



AMERICAN TURNER TOPICS



OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE AMERICAN TURNERS

May - June - July 2008

Vol. 62 No. 1



**2008 National
Council Meeting
Concordia Turners**
St. Louis, MO
October 3-4

**National Softball
Louisville Turners**
Louisville, KY
July 4-5

**72nd National
Convention
Ft. Wayne Turners**
Ft. Wayne, IN
August 1-2-3

**National Golf
Syracuse Turners**
Syracuse, NY
July 9-10-11

AMERICAN TURNER TOPICS
(USPS 023-660)

is published 5 issues per year in Jan-Feb, Mar-Apr, May-Jun-Jul, Aug-Sept-Oct, Nov-Dec at:
1127 E. Kentucky St.,
Louisville, KY 40204.
Periodicals postage paid at
Louisville, KY 40204.

Subscription rates
\$4.00 per year
POSTMASTER:

Send address changes to
AMERICAN TURNER TOPICS,
P.O. BOX 4216,
LOUISVILLE, KY 40204

National Office Address

1127 East Kentucky Street
P.O. Box 4216
Louisville, KY 40204

Please send all correspondence
to the P.O. Box Number.

Office Hours:
7:45 a.m. to 3:15 p.m.
(E.S.T.), Mon.-Thurs.
Phone (502) 636-2395
FAX (502) 636-1935

American Turner Topics

Official Publication of the
American Turners Dedicated
to "A Sound Mind in a Sound Body"

Send all copy for Turner Topics to:
Craig Sniezek, Editor
1440 Crestwood Dr.
Aurora, IL 60506
turnertopicseditor@sbcglobal.net

Deadline for Next Issue is:
July 25, 2008

OFFICERS OF THE AMERICAN TURNERS

William SevernsPresident
Tom Bozonelos First Vice President
Phil Johnson Second Vice President
Shirley Luckhardt..... Secretary-Treasurer
Michelle Lesperance Health and Physical
Education Committee Chairman
Barbara Riley.. Cultural Committee Chairman
Thomas O'Hara.....Bowling Committee Chairman
Daisy LeidyPast National President

Turner Seal and Emblem registered in
U.S. Patent Office #390643 and #393750.

Use is restricted to bona fide
Turner Societies authorized by
the American Turners.

National Office:
1127 E. Kentucky St.,
P.O. Box 4216,
Louisville, KY 40204
(502) 636-2395

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Greetings Fellow turners,

Here we are entering into another summer season and hopefully looking forward to lots of Turner summer activities.

Our Bowling Tournament has just been successfully completed by our Elgin, Ill. Turners. Thanks to them for a job well done. And we are looking ahead to the Softball Tourney at Louisville Turners in Louisville, KY and to Golf Tourney at Syracuse Turners in Syracuse, NY. Best of luck to these societies and to all of the participants for successful Turner events.



Unfortunately I must mention the failed American Turner National Gymnastics Championship. It has been canceled due to lack of participation. The Turners and Turner Kids at River City Turners in Louisville, KY worked very hard preparing to put on and to compete in a great meet only to have no other society entries but themselves. We are an organization founded on gymnastics and we are unable to present a successful Gym Meet?? Granted not everyone is interested in gymnastics anymore and we recognize that but we have some clubs with very active gym programs and lots of Turners and Turner Kids participating.

Where does the problem lie???

I don't know for sure but one thing glares out at me. The successful tournaments that we have are adult events and the one that has been canceled is one that our Turner Young People mainly participate in also. These kids are very disappointed after they have prepared and trained to compete and are looking forward to doing so and/ but have to depend on ADULTS to do whatever it takes to get them there.

Where does the problem lie???

These problems plus others issues, whether it is rule changes or timing changes or personnel changes will be discussed and dealt with, along with many other subjects, at our upcoming National Convention so we hope that Societies and Districts are all getting their delegations together and preparing them with all the thoughts, suggestions, and enthusiasm to help us guide the American Turners to a prosperous trip through the 21st century.

A subject that I eluded to earlier is our Turner Young People, we all should know, they are our future. We need, so badly, to instill Turner enjoyment, thoughts, activities and pride into their lives so that they have a desire to be part of perpetuating Turners through out their adulthood and pass it on to their children.

