

The Convention was called to order by Turner Heintz from New York. Turner C. F. Bauer from Pittsburgh was elected as temporary speaker and Turner H. Huhn from Washington as temporary secretary.

A Committee on Credentials was appointed by the first speaker consisting of Turners B. Domschke from Milwaukee, F. Bertsch from Cincinnati and A. Voigt from Philadelphia.

The report of this committee stated that the following districts are represented. This report was adopted.

<u>DISTRICT</u>	<u>VOTES</u>	<u>DELEGATES</u>
New York	23	H. Metzner, C. Kuhn
Hudson	3	C. Kuhn
Cincinnati	34	F. Bertsch, A. Stecher, M. Joseph B. Froehlich
Boston	6	H. Metzner
Philadelphia	10	A. Voight
Baltimore	10	W. Eckhardt
Wisconsin	16	B. Domschke, H. Schneider
Pittsburgh	6	C. F. Bauer
St. Louis	31	W. Staengel, F. Deecke, Schuetz, C. Stiefel, Sotier, H. Gollmer, Hesselhoeft, H. Huhn, H. G. Weber J. Mueller

<u>DISTRICT</u>	<u>VOTES</u>	<u>DELEGATES</u>
West New York	5	Louis Krausse
Chicago	18	R. Engels, J. Huhn, M. Hirsch, A. Mueller, C. M. Willis, P. Marcus, W. Buder, R. Mueller, P. Braun

Not represented are the districts from New Jersey, Savannah, and Kansas.

Resolution was passed to grant seat and voice to delegates W. Hasch and H. Lindemann from Quincy and St. Charles Turner Societies.

A motion to adjourn was lost.

The next step was to organize permanently. Turner B. Domschke was elected as 1st speaker, C. A. Stiefel as 2nd speaker and H. Huhn as Secretary.

Decided to appoint a committee of three to make up the order of business for the Convention. The following Turners served as the committee: Turner Heintz of New York, Gollmer from St. Louis and Bauer from Pittsburgh.

Motion made and passed that this committee should propose other necessary committees which should function at this Convention.

Following this, adjournment took place at 2:00 P.M.

H. Huhn, Secretary

#### AFTERNOON SESSION

The minutes of the morning session were read and adopted.

The 1st speaker then introduced to the Convention the President of the Vorort, Turner Spitzer from Williamsburg. He gave a short talk about the purpose and aim of the Convention.

The committee on Order of Business made the following report which was accepted by the Convention after a short debate.

## ORDER OF BUSINESS FOR THE 2ND CONVENTION

1. The proceedings of the Convention will be conducted according to the parliamentary rules.
2. Votes taken, if requested, will be according to districts.
3. No delegate can speak longer than 5 minutes and not more than 3 times on one and the same subject.
4. Request motions must be in writing.
5. The Convention convenes regularly from 9 to 12 in the morning and at 2 in the afternoon until adjournment.

The following committees were then appointed:

- a) Finance Committee - Joseph Huhn from Chicago, Schuetz from St. Louis and A. Voight from Philadelphia.
- b) Committee on revision of the National Turner Constitution: C. Kuhn from New York, Wm. Staengel from St. Louis and A. Stecher from Cincinnati.
- c) Committee on Turning: H. Metzner of New York, B. Froehlich from Dayton and Eckhardt from Baltimore.
- d) Committee to receive and arrange general questions for instruction and discussion - F. Bertsch from Cincinnati, Julius Mueller from St. Louis and M. Hirsch from Chicago.

After this, recess was taken until Monday morning at 9:00 A.M.

H. Huhn, Secretary

### MORNING SESSION - MONDAY, APRIL 2, 1866

The minutes of the last session were read and adopted.

Turner Heintz in the name of the Vorort made the report about the Turner activities during the past year. Same was received and turned over to the respective committees.

## VORORT OF THE NORTH AMERICAN TURNERBUND

### Second half yearly report

The first year, since the Bund was organized, is now past and the time has come when the Vorort should render its report to the Convention. This report should show its management, activity, and aims during their time in office.

At the close of our term of office, we ask ourselves whether we have made good in all propositions which were directed to us from the entire Turner society which placed us in this position of honor. We are happy to state that we made every effort to work for our Turnerbund and its individual members in order to promote and advance our Turner ideals.

We started out, guided by our platform, to obtain everything possible in the short time we had at our disposal. Also to go forward with fresh determination to overcome any obstacle which lay in our path.

The present standing of the Bund with its 14 districts and 96 societies should be proof that our efforts were somewhat successful.

Although several projects which were started by the Vorort, as the schoolbooks and the military arms, could not be completely settled by us in time. We hope that the Convention endorses this undertaking so that we may be in a position to settle this with satisfaction for all concerned.

Since our first half yearly report, conditions changed very little and in order to avoid duplications, we urge all to consider this report as authentic in regards to the schoolbooks, arms commission of the statistical committee, the financial report and the report of the protocol secretary which are added to this report.

In behalf of the German Turner excursion, we are able to report to the Convention, the following:

When this question was discussed in connection with the Cincinnati Turnfest, the Vorort took the opportunity to make this project a national affair. We contacted the agents of the Hamburg Steamship Company, Richard and Boas, in order to obtain the best possible conditions for such a trip. Mr. Richard who was about to travel to Hamburg at the time assured us that he would do everything possible at the companies headquarters in Hamburg to obtain favorable conditions for the Turners.

