



BOB PERSON (2018)

Bob Person originally hails from western New York, just south of Buffalo on Lake Erie. He joined the Air Force after high school, which brought him to Tidewater where he served for 4 years. After leaving the service, he attended Old Dominion University, later married, and eventually rejoined the Air Force as a Computer Engineer. Upon discharge he worked with Control Data Corp at the underground Pentagon, at NASA in Hampton and as Marketing Specialist throughout Virginia. Bob opened the first computer store in Tidewater July 1977, followed by 3 other stores. He then developed software systems for Va. Beach reservation center and Temporary Nurse Staffing operation. In 2001, he opened his own nurse staffing businesses in the Tidewater and Richmond areas. In 2011, he sold all of the locations, retired and now occasionally works as a consultant.

Bob has danced throughout his entire life ranging from square dancing, jitterbug, Lindy, swing plus some formal ballroom dancing. In 1996, Bob was introduced to Shag dancing and immediately loved it. At this time, he decided he would learn the dance in a month or so and would then have it mastered. He quickly learned that there was more to it and was pleasantly surprised to find there is no end to the techniques, methods, variations, and new steps to this dance. He continued to take lessons at the Virginia Beach Shag Club, other local shag clubs, and at SOS in N Myrtle Beach. He furthered and refined his technique by purchasing and studying DVD lessons by great Shag Dance Instructors.

Bob joined the Virginia Beach Shag Club in 1997, where he immediately began enjoying the fellowship and making new acquaintances and friends. He was asked to help with the VBSC Newsletter and became the editor (and composer) which continued for three years. Since then, he has enjoyed participating as a member of the Board Of Directors in a contributing position every year and still serves in this capacity today. Bob served as the phone tree technician/operator and developed the new promotional technique in 2000 called a website (VBshagclub.com). He has been past chairman of Beach Music Festivals as well as the Beach Bash committee chairman. Bob helped develop the computer software system for VBSC Membership Committee to keep the records of the Club's membership. He served as vice president twice and as VBSC president for two terms. As dance committee chairman, he enjoyed teaching beginner shag and intermediate shag lessons and continue whenever a teacher is needed. Bob has a great demeanor for teaching, makes it fun, and makes everyone in his classes feel comfortable. While in this position he also promoted the Shag dance through several Shag demonstrations in Churches, inside Pembroke Mall, at local business events and even at a Funeral Convention (around the caskets). He has served as VBSC treasurer and incorporated computer-controlled accounting for the club and then taught the new treasurers how to utilize it. Currently, Bob serves as the VBSC parliamentarian, phone tree computer support technician, and also prints the club badges for the membership committee.

Bob stated that his most unforgettable incident occurred at one of the shag club's St Patrick's Day parties when, in front of 120 shagger family members, he got down on one knee and proposed to his fiance. This truly indicates how Bob thinks of the shag community as an extended family. He further notes that it is rewarding to witness the development of new friendships, of people entering new relationships, and of several new marriages. Just as important is to be able to comfort fellow members in their personal losses or illnesses as one of the family of shaggers.

As noted above, one can readily see how much Bob has dedicated to the dance and to the VBSC. He is a wonderful dancer and makes everyone feel at home in the club and on the dance floor. As an instructor, he makes the class members feel at ease and has a teaching style that creates a fun environment. Bob not only sees giving back to the dance as something that should be done, but he truly enjoys being of service to promote the shag dance and the VBSC. It may be best said in his own words: "It's truly my pleasure to have been involved in the Shag world for the last two and a half decades."