

Raycom co-founder to exit company Jan. 1

Ray plans to spend more time with her children

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Charlotte-based Raycom Inc. co-founder Dee Ray is retiring Jan. 1 while another key Raycom player is mulling job possibilities.

"This is something I'm very excited about," says Ray, president of the television syndicator. "I've been thinking about this for quite some



Ray

time. I want to do some other things and spend time with my children." Her husband, Rick Ray, will remain chief executive.

The Rays founded Raycom in 1979. It's now owned by Atlanta-based Ellis Communications. The company's chief operating officer, Ray Warren, and executive vice president, Ken Haines, will also stay on.

"She has become much more involved in community and civic affairs in the last few years, so I wasn't too surprised," Haines says. "It's emotional; Dee and I are pretty close."

Dee Ray, who works with the governor's budget advisory committee, will remain a board member and serve as a consultant to Raycom. She has just adopted her third child, a 2-week-old baby.

Terry Hanson, management services president, may also be leaving. Hanson, who has worked with the Professional Golf Association and Turner Sports in the past, has been at Raycom for three years.

"Terry is on leave weighing some offers," Haines says. "He has been pursued since he came here, and we knew that would happen all along. What he's going to do now is uncertain."

Hanson refuses to disclose who he's dis-

cussed jobs with, but doesn't rule out staying at Raycom.

"I'm looking at a lot of different things right now, just weighing my options," Hanson says.

Haines says Dee Ray has been "the most dominant female sports salesperson in the past 15 years. A great deal of our success is due to her effectiveness."

Ray says her departure is a good thing for the company because it will make room for other people to advance.

"I love this company, and I think that this will mark a new day for it," she says. "One of my dreams over the past few years has been to head in more of a sales and representative direction. With some of the people we have in place, we'll be able to do that."

She says her departure has nothing to do with Ellis, which acquired Raycom earlier this year. The two companies have meshed well, she adds.

"They've been an absolute pleasure to work with. I made a presentation to them when I announced I was leaving and they were very amenable. It's a good relationship."

Raycom is one of the nation's largest television sports syndicators, broadcasting collegiate sports from the Metro, Big Ten, Pacific-10, Southwest and Atlantic Coast conferences. The company, which also has offices in New York, Chicago, Dallas and Fort Lauderdale, Fla., televises more than 500 sporting and entertainment events annually.

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