We sent circulars to all districts in regard to the trip for their Turner societies in which the undertaking was carefully explained and requested the district to make up a list of signers who were interested and mail same to us. The result of Mr. Richard's effort in this undertaking was published in the paper, "Unserezeit" as soon as he returned from Hamburg.

However, neither the districts nor the societies sent in lists of interested Turners. When the time came to make part payments to assure participation, the Vorort was compelled to announce in "Unserezeit" that due to lack of participation, this project would have to be dropped for this year.

In closing, we are happy to state that between the Vorort and all districts exists a friendly and cordial feeling and jointly, we wish, from the bottom of our hearts, a strong and healthy growth for the Bund and for our entire Turnerism.

May our Turnerbund, in the future, also grow as rapidly as it did during its first year of existence, and may the union of harmony and friendship bind us together for all time to come and may we without weakening in our effort strive to work toward completing our beautiful

Turner aims, again for our Turnerbund a forceful

"GUT HEIL"

With Turner Greetings for the Vorort,

New York, March 22, 1866.

Jakob Heintz  
Corresponding Secretary

YEARLY REPORT OF THE TREASURER OF THE VORORT  
FROM APRIL, 1865 TO APRIL, 1866

Balance on hand	\$ 17.77
Bills by the Old Turnerbund	1,278.05
Dues	214.10
Drawings	2.00
Turner books	128.05
Income on money boxes	17.50
Overpaid on money sent in	<u>9.50</u>
	\$1,666.97
For settling old debts	\$ 510.58
Office and printing expenses	247.89
For New York T. V. to pay a loan	30.00
To Rochester Turn Verein as re-embursement	2.25
For Turner books	156.80
Income on school books	82.75
Laurel Wreaths for Cincinnati	25.25
Traveling expenses for Vorort delegates	250.00
Balance	<u>361.45</u>
	\$1,666.97
Balance on hand	\$ 361.45

H. Merz, Vorort's Treasurer

New York, April, 1866.

During my term in office, I had the opportunity to see many bad setups in regard to our financial conditions which I consider important as Treasurer to place before this Convention.

1. The society dues are not sufficient to carry on the duties of the Bund. The income of the Bund for the past year, exclusive of the old debts, which is only a temporary income now and must be considered as not existing later, are: \$366.92

The expenses excluding payment of old debts and  
income on schoolbooks, which I consider as capital  
investments are: \$529.44

Cash on hand: 361.45

Deficit without income through old debts 140.52  
\$529.44

We would have from the dues for this year without the extra income, a deficit of \$140.52 instead of a surplus of \$361.45. This is proof that the Bund has not sufficient income to carry out its obligations according to its platform. Therefore, our aim will remain only an empty gesture instead of a reality.

2. The society dues are very impractically allocated. The Treasurer cannot charge same to the district en block.

3. Societies, as a rule, pay their old debts directly to the Vorort, where as they should pay them to the district. But the Vorort seldom knows the amount due. In order to correct this, I am making the following proposal:

a. To raise the yearly dues to \$3.00 per vote. This would correct the unfavorable statements 1 and 2 and would bring into the Treasury, \$500.00. To add to this, some of the old outstanding bills, due from the old Vorort, would give us a large enough fund to carry

on the duties of the Vorort. Later, the growth of the organizations and the payment for additional votes would give our Treasury the amount needed to carry on the business of the Turners.

2. The districts should take over the collections from the old Bund and keep a close record of same. In this way, our Vorort would be relieved of much correspondence and extra expenses.

Many complaints from societies are sent in to the Vorort about their old bills. Some state that they can show through the minutes or otherwise, that they are paid up or partly paid up. This made it impossible for the Vorort to insist on full payment.

Such societies had to be turned over to the Convention for settling this matter. The report of the secretary will give detailed information on all individual cases. The total property of the Bund cannot be correctly given due to the above situation. Therefore, I could report only the amount due on the bills of the old Bund.

It is not possible at this time to render a true statement on the amount for the Treasury.

I recommend to the Convention to sell the library, which is listed, because it is of no use to the Bund.

Of the creditors of the old Bund, we paid first the bills due to Bertsch from Cincinnati, Schnauffer from Baltimore and Straubenmiller from New York.

A letter was mailed to Mr. Hoffmann from Baltimore but I received no answer. Because I expected the same from King and Baird, I did not correspond with them in regard to their bills.

Just what should be done with the above named creditors is now a matter for the Convention to decide.

In order that the future Treasurer can organize a new set of books, the Convention should clear up all situations in regard to old bills of creditors and debtors.

In the hope that this Convention can bring about desirable improvement for our Turner movement, I remain with Turner Greetings,

H. Merz.

#### STATISTICAL REPORT

March, 1866

Because very few societies, as requested by the Vorort, made use of the question blank for their half-yearly report in January, it was, therefore, necessary to give you the figures from the previous half yearly report. The New Jersey, Hudson River, and Southeastern Districts did finally mail in their reports. The Savannah District could not be included at all, because no reports were on hand.

