

NORTHWEST NEWS

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March 2014

BYOB (BRING YOUR OWN BUDDY)

It is time once again for Northwest Turners Annual Bring Your Own Buddy membership drive or B.Y.O.B. for short. This year it will be held on March 22nd at 2:30pm.

We will have a bags tournament again this year (sign up from 2:30 to 3:30, games to start at 4:00pm) as well as all of the March Madness games being played on our many flat screen TV's. But new for this year we will have one of our gymnastics instructors available to supervise any children under the age of 14 who attend as they play in our gym. Also new for this year is a juniors bags tournament. This is a bags tournament for any kids ages 14 to 18. We will have CASH PRIZES for both tournaments.

The cost for all Turner members and spouses is \$10 and includes dinner (beef sandwiches) and entrance fee into the bags

tournament. Entrance fee for the junior bags is \$5 and includes the bags tournament and dinner.

But please remember this is a membership drive so this is the best time to bring a friend or friends and their families who are always asking you about the Turners but you have never had a proper way to introduce them to our organization. All prospective new members attend for FREE and can enjoy the bags and dinner!!!

I hope you will all attend and bring friends who you feel would make great Turners. It is very important that we strive to bring new members into our great organization, especially as our membership numbers continue to drop to all time lows, so we can further Turnerism for generations to come!

Nick Barts

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Coming Soon

- Society Meeting Monday March 17 7:00 pm
- BYOB Party Saturday March 22 2:30 pm
- Spring Fling 750 Party Friday April 4 6 pm
- Texas Hold'em Saturday April 19 2 pm to 12 pm
- Model Drill Practice Thursday April 24 6:30 pm
- Texas Hold'em Saturday May 17 2 pm to 12 pm
- Society Meeting Monday May 17 7:00 pm

TEXAS HOLD'EM

We held our first Texas Hold'em for the season on March 1. We are very grateful for those of you who were kind enough to volunteer to help. We made \$2,265 net profit on the gaming and collected an additional \$743 in food and beverage sales. We haven't yet figured the net profit on those sales.

Why do we continue to hold these rather odd events? They're rough on the hall and rough on our helpers—it's a long event. FOR THE MONEY!! It's a great way to bring funds to the Society.

Our next Texas Hold'ems will be April 19th and May 17th. Please consider coming down for a 4 hour shift.

SPRING FLING 750 PARTY

This year we're moving our 750 Party from October to the Spring to avoid being too close in date to Elgin's 1450. We'll be doing a Brunch moving into a football party in the Fall.

The Party will be on FRIDAY, April 4, with an Italian theme. Frank Sinatra from our Christmas Party will be performing with a surprise friend. Dinner will be chicken parmesan. Doors will open at 6:00 pm. Since it's a Friday evening, don't worry if you can't be there at 6—you're welcome when-

ever you can get here.

In response to requests from our single members, we are selling all tickets for one person, with their own number for the raffles. Tickets are \$25 per person, including dinner for one and your raffle number.

We'll be changing the line-up of prizes with 6-\$25 prizes, 3-\$50, 2-\$100 and a our usual grand prize of \$250.



ILLINOIS TURNER CAMP 100TH ANNIVERSARY

Camp's 100th Anniversary is coming fast! Please save the dates of August 1st to 4th and joining Turners in celebrating 100th years of a unique and special place.

Friday night will offer a German cuisine special at the Fish Fry, a welcome and weekend overview, a special youth anniversary activity and a live band.

Saturday morning will have a reunion flag football game on the A-field featuring former coaches and gymnasts of the old Turner National Team and

Turner gymnastics camps. Beer and BBQ will be offered from 11 am to 2 pm at the shelter.

Aurora and Northwest gymnasts will be performing at the A-field shelter from 1 to 3 pm.

Saturday evening will be awesome! We'll have a wonderful meal from 6 to 8 pm and then a great band to entertainment us.

Sunday will also be packed with events and tradition. A full program at the A-Field, a parade featuring

floats from the Societies and Camp groups, a program at the Rath's, a German dinner and OomPah band and dancing.



Throughout the weekend, we'll have cultural exhibits and even more special events.

Monday morning the youth staff will host their annual breakfast, which will serve as a farewell to our guests and to our special weekend.

MODEL DRILL PRACTICE

Thanks to Barb Zweifel and Jodi Compton, we held our second practice for the Northwest Model Drill we will be performing at the Camp's 100th Anniversary celebration. Between the first and second practices, we already have about 25 participants of all ages and activity levels.

Barb and Jodi did a great job of building a Drill with all the traditional Turner elements. At the same time, the Drill is doable for almost everyone!

We'll have one more practice at the Hall on Thursday, April 24 6:30 pm, and then we'll have more practices at

Camp during the summer.

It's fun, healthy exercise, and a great opportunity to celebrate our past. Please join us for this unique event.



HALL MATTERS

We continue to work on maintaining our hall. We're taking bids on replacing the final few lights in the gym to complete that project.

The ladies washroom had a few problems which Dave Lenius is working on. He repaired the leak in the last

stall and is working on a solution for the stall door. The motion detecting light switch was also replaced.

We haven't forgotten our desire to do something about the carpeting in the main hall. JR Barts solicited bids for new flooring, which was amazing

expensive!! We're looking at other solutions which would be less costly.

We had some issues with the TV in the parents room of the gym which Dave is working on. He will install a new Dish box which will hopefully solve the problems.

ANNUAL MEETING & AWARDS DINNER

Our Annual Meeting was held on Sunday, February 9. Officers and Committee reports were presented. In accordance with the Constitution, our investment plan for 2013 was reviewed and the 2014 plan was approved. The following officers were elected to two year terms: President-Cheryl Bothfeld, Second Vice President-Jr Barts, Corresponding Secretary-Dave Lenius, and Financial Secretary-Nick Barts.

