



JOAN AND KEVIN BYRNES (2010)

Joan and Kevin have been very successful in shag dancing and promoting the dance since the mid-1990's. Both are long-time members of the Richmond Shag Club (RSC), where Joan served on the Board for seven years, including as President in 2001 and 2002. Kevin was elected to serve as Secretary on the Board in 2000, and served as Vice President in 2001. He later served as Treasurer in 2007 and later was elected as President in 2016, becoming the first RSC member to ever (even to present times) hold all 4 elected officer positions on the RSC Board. They received the RSC's "Most Improved Couple" award in 1999, which gave them encouragement to pursue competitive dancing and instruction for the RSC. That summer, they entered their first contest, the "Shagfest on the Lake" in Clarksville VA, where they took 2nd place. They also started teaching Beginner and Intermediate Shag classes for the RSC the same year. They placed 3rd and 1st in the Boogie in the Burg (Pittsburg, PA) Inter-Club Open Dance contest in 2001 and 2003, respectively.

They joined the Competitive Shag Association (CSA) in 2001 and worked together to bring the first CSA contest to Virginia in 2003. Kevin organized and ran a total of 5 successful CSA contests, before turning the event over to the RSC to organize and host two more years (2010-2011). They rose to the Novice Division in 2006 where they competed successfully for several years, placing anywhere from 2nd to 4th, in spite of periodic "layoffs" due to other life commitments. In 2005, they placed 5th in the Masters' Division of the USA Grand Nationals Dance Championships in Atlanta, GA. In 2009, they placed 3rd in the Strictly Shag division of the U.S. Open Swing Dance Championships in Anaheim, CA. Noted for their smooth shag styling, they have taken 2nd place 5 times (as well as other final round placements) in the O.D. Arcade's Smoothies Contest at Spring and Fall SOS in North Myrtle Beach, SC.

They were two-time Co-Captains of the Richmond Shag Club dance teams on which Joan served as choreographer and Kevin "digitally" cut the music medley for their performances. They danced on both Virginia Shag Dance competitive teams (2004, 2006) which entered national and regional shag dance contests, and the Northern VA Shag Club performance shag dance team in 2017. They have served as ambassadors of the dance as guest instructors at weekend shag dance events from Philadelphia, PA to Nags Head NC, as well socially "shaggin" in such far-flung places as Butte, MT and Rome, Italy.

In addition to both serving on the RSC Dance Committee (and playing other roles as well), Joan chaired the successful "Boogie on the James" annual shag dance party weekend 12 times and coached her successors through the transition. Meanwhile, Kevin served as 6-time coordinator of the RSC's charity golf tournament for Camp Fantastic (a summer camp for children with cancer), the Club's designated charity cause. In "turning over the reins" in 2022, he coached his successors for 2 years while continuing to support the event as a donor, sponsor and volunteer.

In 2014, Joan was inducted as a "Shaggin' Icon" by the Assoc. of Carolina Shag Clubs (ACSC). Kevin was named a ACSC "Shaggin' Icon" in 2018. This honor recognizes those nominated by their local shag club for their many contributions to and leadership of their own club as well as the larger Shag dance community. In 2016, they were both inducted into the National Living Legends of Dance.

Joan and Kevin joined the VSHOF Board of Directors in 2018 and 2021, respectively. Joan, elected to the Board in 2018, has served as the Board Secretary for five years. Kevin was appointed by the Board to fill the remainder of Roger Elling's term upon his passing, and then was elected to the Board in 2022. He currently chairs the VSHOF Bylaws Committee and co-chairs a committee to develop profiles of the VSHOF membership, past and present, to be hosted on the VSHOF website (www.vshof.com).