In order to avoid duplications, this report will not go into detail about individual societies, but instead give a complete summary about the over all picture of the Bund. At the same time, consider the questions which were not included in the last half yearly report because the material did not cover it and also because it would have been too expensive and cumbersome to complete.

In all cases, when the society report was not sufficiently completed, we considered an average from a similar Turner society for the record. In this way, it was surprising to note that the report is very nearly correct.

The importance of such a statistical report is not recognized by all societies. However, it will give us useful material for the history of our Turner activities, the organization life of our German societies

and all around information about the Germans in America. For this reason, these reports are of great value and should be considered as such by all of our Turner societies. It gives us a weapon in our hands against attacks, which also came up against us in Germany. These reports show proof by giving us unquestionable data to show our objectives with figures.

At the same time, this report also gives us information about bad situations and defects from which we still suffer, and tell us to make greater efforts to overcome the latter. Comparative statements of societies challenge us to bring societies up to par with more successful societies.

The greatest benefit, however, comes from the attention of individual societies which are compelled to give closer attention to the inner doings of their societies. The many questions which come from such a report reach deeply into the society life. Only a strict orderly society management can correctly and quickly give answers to all.

In reality, the delay in sending the question sheets cannot be attributed to a lack of good will, but more so because it was impossible to meet all the instructions or do justice in executing same in the allotted time.

The Convention may decide that it shall be the duty of every Vorort, to continue the National statistic in this way, but with the privilege to add new questions or eliminate those which become obsolete.

A yearly statistical report is preferable to a half yearly report. Same should be collected about 3 months before the end of the fiscal year in order that the Vorort would be in a position to render a complete report.

The Bund consists of 14 districts with 96 societies. Membership (without the Savannah district) 6,320. Actives number 3,240 about 52 per cent, from these about 1,688 on the average, participate in the exercises. 3,515 are under the age of 30 and 2,805 over 30.

The various vocations are represented as follows: Craftsmen 3,947; business industry, 1,000; technical workers and artists, 425; teachers, doctors, writers, etc., 235; others, 712.

Citizens of the United States are 4,561. Fencers 214. Number of Turners who belong to the Turner Singing Section are 623. Shooters 204. Turn class leaders 207.

Instruction in Turning are given to 3,317 boys and 120 girls. 116 Turnteachers are employed.

In the elementary and scientific subjects, 1,151 students receive instruction from 26 teachers.

Twenty-five societies own their own hall.

Property in the hands of National societies free from debt amount to \$286,130.00. Numbers of books in the various libraries amount to 12,112 copies. Among same are about 258 Turner pamphlets.

Dramatic sections are in 16 societies. Saloons are owned by 19 societies. Incorporated are 35. Number of Turners who fought in the Civil War are 3,148 who were members of the National Turnerbund. The districts have 173 Convention votes.

Special Note: Three societies which were reported after the summary was made up have about 100 members, this should be added to the final report.

A glance in the compilation shows us that the active participation on the Turnfloor is only 52 per cent of the total membership. From these only about 26 per cent on the average have active participation.

In order to make our Turning a National affair, we must have far greater participation on our gym floors. Henceforth, all National Turner societies should make a greater effort to enroll their Turners in the gym classes.

It is also shown from the statistical report that our Turning did not make an inroad in some circles of social groupings. It is now time that the Turner will debate the question, why the professional trained people like doctors, teachers, writers, etc. do not join the Turners. The present participation is about  $3\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. This is not good. We need the active support of such people for our Turnerism.

A happy upswing is shown by the boys' classes, which now show a membership of 3,317. However, the girls' classes are still very small. Larger societies should provide for girls' classes, especially societies which have Turn teachers. Only 3 societies have girls' classes with a membership of 120.

Well conducted Turn classes assure the Turner societies greater support and the sympathy of the public. The bringing up of youth is no doubt a most thankful field which should be well supported by all Turners. The scarcity of good Turn teachers was up until now a great drawback to start classes for boys and girls. The Turn teacher's congress in Cincinnati did discuss this proposition. The Vorort deems it necessary now to make the following proposals to this Convention:

The Convention may decide to organize a Turn teacher's training institute in which, first: a practical system of Turning should be inaugurated that would do justice for boys' and girls' classes, according to a plan worked out by the Turn teacher's Congress. It should take in Turner language and the naming of exercises; also the teaching of various Turner systems. This is to be done so that every participant can derive some conclusion about the value of such systems.

Second: Have regular lectures about the history of Turning and its value, also about anesthetics and anatomy, since they are of value to a Turn teacher. Also instructions as to accident and the giving of first aid to the injured.

The Turn Teacher's course should be for one year. Its seminar should be in a place where a Turner society has had boys' and girls' classes for some time. There must be a richly collected library of Turner books and Turner pamphlets available.

At the closing of the Course an exam must be given and every partaker is to receive a certificate which will show his attendance and also his teaching ability.

The cost for this course to be about as follows: For the Turnteacher two hours of practical instruction

Per Week	\$300
For lectures, each one per week	200
Additional expense	<u>100</u>
Total	\$600

According to the present standing of the Bund an assessment of 10 cents a year per members will cover the expenses. If the institution is organized according to the above plan, it should take care of the present needs.

