



SHIRLEY GOUGH (1991)

When Earl Robinson (VSHOF, 1987, BSNHOF, 1995) came back from his first trip to S.O.S. in 1983, he resolved to form a shag dance club in Richmond. Shirley Gough was among the first nine people picked by Earl when setting up a board to start the Richmond Shag Club (RSC). That first RSC board consisted of Trudy Bass, Angelo Miliotis, Pat Henson, Shirley Gough, Ralph Harris, David Rackley, Lois Loving, Earl Robinson, and Ron Anderson. The Richmond Shag Club's first Tuesday night meeting in 1986 occurred at DJ's Lounge on Midlothian Turnpike and drew 45-50 people. Most of those attending knew each other as they all had met and danced together at the Peppermint Lounge in Chester. The shag club just blossomed from there. Within a few years, the owner of DJ's Lounge moved his nightclub to Club Razzle's in the Best Western Governor's Inn Hotel just down the street in Chesterfield County. The shag club was growing and DJ/Razzle's club owner Angelo Miliotis was happy as each week we seem to increase in members, so he gave us a second night (Thursday).

Out of the nine people Earl picked for the first shag club board, Shirley agreed to be Secretary. In 1987, the RSC registered with the State Corporation Commission and incorporated. Shirley's record of service from the mid-80's to the mid 90's to the Shag community is remarkable. For the RSC, she served as Secretary for 3 years (1986-1988), and as President for 3 years (1990-1991, 1993). She returned to the RSC Board for two years (2021-2022) as a Director-at-Large.

Not long after the RSC was established and Shirley was taking a year off from serving on the RSC Board, Shirley thought it would be a great idea for the RSC to join the Association of Carolina Shag Clubs (ACSC). She filled out the application in the spring of 1989 and the RSC was accepted into the ACSC in the fall of the same year. She served on both the ACSC and SOS boards as Secretary for three years each (1991-1993), as well as 2 years on the SOS Travel Committee (1989-1990). During this time, she helped the RSC become a well-known shag club throughout the ACSC. She herself was not recognized so much as a dancer, but as a great organizer for the organizations she supported. By 1993, the RSC's membership had grown to 587 members. She truly believed that for adults like herself, there could not be better organizations than ACSC, SOS and the RSC.

The night Shirley was inducted into the VSHOF in 1991, the RSC had 77 members present. There was nothing more important to her than to grow the shag club in the Richmond area. She worked hard at getting things accomplished and the RSC, ACSC and SOS are all indebted to her for her efforts to build strong organizational foundations for each of which she can be proud.