

The WTBA welcomes **DUANE BELVOIR** as new general manager

The executive committee of the Washington Thoroughbred Breeders Association has named Duane Belvoir to replace general manager Ralph Vacca, who is retiring after 46 years of employment with the WTBA. Vacca has been the association's general manager since 1970.

Belvoir will officially take the helm on January 1, 2008. He began his employment on Monday, November 12, as assistant to Vacca.



Ralph Vacca

WTBA president David Thorner commented: "We are very excited that Duane Belvoir will be joining the WTBA staff to succeed our extraordinary long-time general manager Ralph Vacca. Duane has excellent credentials, references, and he will bring a great deal of enthusiasm, energy and innovation to the position." He added, "Duane has very big shoes to fill. He will have six weeks working with Ralph before he retires, which will include conducting the upcoming WTBA Winter Mixed Sale on December 2."

Belvoir comes from one of Washington's foremost racing families. Duane's father, Clarence, well-respected throughout the country in the field of equine transportation, is currently the general manager for the Washington-based American Horse Transportation. His uncle, Howard, is consistently among the leading trainers in the state, and Duane's cousin, Vann, a former leading jockey at Emerald Downs, is now training racehorses. Duane has been associated with the Thoroughbred industry for his entire life.

Duane has a master of business administration and graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree from Oregon State University. He has 11 years of experience supervising and directing non-profit organizations and has owned and managed a retail business. He and his wife, Angela, have four daughters.



Duane Belvoir



The WTBA's mission remains, as always ...

"To foster, promote and support persons who are, or who are likely to become, interested in the breeding, racing and/or improving of Thoroughbred horses in the state of Washington."

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