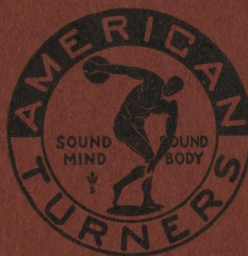


OFFICAL MINUTES  
OF THE  
**39th CONVENTION**  
OF THE  
**AMERICAN TURNERS**



Held at  
**Moline Turners, Moline, Illinois**  
June 25, 1942, to June 27, 1942

OFFICIAL MINUTES  
*of the*  
THIRTY-NINTH CONVENTION  
*of the*  
AMERICAN TURNERS

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Held at Moline Turners — Moline, Illinois  
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**First Session—Thursday Evening  
June 25, 1942**

Following an excellent short concert given by the Davenport Central Turners Concert Orchestra, the Thirty-Ninth National Convention of the American Turners was called to order at 9:00 P. M. in the spacious gymnasium of the Moline Turners by Turner Raymond Ross, President of the Moline Turners. President Ross cordially welcomed the delegates on behalf of the host society and assured them that the Moline Turners would do everything possible to make this convention a success.

President Ross then introduced A. Henry Arp, Mayor of the City of Moline, who called attention to the splendid work being done by the Turners in the vicinity of Moline in the development of a sound mind in a sound body and expressed a sincere welcome to the delegates who had come to this convention from long distances and assured them that the officials of Moline would do everything possible for the delegates to make their stay in Moline a pleasant one.

At this point President Ross introduced Mrs. Bertha Eisele, President of the Ladies Auxiliary of the American Turners, and Mrs. Mathilda Fensterbusch, President of the Ladies Auxiliary of the Moline Turners who welcomed the visitors on behalf of the Ladies Auxiliary of the Moline Turners, and made important announcements relating to the 12th National Convention of the Ladies Auxiliary of the American Turners to be convened on Friday morning, June 26, 1942.

President Ross next introduced the Moline Turner Glee Club under the direction of Mrs. Charlotte Anderson, who pleased the audience with the following well rendered songs: Jolly Roger, Stout Hearted Men, and Keep on Smiling.

President Ross then introduced the Ladies Choir of the Moline Turners who, under the direction of Mr. Herbert Reid, entertained the delegates with the following beautifully rendered songs: The Anniversary Waltz, By the Waters of Minnetonka, and The Three Little Pigs.

President Ross now introduced the following among the distinguished Turners

who were present: Emil Burzlaff, retiring President of the Upper Mississippi District; Lester Dau, incoming President of the Upper Mississippi District; Dr. Carl B. Spath, Past President and long an active worker in and on behalf of the Normal College; Emil Pletz, National Secretary of the American Turners.

President Ross then introduced President Weideman who introduced the 82 year old veteran Richard Turnt and the hard working past National Secretary, William Voelker, who held that post for 14 years prior to the present incumbent Emil Pletz.

President Weideman then delivered a stirring address in which he pointed out that the physical deficiencies in our young men which the present National Emergency has brought to light, indicate an unquestionable need for an extension of the Turner system of Physical Education which is, in fact being presently adopted by the Army and Navy. President Weideman further urged that we exert every possible effort for success in the contest for survival in which we are involved and stressed the fact that the principles for which we are fighting are the same as the fundamental Turner Principles which Turners have been supporting since the inception of the Turner Movement.

President Weideman then briefly reviewed the progress made during the period of stewardship under the present National Executive Committee. President Weideman stated that he would submit his official Annual Report to the Convention at the Friday morning session.

President Weideman then appointed Delegates Chas. Eichin, Karl Hartig, Ed. Groth, Al Keim, Marshall Troester, Wm. Kramer, Sr., Charles R. Weber, and J. J. Zimmerman to serve as a Committee on Credentials and to prepare the assignments for the Committees of the Convention and asked that this Committee have its report ready for the opening of the Friday Morning session of the Convention which, he

announced, would commence promptly at 9:00 A. M.

Hereupon President Ross of the Moline Turners thanked President Weideman and the other speakers for their addresses and announced that the dance music had been provided for the balance of the evening, which he invited the delegates to enjoy and declared the opening gathering officially adjourned at 10:00 P. M.

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## **Second Session**

**June 26, 1942**

This session was called to order at 9:45 A. M. by President Weideman who immediately called for the Report of the Committee on Credentials.

This Report was submitted by Chas. Eichin, Chairman of the Credentials Committee, as follows:

### **Report of the Credentials Committee**

To the 39th Convention  
of the American Turners

Greetings:

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

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

The total number of Federal Votes in the American Turners is 190.

The total number of Districts represented is 12. The total number of Federal Votes represented at the convention is 182. The number of delegates present as indicated in the credentials is 84, representing the 182 Federal Votes, and the total number of alternates present is 8.

In accordance with the above, the number of votes to which the Districts are en-



titled at this Convention and the delegates and alternates listed on the credentials received and present at the Convention are as follows:

<i>District</i>	<i>Votes</i>	<i>Del.</i>	<i>Altern.</i>
New York.....	9	2	0
Indiana .....	18	7	0
New England.....	20	1	0
Illinois .....	14	12	0
St. Louis.....	8	5	0
Lake Erie.....	32	12	0
Western N. Y.....	10	2	0
Middle Atlantic.....	9	1	0
Wisconsin .....	5	4	0
Pittsburgh .....	27	8	0
New Jersey.....	0	0	0
Kansas Missouri.....	2	2	0
South Central.....	0	0	0
Minnesota .....	0	0	0
Upper Mississippi.....	28	28	8
Middle Pacific.....	0	0	0
North Pacific.....	0	0	0
Southern California....	0	0	0
Totals .....	182	84	8

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

NEW YORK: Louis Cullman, Robert Stahl.

INDIANA: Dr. Carl B. Sputh, Jos. Weismueller, Wm. Bade, Jr., Curt Toll, Waldemar E. Eickhoff, Kenneth Koegel, Ed. Groth.

NEW ENGLAND: Julius A. Laffert.

ILLINOIS: Frank J. Berndt, Chas. Eichin, Jos. A. Strohmeier, David Zweifel, Howard C. Potthoff, Walter T. Meissner, Theo. A. Gross, Al. W. Rayner, Chas. R. Weber, Chas. Apel, Wm. Modrow, Louis O. Greiner.

ST. LOUIS: Eugene C. Stifel, Dr. P. M. Grueb, August Driemeyer, Ed. L. Hohenstein, Bruno Sendlein.

LAKE ERIE: Carl F. Hein, Jos. J. Zimmerman, Henry Ruthenberg, Arthur Bauck, Mrs. Therese Pletz, Helmuth Hohman, Bruno Uhl, Arthur J. Burnett, Edmund D. Keppner, Norman M. Powers, Herman Eisele, Marshall F. Troester.

WESTERN NEW YORK: Louis F. Szeles, Fritz Nicke.

MIDDLE ATLANTIC: Karl Hartig (by proxy).

WISCONSIN: Fred L. Bartels, Wm. H. Beutel, Edw. Raeuber, Anthony King.

PITTSBURGH: Wm. J. Kramer, Sr., Wm. Voelker, Fritz John, Richard Turnt, P. E. Phillips, Oscar Simmen, A. H. Niehaus, Andreas Kohary.

KANSAS-MISSOURI: A. F. Goetz, Wm. J. Weber.

UPPER MISSISSIPPI: Emil Burzlaff, Geo. Frick, Al M. Keim, Dave Henschen, Frank Boyler, Reinhard J. Wagner, John H. Mohr, Gus Rohwer, Bernard Wahe, John C. Goettig, John F. Schroeder, Harry Warnken, Arthur Hamann, Wencil Dlouhy, Herbert Klier, Wm. M. Klier, Francis J. Wood, Siewert Struck, Fritz Degen, Art Kneberg, Ray Ross, Edw. Bresler, Ray Huth, Vern Thorngren, Harry Erickson, Frank Jenkins, Ray DePorter, Theo Stenger. Alternates: Harry Best, Ruel Pitcher, Carl Mueller, Wm. Greiner, Walter Ebeling, Fred Nussbaum, Al Fensterbush, Fred Bifano.

In addition to the above delegates and alternates, the following members of the National Executive Committee are present: Carl M. Weideman, President; Emil L. Pletz, Sceretary; A. H. Wilson, Treasurer; Geo. M. Heeschen, National Technical Chairman, and Wm. Ludwig, Normal College.

Regional members present: Julius Laffert, Region 2; Edw. Groth, Region 4; Louis O. Greiner, Region 6; E. L. Hohen-



stein, Region 7; and Lester H. Dau, Region 8.

