



THIS WEEK'S PROGRAM

January 25, 2022

2021- 2022 Board Members

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Membership Laura Little

Foundation Joe Morris

Programs Elly Clary



HIGWIA

By Bill Bartee

The talents of our membership were again on display with the popular, “How I Got Where I’m At” series that highlights our own members. This week featured [Jensen Caudle](#) and [Laura Little](#).

[Jensen Caudle](#) kicked off his “HIGWIA” by sharing his time growing up in the town of Harrisburg, NC. It is here that he enjoyed an ideal childhood playing in the neighborhoods. His first job happened at age fifteen and he had several through the years in businesses at Concord Mills Mall. It was also during this time that he met a girl and they fell in love.

She encouraged him to attend UNC-Wilmington, which is the only time that lived outside of Cabarrus County. Wilmington is where he held his favorite job: working in a marina. That allowed him to fish almost every day. Jensen and his wife married after college and he went into banking with Charlotte’s Scottish Bank.

The Scottish Bank created opportunities to learn the entirety of the banking business. Jensen worked as a teller, in accounting, and then commercial banking for 13 years. He also managed the South State bank on Providence Road before landing at Aquesta Bank in 2019.

However, the “coincidences” of life created a fortuitous personal opportunity. Between leaving Aquesta during a lay off period and landing a new job at Innovative Business Solutions in October 2021 allowed his family to enter into the world of foster parenthood and adoption. In May of 2020, with their son’s permissive statement, “God says take care of the babies”, the Caudles’ added two foster children (a 2-year old and 9 month old) to their family.

Jensen and his wife are now going through the adoption process with those children which he shared has NOT been difficult with the aid of Cabarrus County and the Baptist Children Home but stated “you are either all in or all out” as a foster parent.

We look forward to keeping up with this journey with Jensen and his growing family.

[Laura Little’s](#) journey of “HIGWIA” involving theater and Rotary evolved from her mother, who was an editor/play reviewer in San Diego and is a Rotarian.

Her interest in performance and sports come from her father who loves to sing and loves the Boston Red Sox. She was born in Camp Lejeune while her father was stationed there in the Marine Corps.

Laura’s first performance was an eight-year-old, Happy, in Snow White. She later began writing play reviews for her mother’s paper but chose to study nursing at James Madison (JMU), until a CPR-incident in a restaurant inspired her to start a business teaching CPR and Emergency response. It grew into fourteen instructors and was eventually sold to a friend.

During this time, she noticed the course electives she took were all theater related. This led to directing, casting and teaching theater locally. After a move to Idaho, she began casting extras for a movie which eventually led running her own talent agency and being an executive director of a children’s theater and a professional theater. Her goal was to make them profitable which she met with success.

Her fandom of Major League Baseball and theater met after she read an article about a show at Harvard that featured the Red Sox/Yankee rivalry. She obtained the option to the show for a year and built a relationship with the Red Sox (which she and her family treasure) until she began working on a show on Broadway. That “little show” won 5 Tony Awards and boosted her confidence in Play/Theater Production.

Laura found Charlotte by attending a convention. She loved its sports scene and vibrancy of the city. In 2015, she prayed for direction on moving to Charlotte by using Panther wins as milestones for God’s direction. “If they win 11 games”, she stated. Later, renegotiating the prayer to “if they make it to the Super Bowl”. This brought questions from the audience of why she didn’t ask for the Panthers to WIN the Super Bowl in 2015.

She has three children. Ryan is a policeman in Boise, ID, Mitch recently graduated from JMU and her daughter, Jessi, is featured in [An Evening with Jessi Little](#) on February 1st, 2022, in Charlotte (tks \$35)

*A recording of the program is available here: <https://vimeo.com/670054320>

The program introduction begins at 30:55 minutes.