Recently on a visit to Akron, Ohio, as I entered a restaurant with my son and his lady we ran across a group of our Akron turner friends and their grandchildren. As the dinner progressed a beautiful young lady named "Bailey" had her grandpa "Dave" bring her over to my table and introduced her to me so that she could tell me how she likes going to the Turner Club. She also had some questions to ask me about Turners. I was so proud that she had the desire and fortitude to share her Turner thoughts and curiosity with me that I needed to acknowledge her good deed and say thanks. Therefore, I would like to invite any and all Turner Young People (children and teens) to, if you see me somewhere or at your club, come up and tell me how you like Turners and ask questions if you like. Or send me a letter or an e-mail with your name and society and I will be proud to acknowledge your contact in the Presidents Message.

Here's wishing you all and your Turners a safe, happy and prosperous summer.

With Turner Greetings,
Bill Severns
President

DISTRICT AND SOCIETY NEWS

Aurora

The "Rat Pack" makes a stop in Aurora

On Saturday, May 17, 2008 the "Rat Pack" made an appearance at Aurora Turners. The night started with a meal of steak and shrimp with all the fixings. Dean, Frank and Sammy then came and performed for the next few hours. Dean sang his songs, joked with the crowd, and basically was Dean. Frank sang his songs, joked with Dean and Sammy and sang duets with both Dean and Sammy. Sammy danced, sang, moved with grace and was just wonderful. Late in the show Marilyn Monroe showed up for a few songs and was very sultry as we all remember.



Obviously the original "Rat Pack" was not at Aurora but four great impersonators were. The people that were there told us that they could never replace the "Rat Pack" but tried to put a little twinkle in every ones eyes and help us to remember their music. They did a wonderful job of making us remember the real "Rat Pack".

Craig Sniezek



Northwest Chicago

Since the transition of the Chicago-Northwest Turners to their new location, a group of loyal Turners have carried on the torch in Men's-Phys Ed. They gather regularly in their active games of volleyball with much enthusiasm. Much cheering is heard from the sidelines.

Upon retiring from playing we gather in our quarters and celebrate with "Song and Spirit" in true Turner tradition. Here is camaraderie worth life's precious moments.

John Neugebauer

Photo by: Rick Trankle

1st Row: John Neugebauer, Jim Pechous, Bud Ingrffia, Gerald Naegele, Adolph Winter, Ralph Weinman, Erne Hirth

2nd Row: Gary Nielson, Bill Burgerhof, Wayne Elste, John Haderlein (deceased), Dennis Cesaretti, Warren Elste and Ernie Wickstrom

National Committee News

Cultural

Society Competition at National Convention, August 1-3, 2008

There is no better place than to promote and show off all our societies than at a National Convention. The "Turner Activities" aspect of the cultural exhibit competition at a National Festival has been exchanged to appear at National Conventions. The cultural committee will be preparing an exhibit for all societies to participate. Only three categories to enter:

1. Social/ Recreational/ Athletic/Cultural activities, (photos, posters, etc).
2. History of the Society
3. Newsletters, limit of 3 issues, within the previous year.

Each item must be labeled as to Name of Activity, Society, and Name of person doing the work submitted and name, address, phone of person bringing the items. Each society is limited to three items, and the item may only be entered ONCE! If an item is deemed as a "valuable item", it is up to the judgment of the owner to decide if it is to be left on display overnight! Judging and Awards.

Flags and Banners on Display

Flags and Banners are still to be brought and displayed at the convention; ribbons awarded. Bring your stands and put your society name on the bottom.

By the time this issue is received, this competition and its extended deadline will be over for 2003. This competition was revised to get back to the Basics as stated in our Principles and Statues. The results and gifts awarded will be announced at the Cultural meeting of the National Convention.

I am looking forward to seeing all of you in August, at the convention.

