

# The Virginia Shaggers Hall of Fame - 2015 Inductions

The Virginia Shaggers Hall of Fame (VSHOF) was started in 1987 by original founders Fran and Jim Bingley, Bert and Kitty Novotny, George Lineberry, Vicki Keller, Martha Hoffman and Rogers Arghyris, with the purpose: "To acknowledge, honor and afford recreational pleasure for the persons who have contributed to the dance known as "Beach Swing or Shag" and continuing the practice of, and promoting the continued existence of said dance in the State of Virginia."

Since inception, one hundred and fifty-three dancers from across the Commonwealth of Virginia have been honored and currently we have one-hundred and four active members. Nomination and selection for membership is made by active members during the September-to-November time frame. We are proud to have the following in our membership: Beach Shaggers National Hall of Fame members Big George Lineberry (deceased), Berta Lull, Bobby Kellam (deceased), Ann Givens Kellam, Bert Novotny (deceased) and Kitty Novotny (deceased), and Earl Robinson; Association of Carolina Shag Clubs **Icon Award** recognition Jan Weakley, Joan Byrnes, Earl Robinson, Joe Tedesco, Sid Strawderman and Vesta Denning; and The Association of Beach & Shag Club D.J.s Hall of Fame Cliff Merritt (sadly passing on April 20, 2015). We are grateful to have these members and their contributions to our past, present and future of the VSHOF.

Our induction ceremony this year (chaired by Valerie Canada) was held on March 27-28, 2015 at the Fort Magruder Hotel and Conference Center in Williamsburg, Virginia and was attended by 200-plus people, dancing and partying to the music provided by Jerry Canada and Cliff Merritt, to welcome the new inductees, members and guest. The VSHOF ceremony, emceed by Steve Booth with presenters Jim Overton and Janis Grimes, inducted the following new and very worthy dancers: **Phillip Mitchell, Alan Michaelis, Charlotte Batchelor, Joyce Burnley, Allen Batchelor, Brenda Franklin, Connie McCook, and Pamela Alfano.**

This yearly event has also allowed us to contribute over \$18,000+ to Special Olympics over the years. The 2015 ceremony was our first 2-day event for the induction ceremony which included dancing (of course), dance instructions, free pours, raffles, vendors and food. Judging from the great response we received, the VSHOF Board plans to continue the event, to be held in late March, as a "2-dayer" instead of the one night dance/ceremony as in the past.

We would like to thank all inductees, guest and VSHOF members that helped to make this a great and successful honorary event.

By: Roger Elling

