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I thought long and hard about running for the breed committee this year. I have been a member of the Savannah Breed Section breed committee, since 2011, when we became an official breed. My passion for the breed has never waned and my vision for our future continues to positive, but cautious, since our breed is constantly under attack and we have to fight for our right to even exist. We - breeders, pet owners and enthusiasts – are a strong, passionate, resilient group and we will continue to educate the public about our breed, fight for our breed and promote our breed.

My goals and aspirations for our breed are as follows:

- Continue to fight for breeders – anti-breeder legislation continues to threaten our existence – domestically and Internationally. We need to have strong leaders to effectively fight for our right to not only own Savannahs, but to own any pedigreed cat.
- Encourage everyone to support legislation which gives us our right to own our animal of choice – there are many forces working against us and we must all work together to prevent our rights from being stripped away from us.
- Our breed has come a long way in such a short time. It is wonderful to see such an improvement in type and I would encourage both breeders and pet owners to show their savannahs to the world through TICA shows, public exhibitions, such as Meet the Breeds and pet expos.
- I would love to see those breeders working on new traits to show more and exhibit more in order to bring any new trait forward that adheres to the breed standard as far as type is concerned.
- Encourage new and existing breeders to become members of the breed section, in order to have a say in how our breed continues to develop and progress.

My qualifications and accomplishments are as follows:

- I have been active in the Savannah community since 2009 – before I started my breeding program in 2012. I have an 8-year-old Servaline savannah that I showed in HHP (household pet). I bought my first breeding cat in 2010 and had my first litter in 2012. Although my kittens are raised in my home and underfoot and my cattery, Agato Savannahs, is home-based, I understand that is not possible for everyone and we all do the very best we can for our cats in the capacity we can. I work very hard to produce healthy, social kittens with excellent type. I feel that I am always responsible for every single kitten born in my home and keep in touch with every single buyer.
- I have been showing my savannahs since 2012. Although I don't get to show as much these days, I think it very important to get out there and let the public see our cats. I would love to invite members of the legislature in the states where savannahs are and are not legal, to see our cats and realize they are not the wild cats they are portrayed to be by the AR extremists. I realize it is very difficult for many breeders to show for various reasons and I have been encouraging TICA to make it easier – showing is very expensive and perhaps we can work together to come up with a solution, such as sending one or two breeders per month, who could otherwise not afford to go, to a show.
- I worked with TICA officers and breed section members by volunteering my time every year since its inception, to man a booth for our breed at Meet the Breeds in New York City. I designed posters, brochures and leaflets for both TICA and the savannah breed. Our breed booth was decorated and manned as a team – we all worked well together and helped to educate the public about our breed as well as show off our cats. I would like to encourage others to get involved in this endeavor and will continue to help in any way I can.

- I worked for two years to help our breed as well as Bengals and Chausies become legal in Connecticut. They were legalized in 2012. I am working with the New York City Council to legalize savannahs in NYC – this has been a daunting task, but I have been persistent. I am also working with the Nebraska Fish and Wildlife to legalize Savannahs in that state. They have been very willing to discuss changing the law and have asked for assistance with the wording to present to the legislature. I am hoping this will take place in 2018.
- Started the Savannah Cat Rabies study and put together a team to try and help prove that the rabies vaccine is effective on savannah cats, just like any other domestic cat. The study is ongoing.
- Started the Hybrid Cat Survey and formulated questions, along with a team of pet owners and breeders, to dispel the myths that AR extremists and other groups who want to ban hybrids, are using against us. This survey was filled out by over 2000 owners and was successfully used in California to prevent a ban on hybrids.
- Wrote a multi-page article for Savannahs Illustrated, entitled, “On the Road to Championship Status.” The article was written to educate pet owners, enthusiasts and the general public about the history of our breed; explain the often difficult but satisfying road from breed inception to PNB through ANB to becoming a Championship breed, and gave insight to the many sacrifices Savannah breeders have made along the way. The article included interviews with founders of the breed and TICA judges from various regions, as well as two pages solely dedicated to Savannah breeders, the “bricks and mortar that built the breed”.
- Fascinated with the study of Genetics and Breed Development and have devoted a large amount of my personal time to studying and researching specific issues by consulting a host of experts (Savannah and non-Savannah Breeders, Exhibitors, Genetics Experts and TICA Members).
- Designed and developed the Savannah Cat Chat Forum in 2012...we boast over 4500 members and the forum is one of the most active forum on the Internet. We have a great team of admins and moderators who help savannah owners and enthusiasts on a daily basis. We all volunteer – I manage our server and website as well as help educate the public. The Savannah Cat Chat forum is ranked on page one of Google for many, many keywords.
- Have been a volunteer with Savannah Cat Rescue for years and in addition to my work helping owners who have to surrender their savannahs, I designed the Savannah Cat Rescue website and manage it.
- Donate to rescue organizations and feline research organizations, such as the Winn Foundation. Have volunteered for the past three years for the Bria Fund for FIP, by managing their website.
- I have an extensive online presence and own several of the largest Savannah cat FB groups. In that capacity, I have donated many hours every week to helping owners and breeders and groups such as the Savannah Breed Mentors group, aid in helping breeders specifically.
- Have participated in and managed the savannah cat booth for TICA with Meet the Breeds in NYC. This event is yearly and helps educate the public about our breed. I also, in the first three years of Meet the Breeds, helped TICA by designing posters, flyers and other materials for the event.
- Redesigned Hybrid Law Website, using design and programming skills so that it would be easy for the current owner to update independently.

- Redesigned the Savannah Breed Section Website to include a secure Members Only Section
- Recently started a group to explore creating a foundation to help Savannah Cat Breed owners help pay extraordinary vet bills in an emergency. This group includes breeders, owners and enthusiasts and is very exciting! I look forward to this endeavor as it has long been a dream of mine. Hopefully 2018 will be the year we get off the ground!

My non-cat related professional experience as a Neonatal ICU and Pediatric ER Registered Nurse brought me much joy and sorrow, similar to breeding. In this capacity, I was also an avid Patient Advocate, often battling for the rights of preemies and children, fundamentally similar to lobbying against the ban laws and working to combat the legal issues our Breed faces on an ongoing basis. While I was a nurse, I worked with the Nurses Union and several years later, as a Healthcare Union Organizer, which allowed me to work with and lead many diverse groups, including legislators, each with distinctive ideas and agendas, bringing them together for a common cause and common good, with much success, firstly by being open, honest and ethical and secondly by negotiating fairly and keeping my promises.

I decided to go back to school six years ago and earned a B.S. in Computer Networking and Business Programming, which I have put to good use in helping the Savannah Breed Community, TICA, pet owners and enthusiasts.

As an officer in the US Army Nurse Corp (Reserves) for eight years, I gained valuable leadership skills, disciplinary fortitude and drive enabling me to complete assignments and function as a team player within my unit.

In closing, I hope you will consider me worthy of your vote to become a member of the Savannah Breed Committee one last time. It is my intention, if elected, to participate with diplomacy and conscience in representing the interests of the entire Breed Section and for the betterment of the Savannah Breed. Since none of us are perfect, I admit that at times, I am extremely passionate, overzealous and outspoken in defending our breed, but my heart is with the breed – protecting our breed, sometimes at the cost of my myself.