Respectfully submitted with Turner Greetings,

Chas. Eichin, *Chairman*

Karl Hartig, *Secretary*

Edw. Groth

Al Keim

Marshall Troester

Wm. Kramer, Sr.

Chas. R. Weber

J. J. Zimmermann

A motion was made and seconded to accept the report of the Credentials Committee subject to such minor corrections in names of delegates as may be necessary. This motion was carried.

(Secretary's Note: Prior to the Convention the Middle Atlantic District had expected to be represented by proxy given to a Turner from another District. This Turner found it impossible to attend the convention and prior to the third session of the Convention the Middle Atlantic District, by its President, Wm. A. Nicolai, wired to the Convention that it desired to be represented by Karl Hartig from the Kansas Missouri District. Turner Hartig indicated his willingness to serve as proxy for the Middle Atlantic District and the Report of the Credentials Committee as printed above has been modified to include this proxy representation of the Middle Atlantic District, all as per the instructions of the Convention. (See minutes of Third Session for record of action by the Convention.)

Turner Eichin then stated that, in accordance with instructions, his Committee had prepared a list of Committee assignments based on the preferences indicated on the Credentials submitted by the Districts. President Weideman asked Turner Eichin to proceed to submit this additional Report, which he did as follows:

## Report of Credentials Committee on Committee Assignments

To the 39th Convention  
of the American Turners

Greetings:

This Committee, consisting of Ed. Groth, Al Keim, Chas. Eichin, Karl Hartig, Marshall Troester, Wm. Kramer, Sr., Chas. Weber, Jos. J. Zimmermann, organized with Chas. Eichin as Chairman and Chas. Weber as Secretary.

The Committee has prepared a list of assignments of the registered Turners to the various Committees of the Convention compiled from the preferences indicated on the credentials submitted by the District Officers, these assignments being as follows:

*Committee on National Affairs:* Louis Cullman, Ed. Groth, Julius A. Laffert, \*Frank J. Berndt, Walter T. Meissner, Ed. L. Hohenstein, J. J. Zimmermann, Arthur J. Burnett, Henry Ruthenberg, Marshall F. Troester, August Driemeyer, Edw. Raeuber, Anthony King, Wm. J. Kramer, Sr., Wm. Voelker, A. H. Niehaus, Karl Hartig, Emil Burzlaff, Geo. Frick, Al. M. Keim, Frank Boyler, Carl Mueller, Gus Rohwer, Wencil Dlouhy, Edw. Bresler, Vern Thorngren, Eugene C. Stifel, Carl M. Weideman, ex-officio.

*Committee on Physical Education:* Robert Stahl, \*Jos. Weismueller, Wm. Bade, Jr., Curt Toll, Theo. A. Gross, Wm. Modrow, Karl Hartig, Dr. P. M. Grueb, Helmuth C. Hohman, Bruno Uhl, Arthur Bauck, Mrs. Therese Pletz, Louis F. Szeles, Howard C. Potthoff, Fritz Nicke, Wm. H. Beutel, Matthew P. Jacobson, Wm. Greiner, Walter Ebeling, John C. Goettig, Bruno Sendlein, Fritz John, Oscar N. Simmen, Dave Henschen, Reinhard J. Wagner, John H. Mohr, Fred Bifano, John F. Schroeder, Harry Warnken, Herbert Klier, Wm. M. Klier, Ray Huth, Ray DePorter, Carl F. Hein, Geo. M. Heeschen, ex officio.

*Committee on Cultural Education:* \*Waldemar E. Eickhoff, David Zweifel, Edmund D. Keppner, Norman M. Powers, Fred L. Bartels, Andreas Kohary, Francis J. Wood, Fritz Degen.

*Finance Committee:* Al W. Rayner, \*Ed. L. Hohenstein, Paul E. Phillips, Harry Best, Ruel Pitcher, Ted. Stenger, Arthur Hamann, Art. Kneberg, Harry Erickson, A. H. Wilson, ex officio.

*Committee on Normal College:* Dr. Carl B. Sputh, Chas. R. Weber, Wm. J. Weber, \*L. O. Greiner, Carl F. Hein, Curt Toll, Marshall Troester, Wm. Ludwig, ex officio.

*Committee on National Publication and Publicity:* Kenneth Koegel, Jos. A. Strohmeyer, Richard Turnt, A. F. Goetz, \*Bernard Wahe, Chas. Eichin, Fred Nussbaum, Emil Pletz, ex officio.

*Committee on Platform, Statutes and Grievances:* Chas. Apel, Herman Eisele, \*Marshall F. Troester, Ray Ross, Eugene C. Stifel.

*Youth Movement Committee:* Bruno Sendlein, Siewert Struck, Frank Jenkins, Geo. Heeschen, ex officio.

Respectfully submitted with Turner  
Greetings,

Chas. Eichin, *Chairman*

Chas. R. Weber, *Secretary*

Ed. Groth

Al Keim

Karl Hartig

Marshall F. Troester

W. Kramer, Sr.

J. J. Zimmermann

President Weideman suggested that any additions to or alterations in this report, which seemed to the individual delegates to be necessary, be adjusted directly with the Chairman Eichin and ordered the report on Committees adopted subject to such corrections.

(Secretary's Note: The few minor alterations made in this report have been incorporated in the report as printed above).

The following instructions relating to the procedure in committees were included as a part of the data submitted to the committees:

#### Instructions for Procedure in Committees

The Committee is to be called to order by the delegate marked with an asterisk on each list, and the Committee will then organize by electing its Chairman and Secretary.

The attendance at the meetings of the Committees is to be limited to registered Turners and only those Turners listed as delegates by the Credentials Committee are to be entitled to vote in Committee sessions.

Members of the National Executive Committee present are authorized to serve as ex-officio members (without vote) of those committees most closely associated with their activity, on the National Executive Committee.

The first duty of each Committee shall be to inspect the resolutions submitted to it and return to the officers of the convention any resolution which, in its best judgment, does not come under its jurisdiction.

Committees must consider all resolutions properly submitted to them; but the Committee Report to the Convention shall include only those recommendations favorably acted upon by the Committee.

The Committee reports ordinarily should not state the source from which resolutions were obtained and should not recite the parliamentary procedure by which their conclusions were reached. The report should only indicate the conclusions of the Committee in numbered paragraphs as in the proceedings of the last convention.

Proposed amendments to the Principles and Statutes, if any, and minority reports, should not be included in the main report of the committee but should each be submitted in a separate report.

Committee reports must list all the names of delegates who attend the meetings of the Committee.

Committee reports must be signed by the Chairman and Secretary of the Committee.

All reports of the Committee must be made in four copies, three copies to be delivered to the Chairman of the Convention, and one copy to be held by the Chairman or Secretary of the Committee until the final report as amended, if necessary, is disposed of by the Convention.

The Committee Reports will be called for in such order as the Chairman of the Convention may determine.

After the conclusion of the report of the Credentials Committee, President Weideman ordered that the delegates listed in the Report of the Credentials Committee would comprise the duly accredited delegates of the Convention and declared the delegates seated and ordered that the first order of business of the Convention would be the election of a Permanent Chairman of the Convention.

Hereupon Turner Zimmerman from the Lake Erie District nominated Dr. Carl B. Sputh of the Indiana District for the office of Permanent Chairman of the Convention. This nomination was seconded by delegates from the New York District, Upper Mississippi District and others and there being no further nominations, Dr. Sputh was declared elected Permanent Chairman of the Convention by the usual parliamentary procedure.

Dr. Sputh thanked the Convention for the honor conferred upon him and stated that this convention had an opportunity to contribute substantially to the development of physical fitness of the people of this

country and urged all of the delegates to do their share to advance this program and stated that he would do everything possible to expedite the deliberations of the Convention.

Chairman Sputh then called for nominations for Vice Chairman of the Convention, whereupon Frank J. Berndt of the Illinois District was nominated and unanimously elected Vice Chairman.

The Chairman then called for nominations for Secretary of the Convention whereupon Herman Eisele of the Lake Erie District was nominated and there being no further nominations, was elected Secretary of the Convention.

The Chairman then called for nominations for Assistant Secretary of the Convention, and Robert Stahl of the New York District and Karl Hartig of the Kansas-Missouri District were nominated. Turner Stahl then declined the nomination and duly moved the unanimous election of Turner Hartig as Assistant Secretary, which motion was unanimously carried.

Chairman Sputh then suggested that the Convention, in accordance with its usual custom, elect one or more honorary chairmen as a recognition for past services to the American Turners. In response to this suggestion, the following Turners were nominated: Dave Henschen of the Upper Mississippi District, Curt Toll of the Indiana District, and Wm. Voelker of the Pittsburgh District. Turner Sputh handed the gavel to Vice Chairman Berndt who entertained a motion to elect the three Turners as Honorary Chairmen of the Convention. This motion was seconded and enthusiastically carried. These Honorary Chairmen were escorted to the head table by two delegates each from their respective Districts and given an enthusiastic Turner applause.