The Convention is to name the city where the suitable teachers and facilities are at hand. However, with the first consideration that proper facilities, lighting and heating will be furnished without charge.

The institution should be under the direct control of a committee of three which are to be appointed by the Vorort from the membership of the society which houses the institution. This committee must send in a quarterly report to the Vorort and make a yearly report to the Turnerbund. Non-Turners must pay \$28.00 for the Course.

It shall be the duty of this society to help to get jobs for the students who come from outside of this city. These students are requested to get in touch with this society in regards to a job before coming to the institute.

Only such Turners are able to go to the institute who are recommended by their society and who appear qualified for this profession.

Unregular attendance in classes without sufficient excuse will lead to dismissals.

Complaints between teachers and students will be taken in consideration by the Seminar Committee. Complaints about the latter will be given to the Vorort.

The Turn Teacher's Seminar should be opened as soon as 10 participants report in.

Books which were recommended by the Turn Teacher's Congress were ordered from Germany and already distributed to the districts. The order contained the following books:

Lions Leitfaden	32 Copies
Dieters Merkbuechlein	110 Copies
Angersteins and Schultzes Knaben and Maedchen-Turnen	25 Copies
Kappells Vorturnerbuch	12 Copies

Additional orders which were received during the past week by the Vorort made it necessary to place a second order in Germany and will be distributed to the societies as soon as they are received.

The following material (partly from the old Vorort) was also mailed to the districts:

1. Turnerbook from Ed. Mueller	39 Copies
2. Turn Apparatus Charts	522 Copies
3. Explanation to same	130 Copies
4. Pyramid drawings	498 Copies
5. Drawing of Turner exercises and pyramids	166 Copies
6. Turner passes	1,900 Pieces
7. National Constitutions	700 Copies

8. Statistical record forms	130 Copies
9. Half yearly report sheets	150 Copies

The following list records material which is in the hands of the Vorort of the American Turnerbund:

#### A. Books

1. Conversation Lexicon - Brockhaus	16 Copies
2. Webster's Dictionary	1 Copy
3. Dictionary of the German Language - Kaltschmidt	1 Copy
4. English dictionary - Kaltschmidt	1 Copy
5. Augsburg Allgemeine Zeitung	1 Copy
6. Kritische Monatshefte	1 Copy
7. Schiller's Works	2 Copies
8. Lessing's Works	2 Copies
9. Moleschott's Investigations	2 Copies
10. Gervinu's History of 19th Century	2 Copies
11. Aus Der Natur 1 to 9 pamphlet bound	4 Copies
12. Aus Der Natur 10 pamphlets not bound	1 Copy
13. Physiologic Lectures - Renneke	1 Copy
14. Church believes and experiences	1 Copy
15. Kunst, Leben and Wissenschaft 3 volumes	1 Copy
16. Physikalische Bilder - Dr. C. Ule	1 Copy
17. Revolution and Church - Proudhon	1 Copy
18. Die Erde - Meier	1 Copy
19. Geologische Bilder - Burmeister	1 Copy
20. Theogonie - Feuerbach	1 Copy
21. Gehirn Des Menschen Und Der Wirbelthiere	1 Copy
22. Wunder Des Mikroskops	1 Copy
23. Populaere Mythologie	2 Copies

24. Maedchen Turnen - Kloss	1 Copy
25. Ansichten Der Natur - Humboldt	1 Copy
26. Struve's Weltgeschichte	20 Copies
27. Das Jahrhundert	42 Copies
28. Verschiedene Zeitschriften	9 Copies

### B. Turnerpapers and Charts

1. Turnerpaper 1851 published by the Cincinnati Turngemeinde	1 Copy
2 to 10 Turnerpapers - published by the Vorort 1852-60	10 Copies
12. Mueller's Turnbook (bound)	1 Copy
13. Mueller's Turnbook (unbound)	2 Copies
14. Sigel's Military Tactics	1 Copy
15. Apparatus Charts - a) Horizontal Bar	194
b) Parallel Bars	165
c) Swingle-Board	190
d) Climbing Apparatus	<u>190</u>
	735
16. Explanations for apparatus charts	672 Copies
17. Charts with apparatus and pyramids	409 Copies
18. Pyramid Charts	29 Copies
19. Turnerpass Cards	180 Copies
20. National Constitutions	44 Copies
21. Statistical question forms	12 Copies
22. Half yearly reports	7 Copies
23. Various newspapers	
24. A map with printed national documents	
a Seal	
A duplicating machine	
Various writing material	

Most all former Convention reports and former circular letters are missing, therefore, we urge Turner societies or Turners who are in possession of same to forward these to our National Vorort.

With a wish that this Convention will receive this report with a desire to take up the suggestions in careful consideration for future enactment,

We remain with Turner Greetings,

H. Metzner

W. Heeseler

#### REPORT OF THE SCHOOLBOOK COMMISSION

To obtain free thinker schoolbooks was considered for some time by the Vorort and long before the Williamsburg Turner Society called attention to it. Many efforts were made to purchase the books and to make practical use of same but lack of funds prevents such action.

The Turnerbund is obligated to get results to start the action of free thought. To bring this about on an early date and for the success of same, the entire National Turner body extends its best wishes.