Barbara J. Riley
National Cultural Chairperson
NatlCultChrmAmTu@aol.com

National Health & Physical Education Committee Report

April 25 & 26, 2008 the National Health & Physical Education Committee gathered in Milwaukee, Wisconsin for their annual meeting. Friday evening started with dinner at the Historic Milwaukee Turner Hall Restaurant, followed by an evening meeting and continued meetings on Saturday. We had better attendance than in the past few years, however we are still missing representatives from a few Districts. The decisions made at our meetings are very important therefore I am strongly encouraging every District to have a representative present and have a voice in the decision making.

We continued to make revisions to the National Festival Rulebook. However, there are a few topics that were tabled for future discussion. This is where I am asking for help from any and all Turner members. It is still undetermined how to handle the non-American Turner (German) competitors at the Festival regarding awards. Another issue is whether or not every competitor at every event must have a Turner emblem on their uniform. If you have any suggestions or ideas please contact your District representative.

We are also expanding and defining the rules for Rhythmic Gymnastics and Sr. Men's & Sr. Women's Gymnastics. This not only will help the competitor in preparing routines but also will help guide the judges for a fair competition. When completed, these rules will be found in the Supplemental Handbook.

Also in this issue of Turner Topics is a Gymnastic Survey. A concern I have is the lack of participation at National Championships. Therefore I have developed the Survey to gather information. Feel free to make copies and pass it out to other Turner members. I need as many responses as possible to make an informed decision that is best for the American Turners. You can also go "green" by visiting our web site at www.americanturners.org and submit your answers on-line.

It is not too soon to be thinking about hosting a National Championship for 2009. You can submit a bid to the National Office, e-mail it to me, or submit the bid in person at the Convention. I am also hoping that a Society or District is considering hosting the next National Festival in 2011. I will be at the National Convention this August in Fort Wayne. Feel free to introduce yourself and discuss with me any issues you have concerning the future of our American Turners.

Enjoy your Summer and I hope to see you at the National Convention.

Michelle Lesperance
NHPEC Chairperson

American Turners Gymnastic Survey

Gymnastics is ever changing and the American Turners are also trying to progress with the sport. In an effort to keep up with the times, and determine what the status is of Turner Societies, I would like to get opinions from as many Turner Members as possible, even if you do not currently have a gymnastic program. You can fill out the Survey and mail it to me at the address below, or send me an e-mail with your answers. This Survey can also be found on the American Turners website. (americanturners.org) Answer all the questions or only answer some of them. Any and all responses are appreciated. I ask that you answer the few personal questions at the end to assist me with demographic and geographical concerns. Feel free to include any additional comments regarding gymnastics. Thank you for taking the time to answer these questions. Your participation will enable the NHPEC committee to understand our organization as a whole and assist us in the future for hopefully greater participation.

I look forward to your responses.

Michelle Lesperance
NHPEC Chairperson

1. Does your Turner Society have a gymnastic program that is basically recreational classes? yes no
2. Does your Turner Society have a gymnastic program that includes a competitive team? yes no
3. If yes to #2, does your team follow the USAG program? yes no
4. In the last 10 years, has your overall enrollment in gymnastics increased or decreased? increased decreased no change
5. Are your gymnastic classes/team practices held in your own Turner Hall, or do you rent a gym facility? Turner Hall rent
6. Is your gymnastic program only for children? yes no
7. Do you have gymnastic classes for adults? yes no
8. Does your Turner Society participate in local Turner gymnastic meets during the year? yes no
9. If yes to #8, how many? _____
10. Does your Turner Society participate in other non-Turner meets during the year? yes no
11. If yes to #10, how many? _____
12. Is it more feasible for your Society to compete at, or host, a National Jr. Gymnastic Championship if it was held in April? yes no
13. Is it more feasible for your Society to compete at, or host, a National Jr. Gymnastic Championship if it was held in May? yes no
14. Is it more feasible for your Society to compete at, or host, a National Jr. Gymnastic Championship if it was held in June? yes no
15. Would your Society be interested in participating in a National Gymnastic Meet for the less-competitive gymnast, using the requirements in the National Festival Rulebook/Supplemental Handbook (not USAG routines), and held the same weekend as the National Jr. Gymnastic Championship? yes no
16. Is your Society usually involved in other end-of-season Gymnastic Championships in May? (i.e. USAG State Meet) yes no
17. If you answered yes to #16, would you choose to miss the Turner National Jr. Gymnastic Championship in order to participate in the other meet? yes no
18. Does a gymnastic meet in May concern you regarding the possibility of your child missing a day of school because of having to travel? yes no
19. Does your child miss school at all because of traveling to other gymnastic meets during the season? yes no
20. Do you feel all participants at the National Jr. Gymnastic Championship should be a child of a Turner member? yes no
21. Do you think more gymnasts might compete at the National Jr. Gymnastic Championship if they did not have to be members? yes no
22. If your Society has participated in previous Turner National Jr. Gymnastic Championships, how many gymnasts competed? _____
23. Would you prefer a set date from year to year for the National Jr. Gymnastic Championship? (example: always the 2nd weekend of June) yes no
24. How far are you willing to travel to the Turner National Jr. Gymnastic Championship? <150 miles <300 miles <500 miles >500 miles

