

## President's Message

Meteorology must be a tough career. Go figure – if you get it right, well, everyone says, “I told you so.” If you get it wrong, everyone yells expletives that I cannot write here. Have you ever heard, “No weather report today due to the lack of interest?” Well, there has been plenty of interest these past few weeks. With extreme weather patterns, chancy road conditions and an unusually dangerous cold and flu season, it has been a month to stay near the home fires. Friday night attendance was down in January; however, one year ago it was a banner month. Come back soon! It is necessary for Friday night dances to pay for themselves in order to keep our yearly expenditures in line. Providing our club members with complimentary events and parties is an important issue to the board and raising Re-Up fees is something we have managed to avoid. Friday nights are the key. Help your club and enjoy the good times.

The ACSC Mid-Winter Workshop included an excellent presentation by our association treasurer, Cecil Martin. Cecil used a power point program to key in on topics necessary to assure clubs are safe, legal and protected within the law. Treasurer, Mark Hughes and I have reviewed our status and found it to be in those parameters. We will keep an eye on things going forward. An impromptu discussion with area shag club presidents revealed that **Danville Shag Club stands alone in requiring only a \$15 rejoining fee.** Area presidents were surprised since they collect fees from \$20 to \$35 dollars. Some clubs work with a cover charge and others do not. The lack of funds as also caused clubs to reduced their dances to once or twice a month. Another good reason to find a Friday to join us. We have a good thing going!

February brings out the cupid in us. With Valentine's Day coming in mid-week, we will decorate and celebrate on Friday, February 9<sup>th</sup> with DJ Mike Harding. Make it a Valentine Weekend. Join us Friday for dance and door prizes at Santana's and then head down to the Community Market on Saturday, 7 PM and listen to the Castaways. What a great Valentine weekend with friends!

**Spring Shag Lessons!** Six Mondays starting **March 5, 7 & 8 PM at Ballou.** Please thank John and Janice Gilstrap for decades of teaching and Gil Bradley for providing the music. A handful of us help as partners but we need you to join in. This is the absolute best way to assure the future of our club. Look for the flyer and call, hand, email or text it to a friend. Social media is a great outlet – if you have it, please use it. We will offer a slightly different format this spring to encourage former Beginner I students. Their continuation is key to our club's prosperity.

**A parting shot – Nominations.** Porchia Merricks, our Nominations Chair, is actively seeking those interested in serving in a leadership role. So many of you are perfect for this. It is fun, rewarding and you have a say in the affairs and direction of our club. As much as I have enjoyed serving as your President, I truly believe that new blood is essential to keeping the fires hot and the club moving forward with new and innovated ideas. Got questions? Talk with me about the possibilities. It will be our secret. See you on the dance floor.

Ernie