Although the present plan was adopted, the execution of same is somewhat uncertain to carry out. To obtain sufficient funds for purchasing manuscripts was a considerable drawback. However, the outlook for the undertaking is beginning to look more favorable. From the sale of manuscripts there is a gain which will enable us to broaden out this mental effort more successfully. The members of the Vorort have taken over the responsibility for the contract for delivery of the manuscripts and the printing of the books. To date, parts of it are already in print and should be completed by May.

Especially noteworthy for the committee was the fact that the delivery of the manuscripts could be placed into the hands of such outstanding

schoolmen as Dr. A. Douai and A. Gravert. The committee has also full confidence in the publisher, Mr. E. Steiger. Besides Dr. Douai and Gravert, the committee was also able to enlist the following two outstanding schoolmen Dr. Gerke and Mr. Hoepfli.

It will be necessary that a schoolbook commission should continue at the present place, although the Vorort may be transferred to another city.

About the individual contracts, we call attention to each of them. For all of these the members of the present Vorort are personally responsible.

To cover the cost of the manuscripts, we urge that this Convention will make suitable provisions.

Edw. Vorster

Louis Schneider

H. Herz

New York, March 1866

#### REPORT OF THE WEAPON COMMITTEE

The undersigned committee was ordered by the Washington Convention and appointed by the Vorort in power at that time.

The committee was, for a long time without any contact. It was well known that the Bund could not purchase weapons direct from the government, because they would sell only in large quantities and for cash.

Finally, it was possible, through personal influence, to purchase weapons from a firm from here and made arrangements for the delivery of same.

The guns called Enfield Rifles with a "strikebajonett" were all gone, by the time we contacted the societies.

A circular sent to the organizations describing the Chasseurs and Vincennes guns was not considered. The committee then decided to purchase the Enfield Rifles with the thrust bayonet. A sample of the gun was mailed by express to the Convention in St. Louis.

The following description was obtained about the gun.

1. The weapons are secondhand, but rebuilt to be as good as new. Caliber 32 bullets per pound. Made 1861-62. Societies can purchase same for \$7.00 a gun.

2. "Montur" gun entirely new at cost of \$2.50. The earlier talked about secondhand "Monturen" cannot be recommended.

3. To cut off weapons in large quantities the cost will be 50¢ a piece extra.

Because there is no chance to purchase Enfield or Springfield rifles, the committee recommends to the Convention the above described weapons.

It was recommended that the weapon commission should continue to function. The societies are requested to get directly in touch with this committee.

The number of weapons to be used should be shortly reported, so that the Commission can secure the purchase of a definite number of same.

The Vorort was assured a discount of \$1.00 per gun. The amount of money from the discount should be used to purchase suitable schoolbooks.

The committee urges societies to purchase these weapons now, because the price is 1/3 of the regular cost. This will not be possible if a war should start somewhere.

Edward Vorster

Jacob Heintz

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SUMMARY REPORT OF THE MINUTES BY THE SECRETARY

During the past year, the Vorort held its 34th session. The various committees into which the Vorort divided itself had again as many meetings in order to organize and promote the Turner activities for the young national organization.

The following special committees, the Vorort appointed within its group.

1. For bodily Turning and Statistics: H. Metzner and W. Heeseler.
2. For Military Arms: J. Heintz and F. Vorster.
3. For Schoolbooks: Herz, Vorster, and Schneider.

Many societies and districts were unfamiliar with the business of the new Vorort. This made much extra work and cost considerable time. The debt of the Old Bund societies was a considerable problem on account of their old books in many cases not being kept in correct form.

It was also impossible to clear up the payment of the old debts because many societies objected to the amounts which were given. Therefore, we felt it necessary to place before this Convention all these discrepancies for consideration and proper disposal.

The above included societies with the following request:

First, only the amount of debt which was paid up to date.

Second, to owe nothing to the old Bund because everything was paid up to the former Vorort.

Third, want time to make payment and to make an effort to pay up completely as soon as it is possible to do so.

In order to do justice according to Paragraph 11 in our platform and statutes, our first concern is to begin with the training of youth. Schoolbooks are to be purchased which are of a great help to educate youth in the fundamentals of a true and general view of life.

In order to stand by our Turner platform in our social endeavors, we could not take a stand against the unpopular reconstruction politics of the President of the United States; this was settled through the petition to the Congress.

The action of the "Leipziger Turnzeitung" against the American Turnerbund in regard to publishing insulting articles in their paper without comments was reprimanded by us several times. In addition, we recommended that the Convention will go into this matter in more detail.

Our platform received the general approval of the Turners; however, it is a bad situation that some Turner societies are against the same and for that reason resigned from the National body. These are the Turner societies from Hoboken (New York District) and the Connecticut District.

During the past year, two half-yearly summary reports were made from the Vorort minutes. In addition, all affairs of importance were mailed to all societies.

When we look back we find that all important affairs were handled in accordance with the platform and statutes. We hope that this start will go forward with a greater and more lively determination.

Hoping that this will be done, I give to this Convention my

"GUT HEIL"

Louis Schneider

A letter from Burlington Turngemeinde was read and turned over to the Finance Committee. Recess was then taken.

H. Huhn, Secretary

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AFTERNOON SESSION

Monday, April 2nd, 1866

The minutes of the last session were read and adopted.

