

Volunteers are the Snowbirds Lifeblood

I once saw an amusing church sign that read, "For God so loved the world that he didn't send a committee." That sign would never appear outside the Destin Snowbird Roost; we cherish our committees. Our sign would read, "Many hands make light work." In fact, we would probably change the word "work" to something like "activity" because our volunteers have too much fun to consider their services as laborious.



Upon entering the Roost, our first encounter is usually with the smiling face of a "Greeter." Greeter chairperson Jackie Herlin of MN says that she has about 14 snowbirds on her committee, but there is always room for more. Qualifications include a friendly demeanor and a sincere enjoyment of others. It also helps have a habit of being prompt.

The Registration Committee had the honor of welcoming the 2000th snowbird last Tuesday. Marbeth and Robert Gibson hail from Kentucky and are looking forward to reviewing all the events and activities that the club has to offer. Chairperson Linda Zukonik and her committee then continued to register another 120 members. Of those, 97 were first-timers and, with the other newcomers, they now comprise nearly 25% of the total membership. New faces, ideas, and helping hands are the ingredients that keep our snowbirds enthused. Speaking of enthused snowbirds, Linda has a plenty on her committee but says she would always welcome more, especially those with strong computer data-entry skills.



An opportunity to serve as a Prize Committee coordinator has opened for next season. Sadly, Roxanne Boverhuis will be stepping down. Over the past two years Roxanne has affected many necessary and positive changes that will benefit her successor. For example, she has recruited a sizeable group of committed volunteers. Now, thanks to the increase in helping hands, those who go out into the community to gather prize donations need only to call on a handful of businesses and organizations. She has also organized the way prizes are stored and categorized, simplifying the task.

In addition to a coordinator, the prize committee is seeking a computer savvy volunteer who can develop door-prize spreadsheets. Interested? See Roxanne or any board member, including me, for more details.

Of course, not everyone is able to volunteer, but hopefully everyone can derive some benefit from club membership. Nearly 20 activities are offered and if your favorite isn't on the list, consider initiating it. How about a book club, a party bridge club or a walking club? The possibilities are endless and the board is always open to suggestions. After all, our goal is to insure that nobody has more fun than a Destin snowbird!

Tuesday, February 12, will be an exceptionally busy snowbird day filled with "last" opportunities: the last opportunity to register for membership, the last opportunity to purchase Soundsations Benefit Concert tickets for the February 17, performance, (tickets are just \$10 but the return on your money in enjoyment is guaranteed to be incredible) and the last opportunity to buy tickets for the weekly Biloxi casino trips.

It will be the first opportunity to purchase tickets for storage locker boxes. Ken Yee will explain the details at the 8:30 and 11 a.m. meetings.



Tuesday's entertainer will be the intensely popular and well-loved Crystal Gage. Here's a tip for our new members who also happen to be bald-headed men; you may want to wear a hat! Crystal will be like a pied piper drawing throngs of snowbirds over to the Seascape Conference Center that afternoon for the season's third T.G.I.T. party. I can guarantee you that many will follow but all won't get in. Don't miss out, get there early.

The Singles Friendship club will gather at Emeril's after the 11 a.m. meeting.

For all the information that I may have inadvertently neglected to share, please check the website at www.destinsnowbirds.org.