



DEBORAH WEBB (2025)

Deborah was born in Jacksonville, FL and throughout her teenage years loved the popular music of the time, singing along and doing her own mash-up of the Twist and the Mashed Potato dance styles. Her love of dance further blossomed in 1996 when she joined a competitive country-western (CW) dance team at Blakely's in Chesapeake, VA and soon danced on the CW competitive circuit for several years. More than a "1-trick pony", she went on to win dance contests in various other dance styles, including the 2-Step, West and East Coast Swing, the Cha-Cha and the Waltz.

In 2006, she was introduced to the Carolina Shag and the welcoming Shag community of Tidewater, VA and joined the Boogie on the Bay Shag Club. There she became an active volunteer, helping with numerous Club and charity fund-raising projects and serving one term as Club Treasurer. Moreover, with her broad dance background and by taking both group and private Shag lessons, she became an accomplished "Shagger", seeking out different social dance partners to improve her own dance and learning how to follow different leads.

After a few years learning the Shag (along with her husband, Joe, a future VSHOF member), they ventured into the competitive shag world, participating in various contests over a 13- year period, including venues at the semi-annual SOS events in North Myrtle Beach (e.g. "Rookies Revenge" and the "Smoothies" contests at the O.D. Arcade), a local shag contest in Elizabeth City, NC and various contests organized by the Competitive Shag Association.

After the home quarantine era of the COVID-19 pandemic, she (and her husband) joined more local shag clubs (e.g. Virginia Beach, Franklin and Elizabeth City) to expand their opportunity to dance multiple nights a week. Her work as an active volunteer and service as a shag dance instructor expanded to and benefited these other clubs as well.

She regrets not discovering the "Shag" earlier in life and cherishes the many friendships she developed through her involvement with the Shag community. As she says "...Shagging plays an essential role at this stage in my life for keeping me mentally and physically sharp and always on the go. I'm grateful for what shagging has brought to my life and look forward to many more years of sharing these experiences".