The Convention Secretary then read the following telegram:

"National Convention, American Turners, c/o Moline Turners:



"I deeply regret that the state of my health will not permit me to attend this convention but I will be with you in thought throughout your deliberations. May your actions be guided by the Turner spirit which has sustained our great organization throughout the years and may you enjoy the pleasures of Turner comradeship to the fullest extent.

Leo M. Rappaport."

This telegram was received with applause.

At this point Chairman Sputh asked the delegates to rise in silent respect in the memory of the Turners who had passed to the great beyond since the last Convention.

Chairman Sputh then asked Secretary Pletz to lead the delegates in the singing of the first verse of the National Anthem.

The Chairman then declared that the Convention was ready to receive the Annual Report of President Weideman which he read from a printed copy and which he amplified by supplementary explanatory comments as he went along, and which was received with enthusiastic applause. The printed portion of his address was as follows:

### **Message of the President**

To the 39th Convention of the American Turners at Moline, Illinois—I wish you a hearty Turner welcome.

Since making my last annual report, we find our nation again in a state of war. Our nation now being committed to individually engage in this war effort by an Act of Congress and a declaration by the President of the United States, our duty now is to serve our country in the best possible manner, and in those places where we can do the most good so that our cause will prevail. Our entire effort should be turned toward maintaining and protecting the liberty, freedom and democracy which we enjoy in these United States and which have a peculiar meaning and sacredness

to all Turners. It is our duty to aid our country in its complete war effort. Individuals and societies, wherever possible, should buy War Savings Bonds and War Stamps, and aid in such other charities as the Red Cross, the U. S. O., and other relief projects as are directed to war relief efforts.

Our records indicate that more than 700 Turners are in the armed forces of the United States and many more are enlisting and being inducted daily. Many thousands of our members being skilled in the arts and trades and mechanical lines are actively engaged in war production work. We believe that the percentage of Turner members in the armed forces and engaged in defense work is a larger percentage than is reflected in the information as a whole.

From reports that I have received from the various societies a very, very small percentage of Turners are being rejected for physical disability. Out of twenty-one enlisted or conscripted from one small society the whole twenty-one were accepted. Of course, that record will be hard to duplicate. The percentage of rejections in this present war is greater than the rejections in the World War I. However, we feel that when our statistics are finally tabulated, that the Turner rejections will still be at a minimum as they were in the last war. The Turner system of physical training has been well recognized in the present emergency, and the system of mass instruction in use in our gymnasiums is being adopted by the Army and Navy, and also the public. We have been trying for the past year to make America "health-conscious," and to avail themselves of some sort of physical exercise, but after traveling in most of the sections of America an analysis of the results obtained and the number of people participating in physical education, in our opinion, shows that the citizens of our country today would only be willing to engage in physical exercise when it is imposed upon them by an order of government; or after years of education.

America seems too intent upon making money and enjoying the things in life that are easy to do, and are too lazy to do those things which require effort. We hope the tremendous success that we have had in inventing and developing devices to make life more livable will not result in our physical and spiritual decadence as is followed in every nation of the World which had reached the peak of attainment. America must start to consider today how she will hold her eminent position in the World affairs, and how she can keep the nation physically fit to maintain that position.

The National Executive Committee has met regularly and attempted to handle your business to the best of its ability. Custom has decreed that the location of the National Executive Committee be changed from time to time. The present National Executive Committee is offering at this time to relinquish its leadership at the will of the convention. There has been discussion as to whether or not national tournaments will be held during the duration. That is for the convention to decide.

We are pleased to report that the finances of the American Turners are in better condition than at any time since the Committee was placed in charge of the present National Executive Committee. The obligation to Turner Steinhauser, who formerly published the American Turner magazine, has been paid in full. The indebtedness of the National Executive Committee to the Normal College, which was incurred prior to the merger with Indiana University, has been cancelled. We owe a vote of thanks to the Board of Trustees of the Normal College of the American Gymnastic Union for their magnanimous gesture and action to aid in the perpetuation of Turnerism in America.

The card system of collecting the national per capita tax, adopted at Elkhart Lake, is working successfully, and does not allow for the accumulation of unpaid per capita tax. Those societies which entered in a note agreement with the National

Executive Committee for the payment of the accumulated past due taxes have been making payments regularly.

We urge all Turners to support the Normal College of the American Gymnastic Union of Indiana University, and to send and recommend young men and women to this college who are interested in physical education. We urge each society and district to take advantage of the free scholarships which are offered each year by the American Turners.

Our membership for the year is greater than it was for the preceding year, which is remarkable, we think, in view of our present times and conditions.

Certain societies have been dropped or have resigned from our organization. Many of these have been inactive or on the ragged edge for years, and it is just another step in cleaning up our books.

The war effort is taking from us many of the best teachers and will undoubtedly handicap some of our societies. Our gymnastic work in some of our societies will be handicapped. However, special interest should be made to train group leaders to continue the work where our instructors join the armed forces.

Due to the lack of scholars our summer training course for leaders was postponed by the National Executive Committee for this year. Whether or not a leader course will be held next year will be determined as conditions develop. It might be that the solution will be the employment of a traveling instructor who can also act as Executive Secretary.

The National Executive Committee has discussed whether or not the adoption of an insurance plan offering sick and death benefits would increase our membership. Similar organizations have insurance plans which in their cases seem to help their membership. Whether or not it would help the American Turners is a subject for debate, and we present this for your consideration at the Convention.

Our Publication Committee is to be commended on the splendid effort it has put forth in the publication of Turner Topics and ask each and every one of you to increase its circulation in your own society. We have not been getting the support we deserve in the circulation of Turner Topics. All of you here have been very lax in your support of our national magazine. The Jahn Fund is to be congratulated upon its support of the Turner Topics and we appreciate very much its continued interest in Turnerism in America. Without the support of the Jahn Fund, the Turner Topics would be in bad financial condition.

I offer my sincere thanks to our District Officers, our Regional members of the National Executive Committee, and other Turners who have contributed so freely of their time and efforts to help our cause.

It has been brought to our attention that the Turners should contribute as an organization to one of the charitable war efforts, and it has been suggested that our entire membership be solicited for contribution to the purchase of an ambulance for the use of the Red Cross in the name of the American Turners, and those now in the military forces of the United States.

In conclusion, we propose the following:

- 1—The employment of a full time executive secretary.
- 2—To solicit our entire membership for a contribution to purchase a Red Cross Ambulance in the name of American Turners now in military service.
- 3—That all national tournaments be called off for the duration.
- 4—That each American Turner, when possible, make a pledge to buy United States War Savings Bonds up to ten per cent of his earnings.

With Turner Greetings,

CARL M. WEIDEMAN,  
National President.

The Chairman then asked for reports of the National Secretary and National Treasurer. Secretary Pletz called attention to the fact that the reports of these officers appeared in printed form in the Annual Report which had been distributed to the delegates, and he suggested that a reading of this reports be dispensed with. President Weideman then made a motion that these reports be received as if submitted to the convention. This motion was carried.

Chairman Sputh then read a telegram as follows:

"Geo. M. Heeschen, c/o Moline Turners, 1326 Sixth Ave.

"Accept my wishes for a successful convention.

Chas. A. Geber."

This telegram was received with applause.

Chairman Sputh then announced that the Twelfth Convention of the Ladies Auxiliary of the American Turners was in session simultaneously with this convention and appointed a committee to extend our greetings to the Ladies' Convention and our sincere good wishes for a successful Convention. The committee appointed consisted of Turners Waldemar Eickhoff, Theodore A. Gross, Louis Cullman and Honorary Chairmen Dave Henschen, Curt Toll and William Voelker.

The Chairman then stated that the Convention was ready to permit the committees to proceed with their work and Turner Eichin moved that the Convention adjourn to meet at 9 A. M. on Saturday morning. This motion was seconded and carried and Chairman Sputh declared the Second Session of this Convention adjourned at 11:00 A. M.

### Third Session—Saturday Morning June 27, 1942

The third session was called to order at 9:15 A. M. by Chairman Sputh and the proceedings were opened by the singing of the first verse of the National Anthem.



The minutes of the preceding two sessions of the Convention were read and approved by motion duly made and seconded after certain minor corrections had been incorporated.

