



### Las Vegas Iowa Club Directors

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Editor, Las Vegas Iowa Club historical review and related photos. Barbara Holden

During the months after March Madness and before Football Madness it is important to look at the organization, plan, and reflect. This edition is an especially good read because we are looking way back to “in the beginning” and you will find it fascinating. Looking back always helps us appreciate how far we have come and where we are today as well as instill in all of us to carry on and build on the foundation we have. You will find this newsletter to not only speak to “in the beginning” but provide insights about who attends events, reads our news, and as transplanted lowans the difference we can make in our Nevada community. The numbers are surprising, but on any given weekend when out and about we meet and greet other lowans in parking lots, at the grocery stores, casinos, and events. lowans continue to make a difference in all walks of life everywhere we go. Enjoy the read of this newsletter showcasing our founder as well as a familiar face we see often on television but probably did not realize the ties to the University of Iowa. If you know someone and would like to share the story and a picture for Hawkeye Proud, please send to our email. lowans in Nevada.....making a difference.

[Link to our Webpage](#)

## Genesis: in the beginning ... Russell Roskens created the Las Vegas Iowa Club.



Russ Roskens, Mister Hawkeye

In 1994, Russ and Donna Roskens moved to Las Vegas from their Iowa home. Both are 1960 University of Iowa graduates. Russ, who grew up in Spencer, Iowa, followed with a two-year stint in the Army, including a year of service in Korea. As relocated Las Vegans, the Roskens soon craved the social camaraderie of fellow Hawkeye sports’ fans. Through word of mouth with other Iowa-to-Nevada transplants including occasional gatherings with Hawkeye fans in sports’ bars, Russ began hosting routine Hawkeye game watches with a dozen or so fans initially. The Fun Hog Ranch was owned by former Hawkeye basketball player, Mark Eggleston, and featured “Iowa Tenderloins”. They



Russ and Donna  
University of Iowa Graduates 1960



were fantastic. The “Iowa Tenderloins” attracted quite a few Hawkeyes. Within five years, a standing room only crowd of up to 80 fans were cheering at the small sports bar on Saturday’s Hawkeye game days.

They moved one game to a larger Recreation Hall at Queens Ridge, where a club member lived, but the enormous crowd provoked gripes from residents because of the huge number of cars parking at the event. Their next move was to a sports bar near UNLV, where the club went on to regularly entertain 40 to 70 weekly fans, all relocated Las Vegas with Iowa connections.

To help with developing the Las Vegas group’s club roster, Iowa graduates in Nevada received the Iowa Magazine and noted who to contact for the Nevada Iowa Club.

Active club member Kristy Hingtgen took charge of the group in 2010. In 2018, current club President Barbara Holden became the leader of the Las Vegas Iowa Club.

Affectionately known as “Mister Hawkeye”, Russ Roskens boasts a distinctive collection of Iowa-related memorabilia, including Hayden Fry and Chuck Long souvenirs in his home’s favored “Iowa room”.

Russ plays year ‘round softball, including early morning summer pickup games in an eight-team league. The Roskens both have served as longtime Sun City Summerlin Security Patrol volunteers. Asked which weather extremity he most dreads, Russ claims he handles the summer heat in Las Vegas better than below freezing temperatures in Iowa. Thank you to Russ Roskens, a greatly admired Hawkeye.



### Upcoming Events

**Football Game Watches:**  
Times: TBA

- Sept 4 vs Indiana
- Sept 11 at Iowa State
- Sept 18 vs Kent State
- Sept 25 Colorado State
- Oct 2 at Maryland
- Oct 9 vs Penn State
- Oct 16 vs Purdue **Homecoming**
- Oct 30 at Wisconsin
- Nov 6 at Northwestern
- Nov 13 vs Minnesota
- Nov 20 vs Illinois
- Nov 26 at Nebraska

Dec 4 Big Ten Championship

**HOOTERS**  
**SPRING VALLEY LOCATION**



**Community Service Spotlight**



Project 150 serves homeless and disadvantaged students pursuing their high school diploma. Consider volunteering time in the warehouse, Bettys Boutique, or food distribution. Bill and Michael Holden

volunteer weekly with credit to the Las Vegas Iowa Club. Giving back in our community for a worthy cause.