Turner Society _____

How many years have you been a Turner member? _____

How many years have you been a Turner coach? _____

Are you, or have you ever been on the Board of Directors for your Society or District? yes no

Additional comments :

Please send to:

Michelle Lesperance
8012 Town Hall Rd.
Kewaskum, WI 53040 or
e-mail to: mwlproperties@charter.net

National Website

At the risk of being inundated with material, we are appealing to all Turners to send us anything suitable for posting on the website. Whether by email, Internet links, photos or whatever; we have managed to publish just about everything we received to date. It's a relatively big site but we have lots more room for material that would be interesting to Turners and those potential Turners who roam the Internet. We are still looking for photos, links, schedules, events, results, articles and even notes. Anything that interests you and might interest other Turners is needed and always welcome. If you don't see a section that your material would fit in, send it anyway. New sections are not that hard to create.

By the way, if you don't see anything about your favorite Turner subject on the website, it is simply because no one submitted anything.

Just in case you may have missed it so far, the website address is: www.americanturners.org. You can get in touch with us from the Contact page at that site.

A quick note to the computer literate among us

The web authoring program we used to start and maintain the National Website is being phased out and will not be supported by the hosting company we use by this fall. If we continue to use that program, we risk losing some important features we need, like the navigation menu and photo gallery. Fortunately, we did have some warning and started to learn another program. Unfortunately, this program, already in version 2.0, has a steeper learning curve and really digs deeper into the basics of writing code behind the scenes of what you see on your browser. But the code is now compatible with more browsers and other web authoring software, so it should all be worth the effort. So far, even sticking to the basics provides lots of tedious procedures and time consuming troubleshooting. We expect to improve as time passes. We just wanted you to know what is really behind the new appearance of the National Website when you see it.

George Zink

Endowment Trust Fund Report

It seems like no matter where we are these days, we are deluged with a constant stream of political campaign rhetoric with the general theme being for "change". Compare this to our American Turners and our upcoming National Convention where there is literally no campaigning and very low-key rumblings for "change" unless it be within our Festival rules.

As for "change" I can't help but think how little our Endowment Trust Fund has changed since it was chartered in 1946. The original concept still remains with minimal change over the following 52 years. That does not mean we have not been progressive and taken on additional functions nor have not created more benefits to assist Societies and/or individual members who qualify. In fact, we currently offer more benefits and do more financially than ever before in our 52 year history within the American Turner National organization.

Gone, but not forgotten, are all the original founders of the Endowment Trust Fund. Many additional Trustees have served the best interests of this Fund over the years with little fanfare and virtually no politics involved. This has strictly become a labor of love for those who have taken their time and provided guidance thru numerous administrations.

So, I ask all of you two favors! First, please make every effort to attend our National Convention in Ft. Wayne, IN this August and if you can't make that event then secondly, consider a future donation to the Endowment Trust Fund to aid us in serving the best interests of our American Turners!

With Turner greetings to all,
Ed Colton, President
Endowment Trust Fund

Donations Since Last Issue

Lois Frantz in Memory of Hedy Butzen

Walter Schrader in memory of George Boysen
Central States

William & Delores Meyer in Memory of John Haderlein

Mark your calendars now!
The 2008 National Convention is coming to
Fort Wayne, Indiana August 1st – 3rd.
We hope to see a good
representation from every club.
More details to come.....