Assistant Secretary Karl Hartig stated that a telegram had been received subsequent to the closing of the Second Session of this Convention, from the Middle Atlantic District, William A. Nicolai, President, indicating that this District desired to be represented at this Convention by Karl Hartig, a former member of the Middle Atlantic District. Turner Hartig indicated his willingness to serve as proxy for the Middle Atlantic District and by motion made, seconded and carried, the report of the Credentials Committee was ordered to be amended accordingly. (This change is incorporated in the report of the Credentials Committee as printed in the minutes of the Second Session. See also Secretary's note following the report of the Credentials Committee.)

At this point the Chairman read the following rules for the conduct of business of the Convention:

### **Rules for Conduct of Business of the Convention**

Robert's Rules of Order will govern the Convention.

Delegates will be permitted to speak for not more than three minutes at any one time, and no delegate will be permitted to speak more than twice on the same subject, except by permission of the Convention. These regulations shall not apply to delegates submitting reports, who may speak as often as occasion requires to answer questions and may also have the floor after debate is closed.

The Chairman then ordered that the Convention was ready to receive the report of the Committee on National Publication and Publicity which was submitted by Charles Eichin, Chairman of this Committee, as follows:

### **Report of the Committee on National Publication and Publicity**

To the 39th National Convention  
of the American Turners

#### **Greetings:**

The Committee organized with Charles Eichin as Chairman and J. A. Strohmeyer, Secretary.

The following members were present:

Kenneth Koegel, Jos. A. Strohmeyer, Chas. Eichin, Richard Turnt, A. F. Goetz, Bernard Wahe, Fred Nussbaum, and Emil Pletz, National Secretary, ex officio, and we submit the following recommendations for your consideration and action.

1. That the National Executive Committee and the Editorial staff of American Turner Topics be complimented on the continued and added improvements in appearance and content matter of the official organ, and further that the magazine be continued under the present editorial staff.

2. The present day problems confronting us give particular reason and need for bringing to the attention of members our Fundamental Principles. These self evident truths should be reiterated periodically in our official publication, The American Turner Topics.

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

4. That a national publicity chairman be appointed whose duty it shall be to send news releases of events of National Turner interest to the editors of the various society papers.

5. On request cuts of pictures appearing in the National paper shall be loaned to the various society publications.

6. Augmenting the National publicity chairman, we urge each individual society to appoint a publicity committee whose duty it shall be to spread Turner publicity in their local newspapers.

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

8. We suggest that the American Turner published at New Ulm, Minn., be requested to refrain from using our officially registered Turner seal and emblem.

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

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

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

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

Respectfully submitted with Turner  
Greetings,

CHARLES EICHIN, *Chairman*  
J. A. STROHMEYER, *Secretary*

The several paragraphs of this report were acted upon and approved in succession by the Convention without much discussion in most cases except in respect to Paragraph 8 which was amended by the Convention

until it assumed the form printed above. In accordance with motion duly made, seconded and carried, this report as amended, was adopted as a whole.

(Secretary's Note: This report originally contained a paragraph referring to several proposals to distribute Turner Topics free to all members of American Turners in good standing. This was stricken from the report on the grounds that the Committee made no recommendation with reference to this suggestion.)

During the consideration of the above report, a committee consisting of Mrs. Mathilda Fensterbusch, of the Moline Turners; Mrs. Dora Endress of the Cleveland East Side Turners, and Mrs. Emma Fenske of the Chicago Turngemeinde, conveyed sincere greetings for a successful convention to us from the 12th Convention of the Women's Auxiliary of the American Turners which Convention was meeting simultaneously at the Eagles Hall, at Moline.

After the adoption of the report of the Committee on National Publication and Publicity the Chairman called for the report of the Committee on Physical Education which report was submitted to the Convention by Mrs. Therese Pletz, Secretary of this Committee as follows:

### **Report of the Committee on Physical Education**

To the 39th Convention  
of the American Turners

Greetings:

The following delegates attended the meetings of this Committee: John C. Goettig, Curt Toll, Wm. M. Klier, Geo. M. Heeschen, John F. Schroeder, John H. Mohr, Bruno Sendlein, Reinhard J. Wagner, Herbert Klier, Robert Stahl, Helmuth C. Hohman, Bruno Uhl, Wm. H. Beutel, Howard C. Potthoff, Arthur Bauck, Fritz John, Dave Henschen, Wm. Modrow, Carl F. Hein, O. N. Simmen, Fritz Nicke, Louis F. Szeles, Therese Pletz, Theo. A. Gross, Ray Huth, Walter Ebeling, Wm. Greiner,

Matthew P. Jacobson, Jos. Weismueller, Ray DePorter, Wm. Bade, Jr.

The Committee was organized with Theodore A. Gross as Chairman and Therese Pletz as Secretary and submits the following report:

1. We recommend that the height of the volley ball net for ladies competition be made 7 feet 6 inches in place of the 8 feet designated in the present rules.

2. We recommend that National Tournaments be discontinued for the duration, but that all District and Local Tournaments be continued.

3. We recommend that the application for the holding of a National Turner Bowling Tournament made by the South Bend Turnverein, be referred to the National Executive Committee.

4. We recommend the resolution that the age of competitors for the National Turnfests be lowered to sixteen years, be rejected.

5. That the recommendation in Paragraph No. 4 of the 38th Convention pertaining to summer courses for teachers of Turner Societies be held over and tried again.

6. We recommend that the National Convention go on record to encourage local Societies to take part in local school service organizations such as Parent Teachers Association, School Boards, etc., to further greater inclusion of the Turner system of Physical Education into the school systems.

7. We recommend that the National Executive Committee have mimeographed copies of the Springfield Tournament report made and send one to each society.

8. We recommend that the following resolution be rejected: That the National Convention requests the appointment of a committee to investigate the possibilities of a course in club management in the curriculum of the Normal College or of Indiana University.

9. We recommend that the request from the AAU to draft a resolution pertaining to the National Physical Fitness Program be referred to a committee of five to serve with a larger committee appointed by our National President, to formulate such a resolution to be sent to the President of the U. S. A. and other proper government officials.

10. We recommend that the National Executive Committee make up a type of emblem which can be used for first, second, and third prize awards in local and district meets.

It is made a matter of record here that the following Instructors of Turner Societies are now in the service of our country:

Henry Schroeder, New York Turnverein.

Henry Warnken, Jr., East Davenport Turners.

Ralph Sigel, McKeesport Turners.

Walter Silberton, Swiss Turners, Chicago.

Walter Guenther, Fitchburg, Mass., Turners.

Robert Goeke, Lincoln Turners, Chicago.

Robert Ploetz, Cincinnati Central Turners.

Rudolph Jahn, Clinton, Mass., Turnverein.

Frank Bowker.

Fred Ploetz.

Clarence Edmonds.

Respectfully submitted,

THEO. A. GROSS, *Chairman*

THERESE PLETZ, *Secretary*

The above report was considered and adopted by paragraphs substantially as submitted and was subsequently adopted as a whole by motion duly made, seconded and carried.

Turner Robert Stahl suggested that the National Executive Committee write to the above Instructors to determine whether their Turner organization experience has



benefited them for their service in the Armed Forces and whether they are in a position to give any of our Turner work to the Armed Forces, a permanent record to be kept of these reports and retained for future reference. Pres. Weideman stated that the National Executive Committee would be glad to cooperate in this suggestion.

The Chairman then called for the report of the Committee on Cultural Education which report was submitted to the Convention by its Chairman Waldemar E. Eickhoff, as follows:

### **Report of the Committee on Cultural Education**

To the 39th Convention  
of the American Turners

Greetings:

The Committee organized by electing Turner Waldemar E. Eickhoff, Chairman and E. D. Keppner, Secretary. The following members were also present: Norman Powers, Fritz Degen, David Zweifel, Andrew Kohary, Francis J. Wood and Fred L. Bartels.

Your committee on Cultural Education holds that this department of Turnerism is a major activity in its importance but that it still lacks full development in numerous societies in various districts; that its development in each society is very necessary for the prestige, growth and prosperity of the society. That a fully developed cultural educational program in a society will attract speakers of note and quality; that this in turn will give to the society favorable publicity, and prestige in its community that can be obtained in no other way; and that a fully organized Cultural Educational program regularly held at least once each month for nine months per year under the guidance of a permanent Cultural Education chairman who is a full-fledged member of the Executive Board of the society, will not only build

much needed prestige but will promote intellectual leadership in the society.

On the prestige and leadership depends the life, strength, and growth of a Turner society, and the Cultural Education group could be the training school from which our future leadership will come.

We feel that this department has been much neglected and allowed to lie dormant in many societies. That with the proper methods of organization the National membership can be increased many times the former total of 38,000.

