



## Owner Candidate

# DANIEL G. EUBANKS

Dan Eubanks got hooked on Thoroughbred racing at the age of 10 through his parents' racehorse, Hillbizon, who won the 1980 Annapolis Handicap at Bowie Race Course. His first successful claim, Darling's Bid, went on to finish second in the 1999 Toes Knows Stakes at Laurel Park.

The winning tradition continues today. Eubanks currently has about 10 horses in training at Laurel Park with various trainers and recently retired his most successful purchase, multiple stakes winner Colonel Sharp, who won the Coalition and Dave's Friend stakes in 2018. Eubanks participates in all aspects of the industry as an owner from claiming horses, purchasing at the sales and breeding, and he understands the interests of all horseman must be represented.

Eubanks, an executive with Fidelity First who resides in Arnold, said there are many positive things going on in Maryland racing, but there are important issues that need attention, including claiming rules that "are outdated and discourage new owners from entering our sport."

Regarding racehorse safety, he said the track must be maintained at the highest of levels to ensure a safe and forgiving surface for the horses during racing and training. Medication rules, he said, must be monitored closely and fairly with the well-being of the horse given the utmost consideration.

Eubanks said the condition book must be consistent and favorable, and that races should appear in the book about every three weeks. "If the races were run every three weeks, they would fill more often and it would be much more beneficial to the horses' health and longevity," he said.

Eubanks credited ownership and management for the improvements on the frontside at Laurel Park and construction of new barns but said backstretch housing needs to be upgraded.

"The hot walkers, grooms and riders that take such excellent care of our horses every day need to be taken care of as well," he said. "We also need to address the neglected condition of older barns. I would relish the opportunity to help improve the backstretch for the workers and horses."

The Beyond The Wire aftercare program, Eubanks said, "must continue to be a focus of the MTHA and all horsemen." He would like more emphasis placed on cultivating new patrons; events such as twilight racing on Fridays in the summer revisited and marketed to attract businesses and their employees; and using Sunday racing to promote family outings with barbecue stations, picnic tables and a playground for children.