

## First Board Meeting

Snowbird President Ruth Ann Beckett and her husband Dave journeyed from Grand Rapids, Michigan to Destin earlier than customary so that she could preside over the first board meeting at the Roost on Friday, December 2. The meeting was held to review the successes of last season and the few areas that might need some tweaking. Each board member was asked to report on their specific field. Members of the board this year include President Ruth Ann, First Vice President Ken Campbell of Illinois, Secretary Cindy Varnell of Tennessee, Treasurer Pete Sikkenga of Michigan, Webmaster Jack Krasky of Minnesota, Member at Large Dean Harper of Tennessee, Member at Large Brenda Murphy of Michigan, Past President Don Collins of Ontario, and Publicity Director Mary Pierce of Michigan. Two new board positions have been added this season that include the Registration Chair, which will be filled by Linda Zukonik of Michigan, and the Prize Committee Chair to be filled by Gene Holzer of Minnesota. Snowbirds who are interested in serving on the board are encouraged to contact any of the above.

Ruth Ann encourages everyone to find a way to become involved even if it's not on the board. She and hubby Dave decided to check Destin out about six years ago at the urging of their good snowbird friends Art and Keasha Palmer. They liked what they saw and decided to make the Emerald Coast their winter getaway. Like many, their first year as snowbird members usually just involved attending the meetings. But the lure of all the club had to offer was too great to resist. They joined the casino bus trips to Biloxi, signed up for the Harbor Party Cruises and bought tickets for the Valentines Dinner Dances. She met so many people from all over the country and realized that the way to get to know them better was through volunteering. When snowbird president Ted Spring made a request for volunteers from the stage podium, Ruth responded. She was contacted by Dean Harper and the rest is history. "It's worth the time because it's so much fun," she assures.



The biggest friend-making event over the past several years has been the T.G.I.T. (Thank Goodness It's Tuesday) parties. Chairpersons Cindy and Ray Varnell have four of them scheduled for the 2023 season. The dates will be January 10<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> and February 7<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>. All will be held at Lulu's Seafood Restaurant on Legendary Marina Drive in Destin. The cost is still just \$5 at the door and membership badges will be needed for admission. You might want to mark those dates on your calendars.

Also, be sure to mark Tuesday, January 3, 2023, on your calendar for the annual BIG REGISTRATION at the Roost from 1 to 3 p.m. Even if you have already registered, this is the day that information will be available on such events as the Harbor Party Cruises, Bus trips to Todd Herendeen's Dinner Theater in Panama City, and to New Orleans for Mardi Gras, and for the Valentine Dinner Dance. There will also be information booths for activities such as quilting, crafts, cards, sports, and the Friendship Club. Various golf courses will be represented to share information on their winter specials.

Storage Lockers will be available from 2 to 3 p.m. that day. (Other than that, items can be picked up from storage every Saturday from 8 to 9 a.m. except for Christmas and New Year's Eve. Please have the receipts with your box numbers handy.)

More will be written about these and other events as their dates get closer, but don't forget to check out our website, [www.thedestinsnowbirds.com](http://www.thedestinsnowbirds.com), and our group Facebook page, "The Destin Snowbirds," where up-to-date information is always available.