Hotel Information for the 2008 National Convention in Fort Wayne, IN

We have taken the liberty of reserving rooms at three different hotels. All three are within ½ mile of each other. Fort Wayne is a “smoke free” city now and it should be known that many hotels are now going smoke free too.

These prices are good through 6 weeks prior to the event. Please, make your reservations as soon as possible.

Marriot Fort Wayne
305 East Washington Center Road
Fort Wayne, IN 46825
\$89 per night
260-484-0411 for reservations and information

Don Hall's Guest House
1313 West Washington Center Road
Fort Wayne, IN 46825
\$79 per night
260-489-2524 for reservations and more information

Baymont Inn – Fort Wayne
1005 West Washington Center Road
Fort Wayne, IN 46825
\$65 per night
260-489-4579 for reservations and more information

Time to get ready for the 2008 National Convention in Fort Wayne, Indiana

August 1, 2008:

Noon – 6:30pm - The club will open at noon for registration.
3:00 - The credentials meeting
3:00 - The Nominating Committee
(Fish fry, burgers, and lasagna and sides will be available for purchase at the club)
7:30 – Opening Ceremony, reports will be presented.

August 2, 2008:

8:00 - breakfast rolls will be available
9:00 - Committee meetings start
11:00 – 1:00 Lunch is available for purchase (subs and salad bar)
1:00 – Afternoon session begins
6:00 - Dinner starts. Tickets can be purchased at registration.

August 3, 2008:

8:00 – breakfast rolls will be available
9:00 – Meeting reconvene as long as necessary

Kansas City Turners’ 150th Anniversary Party

WOW, what a success our party was. We were glad to see some new faces as well as some old friends as we celebrated this once in a lifetime event.

We had great food, great entertainment and a great turnout. Chef Jeff and his crew took care of our dinner and let me tell those of you who weren't there you missed out on some delicious food. We had baked chicken brisket and the highlight cheesy potatoes casserole. Sharon Hutton, one of our members, made a beautiful cake and it was wonderful, Thank You!

We had a few honored guests from St. Louis, Dennis Zeller and his wife Sandy (National Council Representative and President of North St. Louis Turners), and Steve Dirnbeck and Rose (North St. Louis Treasurer and Bowling Chairman). We handed out 40+ year honorary memberships to Pete Gomerding 1948, Fred Finkeldei 1958, Ernest Hinck 1961, Joe Sam Major 1964, Jean Zarker 1964, John H. Mynatt 1966 and Shirley MacDougall in honor of her husband Gerald 1958.

After all of the important matters were taken care of the fun began. DJ Tony Clayton provided us with a lot of great music. We did the Polka & the Waltz, and the “Chicken Dance”, “Ca-Cha Slide” and “Electric Slide”, we danced slowly and then we danced fast. A wonderful time was had by all who attended. Check the website for photos and stories from the party, www.kcturners.org.

We send a Thank You to all those who have carried the burdens and hopes of the Turner cause through all one hundred-fifty years and express a hope that we, may do, as well as members of the past.

Just remember: Going forward we must unite to achieve the goal of “A Sound Mind in A Sound Body”. A lot of hard work, determination and dedication have allowed us to reach this plateau. And with times changing so must we, as we enter our one hundred-fifty-first year may we face the future strong and unafraid.

Jaime Michaelree

BOWLING NEWS

2008 Bowling results posted on line at:
Elginturners.org/nbt_results.htm

2009 Syracuse Turners Is Proud to Host

THE 2009 NATIONAL BOWLING TOURNAMENT

Week ends Available

March 21-22 April 4-5 April 25-26

March 28-29 April 19-19 *May 2-3

*Stand by Dates

For More Info Contact:

Paul Karwoski stlbowl@twcny.rr.com

American Turners 44th Annual National Golf Tournament

Hosted by Syracuse Turners

July 9th, 10th, 11th, 2008

Syracuse Turners is delighted to be hosting the 44th Annual American Turners National Golf Tournament and we thank the golfers for choosing us as the host. Preparations are well under way and we have contracts with local hotels and two golf courses.

