



The South Carolina Walking Horse Association

P.O. Box 11

Timmonsville, South Carolina 29161

Monday, May 19th, 2025

Dear SCWHA Members,

We hope this message finds you well and enjoying a successful show season. As your Board of Directors, we are writing today to share important news regarding a significant change for our Championship Horse Show: beginning this year, the event will move from its longtime home in Clemson to the SC State Fairgrounds in Columbia, SC.

We understand that any change, especially one involving tradition and location, raises questions and concerns. Please know this decision was made after careful consideration, extensive discussion, and with commitment to the long-term health and sustainability of our organization and its longest running event.

Why the Move?

1. Financial Responsibility

Clemson now comes with a guaranteed expense of nearly \$15,000 in venue fees alone—an amount that has become increasingly difficult to justify. In comparison, Columbia's venue comes at just 10% of that total, allowing us to redirect resources into improvements and incentives that benefit our exhibitors, horses, and sponsors directly.

2. Scheduling Conflicts and Declining Entries

Our previous date overlapped with the NC Championship Show and fell on the same weekend as the Racking Celebration—both of which have historically limited our entries and reach. By shifting to Columbia and selecting a new weekend, we not only eliminate these conflicts but also create a much-needed recovery window for exhibitors and horses following the busy October show circuit. We're also excited about the increased potential to welcome more racking horse participants back into our show family.

3. Facility Improvements and Exhibitor Benefits

We're not just changing locations—we're also investing in the venue. Planned upgrades include a covered warm-up tent, improvements to stalls and barns, and expanded benefits for our VIP sponsors. These enhancements are designed to improve the overall



The South Carolina Walking Horse Association

P.O. Box 11

Timmonsville, South Carolina 29161

experience for everyone involved and represent our ongoing commitment to quality and comfort.

4. Lack of Growth Opportunity at Clemson

Despite multiple requests, Clemson has been unwilling to offer an alternate date. This has capped our ability to grow the show beyond 150–160 entries, year after year. Without flexibility or room to expand, we risk stagnating or even shrinking what should be a flagship event for our members.

5. Protecting the Financial Stability of Our Association

For the past 5–6 years, financing the Championship Show has been a constant challenge. Each event we've hosted has had to fund the show's expenses entirely on its own—an unsustainable model that places strain on our association's finances and future. Without proactive change, this pattern could jeopardize the stability of the Championship Show, and ultimately the association long-term.

We understand that this change may not be ideal for everyone, and we deeply value the tradition and memories built in Clemson. However, we also know that being good stewards of the organization you've entrusted to us means making difficult decisions when they are necessary for the greater good. This move reflects our commitment to transparency, growth, and the long-term health of the South Carolina Walking Horse.

As always, we welcome your feedback, your questions, and your continued involvement. We're excited about the opportunities this transition presents, and we look forward to seeing many of you in Columbia as we begin this next chapter—together.

With gratitude to serve,

The SCWHA Board of Directors

Tyler G. Hege; President
Bryant Norwood; VP
Page Davis Brown;
Treasurer
Angie Kohl; Secretary

Dr. Jewel Abee
Dr. Larry Heiden
Patricia Hiott
Thomas B. Kakassy
Tripp McAllister

Macy Woody-Norwood
Curtis Thompson
Kendra Thompson
Beth Tucker