

Women IN BUSINESS



**TAMMI
RATH**

Captain Kid Amusement Park



HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN IN YOUR LINE OF WORK AND WHAT GOT *you* STARTED?

"I've been in customer service for many years. I started in the restaurant business when I was twelve as a dishwasher, before child labor laws. Times were a lot different back then. The expectations were a lot different; you didn't get to leave at seven because you were twelve, you worked. So, I learned a very good work ethic. I've been in the amusement industry since 2018 when Bruce and I got together. But mostly the restaurant business. I owned my own restaurant for twelve years. I've been in customer service for many, many years.

I mean, I was twelve washing dishes, no dishwasher in a busy tourist town by Mt. Rainer. We got slammed. I would work until 2 in the morning. The owner was offsite and would come in once in and awhile. But otherwise, we had to do everything. So, I ran my businesses different. I was always a working owner, and we are here too at the amusement park. So, I lead by example, and I learned that from my work ethic and working hard my whole life."

WHAT WOULD YOU TELL *your* YOUNGER SELF?

"I would tell my younger self to learn self-care and not wait until your 55 to figure it out. It's really important that you take care of yourself, no one else is going to do it. And you will get your heart broke, and you will have a lot of tragedy and a lot of great times. But all in all, when you're looking at the mirror, you're looking at yourself and you have to take care of yourself because it will catch up to you at some point. And you will be facing yourself really raw.

So I would say take care of you and don't care about what other people think. It's really hard for us to do that, we all compare ourselves to others in business but when it boils down to it, it really does not matter. Just be who you are and take care of yourself and everything else will come together in a healthier way."

WHAT PIECE OF PROFESSIONAL ADVICE HAS HELPED YOU IN *your* CAREER?

"When I was in the restaurant business me and my late husband were purchasing the restaurant from another couple. He was a great mentor to me. I had been in the business, but he always told me:

“Manage with your head, not your heart.”

And I failed at that miserably. And I still manage with my heart, and I don't want to change that necessarily, but you do have to have a balance because otherwise you get taken advantage of. I don't think anyone means to, but when you're the type of owners that me and Bruce are you have a lot of people coming at you for help. Because we're not just an owner that's opening our amusement park every day. There's a lot of different aspects if you're going to care about people. And we care about the people who work for us, so we try to help. And everybody is struggling right now. It would be easier if I took his advice years ago about managing with your head, not your heart. So, I try to balance that a little bit more now. I can hear him in my head saying that."

WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE FUTURE women LEADERS?

"The relationships that I always had in business have been me with my husband or my late husband and I think you need that. Bruce is my strength in business. He's out there busting his butt, building, and doing those things. And I'm the other side of it. You can be a leader. The one thing I've always had a little trouble with is that women don't get the recognition we need in business.

So, if you're doing what I've done for a lot of years which is run a business with my husband I'm known as the owner's wife. And that does bother me because I contribute a lot. A lot. And that is not recognized by my society. I would just tell women to be strong. Be who you are. **Boss it!**"

WHO IN SEASIDE THAT IS A WOMAN IN BUSINESS INSPIRES *you?*

"The one person that did make a very big impact on me was **Brandy Stewart**. At one point she came down here and just being how she is, just laid back and real and I really needed that. She is one of the first women I met and the one I remember the most.

My other one is my friend **Elisa Marzano**, she owns an Italian restaurant in Tacoma. She has been in business for 34 years. She's been through a lot, the market crashing in 2008/2009, she's made it through COVID. She's a very strong woman and has been for 34 years."