



## **JOYCE BURNLEY (2015)**

Joyce has been part of the "shag world" since 1989 when she joined the Richmond Shag Club and fell in love with the dance, the people and her husband, Dickie Burnley (VSHOF, 2013). Since that first six-count lesson, she has participated in the shag community by helping with RSC parties, joining the Competitive Shag Association and the Junior Shag Association, competing in several shag competitions, attending SOS and other parties up and down the coast and teaching shag at the Richmond Shag Club,

Phoenix Dance Studio and the Hopewell Moose Lodge.

Her passion for the Junior Shaggers began when she taught her granddaughter, Haleigh Brown, her first shag steps circa 2005. From that day forward, an idea was sparked and Joyce has been successfully promoting "... keeping our dance alive" through our children. It has been said, "man is judged by his actions, not his intentions". Joyce's actions have proven to the shag community she wants this dance to continue and be successful by having a monthly "Jr. Shag Jam" for children where the spirit of the shag is developed through music, dance, social interaction and community involvement. The participation started slow, but steady, and now she has children traveling from localities across the Commonwealth to attend.

Joyce carried her vision one step further by finding funding and a venue for the first Virginia Junior Shagger's Shag Jam in 2012. This function was solely developed for all children throughout the shag community to take lessons from Sam and Lisa West, to dance with other children and to participate in a shag competition exclusively for juniors. Not only was it a competition, but it allowed the juniors to "strut their stuff" for their families. This first function had 45 kids and 60 adults. In 2013 this function grew to 55 kids and 100 adults, and for September 27, 2014 the goal was to reach over 200 participants. Joyce's dedication to this process of preserving our dance, sparked by her idea ten years ago, has resulted in a living and vibrant on-going entity called the Virginia Junior Shaggers, Inc. a 501(C)3 non-profit. This non-profit has been developed to promote and preserve the shag through junior programs. Joyce's ultimate goal is to have a full program in place so she can assist other shags clubs in the process of developing their own junior shag program. Her commitment, enthusiasm and involvement contributed directly to almost 20 Virginia children attending Junior SOS in 2014.