

The Southern Strider

SCWHA

January 2026



The President's Pen

As the 2026 horse show season begins, the South Carolina Walking Horse Association does so from a position of strength. Through disciplined financial management, decisive governance, and deliberate action by the Board of Directors, SCWHA is stable, prepared, and moving forward with purpose.

Financial Strength and Stewardship

The Association closed the 2025 financial year solidly in the black, establishing a strong foundation for 2026. This result reflects careful cost control, effective fundraising, and a continued commitment to fiscal responsibility. Profitable fundraisers included the Membership Calendar (\$5,500), Silent Auctions held at the Awards Gala and Championship Show (\$3,100), the Motor Scooter Raffle (\$3,200), the Low Country Classic (\$2,900), and the Championship Show (\$3,250).

By maintaining low operating and horse show management costs, the Board carried 2025 profits forward, giving the Association flexibility and momentum as the new season begins.

2025 Accomplishments

In 2025, the Board of Directors delivered measurable results. The Association provided Tennessee Walking Horses for the SC 4-H/FFA Horse Judging Competition in Clemson, reestablished the SCWHA Spring Show—the Low Country Classic—in conjunction with the Rosewood Crawfish Festival, and awarded a \$1,000 scholarship to Chelsea Cook in support of continuing education. The Board also successfully relocated the SC Championship Show to the South Carolina Fairgrounds in Columbia, supported the Big Red Barn through proceeds raised at the Championship Show, and affiliated with 17 horse shows for participation in the SCWHA High Point Program.

Strategic Priorities for 2026

The Board has set clear priorities for the year ahead. These include addressing cost pressures impacting local one-night horse shows while strengthening Saturday night competition, implementing a sponsorship program to better support affiliated shows, and increasing entries and participation at SCWHA-managed events. We will continue to expand the High Point Program by encouraging membership and participation beyond South Carolina, while also supporting legal defense efforts through targeted fundraising initiatives and horse show entry fee allocations.

Key Dates

The Low Country Classic will be held on Saturday, May 2, 2026, and the SC Championship Show will take place October 30–31, 2026, at the South Carolina Fairgrounds in Columbia.

SCWHA enters 2026 with financial stability, defined priorities, and strong leadership. We remain focused on protecting the future of our industry while delivering value to our members. I look forward to the season ahead and continued progress for the Association.

Tyler Hege



WEDGEFIELD
COUNTRY CLUB

129 Clubhouse Drive
Georgetown, SC

SCWHA GOLF TOURNAMENT

FUNDRAISING FOR THE TWH LEGAL FUND

THURSDAY

MARCH 5, 2026

12:00 NOON SHOTGUN START



PRIZES:
HOLE IN ONE,
CLOSEST TO THE
PIN, LONGEST
DRIVE AND MORE!

"GRAND CHAMPION" SPONSOR - \$700

Team entry, lunch, drinks/snacks, signage on hole, 8 free mulligans, banner displayed at event (sponsor to provide), name or logo on social media

"RESERVE CHAMPION" SPONSOR - \$400

Team entry, lunch, drinks/snacks, signage on hole

"JUDGE'S CHOICE" SPONSOR - \$350

Two player entries, lunch, drinks/snacks, Name or logo on social media

"JUDGE'S EYE" SPONSOR - \$175

One player entry, lunch, drinks/snacks, signage on closest to the pin hole

"LONGEST STRIDE" SPONSOR - \$175

One player entry, lunch, drinks/snacks, signage on longest drive hole

"WALK ON" SPONSOR - \$100

Signage on hole

"THE RUNNING WALK" SPONSOR - \$100

One player entry, lunch, drinks/snacks

Learn more at www.scwha.org

2026 Show Schedule

February

7th: SCWHA Annual Awards Gala; Staybridge Suites; Florence, S.C.

March

26th -28th: National Trainers Show; Shelbyville, T.N.

April

9th-11th: Walking in the Smokies; Sevierville, T.N.

24th-25th: NCWHA Spring Show & NCWHLA Show; Dallas, N.C.

May

1st: Florence Charity Show; Columbia, S.C.

2nd: Low Country Classic; Columbia, S.C.

15th-16th: VWRHOA Spring Spectacular; Chatham, V.A.

21st-23rd: Walking Horse Trainer's Show; Shelbyville, T.N.

June

19th-20th: WV Summer Classic; Winfield, W.V.

August

26th- September 5th: TWHNC; Shelbyville, T.N.

September

11th-12th: Bland Co Fair Show; Bland, V.A.

18th-19th: VWRHOA Celebration; Chatham, V.A.

25th-26th: Appalachian Championships; Winfield, W.V.

October

5th-10th: Racking Horse Celebration; Shelbyville, T.N.

8th-10th: NC Championships; Asheville, N.C.

15th-17th: ETWHA Fall Classic; White Pine, T.N.

