



American Turners Toledo

2025 Newsletter

President's Report

I hope you are all doing well and staying healthy. I am reporting to update you on what has transpired with the Toledo Turners since our last meeting in November 2024 to the present. Our Society had a successful year in 2024-2025. We have 84 dues paying members, and 8 honorary members (40 years of service or more). We had 0 members pass away in 2025.

The gymnastics program is still the most active section of our Society and is doing well. The Gymnastics Team Section and their fundraising efforts continue to expand the program. The gym classes are at full capacity. We have 271 children enrolled in the program, 36 team girls, 19 team boys, and 216 boys and girls in the Rec. classes. They currently have a large number of Rec.class children on waiting lists. The Gym Section could not find a venue to hold the annual Soc Hop meet in January 2025. The Turners did host the boys State Meet in 2024 at BGSU.

The Toledo Turners Deutsche Volkstanz Gruppe continues to perform at various venues. They practice at the Bavarian Sports Club, and at Oak Shade Grove. They perform traditional German and Austrian dances and songs and have a great time performing. The Volkstanz Gruppe has done much to expand the German culture within our Society. They hosted the last two very successful Oktoberfests at Oak Shade Grove. They introduced Hurl ball, a German Sport, and Pickle ball to our members. And they continue to grow and expand. I would like to thank them for everything they do.

The Toledo Turners Trail Riders try to get together and ride Dirt Bikes and All-Terrain Vehicles. The Maumee State Forest trails are closest. Although it has been difficult scheduling rides lately.

The Turner GAF Trustees have kept busy attending the German American Festival Society meetings and functions. Some of our Turner members helped provide lunch and dinner for the workers doing setup on Monday, Aug 18, 2025.

We had some members help peel potatoes for the Festival on Thursday morning. Turner members also marched in the opening parade on Friday night and worked different booths during the Festival. The Festival welcomed approximately 35,000 guests (the final reports will not be finalized till sometime in January).

I would like to congratulate Chloe Spetz for being our 2025 Miss American Turners Toledo. Chloe is a member of the Volkstanz Gruppe.

The GAF depends on volunteers to keep it alive, so if you have helped in the past, thanks. If you haven't, please consider it and you will have a good time. We are not represented on several GAF committees, and could use some help. If you have some time to help the Turners at the GAF, please contact me.

The Gym has updated their phone system and it may sound a bit different when called, 419-873-0511.

I would like to remind all members that our Constitution and By- Laws Article 3 states the purpose of this Society is to provide for and promote the education of its members by conducting Physical Education classes and Cultural Education classes and providing for social development of all members and their families.

As always I am looking for any ideas for new physical, cultural or social activities for our members and their families that would reflect our motto "A Sound Mind in a Sound Body". Please contact me if you have any ideas or questions.

We still need volunteers for officers and committee chairmen for our Turner Society. Some of our officers hold multiple positions so please contact me if you can help. I would like to thank everyone who held an office for the Turner's in 2024 and 2025. I appreciate your time and hard work. Second, thank you to everyone who has agreed to serve in an office for 2026. Thank you to everyone and I appreciate what you do to keep our Society alive.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ed McGee-- President

Gymnastics

The gymnastics section is doing very well thanks to Coach Kristin and her ability to keep all of our classes full. Our children's classes still remain pretty stable thanks to our excellent coaching staff. To date we have 23 part time coaches on payroll.

We were unable to host a Soc Hop meet again this year. However, we hosted the Boys State Championship in March of 2024. The meet was held in Bowling Green, and was very successful thanks to all of our coaching staff and parent volunteers!

