

## Celebrating Past-Presidents

The Destin Snowbird's board of directors hosted the club's twenty-fifth annual Past President's Banquet last Monday, December 2, at McGuire's Irish Pub. Eight past presidents who were in attendance included: Addie Selid (1997/1998), Ken Yee (2002/2003), Grace Fostmeier (2003/2004), Don Cooksey



(2005/2006), George Olson (2013/2014), Dean Harper (2016/2017), Charles Cassell (2017/2018) and Jackie Roberson (2018/2019). In 2014 it was decided that we should also honor Life Members at the banquet. Ken Lemire, treasurer from 2009 to 2016 and his wife Evelyn were present as were Bob Baker, webmaster from 2014 until 2018, and his wife Carol. McGuire's Guest Services Manager Jon Taylor was on hand to welcome the snowbirds and make sure that everything was up to our expectations. This was the fourth year that the banquet was held at McGuire's Irish Pub, a restaurant that has been a generous supporter of the snowbirds for a decade or more.

Speaking of McGuire's, it was one of their lead entertainers, Rich McDuff, who charmed the Tuesday morning meeting crowd with his mix of Irish ditties and snowbird favorites such as "Sweet Caroline." He elicited a few tears with a beautiful rendition of "O Danny Boy," and signed off with the Roy Rogers, Dale Evans traditional song, "Happy Trails to You." If you missed him, mark your calendar for next year when he will, no doubt, be returning.



Meanwhile, you won't want to miss next Tuesday's December 10, meeting. Nancy Thiele will be bringing her Emerald Coast Community Band, Santa hats and all, to jingle their bells and enliven our spirits for the coming Christmas holiday. As always, she will have us singing carols and thinking about the presents we will be delivering to our loved ones. And, what luck! Joanne Andrychuk and her band of crafters will be right there to market their one-of-a-kind creations.

This will be the last snowbird meeting of 2019. After the Holidays, the "Big Registration" will take place on Monday, January 6, from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. Then, the Tuesday meeting of January 7, will be split into two sessions; the first at 8:30 a.m. and the second at 11:00 a.m. Remember, there will be no registrations before the Tuesday morning meetings. All registrations will take place on Mondays from 10:00 a.m. to noon. Exceptions will be mentioned at meetings, in the newspaper articles and on the website at [www.destinsnowbirds.org](http://www.destinsnowbirds.org).

I often ask snowbird readers to check out our website at [www.destinsnowbirds.org](http://www.destinsnowbirds.org) and click on the list of vendors listed in the top banner of the main page. There are nearly 150 vendors listed, and Jack Krasky, our webmaster has it set so that if you click on many of the vendor's names, you will be linked to

their websites. I will also feature a vendor or two in my articles this season and I invite any of our vendors who would like to be featured to contact me.

I began by singing the praises of McGuire's Irish Pub. Since our meetings are held right next door to them, they want to make sure we know about their daily lunch specials, all of which are under \$10. Tuesday's special is Homemade Meatloaf with real hand-Mashed Potatoes, lumps and all (their words, not mine), Homestyle Gravy and Country Green Beans.



Another vendor favorite, O'Quigley's Seafood Steamer Oyster Sports Bar, wants the snowbirds to know that their Early Snowbird Specials have begun. Dinners are served Sunday through Friday from 4 to 6 p.m. (excluding holidays and Superbowl Sunday) at a reduced price. You may also want to check out their Happy Hour drink prices.

Rick Hileman, Executive Director of Golf Operations and Golf Maintenance and Steve White, Head Golf Professional are eager to welcome the Destin snowbirds to enjoy golf at the Sandestin Golf and Beach Resort. Applications are available to join their Winter Play Club or to purchase a 5, 10 or 15 round Punch Card. Although the punch cards are non-transferrable, married couples can share one card. (For instance, the husband could play seven rounds and the wife eight, on one 15-round punch card.) Cards are valid from November 1, 2019 through March 31, 2020.



Ken Lemire has decided to postpone the beginning of the Computer Club classes until after the Big Registration when there will be more participants. Classes will be the second and fourth Tuesdays of the months of January and February and, if interest warrants it, the first Tuesday in March. So, if you have an old activity sheet, disregard the Computer Class information listed on it. Activity sheets will be updated to reflect the changes.

Two activities that will take place before the masses arrive in January are next Saturday's Christmas Street Parade at 10 a.m. and the Lighted Boat Parade on Sunday, December 15 from 4:30 to 7 p.m. at Brotula's Seafood House & Steamer. Charles Cassell will be recruiting walkers at Tuesday morning's meeting for the snowbird portion of the Destin Street Parade. He will let you know where to park and how to be sure to get plenty of candy to hand out to all the eager little hands that will line the route from the Old Time Pottery strip mall to the Destin Community Center.

I'm told that the tickets for the Lighted Boat Parade may be sold out already. Cindy and Ray Varnell will also be available at next Tuesday's meeting to answer any questions about the event.

December dates for storage locker accessibility are Saturday the 14<sup>th</sup> and the 28<sup>th</sup> from 8 to 9 a.m.