

SUCCESSFUL WOMEN IN BUSINESS

Renee Talkington, Proprietor, Jay Lanes / Talks Tavern / TNT Laser Tag

When my mother signed me up for the youth bowling league at Jay Lanes at eight years old, I never realized decades later I would own the place. What a dream come true for this avid bowler. It was normal on Saturday mornings to be bowling with many of my cousins in the league. Later, in my twenties, it became a true family reunion every Wednesday night at Jay Lanes. My mother was bowling along with many of my uncles, aunts, cousins. The tradition lived on. Now there are not as many of us still bowling. However, for the ones of us who are, the others are still with us thru the memories we have built together over the years. Whether it was when we traveled to tournaments or just the normal league night bowling, they are definitely a big part of us. Even as I venture as the proprietor of Jay Lanes, I can still remember all the fun we had and continue to have.

I can still see the look on my husband's, Chuck Talkington, face in the spring of 2011 and told him I was interested in buying the bowling alley. It had a hint of shock with a touch of curiosity. I was not the one in our marriage who usually ventured out to take risks. It took us till May 20, 2012 to finally have a sale agreement at which time we took over the operations of the bowling alley. It was a great celebration on October 12, 2012 when we made settlement on the entire building and officially purchased the assets of the bowling alley and bar, Talk's Tavern (formerly Flynn's Inn). The journey continued from there. Every year we put the profits back into the business to make the bowling alley a fun experience for everyone. This year we expanded into a vacant space of our building and had a laser tag arena built. Wow! What a fun experience that has been. It officially opened May 6 and I played my first game of laser tag with my two children Tyler

and Tori. I found myself laughing so hard and realized the fun everyone else will soon experience. It definitely was a very good choice Chuck and I made.

If Jay Lanes was my only venture in life, this would be a really short article. However, it is only a part of the big picture. I still continue my life as an accountant with Kravco Company, LLC. That entails working around 30 hours a week and visiting their office twice a week. They are a property management company that I have worked for since 1999. The owners, The Powell family, have taught me a lot about being a business owner. I learned from their examples because I love the way they have treated me over the years - Always understanding and appreciative of their dedicated employees.

Another business venture I have is preparing tax returns. I have tried to reduce my clients, but that never seems to work. Within a year a find my clients have grown back up to the 50 mark. Tax preparation was my first true love in the accounting world. It was a challenge to read into the IRS code and get as much money back for my clients as I could. I actually was preparing tax returns before pursuing my accounting degree at Villanova. My college adventure started in 1994 while I was working for Westover Companies as a bookkeeper. I enjoyed working with the detail of numbers and recording rents received in the accounts receivable department. I was working there for seven years and the owner of that company offered tuition reimbursement after my promotion to accounts receivable supervisor. An offer I couldn't refuse. I often joke about when I started working on my bachelor's degree in accounting, I was single. When I graduated in 2003, I was married with two children. It was definitely the best thing I ever did. Having that



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education allows me to keep cost down in the bowling alley business as well as Chuck's rental properties because we do not have to hire an accountant to prepare our financial statements.

The last business venture I would like to mention is the rental properties that Chuck and I own. He keeps the properties maintained very well and deals with the other property management aspects, leasing, collecting rents, etc. My job is to record the rental income and expenses, which includes paying the bills and preparing the financial statements. This is not an easy task for either of us because it entails 15 properties with 36 total units. I remember us purchasing the first property when I was pregnant with our Daughter who will be 15 years old soon. He just kept going from there finding deals on properties to fix up and rent out.

He's has been the most supportive person in my life. When I was going to college at night, he never complained about taking care of the children. He understood it was a dream of mine just like the bowling alley, another dream he helps me achieve. My mother, Joy Nichols, helps a lot as well. She does anything we need her help with, from running errands to bar tending. My son Tyler worked at the bowling alley for the previous owner before we bought it and continues to help when he's home from college. My daughter Tori has been working in the snack bar since Chuck built it in September of 2012. I'm grateful every day for the supportive people in my life who have helped me reach my goals in life and continue to help me achieve the new ones.

Jay Lanes



Talks Tavern



TNT Laser Tag

