



UPCOMING DINNERS

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About the club

Our purpose is to educate and preserve German traditions, culture and heritage and to regularly meet in friendship, welcoming both German and non-German speaking individuals. Whether you are a native German or of German heritage or just love everything German, come celebrate your German spirit with us at the German-American Social Club of Nevada. We welcome visitors to our private club. Your first three visits without being a member are free. Please inquire about membership to keep attending our events. We are always looking for fresh faces and new ideas and welcome new memberships!



PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Hallo und Guten Tag! I would like to sincerely thank our membership for their patience while the club remains closed. We are prepared to fully open as soon as the governor lifts the pandemic closure restrictions on bars.

With that said, it has been an extremely hard couple of months not being able to enjoy each other's company at the club and with the loss of two more members, Erika Gries and Lucette Van Fossen. Both members will be sorely missed, and we will be planning a memorial for them as well as Rita Taschner when we're allowed to reopen.

We hope to open by the end of September, and although we will not be able to have a huge Oktoberfest celebration open to the public as we have in the past, the board is planning a membership only celebration to keep the tradition alive at least internally. We will let everyone know well in advance for this event if we are open before the end of October.

Please reach out to club members as well as friends and family as this pandemic can be very depressive and just saying "Hi" to someone can bring a smile and lift a spirit. If you know any members who have fallen on hard times, speak to a board member. We are a family and we are here for one another during these difficult times.

Your president,

Gary Blanton



Erika Gries: 1948-2020

Erika Gries, a German-American Club member since 1986 and queen of the potato pancakes, passed away in August at age 71. She was from Koblenz, Germany, and came to Las Vegas in 1974, most recently working as chef supervisor at Southern Nevada Health and Rehab.

Erika packed the club regularly on nights she cooked, then took her seat at the bar where she was often the ringleader for drinking games into the wee morning hours.

She served as club trustee and helped organize Oktoberfest celebrations for 25 years. She met her late husband, Gene, at the club, and found the love of Mike Sipes for the final years of her life.

“She was my wife,” Mike said. “The lunches I got to take to work every day ... she made coffee for me and packed my lunch before I got my teeth brushed.”

Erika closely guarded her potato pancake recipe, moving around to block Mike’s view when she was mixing a batch of ingredients, afraid he might sell or trade the recipe, or give it to someone else in the club.

“Erika was a driving force of the club,” longtime member Art Ruckle said. “She did a lot. I’ve got great memories of her. I gave her away to Gene at their wedding.”

A memorial will be held when the club reopens. Services at Boulder City Veterans Cemetery have yet to be scheduled.

Board handles quick business

The German-American Club completed its 2019 taxes and paid for insurance in August, creating a \$1,000 “hole” with no incoming revenue for the month, treasurer Ingrid Stewart reported at the Sept. 3 board meeting.

With a short agenda, the meeting lasted less than an hour. It was conducted via Zoom with president Gary Blanton, secretary Chris Januska, treasurer Ingrid Stewart and members-at-large Margie Klaus, Natalia Blanton and Joyce Drenckhahn online. Vice president Gene Hickman was present at the club.

Also attending the meeting were by-law committee members Art Ruckle, Steve Oldham and Ray Smith.

The by-law committee will meet twice a month to update the by-laws and make any necessary amendments, with the draft to be voted upon by members before ratification in May 2021.

Golf committee chairman Steve Oldham proposed a memorial golf tournament for early November as an avenue to raise money for the club. He set a target of \$1,000, possibly more. The tournament would be held at Durango Hills Golf Course in Las Vegas and would replace the club’s annual tournament in Laughlin. Steve wasn’t sure about holding an awards banquet, though it could be “touchless” and held at a private location.

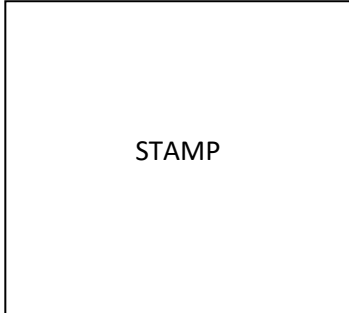
In new business, Gene asked the board about possibly increasing our \$25,000 surety bond. After discussion between Steve and Chris over the difference between a surety bond and insurance, Gene was directed to talk to the broker for further clarification.

Ray Smith

OFFICERS

President	Gary Blanton	702- 420-7592	
Vice-President	Gene Hickman	702-460-9660	
Secretary	Chris Januska	860-729-6401	
Treasurer	Ingrid Stewart	702-645-7119	
Member At Large	Natalia Blanton	702-420-4184	
Member At Large	Joyce Drenckhahn	702-813-5212	
Member At Large	Mike Sipes	702-449-0940	
Member At Large	Jon Shogren	702-523-5047	
Member at Large	Ingrid Stewart	702-645-7119	
Member At Large	Margie Klaus	702-815-1854	
Trustee	Silvia Brunn	702-876-8221	
Trustee	Erika Gries	702-452-1513	
Trustee	Michell Schmidt	702-494--8433	
Bar Manager	Bruce Woodbury	510-388-5388	
Bar Manager Asst	Michell Schmidt	702-494--8433	
Club Rental	Silvia Brunn	702-876-8221	
Community Service	Vacant		
Entertainment	Gary Blanton	702- 420-7592	
Kitchen supply	Bob Strauch	702-682-3863	
Maintenance	Jon Shogren	702-523-5047	
Membership	Leanne Crabtree	702-461-5704	
New Member Welcome	Silvia Brunn	702-876-8221	
Newsletter	Ray Smith	702-574-7786	
Website	Ray Smith	702-574-7786	
Security	Justin Crabtree	702-755-3151	
Volunteers	Christina Gibson	702-235-7797	
Las Vegas Vagabonds	Barbie Ruckle	702-898-0685	
Las Vegas Bavarians	Art Ruckle	702-335-0690	
GASCON Golf Group	Steve Oldham	702-341-1031	
Las Vegas Schützen	Art Ruckle	702-335-0690	
Skat Group	George Brunn	702-860-7874	
Thirty-one Card Group	JoAnn Milton	702-525-1089	

The Original
German-American Social Club of
Nevada
1110 East Lake Mead Boulevard
North Las Vegas, Nevada 89030



September 2020

No events scheduled