In general, the Society is doing well. We incurred a modest operating loss in 2013, which will be covered by investment income. As always, the gymnastics program is doing great. We've maintained the facility with improvements such as selected painting and some new lights in the gym. Our social events were better attended than in 2012. We're starting to modify the social program to hopefully improve attendance and member interest.

We eliminated the January Society meeting in 2015 due to its proximity to the Annual Meeting. The 2014 budget was approved, with a small net operating loss.

One of our major pleasures at this annual event is recognizing the contributions of our members. This year, we honored the following members: 40 Years: Robert Fredrickson, Ann Trankle; 25 Years: Bev Hussar, Nancy Borck, Todd Borck, Kenneth Campbell, Elsie Ehling, Brett Garelli, Barb Gebhardt, Ann Litza



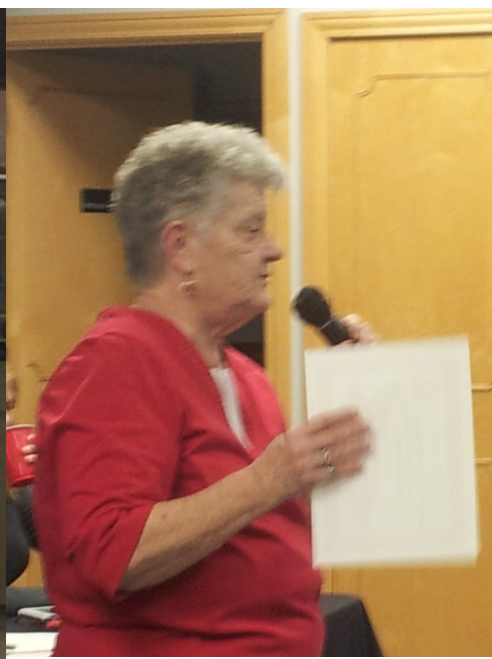
Newly Elected Officers: Nick Barts, Dave Lenius, Cheryl Bothfeld and JR Barts

Ray Luke, and Donna Short; 10 Years: Kathleen Fujiu, Lorene Gonzalez, Dan Hetland, and Arleen Sepia; and 5 years: Paul Franczyk, Jeffrey Klunzinger and Leesa Lee Norton.

In the past, we honored 25, 40 and 50 year members. This year we started to honor our 5 and 10 year members as well. Often, the first few years of membership in any organization are the hardest. We lose more members in the first five or ten years than at any other time. Newer members haven't developed the habit of being a member, and may not be fully invested in the Society. So, we wanted to celebrate those who've stuck with us for those important years, as well as our long term members who are a Society treasure..



Bev Hussar accepting her 25 years award



Barb Gebhardt accepting her 25 years award



Ann Trankle accepting her 40 years award

POSSIBILITIES FOR THE FUTURE

At the Annual Meeting, we presented a study of the choices for the future. The Dream Survey, which we'd hoped would give the Board insight into the thoughts of the membership, was inconclusive due to poor response.

The conclusion was it would be very difficult to craft a sustainable business plan for the Society at the current location, due to high costs and limited space options.

We reviewed the current condition of the Society and location:

- 1 Disadvantages of Schiller Park Location
 - A Limited options for increasing revenues - layout of existing space, no options for other sports/physical activities
 - B Costs - currently paid over \$126,000 rent in 2013. Unsure if we can continue to pay in increasing rents indefinitely. When Gym Coach retires, we will have a 1-2 years rebuilding program with another coach
 - C Exterior and neighborhood unattractive. Interior is very nice but space is awkwardly Arranged
- 2 Advantages of Any New Location
 - A Land - for soccer, softball, or other sports fields
 - B Design built for gymnastics and multipurpose sports room (volleyball, basketball, etc.)
 - C Possibility for more energy efficiency for lower relative costs
- 3 Financial Possibilities
 - A Currently have approximately \$2 million, plus four years for fundraising and investment in come
 - B If we used \$1 million and a mortgage, we'd have a financial cushion for lean times.
 - C Possibility of forming partnerships with local Park or School districts for use of facilities
 - D Increased activities would result in increased revenues and increased member participation

No decisions were made or votes taken. We need the membership to be aware of the situation, talk about it, and form a consensus. The Board will research possible locations, taking into consideration availability of properties, proximity to existing strong gymnastics facilities, strength of local park and school districts, a favorable tax climate, and convenient transportation.

This is a scary, once in a lifetime decision for Northwest which our Society has unfortunately had to deal with for the third time in my lifetime. Belmont Avenue was a good decision for the time and situation at that time. Schiller Park may very well have been our transition location. This time around, we need to look into our crystal ball and try to see into the future. We can't move every 10 years—the money will dribble away and we'll have no way of creating more.

Within our District, we have a lot of experience with new locations. Lincoln found a home for what they choose to do at a local school for volleyball and the Dank Haus for social events. Northwest sold our building and rented a facility. Aurora built a social facility and then, years later, a sports center at the same location. Eiche's dream building is for sale and they're not planning another location. We need to learn from these experiences and do a really good job of planning our future. Our focus should be on flexibility and multiple uses for all spaces moving forward.

We need help! The Board members aren't experts in any of these fields, plus we have the responsibility of maintaining and growing our existing Society. We will do our best, but would appreciate the help of any member with interest in or knowledge of any of the necessary areas. If you would be willing to work on this project, please contact me at cbothfeld@hotmail.com or 847-624-0090.

*Cheryl Bothfeld
President*