

National Shag Dance Championships

News Release

Barry Thigpen, 4/14/2026

The National Shag Dance Championships are now under new ownership and leadership. Two-time Overall Champion, Jeff Hargett from Myrtle Beach is the new Nationals Chairman as of today. Jeff has also served on the Nationals Board, was a double “Shagging with the Stars” winner and assisted in leading the Championships dance teams over the USA, as well as assisted with contest operations and judging the contests.

Some items will remain the same – the location “The Spanish Galleon”; the dates March 11,12,13, 2027; the second full weekend of each March’ the DJ, Mr. Craig Jennings; the awards of the Beth Mitchell Scholarships and the Veterans Salute on Saturday March 13th, 2027.

Current sponsors will have first right of refusal for sponsorship slots. Reserved tables past purchasers will have the first right of refusal.

Some new things will be happening. No prelims in 2027, New emcees; a new board of directors and many things to make it greater and promote the dance.

For further information please reach out to Jeff Hargett via:

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New Nationals owner Jeff Hargett, is congratulated by former owner Barry Thigpen.

Many Thanks,
Barry Thigpen