

LOCKWOOD/MCKINNON SPOTLIGHT SERIES ~ SELENIA KRINER



We go about our daily tasks that pop up day in and day out. We work with people ...communicate with them.... share with them.... teach and help them, but what do we really know about the people we work with side-by-side every day or people we see at meetings or in the home office at Lockwood/McKinnon? It's always an adventure to sit down with one of our own and learn about the behind-the-scenes lives that have made them who they are today.

Today I sat down with Selenia Kriner – the RGM of Middletown. It occurred to me some weeks ago that Selenia offered something “more.” She has had a welcoming character each time I've seen her...someone that you might want to know more about.

Selenia has worked for Lockwood/McKinnon in different roles and at different times since 2016, but says that she considers her employment, as a manager, official in 2018, when Matt C. brought her onboard as a Shift Lead.

She hasn't always imagined herself a manager of a store – she trained to become a behavioral specialist for kids and worked 2 jobs for several years until she decidedly focused on Taco Bell. (She worked at Rogers High School in Newport for a while and remembers when Gordon McKinnon presented a local Live Mas Scholarship to a student there. She was in the audience at the time.) Her path towards becoming the RGM of the Middletown Taco Bell became a reality with the help of Matt M. She states that he taught her everything she knows to become an AGM. She and Matt M. have developed a good friendship.

Ashley H. also helped Selenia get to where she is now. Ashley H., with a background of Taco Bell knowledge and years with Lockwood/McKinnon, created a notebook of “how ‘to-s’” for completing “Tuesday Counts” and “doing the truck.” It was a step-by-step instruction notebook – 3 pages long. Ashley is training to become a Sr. AGM. Selenia can depend on Ashley H. to keep things going when she is not in the store.

There were starts and stops along the way, but once she became the RGM, she has earned the title and has stepped into the role with gusto. Selenia is grateful for the help she has received on the road to becoming the RGM she is today.

The team in Middletown is close knit. Her team is dependable. She states that everyone likes to work a lot of hours. They know that if they need something they can ask. She does admit that she wears her emotions for everyone to see. (She is working on that.) She is blunt and people appreciate her honesty. When in a conversation – Selenia will sometimes ask if the conversation is a ‘talk openly’ conversation or an ‘on the record’ conversation. This gives her a sort of poetic license to speak from the heart. Her friends come to her for that very reason. She tells it like it is.



While Selenia recognizes the help she has received to get where she is today – she notes that her nickname is “The Come Back Kid” She likes to be right (who doesn't) and if someone tells her she can't accomplish something – she will do her best to prove them wrong and shine.



Having grown up in Middletown, RI – Selenia is connected to the community. She met her, now husband, Charlie Kriner (RGM of N. Dartmouth Taco Bell) when she was 5 years old. He used to play football with her sister, Inez, and coached her brother, Jaimanie's, baseball team. Selenia played soccer and was a cheerleader in HS. She just loved school – she admits. She and Charlie married in 2017 in a small family wedding ceremony in the Rotunda at Kings Park in Newport, RI. They have two boys, Chayse 10 years old and Rian 7 ½ years old. Charlie, Selenia and family live in

Middletown about 2 minutes away from the Middletown Taco Bell.





The family likes to camp. Camping means anything from tent to cabin to RV. They haven't stayed in an RV to date, but that is a future goal. I ask Selenia, why do you like to camp? And she admits that she loves the quiet and that there is usually no cell phone service. One of their favorite campsites is Whispering Pines in Hope Valley, RI. It's a great place to camp – especially for the boys – with a pool, fishing pond, playground and basketball court.



Growing up, Selenia remembers a few distinct family scenarios that make her smile to this day.

One time, on Spring break at the age of 13 or so, she and her brother, Jose, went to visit her 'Gramita' in Staten Island. They had gone to the park and she and Jose were playing volleyball – where Selenia stepped in a crack and injured her ankle. Her sweet, little, Spanish grandmother was worried and hailed a cab and took Selenia to the hospital. She wound up in a cast to her knee and on crutches. Selenia shakes her head...and says it was a sprain, but they put her in a cast, anyways.

On the same trip – she and her brother spent some time with an eccentric Aunt. On this particular day – they visited an antique store and picked up a 4 ft. dollhouse. Her Aunt wanted to make their visit special. They were a sight...she on her crutches, Jose carrying the doll house and her aunt directing them towards a Hipster Bookstore. The bookstore had a futon, a limited selection of books and served frozen hamburgers that were cooked in the microwave....it was unique, that's for sure. Leaving the store – the same parade of characters rushed to catch the bus to get 'home.' Once home...Selenia cut the cast off her leg. It was not broken and she'd had enough of the crutches. Memorable times – they were.

She is an avid reader and a self-proclaimed "big old nerd." She will read a 500-page book in a day! Her dream is to visit Hogwarts in London, England. She is a Harry Potter fan and is surprised I haven't cued into her tattoos on her right arm – all Harry Potter inspired. She is perfectly happy to sit and read while her husband, Charlie, coaches the boys' football and baseball teams or plays in an over 30 Sunset League. He loves sports and is a big video and television fan. Oddly – neither one likes to be in a room of many people...it is uncomfortable and they prefer one-on-one much better.



At home Selenia cooks most of the meals and one of the favorites is Eggplant Parmesan. She informs me that she leans towards the vegetarian meals over meat. Today she packed a lunch of carrots/peanut butter; spinach dip with sweet potato chips and rambutan (a unique sweet spiny fruit).



Here – we get a little more personal – I ask her to tell me three things about herself that people may not know (that she can share). She laughs, animals make her uncomfortable and as a result she doesn't have an affinity for them. She says, "I can type 110 words a minute and I didn't start driving until I was 24 years old." She tells me that she almost drowned when she was younger and is afraid of the water...she has to be able to touch the bottom if she is in water. (Prefers a pool – where she has more control.) In the same breath, Selenia, excitedly – tells me that she is an adrenaline junkie and would love to jump from a plane in the future...once her boys are age 18 or so.

The best compliment that Selenia has received is that she and Charlie are "relationship goals." It seems strange to word it that way. It means that people they know see their relationship as something to strive for in their own relationship. Selenia is considered the more vocal one, who takes charge. A good mix of personalities.

It's been such an interesting time speaking with Selenia and we've covered a lot of ground, but I'll bet you feel you know her a little better now. As I said, it's always an adventure to sit and have a conversation with one of our own and 'learn about some things that make them tick.'

Who are the people you work with each day?

Lisa Brissette