

Big Registration



Registration chair Linda Zukonik knows what she is doing. After more than a decade at the helm, she has developed a trouble-free system to register hundreds of snowbirds in just a three-hour time span, yet she gives all the credit to those she calls her “awesome volunteers.”

The Destin Community Center, known as The Roost to snowbirds, opened its gymnasium at 1 p.m. on January 3rd for the annual Big Registration, and nearly 500 registrants moved from station to station without a hitch.

After signing their registration cards and paying their dues, new members were free to navigate the activities side of the room where names were being taken for various clubs and sports, and ticketed events were selling like hot cakes. Any remaining tickets will continue to be sold on Tuesday mornings before the meeting.



“More than half of the available tickets for the Valentine’s Dinner Dance are already sold,” said dance chair Dean Harper. The dance will be held at Auston’s Oyster Bar and Grill in Miramar Beach on February 14, from 5 to 9 p.m. Entertainment will be by the popular Jones & Company. Tickets are \$35 per person.

Patty Daun, chair for the bus trip to the Todd Herendeen Dinner Theater in Panama City, said that one busload of snowbirds has already sold out, but she is confident that another bus will be available. She will be available on Tuesday mornings to give a status report. The trip will be on Thursday, February 9, and tickets are \$65 per person.

A majority of the available tickets for the Mardi Gras trip have also been sold, according to chair Don Collins. The dates are February 12 & 13, and the cost is \$145 per person. That includes transportation, a night at the beautiful Beau Rivage, and \$45 in free play; \$25 at Beau Rivage and \$20 at the IP.

According to the Harbor Party Boat Cruise chair, Jerry Reckman, more than half the available tickets for the Monday, January 30 cruise were sold at the Big Registration. He will continue selling them before each Tuesday morning meeting. Once that cruise is sold out, he will begin selling tickets for the February 6 cruise. Tickets are \$30 per person.

Besides ticket sales, crowds were lined up at the tables representing card clubs, sports outings, crafts and quilting and social gatherings.

Snowbird vendor Pizza Hut has offered to be the venue for both Euchre on Thursday evenings and Bridge on Tuesday evenings. Both games will be played from 6 to 9 p.m. If you are interested in either, or both, contact the chairs, John Lee, 573-529-2649 for Euchre, and Charles Cassell, 804-310-8619 for Bridge.

Poker and Pinochle have also been set up. Poker chair Dean Harper invites players to participate on Tuesday evenings from 6 to 9 p.m. at Culver's. He can be reached at 865-336-0421 for inquiries. Pinochle players will meet every Thursday at 2 p.m. in the Roost. Interested players should contact Ed Middendorf at 513-376-2893.

Jan Langham, chair of The Singles Friendship Club, has set the venues for this season's luncheons. All will take place on Tuesdays immediately after the snowbird meetings. The next luncheon will be Tuesday, January 17, at Miller's Ale House.

Speaking of Tuesday's meetings, the entertainment this week will be the talented Northwest Florida State Jazz Band. They are sure to get everyone's feet tapping and hopefully get everyone's hands moving to their pockets as we take up our annual collection for Children in Crisis.

The space just isn't available to report on everything going on within the club, but all the information is available on the "activity sheet" which can be downloaded from our website at www.thedestinsnowbirds.com.

Great news! You can now also register online through the website!

I will conclude with my usual weekly reminders. Registrations will continue to take place every Tuesday morning from 8:30 to 9:45 before the 10:00 a.m. meetings.

Storage items can be picked-up on Saturday mornings from 8 to 9 a.m. Remember to bring your receipt with your box number on it. If you need to get into the lockers at some other time, contact Tom Franklin at 218-230-3212.

Last, but not least, we now have nearly 2.5 thousand followers on our Facebook group page, "The Destin Snowbirds." It has become a treasure trove of information and invitations. Check it out!