30th-31st: SC Championships; Columbia, S.C.

THE LOW COUNTRY CLASSIC

SATURDAY MAY 2, 2026 | 4:00 PM

Deadline

1. RC Model
2. *Go As You Please Adult
3. Walking Two-Year-Old Amateur
4. RC Walking Trail Pleasure
5. Walking Park Pleasure 5 & Under
6. RC Walking 15.2 & Under Specialty
7. *Spotted Saddle Horse Adult
8. Amateur Walking Mares & Geldings
9. SCWHA Members Only Pleasure
- 10. Buy A Class \$300**
11. *Racking Trail Pleasure
12. Walking Lite Shod Open
13. RC Walking Show Pleasure
14. Walking Country Pleasure 5 & Under
15. SCWHA Members Only Perf.
16. Walking Juvenile 11 & Under
- 16a. Walking Juvenile 12-17
(16 & 16a to be shown
concurrently, but tied separately)
17. Walking Park Pleasure Amateur
18. Walking Three-Year-Old Amateur
19. RC Walking Mares & Geldings
20. Walking All Day Pleasure Youth
21. Walking Ladies Amateur
22. Walking Park Performance
23. *Walking AOT Pleasure
24. Walking Amateur Canter
25. *Spotted Saddle Horse Youth
26. Walking Four-Year-Old Amateur
27. Specialty Action Racking Amateur
28. Walking Country Pleasure Adult
29. *Go As You Please Youth
30. Walking 15.2 & Under Amateur
31. Walking Lite Shod Youth
- 32. Buy A Class \$300**
33. Walking Amateur Specialty
34. Walking All Day Pleasure Western
35. Walking Park Pleasure Youth
- 36. Walking AOT Performance
Championship**
- 37. *Pleasure Horse Championship**
- 38. RC Walking Open Specialty
Championship**

Location: SC State Fairgrounds; 1200

Rosewood Drive; Columbia, S.C.

Show Manager: Tyler Hege (336) 823-1678

Stalls/RV's: Tyler Hege (336) 823-1678

Affiliated with: AHS-HIO, WHTA Rider's Cup, NCWHA, SCWHA, ETWHA, AWRHA, VWRHOA, RHBAA, TWHBEA

Classes 2-35:

Entry Fees: \$35

Premiums: \$65-\$50-\$35-R-R

Classes 36 & 37:

Entry Fees: \$75

Premiums: \$175-\$100-\$75-\$45-R

Class 38:

Entry Fees: \$100

Premiums: \$300-\$200-\$100-\$75-R

AHS Inspection Fee: \$15 per entry

Stalls: \$75 **Shavings:** \$8/each

RV: \$55 per night.

Reservations must be made by **April 25th**.

*Max Shoe Size: 3/8 x 3/4

**TBA classes must be purchased by April 1st.

Requests after this date increase to
\$500 per class.

PERSONS ON FEDERAL
DISQUALIFICATION CANNOT
TRANSPORT HORSES TO THIS SHOW AND
CAN PARTICIPATE ONLY AS A SPECTATOR.



Blast From the Past



2026 SCWHA Leadership BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President: Tyler Hege

president@scwha.org
(336) 823-1678

Vice-President: Bryant Norwood

bryant.norwood@hotmail.com
(252) 915-8864

Treasurer: Page Davis Brown

treasurer@scwha.org
(336) 269-0464

Secretary: Angie Kohl

secretary@scwha.org
(843) 325-4706

Dr. Jewel Abee

Dr. Larry Heiden

Patricia Hiott

Thomas B. Kakassy

Keels Kirby

Tripp McAllister

Macy Woody-Norwood

Curtis Thompson

Beth Tucker

Committee Chairs

Awards Gala: Page Davis Brown

Youth: Macy Woody-Norwood

Scholarship: Beth Tucker

Low Country: Tyler Hege

Championship Show: Bryant Norwood

Finance: Tripp McAllister

By-Laws: Tom Kakassy

Fundraising: Angie Kohl

High Points: Bryant Norwood



Membership Renewal

Don't forget to renew your membership for the 2026 show season! Membership forms are available on the website, as well as online payment options.

*To be included in the membership directory, please submit by February 10th, 2026.



