

A Different Normal

Years ago, a woman visiting her granddaughter found herself needing to console the young mother.

Overwhelmed by the care her infant required, the new mom sobbed, “ Gram, all I want is for things to be normal.”

Hugging her tight, the wise Gram remarked, “It will be okay, honey. Normal is just going to be a little different.”

And it was, this 2021- 2022 season for the Walton County Snowbirds.

The year will end with about 600 members, fewer than in the past, but still a good number of people enjoying each other’s company.

At least twenty-two of the thirty-one activity groups listed on the website <http://waltoncountysnowbirds.com> met this year on a regular basis under the direction of a designated leader. Some previous participants of certain activities not conducted in that way this season contacted each other and had informal sessions as friends.

Registrations were held at Faith Assembly Christian Church as they have been for many years. Officers of the club greeted the snowbirds and directed them to tables where they found the usual forms to complete. Taking the completed copies to volunteers, the registrants paid slightly higher dues (still a great bargain) and received their badges and clear plastic badge holder pins. Then they were off to sign up for activities with representatives at the long tables set up in the hall or to renew acquaintances and catch up with others also looking forward to having fun for the 2021-22 time. Happy smiles were visible in the eyes of many masked attendees.

One of the four general meetings was live streamed from Destin United Methodist Church. Door prizes were in abundance for those attending in person. The 50/50 raffle, proceeds from which help to fund two scholarships for South Walton High School students, was as popular as ever. Entertainers performed at three of the get togethers.

The last general meeting of the Walton County Snowbirds is slated to take place on Thursday, February 24, 2022 at St. Andrew By The Sea Episcopal Church, 307 Harbor Boulevard, Destin. This is the Annual Business Meeting where the 2022-2023 Board of Directors will be elected and installed. Previous board members and activity leaders will be thanked. Two \$1000 scholarships will be awarded. There will be the 50/50 raffle. Door prizes will abound. There will not be entertainment as the Snowbird Singers group was one paused for 2021-2022.

Access <http://waltoncountysnowbirds.com> for information about the remainder of this season and about what has already occurred.

And ahead of the next season, look at the website to find information, probably beginning to be posted in November 2022, about the different new normal to come for the Walton County Snowbirds. Join us!