



JANICE GILSTRAP (2017)

Janice has been a promoter of shag dance and shag music since moving to Virginia in 1972. She has taught the dance for forty-five years. She promoted the Danville Beach Music Club in 1978 and moved forward as a charter member with helping form the Danville Shag Club in 1988 which became incorporated in 1991.

As a member of the Danville Shag Club since its inception, she has served in many capacities. She has served on the Danville Shag Club Board of Directors many times. Janice served as Membership Chair for three years with a successful doubling of the Club membership. Additionally, her contribution to the Club included serving on numerous other committees virtually non-stop since 1991. She was a key player when Danville Shag Club hosted two ACSC Winter Workshops.

Janice recognized that shag was her dance that must be shared and grown to be big in number of dancers and recognized in every corner possible. She has taught shag lessons since 1976 with monies raised going to charities. She has promoted many shag parties and special events and reached out to surrounding areas with shag demonstrations for local and regional organizations. Some of her outreach included teaching for Augusta County Parks and Recreation and teaching workshops at the Rotary International District Conference which covered Western Virginia and Eastern Tennessee. She has shared with all ages including adults, and the elderly with her dance visits to nursing homes.

Janice recognized early in her dance life that continuous existence and growth of shag would be realized only by cultivating the dance among juniors. She helped form the Danville Shag Club Junior Shaggers and continues to teach lessons to juniors. She has helped them participate in area events and has been instrumental in expanding the junior's exposure by taking some to Junior SOS (2014-2015) as well.