Many of you will remember Liverpool Golf & Country Club from the last two times we hosted the tournament in 1995 and 2002. Some of the more senior players may remember Foxfire Golf Course and we are thrilled to be using that facility for this tournament. Our intentions are to alternate play with the Women's, Senior Men's and Senior Women's divisions playing their final round at Liverpool and the Men's division will play their final round at Foxfire. The final decision will depend on the number of entries in each division.

The host hotel is the Maplewood Inn, 400 Seventh North Street, Liverpool, NY, 13088. Their phone number is 315-451-1511 and we have 60 rooms reserved there at a rate of \$89.00 including a continental breakfast.

Other hotels where we have reserved rooms are:

- Holiday Inn, 441 Electronics Parkway, Liverpool, NY, 13088. Tel 315-457-1122. Rate \$90.00.
- Ramada Inn, 1305 Buckley Road, North Syracuse, NY, 13212, Tel 315-457-8670. Rate \$89.00.
- Motel 8, 421 7Th North Street, Liverpool, NY, 13088. Tel 315-451-8888. Rate \$75.00.

Each of these hotels is within walking distance of each other and they are less than ten minutes from the club. They are about five minutes from Liverpool Golf Course and fifteen minutes from Foxfire.

This year's entry fee of \$150.00 includes golf, cart, banquet, awards, souvenirs and dinner at the club on Thursday. The rate for Senior Women and Super Senior Men Divisions will be \$80.00 and play will be nine holes each day. Registration will be at the club on Tuesday July 8th from 6:00pm until 8:00pm and will be followed by the annual meeting. All golfers must be of amateur standing, a Turner member for at least 90 days, and be at least 18 years of age.

This year we are offering the opportunity to pre-order commemorative men's and women's golf shirts at a cost of \$28.00 and there is a place on the entry form for you to mark your selection. We are also able to accept credit cards for payment of the entry fee although we cannot accept American Express. Any questions or concerns please contact Gary Allnut at 315-727-0034, Gallnut1@twcny.rr.com, or Steve Shires at 315-436-2318, Stephen.Shires@TheHartford.com. We will also be adding information to our website so check that out at <http://www.geocities.com/syracuseturners/>

Entry forms should be mailed to:

Turner National Golf, Syracuse Turners.
619 North Salina Street,
Syracuse, NY, 13208.

Name and Address	Society	Card#	Division M, W, SrM, SrW or SSM	Average Score	Size and Style (MorW) if ordering shirt	Amount Paid

M = Men **W** = Women
SrM = Senior Men (55+)
SSM = Super Senior Men (65+)
SrW = Senior Women (55+)

Please make checks payable to: Syracuse Turners National Golf.

Credit Card Details: _____
 Name: _____
 Visa or MC: _____
 Card Number: _____
 Expiration Date: _____
 Security Code: _____

2008 AMERICAN TURNERS TOPICS SCHEDULE

August/September/October 2008

All copy to Craig Sniezek by July 25

All copy to printer by July 30

Page proofs to Turners by August 8

Topics in the mail by August 15

Labels needed by August 11

Email Turner Topics info. to turnertopicseditor@sbcglobal.net

THIS IS YOUR COPY OF THE MARCH/APRIL AMERICAN TURNER TOPICS

It now costs 70 cents to get a change of address correction from the Post Office. Save your organization money by reporting your change of address promptly.

NATIONAL CALENDAR

Coming Events 2008

National Golf - Syracuse
July 9,10,11

National Convention - Ft. Wayne
August 1, 2, 3

National Council - Concordia
October 3, 4

2009

National Bowling - Syracuse - TBA

SOCIETY _____ YEAR JOINED _____

CHANGE OF ADDRESS FORM FOR AMERICAN TURNER TOPICS P.O. BOX 4216, LOUISVILLE, KY 40204

Member Name _____

New Street Address _____ Apt. No. _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

IF THIS IS A CHANGE GIVE OLD ADDRESS OR ATTACH OLD ADDRESS LABEL

Old Street Address _____ Apt. No. _____



American Turners National Office
P.O. Box 4216
1127 E. Kentucky Street
Louisville, KY 40204

PERIODICALS
POSTAGE PAID
AT
LOUISVILLE, KY