



BONNIE ARMS (2025)

Bonnie Arms comes to the VSHOF from the “Land of Lincoln”, born in Springfield, Illinois in 1946. As a late teen in Illinois, she took dance lessons for 5 years in tap, ballet, toe and modern jazz. Later, she danced “disco” at The Banque in Norfolk, Va.

Her Shag story began in 1987 when she ran into a local Northern VA shagger wearing a t-shirt with the iconic “Charlie and Jackie” lean step image, and asked about the image and its meaning. She later joined the Northern Virginia Shag Club and ascended through the ranks to leadership positions as Secretary (2 years), Vice President (2 years) and President (4.5 years). She was an active volunteer for NVSC as well, serving as Membership Committee Chair for 8.5 years, annual party vendor coordinator for 6 years and on the Nominating Committee for 3 years. Behind the scenes, she worked tirelessly at the reception desk on NVSC’s dance nights, collected mail from the Club’s P.O. Box, filled-in as a dance partner for shag workshops, and sent out welcoming or renewal reminder notice letters to the NVSC membership.

Moving to Virginia Beach in 2022, she joined virtually all the local shag clubs (i.e. Virginia Beach, Colonial and Boogie on the Bay) and continued to contribute her voluntary efforts by selling SOS cards, coordinating shag club elections, taking on membership committee leadership and handling birthday communications.

As a regular attendee at many of the local and more distant shag club functions, she is a generous supporter (and often a beneficiary) of various raffle fund-raisers. Based on her improbable success rate, she must bring her lucky rabbit’s foot wherever she travels! For example, even as a non-alcohol consumer, she invested in and won a “Wheelbarrow of Booze” raffle one year at the Richmond party. Not only did she donate about half a case of liquor back to the Richmond club (to be used for future charity raffle prizes), but proceeded over the next year to donate the remainder of her liquor winnings to other Tidewater clubs for their charitable causes as well.

She enjoys shag dancing and is always willing to dance, whether with new dancers or pros. She clearly enjoys the shag dance community up and down the East Coast and regularly attends shag events in Virginia as well as S.O.S. in North Myrtle Beach. She is a great partner and easily follows the best and worst of leads. As her sponsor puts it: “...She is the Queen of compensators.” She has been a long-time financial supporter of the Ellen Taylor Foundation for Junior Shaggers, even tithing part of her working income for many years and continues as a regular donor.