We recommend that the National President hold the National Cultural Education Chairman definitely responsible for a complete organization of regular systematic mental cultural programs in each society of the Nation.

That the National Cultural Education Chairman hold each district chairman responsible for regular activity reports from each society of his district, giving number of programs, type of programs and the number of attendance to each program, and that these reports be made in contrast with previous reports showing percentage of increase or decrease in number of programs and number of attendance.

That each district committee shall visit each society in its district at least once each season to assist the local society in its complete organization of a regular systematic cultural education program.

That the expense of these visits be paid by the district treasurer.

Experience in one district, which until four years ago was about eighty per cent dormant in Cultural Educational Activities, has shown that the most successful method is to hold the cultural activities program in connection with an evening dinner served by the Turner women and that tickets for this dinner be sold in advance by the regular standing committee, thus assuring the chairman a definite attendance which justifies him in engaging a quality speaker of reputation.

We further recommend that the opportunity of subscribing to our excellent National Publication, the Turner Topics, be introduced by the chairman at each monthly meeting to the end that all Turners may soon become appreciative subscribers of this fine magazine.

That, inasmuch as the Little Theatre Movement is on the upgrade, and no national organization is better equipped with auditoriums than the American Turners to save the spoken drama, all societies put forth an extra effort to promote dramatics.

That the Chairman of the National Cultural Education Committee be instructed to arrange for singing competition of not less than three voices, male, female, or mixed, to be held as one of the cultural activities at the next National Tournament and succeeding Tournaments and that the National Cultural Education Committee be requested to draw up rules governing entries, and that the National Cultural Education Committee be further instructed to arrange for suitable awards.

That a definite step be taken by the National Cultural Education Committee to promote, thru the various Districts and Societies, a program of cultural, educational, and recreational activities designed to appeal to members of our "teen-age" groups.

We recommend new and further organization of dramatics, public speaking, debating (special subjects to be suggested by the Cultural Educational Chairman), Ladies and Mixed Choruses, Juniors and Childrens Choral Groups, Needlecraft, hobby groups, camera and art photography clubs. We urge that efforts be made by these groups to organize an annual Cultural Educational Day in their district and to secure publicity space in their society publicity organs for these cultural activities. It is further urged each society keep in close touch with the Cultural Education Chairman of their district by exchange of ideas and experience.

We recommend that the Rules applying to the Cultural Education Activities of the American Turners, published by the National Executive Committee, revised to June 1, 1941, be adopted by this convention, as a guide for future cultural educational activities competitions.

We commend the Trustees of the Jahn Fund for making available a portion of the proceeds of the Fund as prizes for Cultural Educational Competitive Events at National Tournaments. We recommend, however, that future prizes consist of trophies, plaques, medals, ribbons or similar awards other than cash, in order that the award winners may receive prizes of a distinctive and permanent nature.

Respectfully submitted, with Turner Greetings,

WALDEMAR E. EICKHOFF, *Chairman*  
E. D. KEPPNER, *Secretary*

This report was adopted in its entirety by motion duly made, seconded and carried.

The report of the Finance Committee of the Convention was submitted by the Secretary of this Committee, Paul E. Phillips, as follows:

### Report of the Finance Committee

To the 39th Convention  
of the American Turners

Greetings:

The Finance Committee met with the following members present: Chairman, Art Kneberg; Secretary, P. E. Phillips; Delegates: Al W. Rayner, Ed Hohenstein, Harry Erickson, Ted Stenger, Ruel Pitcher, Harry Best and Archie Wilson, ex officio, Treasurer of the National Executive Committee.

1. We recommend that we accept the Treasurer's Report as submitted by Leo A. Berry, Certified Public Accountant, Detroit, Mich., as of June 12, 1942, for the period to December 31st, 1941, showing a

cash balance of \$2,983.98. This audit we find to be correct to the best of our knowledge and belief.

2. We find the records in excellent condition; therefore be it resolved: That this Convention commend the National Treasurer and District Treasurers for their efforts and work for bringing this about.

Respectfully submitted,

ARTHUR KNEBERG, *Chairman*  
P. E. PHILLIPS, *Secretary*

This report contained a paragraph recommending a proposed amendment to Article 54 of the Statutes of the American Turners. This proposed amendment was not considered with this report first on the grounds that, in accordance with the rules of the Convention a proposed amendment must be submitted separately from the balance of the Committee's report and second, for the reason that the Committee on Platform, Statutes and Grievances to which this proposed amendment had been referred by the Finance Committee, announced that it was prepared to submit a proposed amendment covering the subject matter proposed by the Finance Committee.

The other paragraphs of the report of the Finance Committee were considered and adopted in succession but the adoption of the report as a whole was laid on the table pending the action of the Convention on the proposed amendment to Article 54 above referred to.

After this amendment had been adopted (see following report of Committee on Platform, Statutes and Grievances) the paragraph relating to the proposed amendment was stricken from the Finance Committee's report, with the consent of the Chairman of this Committee and the Finance Committee's report as printed above was adopted as a whole by motion duly made, seconded and carried.

Convention Secretary's Note: The audited Treasurer's report referred to in

Paragraph 1 of the Finance Committee's report is as follows:

National Executive Committee  
The American Turners  
8731 E. Jefferson Ave.  
Detroit, Mich.

Sirs:

Pursuant to your request, I have examined the books of account and records of the Treasurer for the period April 1, 1941 to December 31, 1941, and submit herewith statements and schedules as listed on the index attached.

It is my opinion that, subject to the comments following, the accompanying exhibits and schedules fairly state the financial condition of the National Executive Committee of the American Turners as at December 31, 1941, and that the Statement of Income and Expense fairly states the net income for the nine months ending December 31, 1941.

Respectfully submitted,

LEO A. BERRY, C.P.A.

## COMMENTS

### Cash

Cash in Manufacturers National Bank was verified by inspection of the statement of the bank and consideration of the outstanding checks.

### Accounts Receivable—Supplies

The individual balances were not verified by direct communication with the debtors, but the list prepared from the records was found to be in agreement with the stated total.

### Unpaid Per Capita Taxes

Confirmations were not obtained directly from the debtors, as at the date of this



statement. However, such verifications are being requested from the various districts as at May 31, 1942. The list of debtors prepared from the subsidiary records was found to be in agreement with the stated total, and is shown in a schedule in this report.

### Inventory—Supplies

No physical inventory has been taken since the March 31, 1939 value was established. During the period covered by this report, we reduced the value on the books from \$1,160.47 to \$1,051.02, on the estimated cost basis of 66 $\frac{2}{3}$ % of the sales being \$109.45 more than the purchases.

### Fixed Assets

No verification has been obtained as to the cost of these assets as stated on the books, or identification of the various items making up the total. No depreciation has been accrued from the date of purchase to December 31, 1941.

### Liabilities

The Jahn Educational Fund balance remains unchanged from the March 31, 1941 balance.

The Normal College Subsidy balance has been entirely eliminated from your records. This was done by authority of a resolution adopted by the Board of Trustees of the Normal College on November 18, 1941, releasing you from all arrearages in annual appropriations up to September 1, 1941.

The amount due Turnzeitung was paid in full during this period, the amount being \$420.00.

Per capita tax payments paid in advance totaled only \$95.50 as at December 31, 1941, and have been removed from the liabilities on the books, since that date.

## THE AMERICAN TURNERS

### Assets and Liabilities

December 31, 1941

#### ASSETS

<b>CURRENT:</b>			
Cash:			
On Hand—Undeposited	\$	9.41	
In Bank—Manufacturers National		2,974.57	\$ 2,983.98
Accounts Receivable—Supplies			388.37
Unpaid Per Capita Taxes			11,598.89
Notes Receivable—Per Capita Tax			2,191.40
Inventory—Supplies			1,051.02
<b>Total Current Assets</b>			<b>\$18,213.66</b>
<b>FIXED:</b>			
Office Furniture and Fixtures			848.39
<b>OTHER:</b>			
United States Defense Bonds			200.00
<b>Total Assets</b>			<b>\$19,262.05</b>

#### LIABILITIES

<b>CURRENT:</b>			
Jahn Educational Fund	\$	3,000.00	
Account Payable—Normal College		900.00	
Accrued Old Age Taxes		22.84	
Accrued Federal Excise Taxes		17.39	
Per Capita Tax Payments—Prepaid		95.50	
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>			<b>\$ 4,035.73</b>
<b>CAPITAL AND SURPLUS</b>			
(See attached analysis)			15,226.32
<b>Total Liabilities</b>			<b>\$19,262.05</b>