The committee for bodily Turning requested that a committee of 3 should be appointed for the military arms.

Rudolph Mueller from Peoria, H. Gollmer from St. Louis, and Deecke from Belleville were appointed as the Weapon Committee.

The committee for proving of the mandates reported that the Turners Stamm from Kansas City and Newbauer from Fort Scott have agreed to represent the Kansas District jointly. The Convention granted same voice and vote.

The committee on resolutions and instructions for general questions reported and the report was adopted.

Motion passed, the complaint of the West New York District against the Rochester Turner Society should be turned over to a committee of 3 for settlement. The following Turners were appointed to act on this committee: Weber from Belleville, Staengel from St. Louis and Eckhard from Baltimore.

Decided that the Vorort should create a general National Turner emblem for all Turners.

A telegram from Baltimore brought the information that Turner Eckhard from Baltimore was appointed as delegate by the Savannah District for this Convention and that he has 2 votes.

The committee for Revision of the Statutes rendered their report which was received and turned over for discussion.

The result of the debate was the acceptance of a special paper which contained the platform and statutes.

After this, recess.

H. Huhn, Secretary

MORNING SESSION

Tuesday, April 3rd, 1866

The minutes of the last session were read and adopted.

Paragraph 7 of the national statutes was reconsidered and after some debate was again adopted in its original form.

Motion passed that the increase of national dues should only be made for 9 months because most societies had already paid that first quarterly dues.

Motion passed, that from May 1st of this year, all societies who wish to join the Bund must pay an entrance fee of \$3.00.

The finance committee made its report which was adopted and turned over to the Convention for debate.

Motion passed, that the societies from Philadelphia and Poughkeepsie which made payments on their old national debt and stated that they did not owe anything further, were relieved from any further payment.

Before the continued debates about the report of the finance committee could be concluded a recess was taken until 2:00 P.M.

H. Huhn, Secretary

AFTERNOON SESSION

Tuesday, April 3rd, 1866

The minutes of the morning session were read and approved.

The debts to the old Turnerbund of the following societies were cancelled: Alton, Ill. \$43.74; Allegheny, \$1.44; Augusta, Mo. \$.42; Bloomingdale, N. Y., \$91.94; Covington \$6.58; Cairo \$3.90; Madison, Ind. \$1.20; New Orleans, \$12.76; Ottawa, Ill. \$1.82; Orange \$2.53; Philadelphia, \$76.63; Piqua, \$2.20; Quincy, Ill. \$12.80; Springfield, \$1.50; St. Joseph, \$41.64; Poughkeepsie, \$11.00 and Toledo, \$.18.

Motion passed, that the Vorort should make every effort to collect the debts due to the old Bund of the following societies: Buffalo Vorwaerts, \$69.34; Cleveland, \$60.00; Carlstadt, \$6.64; Georgetown, \$1.93; Hamilton, Ohio, \$66.30; Hudson City, \$5.58; Jacksonville, Iowa, \$6.93; Memphis, Tenn., \$41.71; New Brooklyn, \$4.82; Peru, \$23.89; Providence, \$61.81; Strattonport, \$31.21; Syracuse, \$33.32; Washington, D. C., \$14.00 and Wheeling, \$6.36.

In the case of the old debt of the Pittsburgh society, the Convention reduced the amount to \$60.00. Turner Bauer pledged himself to see to it that this amount would be paid by January 1st. In case the society cannot pay, he himself will pay the bill. This offer was accepted.

In case of old debts of societies who did not join the new Bund up until now, the following plan was adopted:

If a society makes application to join the Bund and if same owes money to ~~the~~ old Bund, the Vorort is designated to decide if part of their debt or the entire amount should be cancelled.

No society should be taken in to the Bund until a definite decision is made.

Motion passed, that the Vorort should take steps to sell the old Bund library at once.

Motion passed, to cancel the debt of the New Ulm society.

The committee on cultural education made its report, same was received.

Motion passed to adopt all recommendations of the Turnerteacher's committee, with one exception, that which recommended the establishing of several Turnteacher's Seminaries.

Motion passed, that one institution to train Turnteachers according to the plan of the Vorort (see statistical report) should be established by the Turnerbund.

Motion passed, that the societies should be requested to promote Turning and to make same more general. All lazy and careless elements should be excluded from the society. A strict adherence to the Turner statues should be demanded from all members.

Motion passed, that Turner questions should be cleared up through debates or lectures. Turnerbooks, especially those whose contents lends itself to lectures would be mostly desired, also more frequent Turner articles should be published in the National Turnerpaper.

Motion passed, not to lose sight, that bodily exercises should be the principal consideration of the Turner program at the Turner festivals. Exhibitions which take in acrobatic performances should be eliminated when ever possible.

Motion passed, that the judges of the Turnfest should be appointed by the district and not by the prize Turners.

Motion passed, that the prize Turning at the Turnfest should be on the following apparatus: Horizontal bars, parallel bars, wooden horse (Schwingel) and flying rings (Streckschaukel). On each apparatus, each Turner must perform two compulsory and one optional exercise. High and far-jump should not be separated from the apparatus Turning and should not receive extra prizes.

Motion passed, that every active Turner is obligated to take part in the Turner exercises at the Turnfest.

