

# DARREN GRAY

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## BACKGROUND

- Born in Greensburg, Indiana
- Moved to Florida when I was 11 years old
- Served in the United States Navy from 1988-1993, served in the first Persian Gulf War.
- Received both my bachelor and master degree from the University of Central Florida – Orlando, FL.
- Married to Rachel Gray for fourteen (14) years and have two daughters – Taylor and Ashley.
- Currently the Assistant City Manager for the City of Clermont, Florida (20 miles northwest of Orlando)
- Responsible for day to day operations and program evaluation.

## TENNESSEE WALKING HORSE INDUSTRY INVOLVEMENT

- I currently serve on the TWHBEA Executive Committee as the Pleasure Horse Vice President.
- I am a current TWHBEA Director representing Florida and have served on the TWHBEA International Board since 1999.
- I've held various positions with my state organization – Florida Walking and Racking Horse Association.
  - President 2000-2004
  - Director 1999 and 2007
  - Treasurer 2005 and 2006

## WHAT I HOPE TO ACCOMPLISH

I have been nominated for the Owners/Exhibitors Vice President. This position illustrates what I represent. I have owned and exhibited Tennessee Walking Horses for a number of years. This past year was my first year serving on the Executive Committee and what a year to serve. The Executive Committee was split right down the middle on many issues, but I believe all organizations have similar experiences when change is involved.

As the Owners/Exhibitors Vice president I pledge to you I will **WORK WITH EVERYONE!** As the recognized breed organization, we owe every member and Tennessee Walking Horse (TWH) organization the opportunity to work and improve our horse. Although we may have different ideas on how to achieve this goal – we must include **EVERYONE.**

I believe our industry has taken great strides this year. We have had successful horse shows throughout the nation. Many organizations have worked endlessly to help make this a very successful year and I want to commend those organizations. This year has proven to us the future is what we make it. I stand firm on working with **ALL** TWH organizations – as the old saying goes we are stronger together than apart

My goal is to get this organization back on track and sit as a **PARTNER** with other TWH organizations. I believe this all begins with serving our members. We need to put a strategic plan together with the involvement from everyone – Executive Committee, Board of Directors and most of all the members. We need to look two, five, ten years out. As many of us have stated before – there is no reason why the Tennessee Walking Horse should not be the number one choice for horse enthusiasts everywhere. We need to push forward with positive exposure of our horse.

*I vow to work toward these goals and commit myself to the Executive Committee, Board of Directors and our Membership!*