#### ANALYSIS OF SURPLUS

April 1, 1941 — December 31, 1941

1941	Dr.	Cr.
April 1 Balance		\$ 1,142.66
Adjustment to Accounts Receivable for Per Capita Taxes Middle Atlantic District	\$ 876.97	
Pittsburgh	385.50	
Others	131.17	
Upper Mississippi		\$ 1,237.29
Adjustment to Accounts Receivable—Supplies for Merchandise Returns	25.35	
Nov. 30—Elimination of entire Liability to the Normal College as authorized by Resolution adopted by Board of Trustees on November 30, 1941		12,500.00
Nov. 30—Adjustment to the above credit to Surplus in order to record the distribution of this portion to the credit of the operations for the period Apr. 1, 1941 to Dec. 31, 1941	2,500.00	
Dec. 31—Net Profit—Apr. 1, 1941 to Dec. 31, 1941		4,265.36
Dec. 31—Balance	15,226.32	
	<b>\$19,145.31</b>	<b>\$19,145.31</b>

# STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENSE

April 1, 1941 to December 31, 1941

## INCOME

Per Capita Tax	
Billed	\$10,236.13
Sales of Promotional Supplies	\$1,323.88
Less: Cost	882.59
National Turnfest	44.00

**Total Income** ..... **\$10,721.42**

## EXPENSES

Normal College	1,825.00
Turner Topics	300.00
Postage and Telephone	195.11
Office Rent	180.00
Office Salaries	1,677.92
Printing and Office Supplies	822.41
Interest Paid	245.60
Technical Committee	489.23
Traveling	408.00
Social Security Taxes	28.95
Miscellaneous	283.84

**Total Expenses** ..... **\$ 6,456.06**

**Net Income—April 1, 1941 to December 31, 1941** ..... **\$ 4,265.36**

## NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE THE AMERICAN TURNERS

March 31, 1942 and December 31, 1941

Unpaid Per Capita Taxes	Balance May 31, 1942	Balance Mar. 31, 1942	Balance Dec. 31, 1941
Illinois District	\$ 248.50	\$ 422.50	\$ 5.50
Indiana District	1,230.00	1,360.00	382.00
Kansas-Missouri	302.50	310.00	327.50
Lake Erie	1,985.84	1,720.33	798.00
Middle Atlantic	324.68	324.68	91.18
Middle Pacific	49.50	49.50	
Minnesota	87.50	94.50	28.00
New England	960.00	1,186.00	471.00
New Jersey	1,213.91	1,295.46	957.96
New York	670.50	257.00	357.00
North Pacific	252.46	252.46	227.46
Pacific	1,181.25	1,181.25	1,181.25
Pittsburgh	1,516.20	1,953.20	594.70
St. Louis	2,469.15	2,756.65	2,679.15
South Central	50.00	50.00	50.00
Southern California	70.00	50.00	50.00
Upper Mississippi	800.50	1,469.00	467.85
Western New York	2,537.04	2,751.04	3,001.47
Wisconsin	179.50	266.37	39.87
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$15,989.03</b>	<b>\$17,649.94</b>	<b>\$11,598.89</b>

After the consideration of the report of the Finance Committee the Chairman called for the report of the Committee on Platform, Statutes and Grievances which was submitted by Turner Chas. Apel, Chairman of this Committee as follows: (Secretary's Note: The Proposed amendment to Paragraph 54 printed below is in the form in which it was adopted by the Convention after having been amended by the Convention.)

## Report of the Committee on Platform, Statutes and Grievances

To the 39th Convention  
of the American Turners

Greetings:

This committee consisting of Chas. Apel, Ray Ross, Marshall Troester, Eugene C. Stifel, and Herman Eisele organized by naming Chas. Apel, Chairman, and Herman Eisele, Secretary.

Two resolutions were submitted to this committee for their consideration.

The first resolution related to the use of the Official Seal of the American Turners on printed matter by Districts and Societies and proposed an amendment to the Statutes to be designated as paragraph 50(a) and which was revised by the Committee as follows:

50(a): Upon admission of a District or Society to the American Turners, it shall be obliged to use the Official American Turner Seal, registered in the United States Patent Office, upon all its printed and publicity matter. If, for any reason, a District or Society ceases to be a member of the American Turners, its right to use the Seal shall automatically cease.

This Committee recommends the adoption of the above proposed amendment.

The second resolution related to the method of computing the votes to which a District is entitled at a National Convention and was submitted to this Committee by the Finance Committee of the Convention. This resolution proposed a change in the last sentence of Paragraph 54 of the 1941 Edition of the Statutes, which was slightly amplified by this Committee so that this last sentence shall read as follows:

54. Computation of the votes to which a district is entitled shall be based on the *number of membership cards issued and paid to the National Executive Committee for the year preceding the Convention and such additional members as are exempted from paying per capita taxes.*

This Committee recommends the adoption of the above amendment.

Respectfully submitted with Turner  
Greetings,

*Committee on Platform, Statutes and  
Grievances*

CHAS. APEL, *Chairman*

HERMAN EISELE, *Secretary*

The Chairman announced that the proposed amendments submitted in this report would each require a recording of the number of Federal Votes and that if the vote would not be unanimous, a vote by Districts would be required. The Chairman then called for a vote on the first of the proposed amendments designated as 50(a). The vote in favor of this amendment was unanimous and the Convention Secretary was accordingly ordered to record a vote of 182 Federal Votes in favor and no Federal Votes against this amendment.

The Chairman then declared that the Convention was ready to consider the proposed amendment to Article 54. After a re-reading of this proposed amendment as originally submitted, the changes indicated in italics were made from the floor by motion duly made, seconded and carried; after the changes indicated had been incorporated, the Chairman asked for a vote which was unanimous in favor of the amendment and the Chairman accordingly directed the Secretary to record 182 Federal Votes in favor of the amendment and no votes against.

The Chairman then called for the report of the Committee on the Youth Movement which report was submitted by Bruno Sendlein, Chairman of this Committee, as follows:

### **Youth Committee Report**

To the 39th National Convention  
of the American Turners

Greetings:

The Committee was called to order by Chairman Sendlein, with Siewert Struck as Secretary.

We recommend the following for adoption by the Convention:

1. That the National Executive Committee create a National Youth Committee.

2. That each District create a District Youth Committee and that the District Committees encourage each of its member Societies to create a Society Youth Committee.

3. That the National Executive Committee set aside a fund to print an amended Youth Manual to include the American Girl Turner.

4. That this Manual include a diversified program of youth activities which can be adapted to the needs and desires of each group.

5. Any Society or District that desires to organize an American Boy or Girl Group shall be required to conform to the revised official manual provided by the National Executive Committee.

Respectfully submitted with Turner  
Greetings,

BRUNO SENDLEIN, *Chairman*

SIEWERT STRUCK, *Secretary*

FRANK JENKINS

GEO. M. HEESCHEN

After a careful reading of this report the report was adopted in its entirety by motion made, seconded and carried.

In view of the fact that the two remaining reports were expected to be rather lengthy, the Chairman suggested a recess for lunch whereupon a motion was made, seconded and carried that the Convention adjourn to meet at 1:30 P. M., and the Chairman declared the Third Session adjourned at 12:00 Noon.

Convention Secretary's Note: During the Third Session of the Convention Turner Eichin distributed printed copies of an Open Letter addressed to the Delegates of this Convention from Turner Albert Steinhauer containing numerous suggestions for the welfare and growth of the American Turners.



#### **Fourth Session—Saturday Afternoon June 27, 1942**

The Fourth Session of the Convention was called to order promptly at 1:30 P. M. by Chairman Sputh, this being the time set by the Convention.

Announcements were made by Bernard Wahe of the Moline Turners regarding the Convention Dinner to be held at the Le-Claire Hotel at 7:00 P. M. on Saturday evening, and also regarding the Picnic which had been arranged for the delegates on Sunday at the Country Home of the Moline Turners.

The Report of the Committee on National Affairs was then submitted by Karl Hartig, Secretary of this Committee. Several of the paragraphs of this report submitted by the committee were amended during the consideration of these paragraphs by the Convention as indicated by Secretary's notes, in and following the report. The report in the final form in which it was adopted, is as follows:

#### **Report of the Committee on National Affairs**

To the 39th National Convention  
of the American Turners  
Greetings:

The committee was called to order by Temporary Chairman, Frank Berndt. Permanent officers as follows were elected: W. T. Meisner, Chairman; Al M. Keim, Vice Chairman; Karl Hartig, Secretary.

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

Recommended resolutions:

1. We recommend that the present membership card system for the collection of National and District per capita taxes be continued.

2. We recommend that a full time Executive Secretary be employed when found feasible.

3. We recommend that local societies participate in affairs pertaining to all de-

fense measures and morale, such as parades, exhibitions, entertainment or other contributing affairs.

