



### **Sheila Kerr-Jones (2023)**

Once upon a time, in the village of Biggar, in the county of Lanarkshire, just south of Edinburgh, Scotland, there was a wee lassie who loved to dance. From the age of 4, she took tap and ballet, and by the time she was 14, was a seasoned competitor in Scottish Highland dancing. From there she went to Northern Soul and bop. In her world travels, she spent many years as a tour guide in Spain and competed at the novice level in Flamenco in Barcelona and Mallorca. And so, while there have been many “firsts” in the Virginia Shaggers Hall of Fame, Sheila represents three new Firsts: The First Native of Scotland, the First Scottish Highland Dancer, and the First Novice Flamenco competitor.

But her Shag career began in 2010 by joining her home shag club, the Colonial Shag Club (CSC). At the CSC, she jumped in with both feet, chairing and co-chairing half a dozen committees, and serving as a Director at Large on the CSC Board and Vice President. She joined the Boogie on the Bay Club in 2012, and the Virginia Beach Shag Club in 2015, where she lent her personality and enthusiasm to the Welcoming Committee, event planning and setup. She worked intentionally to promote shag in the community at large as evidenced by her enlisting the Newport News Parks and Recreation Department one year to publicize club dance lessons and by organizing a dance demo performance by CSA dancers for a local company. Expanding her shag venue options, Sheila joined the Richmond Shag Club (RSC) in 2022.

When not engaged in helping out her clubs or being hospitable and welcoming to others at socials and dance events, Sheila can be found on the dance floor! She follows well and has volunteered to lead in beginner lessons where male leads are in short supply. The fact that she is invited to dance frequently and by those of varying styles and skill levels, including the occasional pro and other competitive dancers, is a nod to her shag dancing ability. No one is a stranger to her, and she is a sought-after dance partner with a natural gift of rhythm, and the ability to follow seamlessly. She has worked regionally in promoting dance demonstrations, and charms everyone with her wonderful brogue and spontaneous wit.