**Proud to be a Hawkeye**  
**By Joe Rajchel (BA 11)**



Two of my favorite things are being a Las Vegas and being a Hawkeye. Which is why

I am so grateful that I get to use my degree from the University of Iowa to talk about this incredible city as the Public Information Administrator at McCarran International Airport.

No day at the airport is ever the same, but that is one of my favorite aspects of working there. My responsibilities include responding to media inquiries, crafting our messages on topics that the public need to be informed about, and staying on top of any news that could impact the airport, the aviation industry or Southern Nevada. I've also had the privilege of helping coordinate media access for a variety of events ranging from the start of new international airline service to arrivals of Air Force One. Most recently I have been part of the team working to educate the public about our response to the COVID-19 pandemic and the measures that can be taken for a safer travel experience.

While there is plenty that I learned at Iowa, I would say the most useful skill the school helped me hone was critical thinking. I definitely rely on that every day to help guide me and make the best decision possible. While in Iowa City, I spent 2.5 years with the KRUI, the student run radio station, including a 1.5 year as the Sports Director. All of my experiences there definitely helped prepare me for my current career. I could also be found

**Survey Results of Interest:**

**Population surveyed:** Email Newsletter Subscribers

Of those surveyed responses indicated:

54% of subscribers attended the University of Iowa.

94% grew up or lived in Iowa

86% currently reside in Nevada.



browsing at Prairie Lights, studying at Java House or eating at Oasis.

One of my favorite perks is being able to drop a "Go Hawks!" when I see fellow Hawkeyes walking through the airport.

As always, it is great to be a Hawkeye.



## University of Iowa Statistics



Statistical data shows that the State of Nevada has approximately 848 University of Iowa graduates amongst us. Over 500 alone in the Las Vegas, North Las Vegas, and Henderson areas.

Check out the breakout of Nevada residents below:

- 1940's 8 graduates
- 1950's 47 graduates
- 1960's 104 graduates
- 1970's 159 graduates
- 1980's 143 graduates
- 1990's 167 graduates
- 2000's 147 graduates
- 2010's 83 graduates



A professor gave a balloon to every student, who had to inflate it, write their name on it



Las Vegas Iowa Club 2021 Scholarship Recipient  
Mykenzie

and throw it in the hallway. The professor then mixed all the balloons. The students were given 5 minutes to find their own balloon. Despite a hectic search, no one found their balloon. At that point the professor told the students to take the first balloon that they found and hand it to the person whose name was written on it. Within 5 minutes everyone had their own balloon.

The professor said to the students:

“These balloons are like happiness. We will never find it if everyone is looking for their own. But if we care about other people's happiness....we'll find ours too.

Here's to caring about everyone's happiness ... in 2021 and beyond!



### By the Numbers

Income Statement Actuals	2021 Q1
Income	
Product Sales	\$ 565.00
50/50 or Raffles	
Cash donations	\$ 570.00
Misc.	
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$ 1,135.00</b>
Expenses	
Products for Sale	\$ 913.82
Bank Charges	
Administrative	\$ 244.00
Postage	\$ 134.36
Scholarship Payable	\$ 500.00
Sales Tax Payable	
Scholarships Paid	\$ 1,000.00
Sales Tax Paid	\$ 133.91
Misc	\$ 48.71
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 2,974.80</b>
<b>Net Income B (W)</b>	<b>\$ (1,839.80)</b>

The Las Vegas Club is a 501C7 not for profit social club. In the last newsletter we published the 2021/2022 budget. Each quarter we will share the summary level income and expense as we travel through the year. The University uses a fiscal year, however the Club must report for tax purposes in the calendar year so there are some timing differences. As a reminder the total budget for this year is \$4,750. Detailed financials and actuals to budget as well as line item detail of ever expenditure is shared with the Board. If you are interested in reviewing please reach out to our email and we will share and answer any questions.



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