

Susie Brown is the Lee Bank employee who has the distinction of holding the longest tenure of all, having worked at the bank for 38 years. She has overseen Human Resources for almost 30 years. Susie serves as Senior Vice President of Human Resources and Administration. Her colleagues say that she has been instrumental in defining the culture of Lee Bank for nearly four decades.

“I’ve had the pleasure of working for three Lee Bank presidents and, in essence, each was part of three generations of operating Lee Bank,” she said. “I was the youngest person here for quite a while, and now I’m the mama bear. I have always loved this place and what I do. It’s just my personality to work ‘till the job gets done. I was raised with a strong work ethic, growing up on High Lawn Farm, and never leaving the town that I love, Lee, Massachusetts.”

“I have been here for a long time and I’m very proud of it. I started at the bank right out of high school, as a part-time teller in 1980. Back then, I was saving money to attend nursing school. As you can gather, I never made it to nursing school, but I have no regrets. I was a go-getter and worked really hard. There were 17 employees then, now there are more than 75. I can attest that the culture of Lee Bank has always stayed consistent, and that our staff and customers are what have made us the success that we are today.”

“In 1989, when Dave Bruce became the bank’s President I became his assistant. I worked for two presidents for eight months during the transition from Dick Sitzer to Dave Bruce. At that point I also took over Human Resources and the role of Bank Facility Manager. I had the first company computer!”

“My favorite word to describe myself is “seasoned”. I always ask myself; “What could I have done better?”, “How can I do it differently?” and, “Do I need to change the way I am thinking about this?”. I truly believe honesty and self-evaluation have a lot to do with success. You have to reflect on your performance, and admit to messing up when it happens. Then you work to fix it.”

“I’m so proud to be an employee of Lee Bank. We have the best people here, everyone will tell you that. They are trusting, respectful and caring; that is the type of person we strive to hire. There is a sense of camaraderie here. We work together and make decisions together. Everyone can weigh in and knows what’s going on. That camaraderie is what I have tried to emphasize over the years.”

“Yeah, we’re busy. Yeah, we get grumpy. I know I sound like a Pollyanna, but it really is a happy place to work, and I attribute my success to the people that I have had the pleasure to learn from, and work with for the past 38 years. Work/Life balance is challenging, and even during difficult times it’s always been a great place to work, and I’ve never looked elsewhere.”