Motion passed, that the Turnfest society must develop a suitable Turnfield.

Motion passed, that everywhere, if possible, the Turner societies should establish a Turner school and when teachers can be found instructions for girls should be included.

Because not every society has a well trained instructor and many of them must find a leader from within the society, it is a duty to point

out the disadvantage and harmful situation of some exercises which occur often by doing exercises on apparatus especially the parallel bars. Also the practice of exhibitions and difficult exercises should receive careful observation in order that the bodily development is not in any way hindered and that no physical injury is done as a result of same.

Marching and free exercises, running, climbing, hanging exercises and games must be the fundamental exercises of children Turning.

Motion passed, that good order must prevail in the place where the exercises are conducted. Disorderly conduct from any participant or mis-use of the authority by the leader must be reprimanded. This must be done so that everyone participating can enjoy himself and obtain full benefit from the exercises.

Motion passed, that the Turner excursions should not be neglected. However, it should be kept in mind that same should not merely be a fun or drink festivity.

Motion passed, that in the building of Turner places, the first consideration must be for cleanliness and proper ventilation. If these places are within a building it must be considered that the floor must be of a wood construction.

Motion passed, that the next Vorort should be requested to have drawings made of Turner apparatus. The cost of same should be kept in consideration in order that societies will be able to purchase or make same without considerable cost involved. These drawings should be published for general use.

Motion passed, that the Vorort should have new pyramid charts made. The cost of same should not exceed \$25.00.

The committee on weapons made the following report which was unanimously adopted:

1. In order to get uniform weapons all Turner societies must place their order for same through the Vorort. The Enfield Rifle Musket with thrust and bayonet are only considered.

2. The price of the gun is \$7.00. The covering bag, \$2.50. The total cost (without the belt buckle) is \$9.50. The belt buckles should be furnished by the Vorort and should show the letters T. B. (Turnerbund).

3. The Vorort was instructed to get in touch with the firm, Shoverling and Daly in New York to find out if they could furnish the guns cheaper in large quantities.

4. Each Turner society was requested to aim that guns should be provided for each able bodied Turner.

5. The Vorort is requested to furnish ammunition for all societies who cannot obtain same, also to see to it that a considerable number of bullet forms are at hand.

6. The exercises should be Casey's Tactics and under the English command. But instead of the Casey Bugle Call the preusian should be used.

7. The organization of companies, or battalions, etc. should be left in the hands of the district executives. Military exercises should be often conducted in connection with Turner festivities.

8. The Turner military organization should be independent of the state militia.

The committee who was to investigate the differences between the West New York District and the Rochester Turner Society reported to turn over the entire affair to the district Convention. Motion made and passed.

It was decided to appoint a committee of three which should provide a theme for the next literary prize contest. The following Turners were appointed: Kuhn from New York, Domschke from Milwaukee and Wesselhoefft from Herrmann.

Next followed a report by Spitzer about the activities of the Vorort in regard to the purchase of good German and English schoolbooks.

After a short debate it was decided that the Convention will sanction the action of the Vorort in connection with this affair.

Then followed a recess until Wednesday morning at 9:00.

H. Huhn, Secretary

#### MORNING SESSION

Wednesday, April 4th, 1866

The minutes of the last session were read and adopted.

A motion was made by the Finance Committee to cancel the debt of the St. Louis Turner Society which they owed to the old Turnerbund in the amount of \$12.99.

Turner Heintz read a letter sent in by the Rochester Turner Society about the affair between them and the West New York District officials.

It was moved and passed that this letter should also be turned over to the District Convention.

Motion passed, that the suspension of members from a society can only take place in rare cases and only when the sanction is given by the district board can the names of such Turners be published in the National Turnerpaper.

Motion passed, that the Vorort should provide that suitable Turner articles about the worth and importance of mental Turning should be compiled and that same should be published in the paper "Unserezeit."

Motion passed, that the Vorort at the request of the district should send speakers or lectures. The expense for same should be borne by the district.

Staengel and Bauer turned in several suggestions of a political nature which were turned over to a committee of 3. The following Turners were

appointed to this committee: Staengel, Bauer and Domschke. They were asked to study the requests and bring in a report.

Motion passed, that the remaining business, the election of the Vorort, as well as the disposal of the report of the committee for literary prize theme, also the report on political motions should be held over for the afternoon session.

An invitation from the festival committee for the 4th German Turnfest was read. The secretary was instructed to answer the letter and explain our reasons why the American Turners cannot actively participate at this time. The letter was to be sent to the German Festival Committee.

Motion passed, that the Turnerbund should assist Turner Daniel Hertle who is writing a book about the history of the Germans in America. Every effort should be made to give statistical reports and general historical information. Also to make up a subscription list of individual Turners who are urged to get a copy. At the same time, all societies are urged to have a copy of the book in their own library. The Vorort is requested to follow up this solicitation.

Motion passed, that the delegates are instructed to work in their home districts, that steps will be taken to help Turner Philip Goettmann who lost both eyes in the battle of Gettysburg. This help should be of a nature so that he can earn his own living. A collection from the delegates who were present brought in the sum of \$51.45.

Motion passed, that the Vorort should print the platform, statutes, minutes and committee reports of this Convention; also the report of the Vorort. Same to be mailed out - 5 copies for each vote of the Bund.

