



Bonnie Menard

Bonnie was born in the suburbs of Detroit, MI to a poor rail worker and a mother who worked as a restaurant waitress. Bonnie was in constant trouble with the law during her early years, often involving arrest and detention. On one occasion, to defend the honor of her sister, Bonnie and her boyfriend Slash had to climb and whitewash the town water tower. Bonnie and Slash took off during their adolescence, making their way across the state to the shores of Lake Michigan. There they purchased a fishing vessel and set about making a living off of catching fish and selling to local restaurants. Tired of cleaning fish and being the attention of salty fishermen, Bonnie left Slash and jumped on a train heading south to Nashville where she began a career of singing backup to Janis Joplin who had taken her under her wing. Missing home, Bonnie returned to Detroit to visit family, where she was promptly arrested on an outstanding warrant for delinquent debt. Having settled her debts, Bonnie set her sights on dancing with a local troupe. Working with couples and being creative by nature, Bonnie originated a dance which later became known as the “Detroit Hustle” and adopted as a city staple.

Bored with city life and tired of cold weather, Bonnie hopped on a plane and traveled to the Philippines where she lived in a tree house uniquely situated on a banyan tree. There Bonnie went about studying Buddhism and Charya Nritya (dance as a spiritual discipline). In November, 1988, Bonnie was attending a Jimmy Buffett concert in Brisbane, Australia where she happened upon Jimmy while tailgating in the parking lot. Intrigued by Bonnie’s singing and dance background, Jimmy invited Bonnie to perform with him at the venue. Bonnie has been a dedicated Parrothead ever since, accepting the position of Membership Director Wiz & Pandemonium Control with The Villages Parrothead Club.