



Walton County Snowbirds, Inc.

Walton County Snowbirds Continue to Give Back

The Walton County Snowbirds continue to give back to the community. A group of snowbirds met on February 5 to pack lunches to be distributed to Walton County schoolchildren in need. This volunteer effort is managed by Gina Stephens, Director, Walton County RSVP (retired and senior volunteers.) RSVP is part of the Walton County United Way. Gina appreciates the assistance of the Walton County Snowbirds each year. For more information on volunteering, go to their website www.united-way.org/rsvp.



The club also held their General Meeting on February 9 at Destin United Methodist Church. Ken Hair, CEO of Children in Crisis, a foster care organization in Fort Walton Beach, spoke at our meeting and shared such heart felt stories of how they help children in the area. The club sold over 200 FundRays coupon books to raise money for this worthy cause. We will be presenting a check for over \$2,000 to Children in Crisis from the proceeds of the books.



We were also entertained by jazz and R&B performer Michael J Thomas with his outstanding saxophone, horn, and vocals. He has had two #1 hits on Billboard's Smooth Jazz Chart. He regularly performs at Ruth's Chris restaurant in Destin, so check him out.

Len Hoover, co-President announced that as of February 9, we have 694 members, over 100 more than last year, from 36 states. We have almost 160 new members. The state with the most snowbirds is Michigan with 103 and Minnesota with 74. Canadian membership is down this year at 92, mainly due to the low value of the Canadian dollar.





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The Walton County Snowbirds held a second social at The Beach House restaurant in Sandestin on Feb. 3. The Beach House provided free appetizers for the guests before ordering dinner. It was a beautiful night for the social with a picture-perfect sunset!



The singles group had several activities recently. They met for happy hour at Party Fowl on February 7, then met for lunch after the General Meeting on February 9 at Lone Wolf Pizza. Lastly, they are meeting for a Super Bowl party at one of the member's residences in Santa Rosa Beach. For more information on the singles group, check our website or contact Tammy Stelling.

The Snowbirds have at least four “B” activities to enjoy—Ballroom dancing, basketball, biking and bowling!

Ballroom dancing is led by Co-Presidents Len and Jan Hoover on Monday evenings at Faith Fellowship Hall. The first hour is for beginners where the focus is on basic steps, style, and dance floor etiquette. The second hour has more advanced steps. Beginners are welcome to stay for the more advanced class. Participants get good exercise and also challenge their brains by learning new dance steps!

The Destin United Methodist Church Life Center is the site for basketball on Mondays at 8 a.m. The group plays 3-on-3 with rules set by the National Senior Games Association. It's a friendly group that ranges from age 60 to 79 that includes snowbirds from the various communities in the area.

The biking group gathers 2 to 3 times per week for rides around the area. The group requires everyone wear helmets and be able to ride approximately 10 miles per hour for 10 miles. Group leaders Ralph Federspiel and Jim Whitledge coordinate the rides each week through the end of February. Several of their recent rides have been in Regatta Bay, Kelly Plantation, Sandestin and on 30A. If anyone is looking for a bike, St. Andrews Episcopal Church in Destin refurbishes bikes and snowbirds can purchase them for as little as \$50. That sure beats bringing a bike down every year or leaving it here and paying for storage.

Lastly, bowling meets at Hurricane Lanes every Friday at noon through February 24.

There is still time to sign up to give blood on Wednesday, February 15 at Faith Fellowship Hall, 306 S. Geronimo, Miramar Beach. The OneBlood mobile bus will be in the parking lot from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Contact Peg Breetz at 330-807-2379 to schedule an appointment. All are welcome, not just Snowbirds. Participants will each receive a free OneBlood tee shirt and a \$20 electronic gift card that can be used at various retail stores.

If you are interested in having some of your belongings stored for the summer in Destin so you don't have to haul them back up north every year, the snowbirds offer a storage option to our members. For only \$40 per 18-gallon tub, or other items such as bikes, golf clubs, or beach chairs, you can keep your items in our storage units in Santa Rosa Beach. You must sign up and pay for storage on Feb. 15, from 8:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. at Faith Assembly Hall, 306 S. Geronimo or on Feb. 23, from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. at St. Andrews Episcopal Church in Destin.



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Our last meeting for the season is on February 23 at St. Andrews Episcopal Church in Destin. This is our annual business meeting.

For more information on registration and all the activities and events the club has to offer, go to the website at www.waltoncountysnowbirds.com or join the group Facebook page "Walton County Snowbirds."

Peg Breetz

2nd Vice-President

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