Motion passed, that a definite small sum may be added to each order of printed material and other material that has to be mailed out, to cover expenses.

Motion passed, that the Vorort be instructed to urge the Pacific Turnerbund to join our American Turnerbund.

Motion passed, that the Vorort send a protest to the Fifteenth management board against a defamatory article which was printed in the Leipziger Turnerpaper.

Baltimore was unanimously voted to hold the next National Turnfest in the year, 1867.

Boston was elected as the Convention city for the year, 1868. After this, recess was taken until 3:00 P.M.

H. Huhn, Secretary

#### AFTERNOON SESSION

Wednesday, April 4th, 1866

After Turnteacher Riedel showed his method of his free exercises and explained same in detail, the Convention was again called to order.

The minutes of the morning session was read and the following resolution which was already passed in the morning was taken in to the minutes.

Motion passed, to express thanks from the American Turnerbund to the good and honest patriot Degener from St. Anthonia, Texas, for the fearless and patriotic stand that he took in the re-construction committee of Texas. The secretary of the Convention was instructed to inform him personally of this action.

The committee on political resolutions reported in favor of the following decisions, which were passed without a debate:

The people of the United States of North America had to suppress the rebellion which aimed to destroy our democratic institutions. Hundred thousands of the best sons had to be sacrificed and nearly

brought about an unmanageable burden.

After four years of hard fighting, one was of the opinion that the victory was won and that the fruit of the battle was ours. The rebellion was put down, the stain of slavery was removed and a truly republican situation was firmly started.

Willingly, we forgave the Southern masses for their misdeeds, when a guarantee could be given which would assure the freedom and peace for the future.

At the top of the nation stood a president who took a vigorous stand against those class-laws, unfree labor and the favored rights privileges.

The Southern people were ready and willing to accept the result of the battle and the conditions laid down.

After all elements were looking toward a better future, we see again after a period of only 12 months, that the slave situation is to be started but in some other form. The variation in right privileges and class legislation is again working to undermine the ruling of our republic. Dividing, yes, a second Civil War is showing up on the horizon. The fruit of victory which was so dearly won seems to be lost again. The sacrifice made was for nothing, the blood was spilled for no gains.

According to our way of looking at it, the President, Andrew Johnson, is at fault. All of his statements that he made are not followed through, but instead other interests are taking full advantage of this situation. His politics will rob us of the fruits we have won through the giant battles and will endanger our freedom.

The Convention, therefore, makes the following resolution:

1. The Constitution of the United States, states that the Congress makes all laws and sets up the machinery to enact same which are necessary for the good and welfare of its citizens. It should, therefore, be the

uty of this body to make strong laws for the security of the future, to bring about republican forms which will be on par with other rules. All rules and regulations set up should be enacted which would guarantee all citizens of the United States the right to live and act as free citizens. In order to accomplish this, the President should take a firm stand and use the power which is given him by the Constitution and without hesitation or timidity.

2. That the Constitution should be so amended, that the cardinal paragraphs of the independent declaration cannot be interpreted in a two way conception but to make same a fundamental law for a definite purpose.

3. The Convention made recommendations to all Turners and friends of freedom to be on the alert and active in the present situation and to inform the Congress and make it clear, that the loyal citizens will only support them if they are taking strong measures to bring about a settlement in the present entanglement.

4. These resolutions are to be sent to the Congress of the United States.

The following report of the literary prize committee was received and adopted:

"About the duty and activity of the Turnerbund of North America - Through what effort can it justify its existence?"

Motion passed, that the Vorort shall appoint the prize judges.

Motion passed:

1. That the weekly newspaper "Our Time" from Cincinnati should be considered the organ of the Turners for the time being.

2. The publisher does not want pay for Turner articles, but requests that same should be brief and the minutes should not be too technical.

Business announcements by the Vorort and the districts should be paid for but not too high in price.

3. The Convention expects all Turners to subscribe for the paper. Every society is obligated to take 2 papers, one for the library and the second should be placed in the clubrooms.

4. The Convention makes an appeal to all Turners who are able to make written contributions about Turner or other affairs to the paper in order to help to make the paper outstanding. The publisher states that the paper will further the interest of the Turners as much as possible.

5. All printed material from the Vorort, if it is possible, should be given to the publisher of "Our Time."

Motion passes, that the addresses of all Bundes Turner societies should be a standing ad in the paper.

As the headquarters of the Vorort and the Turnteacher's Seminar, New York City was elected.

Thank you motions were passed as follows:

To the publisher of "Our Time" (Unserzeit), for the free publications of Turner material and announcements and for the sacrifices he made in order to interest people in the Turner movement.

To the Vorort for their excellent management.

To the officers of the Convention for the competent and impartial leadership.

To the St. Louis Turner Society for their brotherly and friendly reception and their truly excellent treatment of all delegates.

To the citizens of St. Louis for their friendly welcome.

To the "Westliche Post" for the prompt publications of resolutions of the Convention.

To the Turnteacher Riedel for his friendly effort to explain his method for the delegates.

After this the Convention closed Sine Die with a 3 time GUT HEIL  
for our Turnerism and for freedom.

H. Huhn, Secretary