

## ALANA SMITH: 50 YEARS AT LEA COUNTY STATE BANK!

Celebrating a 50th anniversary of anything is an accomplishment, and 5 decades working at Lea County State Bank is an achievement only Alana Smith can claim. As a Shareholder, Secretary to the Board, and Executive Assistant in Finance, Alana has been on the front lines at LCSB.

Over the years, Alana has worked in almost every department from Human Resources, Finance, and Data Processing. Preparing for Board of Directors meetings as Corporate Secretary gives her additional knowledge of the inner workings of the bank.

Just witnessing an evolution in banking and technology during this half century is startling. From beginning as a key punch operator in 1973 to working with the team on the latest data conversion in 2022, Alana has been there every step of the way.

"Few people today even know what a key punch operator did back then," Alana said.

What is hard for Alana to do is talk about herself. She emphasized that it is the people at the bank that make her work special. "The bank is my happy place," explains Alana. "The people I work with are so terrific, and they are family."

It started at the New Mexico Junior College where she was taking secretarial classes after graduating from Eunice High.

"One of my teachers told me about an opening at what was then New Mexico Bank and Trust, and I applied."



Alana Smith in the mid-1990s at LCSB, her "Happy Place." Congratulations to Alana for 50 years!

"I've spent my life here," Alana commented recently. Outside family, "Coming to the bank to work is what gives me joy. This is where I like to be."

"I'm proud to tell people where I work, and how long I have had the privilege to work here," added Alana.

If joy is working at Lea County State Bank, then she is the rock that everyone counts on and sees as the go-to person. "You can always count on Alana," said Sam Spencer, president and CEO of LCSB. "Whether it is being present at key times or getting the job done, Alana is the one I can count on." He should know, as he has worked with her for 34 of those 50 years. Alana shared that one of the highlights of her 50 years was when local ownership of the bank returned to Lea County in 1991. "Instead of being part of a large corporation, we returned to being a bigger part of this community and a local bank."

"Alana is all about professionalism, integrity and having a great work ethic," said Keith Pearson, one of those original shareholders, a current shareholder, and owner of KW Fuels. "Alana is highly respected by her co-workers and the Board of Directors, and her strong high moral standards and hard work have made her a quiet leader."

"If the bank is her happy place, she made it a great place for me to work," said Roy Moshier, who retired as CFO in 2022 and worked closely with Alana for more than 35 years. "Dependable is an often-overused word; however, that is Alana," Roy said. "She has a calming influence on everyone and the patience of Job." This anniversary at the bank isn't the only celebration for Alana this year. She and her husband, Doug, celebrated 50 years of marriage on June 23, 2023. They have raised 4 kids - Shaun, Laura, KK and Abby. KK and her husband, Trey, also blessed them with their first grandchild, Mazie.

Combining work and family can also be seen on a personal level. It was Alana who introduced a co-worker Kay Ellison to her father-in-law, Jim Smith. Both had lost their spouses – and Alana thought they would enjoy each other's company. Kay and Jim have been married more than 20 years, and Alana said, "Jim recently told me that I get a special jewel in my crown for introducing him to Kay."

We think she deserves many jewels. And everyone at LCSB looks forward to many more years with Alana in her "happy place."

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