Linda Bessent has been a shag dance instructor for the Virginia Beach Shag Club (VBSC) since 2008, and shag dancing since 2005. To teach the shag, she has combined her talents from years of dancing and her experiences from a career of teaching elementary and middle school. She hopes to bring to others all the wonderful experiences that are provided by shag dancing. She states that the Shag has a special meaning for her because it has helped her through some tough times, allowed her to make some great friends, and is how she met her husband, Ron. As she indicated: "This is more than a dance for me and has been the source for many very happy times and memories. Because it has been so special for me, I want to give back and share it with others."

After they founded the Southside Shaggers in Crewe, Virginia, she and Ron learned that many of their students were dealing with difficult life situations. Through the joy of learning to shag dance, and camaraderie of their fellow shaggers, they were able to relax and not be overwhelmed by their problems.

Linda enjoys teaching the fundamental techniques of shag as well as more advanced steps to VBSC dance students. She is motivated to maximize the learning of her students by providing an interesting lesson, using an appropriate pace, but, primarily, by conveying her love of dance. As a result of her dedication and commitment to furthering the Shag, she was inducted into the **Virginia Shaggers' Hall of Fame** in 2024.

Ron Bessent also has a sincere love for the shag dance culture which he has found to be a family of thousands. When he first learned to shag in 2001, he discovered that the members of that family were also willing to help him with fundamentals, technique, and refinements that he could develop into more advanced steps. In 2005, he was voted the "Most Improved Male Dancer "award at the Richmond Shag Club (RSC). Ron has taught beginner, intermediate, and advanced shag classes. He has also instructed for the Southside Shaggers club that he and Linda founded in 2008.

Ron's years of instructing all levels of shag lessons is the result of combining his many years of dancing with his skills acquired during his forty plus years as a professional trainer. He has taught students from everywhere in the US as well as people from Canada, England, Europe, South America and even Iraq. He remembers teaching several students from the University of South Carolina and especially appreciates being able to teach young people who can carry the dance into the future.

Ron has been teaching for the Virginia Beach Shag Club for several years. In his classes, he keeps the students interested, involved, and invested in their learning so they will retain their skills and techniques. He doesn't merely consider it an obligation to pass along the ability to dance to others; he finds it to be a truly rewarding endeavor.

Ron was voted into the **Virginia Shaggers' Hall of Fame** in 2016. He continues to develop and refine his teaching of the dance in order to provide the best dancers possible.