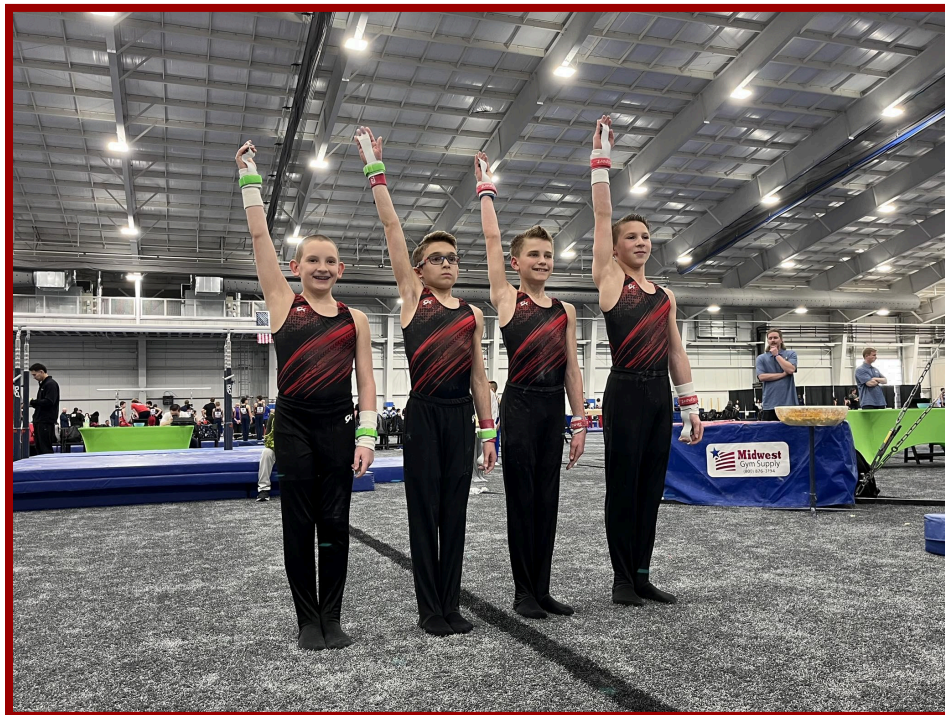
We were able to host our Team Holiday Party and are planning one for this upcoming Holiday Season. We also hosted a Team Banquet for 2024- 2025 at Stoneridge Country Club in Bowling Green, OH. Team Halloween Parties for both 2024 & 2025 were so much fun! Thank you for entertaining the gymnasts again this year coaches!!!

We currently have 271 students enrolled in our program of which 19 are on the Boy's Team and 36 are on the Girl's Team. There is also a good size wait list for classes. Thank you to our excellent coaching staff.

A huge thank you from all of us to Coach Kristin who has taken on so much organization of the gym program. Keeping us all organized and informed with all of the Remind posts, emails, and Facebook posts, ordering and sorting team uniforms, entering our gymnasts into the meets and so much more. The gym program wouldn't work without her!!

Respectfully submitted,

Debra McGee, Phys. Ed. Chair.



Gymnastics



Deutsche Volkstanz Gruppe

The Deutsche Volkstanz Gruppe has had a very busy and exhilarating year. At the beginning of this year the process for new dance tracht started. Thank you to April Weber who took the lead on this daunting project! After two visits for measurements, new men's vests and new dirndls were ready for their debut at the German American Festival. Many compliments have been received by the group for this new look. Without being said, our old tracht has served us well throughout the years and has earned its retirement.

Throughout 2025 the dance group has had many performances. To start the performance season we performed at the BUV's Maifest which was a blast! We also performed at the Bavarian Sports Club's Sommerfest, a local cultural group's showing of the movie "Everything's Kosher" at Sylvania Southview, Birmingham Hungarian Festival, German American Festival, our own Oktoberfest, Boeckling Club Oktoberfest, Fremont Sauerkraut Festival, Toledo International Christmas Market and we will be featured at the Bryan and Sandusky Christmas markets.