2026 BOD Meetings

February 22nd

March 15th

April 26th

June 7th

September 13th

October 18th

FLORENCE CHARITY HORSE SHOW

FRIDAY MAY 1, 2026 | 5:45 PM

1. Stick Horse
2. Walking Trail Pleasure Open
3. Walking Juvenile 17 & Under
4. RC Model
5. Walking Lite Shod Open
6. *SSH AOT
7. RC Two Year Old Open
8. Walking Lite Shod AOT
9. *Trail Pleasure Racking
10. Walking Park Pleasure AOT
11. SCWHA Members Only Perf.
12. *Go As You Please Youth
13. RC Walking Park Performance
14. *Walking All Day Pleasure Youth
15. *Walking Pleasure Rider 50 & Over
16. RC Walking Open Specialty
17. Walking Trail Pleasure Amateur

Break

18. Walking Show Pleasure Amateur
19. Specialty Action Racking Open
20. *Spotted Saddle Horse Youth
21. Walking Park Pleasure Open
22. RC Walking Three Year Old Open
23. Walking All Day Pleasure Adult
24. Walking Amateur Pony
25. Walking Country Pleasure Youth
26. Walking Park Performance Amateur
27. *Go As You Please Adult
28. Walking Lite Shod Western
29. *Spotted Saddle Horse Amateur
30. Buy A Class \$250
31. Walking Country Pleasure Adult
32. Walking Park Pleasure Western
33. RC Walking Four Year Old Open
34. Walking AOT Performance
35. Walking Amateur Specialty
- 36. *Pleasure Horse Championship**
- 37. RC Walking Horse Championship; Canter**

Location: SC State Fairgrounds; 1200

Rosewood Drive; Columbia, S.C.

Show Manager: Keels Kirby (843) 598-0535

Stalls/RV's: Tyler Hege (336) 823-1678

Ringmaster: Jules Hesse

Photographer: Debbie Bush

Announcer: Tyler Hege

Judge: Bobby Boseman

Affiliated with: AHS-HIO, SCWHA, NCWHA, WHTA Rider's Cup, TWHBEA, RHBAA, AWRHA

Classes 2-35:

Entry Fee: \$45

Premiums: \$60-\$50-\$40-R-R

Class 36:

Entry Fee: \$75

Premiums: \$175-\$100-\$75-R-R

Class 37:

Entry Fee: \$100

Premiums: \$400-\$200-\$150-R-R

Rider's Cup: \$10/entry

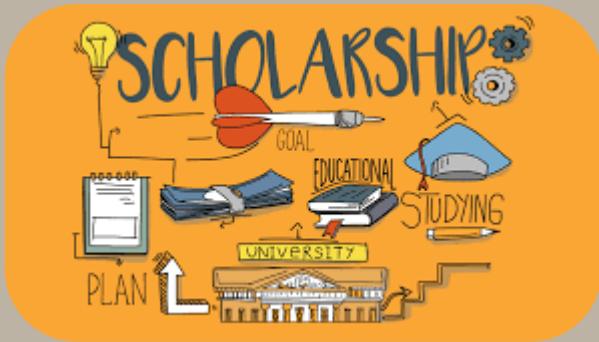
Stalls: \$75/**Shavings:** \$8/bag

Show Headquarters: Quality Inn @
Columbia Airport (803) 454-9998 \$75/night

*AHS inspection fee included in entry fees

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DISQUALIFICATION CANNOT
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SCWHA Scholarship

The annual SCWHA Scholarship application is now open and can be found at <http://scwha.org>. Applications are due online by July 1st, 2026.

Horse Show Development Funding

In an effort to help revitalize the local horse show circuit, SCWHA will be allocating funding for affiliated horse show sponsorships. Any horse show that is affiliated with the SCWHA is eligible to apply. Applications can be found by contacting Tyler Hege at president@scwha.org



2026 Annual Goals

The Board of Directors have set the following goals for 2026:

1. Prioritize Horse Show Affordability
2. Strengthen and support local horse shows through our horse show development funding.
3. Increase the SCWHA membership base to expand the high point program and association horse shows.
4. Advocate for equitable unity across the industry.



Legal Defense Funding

The Tennessee Walking Horse industry is once again at a pivotal moment. With **two active lawsuits currently requiring funding** and the **PAST Act returning to consideration in Washington**, strong legal representation and experienced lobbyists are essential to protecting our industry.

In addition to these immediate cases, **several remaining lawsuits still must be adjudicated and brought across the finish line**, including challenges involving the **scar rule**, **due process protections**, and the **preservation of the DQP program**. These cases are critical to ensuring fair enforcement and the long-term sustainability of the Tennessee Walking Horse.

How SCWHA Is Helping

SCWHA is committed to supporting the Legal Defense Fund through the following initiatives:

SCWHA Golf Tournament – Thursday, March 5**
Wedgefield Golf Course, Georgetown, S.C.

Low Country Classic – **\$5 from each entry fee** donated to the Legal Defense Fund

SC Championships – **\$10 from each entry fee** donated to the Legal Defense Fund

How Members Can Help

Members are encouraged to make **individual donations through FAST** and to participate in SCWHA events. By doing so, you not only support the Legal Defense Fund directly, but also increase SCWHA's contribution on your behalf.

These legal battles will shape the future of our industry. Your support today helps ensure the Tennessee Walking Horse remains protected, fairly regulated, and strong for generations to come.

SCWHA	BOD@SCWHA.ORG
http://scwha.org	P.O. Box 11 Timmonsville, S.C. 29161