4. We recommend that all societies shall cooperate with the proper authorities in the furtherance of National Defense, such as promoting and providing for first aid, air raid wardens, Red Cross and other defense classes.

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

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

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

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

may be conveniently available to all other Societies.

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

10. We recommend that the Convention appoint a Committee to consider and set up a plan of Hospitalization or Death Benefit for all Turner members.

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

(Secretary's Note: The portion printed in italics in the above paragraph 11 was added by an amendment unanimously and enthusiastically carried by the convention and paragraph 11 as amended was unanimously carried with Turner applause.)

12. We recommend that the entire membership of the American Turners be solicited for a contribution to purchase a Red Cross Ambulance in the name of the American Turners now in military service.

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

14. For nearly a hundred years, the American Turners have been advocates of laws making health and physical educational training compulsory in the various public school systems of the United States, and, thru their efforts, have succeeded in causing the establishment of health and physical educational departments in the schools of most of the larger cities of the country. The slogan of the American Turners has been "Mens sana in corpore sano" (A sound mind in a sound body). During all these years the constitution of the American Turners has advocated for the United States a Liberal Democratic form

of government and has, at all times, supported the nation in any hour of peril. Its policy has been to train boys and girls of the nation so as to make them fit in body and mind upon reaching manhood and womanhood. The principal purpose for the existence of the American Turners always has been, and is now, the development of physically and mentally fit citizens willing and able to support a democracy within a republic.

Occurrences thruout the world have been a forcible reminder of the needs of the nation and since it seems fitting at this time to bring to the attention of the people of the United States, the National, State and Municipal governments the purposes justifying the existence of the American Turners, therefore:

Be it resolved that the American Turners assembled in Convention at Moline, Illinois, June 25th to June 27th, 1942 use this means of declaring its continued adherence to the principles upon which the government of the United States was founded and is being maintained.

Be it further resolved that we again declare our adherence to the principles that compulsory health and physical education and training afford the best means of making the youth of our country fit to meet any emergency which might arise, and be it further resolved that we actively advocate the following of our Principles thruout the nation.

Be it further resolved that the American Turners reaffirm their loyalty to the United States and offer their services toward the successful prosecution of the war.

Be it further resolved that copies of this resolution be forwarded by the National Executive Committee to the President of the United States and members of the United States Congress.

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

16. We recommend that the American

Turners urge the members of Congress and Senate to support the adoption of H.R. Bill No. 1410 which is known as the "General Welfare Act" amending the Social Security Act so as to extend coverage thereunder.

17. We recommend that the next National Convention be held at the Johnstown Turnverein, Johnstown, Pa.

18. *We recommend that the Convention ratify the National Executive Committee's action in exempting members in the various services of the United States of America directly prosecuting the war, from paying per capita tax during their period of such service.* (Secretary's Note: Paragraph 18 was introduced on the floor of the Convention by the Chairman of the Committee on National Affairs and was amended by the Convention in several details until it assumed the above form in which it was adopted.)

With Turner Greetings,  
*Committee on National Affairs,*  
W. T. MEISNER, *Chairman*  
KARL HARTIG, *Secretary*

The above report was considered and adopted by paragraphs without much discussion in most instances except in the case of Paragraph 9 which was discussed at length and to which an amendment was offered and defeated which amendment recommended that the Societies amend their constitutions accordingly.

After each paragraph had been passed on in succession, a motion was made and seconded that the above report, as amended, be adopted as a whole. This motion was carried.

(Secretary's Note: The original report of the Committee on National Affairs contained a paragraph recommending that all National Tournaments be called off for the duration. This paragraph was deleted from this report for the reason that the same recommendation had been made by the Committee on Physical Education and

had been adopted by the Convention with the Report on Physical Education.)

(Secretary's Note: During the consideration of Paragraph 17 the St. Louis delegates stated that they had planned to submit an invitation for the next National Convention but that, in view of the invitation from the Johnstown delegates, St. Louis would support Johnstown. The St. Louis delegates offered, however, to take the Convention if for any reason the Convention could not be held in Johnstown.)

Turners Kramer, Turnt and Johns expressed sincere thanks to the convention for the award of the next convention to Johnstown and assured the delegates that the Johnstown Turnverein would do everything in their power to make the convention a successful and pleasant one.

At this point, the Chairman asked Vice Chairman Frank J. Berndt to take the chair.

The report of the Normal College Committee was then submitted to the Convention by L. O. Greiner, Chairman of this Committee. This report was amended by the Convention during the consideration of several paragraphs of this report as pointed out in the Convention Secretary's Notes following the report. The report in its final form, as it was adopted by the Convention, was as follows:

### **Report of the Normal College Committee**

To the 39th National Convention  
of the American Turners

Greetings:

The Committee organized by electing Turner Louis O. Greiner Chairman and Marshall F. Troester as Secretary.

The following members of the Committee were present: Carl F. Hein, Louis O. Greiner, Dr. Carl B. Sputh, Marshall F. Troester, Curt Toll, Charles R. Weber, William J. Weber, and William Ludwig, ex officio.

1. We recommend that the Secretary of this Convention send a letter to Dr.



Herman Wells, President of Indiana University, expressing our appreciation for the whole-hearted way in which the merger of the Normal College and Indiana University was effected and the fine spirit of co-operation shown to carry on Turner Traditions.

2. We recommend that a letter be forwarded to the Board of Trustees of Indiana University from this Convention pledging our cooperation in building up and maintaining the Traditions and Ideals of the Normal College by urging the members to enroll in the Normal College and providing scholarships for this purpose.

3. We recommend that the Trustees of the Building and Endowment Fund of the Normal College of the American Turners comprising *Louis O. Greiner, Marshall F. Troester, Oscar Grothe, Dr. Carl B. Sputh, Wm. O. Stecher, Carl M. Weideman and Gus W. Dickel* be discharged from their Trust under their Declaration of Trust dated Jan. 23rd, 1939 and that this Convention render a vote of thanks to the Trustees for their services.

4. We recommend that the Board of Trustees of the Normal College of the American Gymnastic Union be discharged and that a sincere vote of thanks be extended to *the Board of Trustees of the Normal College comprising Geo. Vonnegut, Leo. M. Rappaport, Oscar Koster, Paul Krimmel, Carl F. Hein, Max Strass, August Pritzlaff, and representatives of the Alumni Board, Louis Szeles and William K. Streit, and the following ex-officio members, R. R. Schreiber, Emil Rinsch and Dr. Carl B. Sputh* for negotiating and consummating the merger of the Normal College with Indiana University and for their untiring efforts on behalf of the College.

5. We recommend that *henceforth the name of the Normal College Committee shall be changed to "Committee on Scholarships for the Normal College of A.G.U. of Indiana University."*

6. We recommend that a Scholarship Committee of six members be established to administer the Scholarships provided by the American Turners, under such rules and regulations as laid down by the American Turners; such Committee to consist of four members appointed by the N.E.C.: the President of the Alumni Association of the Normal College of A.G.U. and the *Director* of the Normal College of A.G.U. of Indiana University as an ex-officio member.

7. We recommend that the American Turners grant scholarships annually in the Normal College of A.G.U. of Indiana University; *moneys for this purpose shall be provided by the National Executive Committee.*

8. We recommend the adoption of the following Rules and Regulations governing the granting of Scholarships in the Normal College of the A.G.U. of Indiana University.

### Requirements

A-1. Applicants must be members of the American Turners or must have attended classes of a Society belonging to the American Turners, for at least three years immediately prior to admission to the Normal College. The time requirement may be waived in case of a national emergency.

A-2. They must have graduated from a high high school having a four-year course and must rank within the upper half of their class.

A-3. They must be at least middle grade Turners in apparatus work and tumbling as the term is interpreted by the American Turners, and should possess at least average ability in track and field work and sports. Examinations in these subjects are to be given under direction of the circuit to which the applicant belongs. Results of these examinations together with a transcript of the applicant's high school record must be sent to the secretary of the

Scholarship Committee of the American Turners not later than August 1st of the year in which the applicant wishes to enter the College.

A-4. Circuit representatives must also rate each applicant's character, personality and leadership ability, and must certify to his probable success as a teacher of Physical Education.

### **Obligations of the Scholarship Students**

B-1. All men accepting scholarships obligate themselves to continue their studies at Indiana University for at least one year after the expiration of the scholarship.

B-2. They further obligate themselves to teach in a society of the American Turners for a period of at least two years.

B-3. A scholarship student who does not fulfill the above conditions, obligates himself to refund to the Scholarship Committee of the American Turners the amount of the contingent fee would have been required to pay as a member of the American Turners. (Partial Scholarship.)