The DVG had the opportunity to be interviewed by the Toledo Blade in promotion of the German American Festival. Under the article "Rhythm of tradition: Folk dancers keep German history alive at annual festival" many of our dancers were interviewed and photographed at a dress rehearsal promoting an enjoyable atmosphere, even the Blade employees joined in to dance! Our dancers Emily Schultz, Guy Schultz, and April Weber also had television appearances this year on WTOL 11 to promote the German American Festival and our Oktoberfest.

Another exciting note with the DVG is the influx of new dancers attending practice who watched our performances at the German American Festival and at our Oktoberfest! There is room for everyone on the dance floor and we look forward to seeing new faces. Practices are held Wednesdays at 7pm at Oak Shade Grove!



Deutsche Volkstanz Gruppe



Cultural

The past year has included several exciting events in regard to the Cultural Committee. To start we reintroduced our Miss American Turners Toledo contest. Those interested were asked to write a response to the question “What makes you the best candidate for Miss American Turners Toledo” as well as fill out the application form which is posted on the society website. Rules for the contest are modeled off of the Miss American Turner contest. This year’s Miss American Turners Toledo is Miss Chloe Spetz who is a dancer with the Deutsche Volkstanz Gruppe and a card carrying member of our society. Miss Spetz has been an amazing asset to our society, she is always willing to volunteer and is an amazing embodiment of our motto “Sound Mind, Sound Body”.

In August the National Cultural Committee met to discuss topics relating to the National Festival. For the 2027 National Festival in New Ulm, Minnesota there will be a youth cultural competition by the name “American Turner Youth Ambassador” each society may have two entries and is an essay contest which will include a speech. More details are listed in the Redbook.

Similar to the past two years our biggest cultural event has been hosting the Central States District Cultural Contest at our Oktoberfest. This year we had four societies participate: Toledo, Michiana, Fort Wayne, and River City. In addition we had an increase in entries from each participating society. Toledo had 36 entries out of a total of 70 entries. I want to thank everyone who participated as we had an amazing display this year! I would also like to thank Sabine Croley for helping me with this contest.

With Turner Greetings,
Hannah Schultz - Cultural Chairman



Bowling

In the 2025 National Junior Bowling Tournament Emily Schultz took home 1st prize in Division-1 with a 458 series. National Bowling for 2026 is April 11-12, and April 18-19 in Aurora, Illinois. If anyone is interested I can get more information. We do not have to have a full team to participate, individuals can be placed with existing groups, so everyone is welcome!

Sincerely,
Hannah Schultz



Oktoberfest

Oktoberfest 2025 was one for the books! American Turners Toledo has hosted their 3rd Annual Oktoberfest on September 27th at Oak Shade Grove in Oregon, Ohio. The day was packed with festivities including performances, music, sport and cultural competition, and more! The day started bright and early for members to set up and start this event. We kicked off at 2pm with the start of the European Car and Motorcycle show followed by a performance from the Bavarian Sports Club Kinder Gruppe. New this year, we had an Opening Ceremony with our phenomenal Master of Ceremonies Tim Keefer. This included a parade featuring society princesses and flags, a blessing from Fr. Chris, and the retirement ceremony of the Deutsche Volkstanz Gruppe tracht with the celebration of the new outfits. The Toledo Swiss Singers, Deutschmeister Band, and our own Deutsche Volkstanz Gruppe performed throughout the day. Another new addition this year was the Schluederball (Hurl Ball) throwing competition as well as a Masskrugstemmen (Beer Stein) holding competition. The event once again hosted the Central States District Cultural Competition which featured four societies and an influx of entries leading to an amazing display. This event wouldn't be complete without good food and drink! Our remarkable kitchen chairman April Weber made sure no one left hungry with an amazing menu featuring the fan favorite currywurst! The bar had a variety of choices including a German Beer Tasting which gave a tour of Germany through drink. Our attendees love this tasting hosted by Turner Perry Schwemmin who has an abundance of knowledge in the field and hand picked the tasting menu. Overall we had great weather and gemütlichkeit! We look forward to next year!

Oktoberfest

