

## **The Goods on Brittany Goodson**

*Connect with: Brittany*

You might wonder, “How does she choose who to interview for the Getting to Know You post?” I find it interesting that I too wonder that. As with many unexplained occurrences in my life, it just happens.. no rhyme or reason. I once (22 years ago) bought a house that just “called out to me” every time I passed it. I wasn’t in the market for a house. I didn’t need a house. I didn’t have the extra money for a house. But I somehow was told to buy that house. I still have it, by the way. It has been a rental ever since. One day, in 2018, out of the blue, my stepdaughter & husband called us from Virginia to say they had

just sold their house & were moving to Florida without a plan. Later that day, the tenant of that house called to say he would love out of his lease early. The day he wanted to move out was TWO days before my stepdaughter/hub were to arrive. So there... that was the reason I bought that house.

Now, why Brittany? She is younger (like way younger) than a lot of club members & despite having the busy life of that age era, she not only joined the club, but graciously offered to be treasurer! On top of that, she is running for Tax Collector! Who does that? Also, there's the detail that she accepted my interview request.

Born & raised in Putnam County, Brittany has made the most of it. She

attended Palatka HS & the community college simultaneously to graduate with almost a completed associate's degree - one foot in the door of UNF. (I learned that all books/tuition for high school students that attend the community college are free!) There she earned a BA in Health Administration & later earned a master's degree in business administration. Her work life began in the Cancer Education/Support Center in Flagler Hospital. She supported patients & their families by securing & scheduling such offerings as yoga, tai chi, meditation, group therapy & nutrition counseling. Yes, these are means to help one cope with the diagnosis, but they are also steps in implementing the pursuit of optimal wellness for anyone! There was also the sad part: helping patients to write their advance directives

& fitting patients with prosthetic breasts. It was a fulfilling job utilizing her Health Admin degree & desire to interact with & help people. Because it was far from home & she had just had sweet Avery, she sought & secured a job in the Quality Department here at Putnam County Hospital. She used her strong background with numbers/spreadsheets to take data from cases logged by nurses & present them to the doctors in a relevant understandable story form for the doctor to then implement in similar cases. Sounds something like a high tech, high IQ game of Memory Match. Although content in this job, her previous supervisor, & still good friend, at Flagler Hospital became CEO at The Arc & encouraged Brittany to apply for the CFO job there. She did & she got it. (I know you all wondered when & where

the Jane connection comes in.) This was a rewarding, but grueling job. Beginning to wear out, she sought another job & wound up as Assistant Financial Officer at the Clerk of Courts. This, however, was ALL finance & her need to interact with & help people led her job seeking again. She knew the Tax Collector office would soon be opening. She set her eye on that while getting a work-from-home job with the business school of a university where she assists students through required core business courses, evaluating their papers, passing on advice, recommending students for excellence awards.

This gal has no fear of change, no fear of tackling the unknown, no hesitation to leap forward in the pursuit of both self &

community advancement. She seeks roles that interact with & help others. In fact, she even gave one of her opponents in the campaign help with her speech. She attributes these traits to her mother whom she praises. Her mother taught her to be “headstrong, independent, unafraid of confrontation, confident... set up for success”, all traits needed to do things like run for public office. If these, combined with a background in finance are not enough to qualify her as Tax Collector, it turns out her mother worked in the Tax Collectors office for 30 years. I owned & ran restaurants & my children tell people that they “grew up in a restaurant”. So, I commented to Brittany, “So you grew up in the Tax Collector’s office!” She said, “Yes! My first job at age 16 was to load the machine that stuffed the tax bills in

envelopes.” She watched the operations. She admired the collector at the time...the way he patiently & kindly listened & advised all who came into the office with questions. She felt a connection & a future for her there. I don't know. I'm sold. Her campaign sign is going up in my yard!

Ok, so this was not to be a political announcement. So on with the personal side. She met her husband in middle school but did not begin to date him until mid-high school. In fact, she could not even remember his name when her parents were questioning her about him. I, of course, then asked his name wondering about this. His name is “Scooter”. Ok, I get it. They have been together since that first date way back when. Scooter is a fishing guide of



some acclaim for Norfolk Southern & a property manager for Johnny Morris of Bass Pro Shop fame! They have two children, a 16-year-old son & eight-year-old daughter, Avery who we have enjoyed at the Bunco games. They enjoy the outdoors... so much so that she has no issue controlling social media with them (one of my questions) as they are usually having fun outside. She did recommend an app, called Bark, that will alert parents if a child is entering suspicious on-line areas or using inappropriate language. I throw that in there for those of you seeking media controls for children. She is still very close to her mother & siblings who graciously provide child rearing support. When asked if she has any key advice to others on parenting, she wisely replied, "Patience." I think it works



because when asked of what she is most proud, her reply was, “My children. We can steer them in a direction, but we don’t really have control & they both are supportive, loving & caring.” And when asked to give a general piece of life advice to anyone, she replied, “Be kind, understanding & empathetic. There isn’t enough of that anymore.”

I also asked what helpful tips she has on what makes a marriage work. We, both married a long time, laughed about what a tough question that is! Her reply was to do things together regardless of the differences that exist in interests. She tries to do things in which he is interested & he returns the effort.

So why did she join Pilot? She wanted to find ways to give back to the

community. Because she knew Jane for a long time, she did believe the sole mission of Pilot was to help those with special needs. She muses in hindsight that Jane invited her to the club just before she was to take over as president with the likely intention of getting her to be treasurer! Yet, she is happy to be a member & feels we all are friendly women whose intentions are all good.

When asked what her future goals in life are, she said, “To continue to be successful in my career & my marriage.... & to get a firm grasp on this treasurer job!” Like, what is PIFF anyway & are there actual invoices from PI that I can see before paying? So, to all you long-time members, know that we not-so-long time members are still

working at understanding the structure  
so that we can...Do More, Care More,  
Be More.