B-4. He must make an average of B minus (including all subjects) at the end of the first year in order to have his scholarship continued for the second year.

B-5. He must at all times cooperate with the University Authorities and faculty members.

B-6. He must observe, teach and attend the classes of Societies of the American Turners in Indianapolis to which he may be assigned while a student at the College.

9. We recommend that the awarding of Partial Scholarships to Turner members or their daughters in good standing, to the Normal College of the A.G.U. of Indiana University be continued in accordance with the Rules and Regulations established by the Scholarship Committee but that the contribution under such Scholarships toward the payment of tuition be reduced from 40 to 33⅓%.

10. We recommend that the National Executive Committee be directed to pay to the Scholarship Committee *such sum as seems feasible to the National Executive Committee* annually, to provide for the Scholarships authorized above by this Convention.

Respectfully submitted with Turner  
Greetings,

LOUIS O. GREINER, *Chairman*

MARSHALL F. TROESTER, *Secretary*

(Secretary's Notes: During the consideration of the above report, paragraphs 3, 4 and 5 were amended on the floor of the Convention as indicated in italics. After brief discussion paragraph 7 was laid on the table by the Convention in accordance with motion duly made and carried, until after the consideration of paragraph 10 of the report. Paragraph 7 originally contained a provision for granting seven scholarships, one for each circuit, which scholarship was intended to consist of free tuition for the freshman and sophomore years in College but this provision was removed by amendment, and this paragraph 7 was otherwise amended as indicated in italics. Paragraph 10 as submitted by the Committee provided for the payment of \$2500 annually to the scholarship Committee for scholarships. This fixed amount was changed by action of the Convention as indicated in Paragraph 10 of the report.)

This report was considered by paragraphs with considerable discussion of Paragraphs 7 and 10 and the report was adopted by paragraphs as amended in the form indicated above. After the adoption by paragraphs, a motion was made and seconded that the report as amended be adopted as a whole. This motion was carried.

At this point in the proceedings Vice Chairman Berndt returned the gavel to Chairman Sputh who had actively and ably participated in the debate on the Normal College Report, and Chairman Sputh de-

clared the Convention ready for further business.

President Weideman reported that a special enlarged Committee had been appointed pursuant to actions taken at the meeting of the Convention Committees on National Affairs and on Physical Education, to formulate a resolution pertaining to the National Physical Fitness Program. President Weideman further reported that this Committee had drafted such a resolution and that Turner Carl F. Hein was prepared to submit this resolution for the approval of the Convention. The Chairman then recognized Turner Hein who submitted the resolution as follows:

### **Resolution on Physical Fitness**

The American Turners, assembled in their Biennial National Convention at Moline, Illinois, feel obliged to bring to your attention the evident total failure, to date, of the initial attempt to provide for the citizens of the United States a "National Physical Fitness" program designed to bring about an improved state of health and physical vigor of all our people.

We believe that with the proper leadership and under guidance of properly qualified teachers of physical education, a successful program is possible with the active cooperation and support of the Government of the United States.

Whereas much has been attempted, and little done toward making America physically fit: We American Turners organized in 1850 for the primary purpose of disseminating a rational plan of physical education for the masses, which has been highly successful, and which has been adopted and utilized by kindred organizations internationally, again offer our facilities, our professional staff, the benefit of our years of experience in this field towards the preparation, establishment and the conduct of this program.

We are enclosing herewith a suggestion of a plan of operation designed, not to

make champions, but to raise the general health and endurance standards of all Americans of both sexes and of all ages. This plan can be put in operation without cost to the participant or the Government if patriotic citizens and teachers will cooperate.

(Plan to be submitted by our special Technical Committee).

Submitted by:

Carl M. Weideman, Chairman.  
Al M. Keim  
Wm. J. Kramer, Sr.  
Theo. A. Gross  
Paul E. Phillips  
Emil L. Pletz  
George M. Heeschen  
Walter T. Meisner  
Jos. Strohmeier  
Fritz Nicke  
Waldemar E. Eickhoff  
Julius Laffert  
Louis Cullman  
Robert Stahl  
Chas. Eichen  
Herman Eisele  
Jos. J. Zimmermann  
Carl F. Hein

This resolution intended, when completed, to be forwarded to the proper Government authorities, was adopted by the Convention in accordance with motion duly made and unanimously carried.

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



President Weideman announced that Bruno Sendlein of the St. Louis District, had consented to serve as Chairman of the National Youth Committee created in accordance with the mandate recommended by the Youth Committee and adopted by the Convention. This announcement was received with applause.

A telegram was received from L. F. Lyons of Kansas City relative to certain repairs on the Jahn Monument in St. Louis, which repairs the St. Louis delegates promptly agreed to take care of.

Turner Theodore A. Gross related an incident in which a wealthy Turner passed on leaving no close relatives and who would conceivably have left a considerable sum of money to the Turners organization if he had been properly approached, and Turner Gross suggested that the question of leaving bequests to the Turner organization be given serious consideration by the members of Turner Societies.

Turner Anthony King addressed the Convention briefly but enthusiastically on the subject of the coming world peace and suggested that the National Executive Committee be alert in order that the Turners may contribute something material to a satisfactory world peace.

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

The Chairman asked for any further business to come before the Convention and, there being no further business, declared the Convention adjourned at 5:10 P. M.

Respectfully submitted with Turner  
Greetings,

Dr. Carl B. Sputh, *Chairman*

Dave Henschen, *Honorary Chairman*

Curt Toll, *Honorary Chairman*  
William Voelker, *Honorary Chairman*  
Frank J. Berndt, *Vice Chairman*  
Herman Eisele, *Secretary*  
Karl Hartig, *Assistant Secretary*

Secretary's Note: At this Convention the reports of the Committees, as soon as they were ready, were dictated to stenographers or typists and were approved in the typewritten form by the Committee officers. A stencil was then prepared from one copy of each of the approved reports and approximately 125 mimeographed copies of each report were run off. A mimeographed copy of each report was placed before each delegate just prior to the reading of the respective report to the Convention. This procedure made it possible for the delegates to follow and clearly understand the subject matter of each paragraph of the report, intelligently suggest changes or note changes made by the Convention and take home with them copies of all of the reports. The facilities which the Moline Turners provided for producing these mimeographed copies included a complete mimeograph machine together with sufficient number of stencils and three well qualified mimeograph operators who prepared and proof-read the stencils, ran off the copies and fastened the copies together. This system of furnishing mimeographed copies of the reports seemed to so materially expedite the business of the convention that it is hoped that future host societies may be able to provide similar suitable facilities for mimeographing copies of the committee reports.

In accordance with resolutions adopted by the Convention the Secretary was instructed to send communications to Dr. Herman B. Wells, President of Indiana University, and to the Board of Trustees of Indiana University. The communications sent in accordance with these instructions are reproduced below together with the courteous reply received from Dr. Wells.

Moline, Ill.  
June 27, 1942

Dr. Herman B. Wells, President  
Indiana University  
c/o Camp Brosius  
Elkhart Lake, Wis.

Dear Dr. Wells:

The 39th National Convention of the American Turners held in Moline, Ill., June 25-28, 1942, instructed me to extend to you its thanks and appreciation for the fine manner in which you received the faculty and student body of the Normal College of the American Gymnastic Union into Indiana University. Your cooperation has been splendid and, under your excellent leadership, we feel satisfied that the ideals and traditions of the American Turners and the Normal College will be carried on. We want to assure you of our continued support.

Respectfully yours,

Herman Eisele, *Secretary.*  
*39th National Convention of the*  
*American Turners.*

Moline, Ill.  
June 27, 1942

Board of Trustees  
Indiana University  
c/o Camp Brosius  
Elkhart Lake, Wis.

Greetings:

The 39th National Convention of the American Turners held in Moline, Illinois, June 25-28, 1942, instructed me to inform

you that it has gone on record to pledge to Indiana University its cooperation in building up the Normal College of the American Gymnastic Union and in maintaining the ideals and traditions of the College by urging the members of the American Turners to enroll in the College and by providing scholarships for this purpose.

Respectfully yours,

Herman Eisele, *Secretary.*  
*39th National Convention of the*  
*American Turners.*

Indiana University  
Bloomington

Aug. 1, 1942

Mr. Herman Eisele  
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Mr. Eisele:

Your good letter of June 27 in behalf of the American Turners was read to the Board of Trustees at its meeting at Camp Brosius on July 4 and I assure you we appreciate this expression of support. We consider the heritage of tradition and ideals which we have inherited as very precious, and we shall do our best to maintain them with the support of the Turner's organization and the alumni of the school.

Sincerely yours,

H. B. Wells.