



## Owner Candidate

### **GARY HACKER**

Gary Hacker has been involved in Thoroughbred racing in Maryland for 70 years, beginning with his parents: Evelyn, an owner; and Tuffy, a jockey, trainer and breeder.

Hacker's parents were among the first members when the Maryland Horsemen's Benevolent and Protective Association was founded. His father was a director on the board for more than 25 years and later became a founder and director of the Maryland Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association when it came to be in the 1987.

"The dinner table talk was always about racing, and I learned about the industry at an early age," Hacker said. "Since that time, I have done everything at the racetrack from working for my father as a hotwalker starting when I was 8 years old, to selling programs on the frontside, to becoming a racing official—a paddock, placing and patrol judge."

Hacker along the way earned a Bachelor of Science degree in accounting and Master of Business Administration degree. He currently is a consultant and does software training for law firms and financial institutions on the national and international levels. Hacker brings knowledge of the general business environment to his involvement in horse racing.

"From my father, I learned that the MTHA has to look out for the 'little' guy because the big guy can take care of himself," Hacker said. "This means that the small owners and trainers need to be treated the same as the big-time owners and trainers—no favoritism. And the barn help needs to be taken care of—I believe this is one area in which big strides have been made in the last 20 years, which would have made my father happy. But there are still areas that can be improved."

Hacker, who spends a lot of time in the stable area at Laurel Park, said he would welcome the opportunity to serve on the MTHA board. He said he believes "all parties involved in both Mid-Atlantic racing and the sport on a national level must work together in a collegial manner for the good of racing," and in "ensuring that owners are compensated for their risk and investment in the business."