

Quarterly Newsletter

THE SOUTH
CAROLINA WALKING
HORSE ASSOCIATION

1 March 2024



The President's Pen

As many of you are aware, our industry is facing the largest legal battle we've had in our existence. This battle stems from the regulations set in motion by the USDA that would change our breed as we know it; successfully removing HIO's, the performance horse, and eliminating many of our flat shod divisions including park pleasure, lite shod, and trail pleasure. The implementation of such regulations would also make it impossible for organizations like ours to put on successful horse shows for our charitable organizations.

In response, the governing organizations of our industry came together and created horse and exhibitor cards. Further in this newsletter, you will learn more about the need for this expense. Your board of directors strongly encourage participation in the program, regardless of the discipline or primary HIO you encounter. We offer our full support and gratitude to the leaders of TWHBEA, TWHNC, FAST, SHOW-HIO, and AHS-HIO that are working daily to ensure we can enjoy the Tennessee Walking Horse for years to come. Their faithful and steadfast dedication does not go unnoticed.

It is my goal this year to promote the practice of transparency between your elected directors and our membership. Your directors want you to be informed about what is happening in our association, and how we're responding to the modern-day challenges we face as an industry.

Throughout this newsletter, you will see many changes that we have implemented for the 2024 show season. While change is inevitable, and often necessary, please be patient as we accustom ourselves to the changing landscape of the TWH industry as we know it. We feel strongly that the changes we've made, and will continue to make, sets our association on strong footing for the uncertain ground to come.

My good friend, and fellow director Tom Kakassy, reminded me of a quote that is most fitting for our times. At the signing of the Declaration of Independence, Ben Franklin quipped "We must all hang together, or most assuredly, we shall all hang separately".

Here's to hanging together in the toughest of times,

Tyler G. Hege

Tyler G. Hege; SCWHA President
SCWHA Board of Directors



Feelin' Fancy in Florence



Members gathered together on February 10th at the Homewood Suites in Florence for our annual awards banquet.

Dr. Larry Heiden and the banquet committee put together an evening full of great food, laughter, and celebration.

Our annual calendar page fundraiser garnered an impressive \$4,500. Special thanks to our members who support this fundraiser year after year. We appreciate you!

Tom Kakassy provided the crowd with the latest updates regarding the legal battle, along with some promising news of crucial court cases to come. Leon Rembert gave a presentation on the South Carolina Horse Park, which he manages in Camden.

The BOD wishes to extend a special thank you to the following people: Debbie Wells for organizing and securing our trophies, Kathy Jamison, Jacque Atkinson, Hank & Charlene Wilson for decorating, and Darleen Buckner for always going above and beyond as Treasurer.



Scholarship Changes

The SCWHA awards \$1,000 of scholarship funds each year to our members continuing their higher education. After a review of the scholarship committee, the application has changed for 2024, including new submission deadlines.

Serving the Scholarship Committee this year are Bill McAllister, Dr. Jewel Abee, Page Davis Brown, Darleen Buckner and Alex Sinden.

A full, updated application along with scholarship rules can be found on our website.



Upcoming Events

- March 2nd: SCWHA/NCWHA Spring Fling and Fun Show. Dallas, NC
- March 30th: Palmetto Saddle Club; Sumter, SC
- April 4-6: Walking in the Smokies; Sevierville, TN
- April 26: NC Spring Show; Dallas, NC
- April 27: NCWHA Ladies Auxiliary; Dallas, NC
- May 17-18: VWRHOA Spring; Chatham, VA

For a full calendar of affiliated horse shows, visit the website at scwha.org

Banquet Highlights



Trainer of the Year

For the third consecutive year, Macy Woody-Norwood claimed Trainer of the Year with over 1,200 points. She, along with her husband Bryant, own and operate Supremacy Show Horses and Riding Academy in Blanche, NC.



Junior Horse Woman of the Year

Addyson Brown was voted as the SCWHA Junior Horse Woman of the Year. Brown is the daughter of Shane and Page Davis-Brown. Her companion, I'm Mr. Blues carried her to many SC titles. Supremacy Show Horses proudly trains the winning duo.



TWHNC Winners

SCWHA members owned 12 World Champions and World Grand Champions this year.

Sam McLaughlin accepted ribbons won by Baucom Stables, Robert Duetsch, Kathy Jamison and Debbie Wells.



Kirby wins Milly Player Achievement Award

Walker Kirby was awarded the Milly Player Achievement Award, given for the first time this year by Darleen Buckner.

Kirby, at only 15, has already garnered many academic and sports achievements. He is the grandson of Keels and Gwen Kirby.



Hall of Fame

Bill McAllister, by a vote of his fellow directors, was inducted into the SCWHA Hall of Fame at the banquet. McAllister has been a steadfast supporter of the SCWHA.

Mariel McAllister proudly presented the award while joined by other family members.

High Point Changes

The following changes have been implemented by the BOD:

- In-State shows will be worth double points. Out of state single night shows are worth single points. Out of state, multi-day shows are worth double points.
 - The SCWHA Championship Show will be worth quadruple points.
 - New HP Categories: Model Championship, Open Specialty Championship, Gaited; non-specific, Gaited Youth, All Day Championship, All Day Horse/Rider of the Year
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Championship Show Changes

Your board of directors gathered in January to begin planning our annual championship horse show. With the goal of involving new exhibitors, and the growing population of flat shod horses and exhibitors, we implemented the following changes with unanimous support from the BOD:

- Affiliated with SHOW-HIO. With our industry facing our current legal battles, your BOD was encouraged that \$15 of each entry returns back to FAST through SHOW-HIO. This is a positive for our industry and a strong show of support from our SC association.
- Many class changes have taken place this year. In viewing trends within our radius and analyzing entries from the last five years of the show, we have removed some divisions that weren't drawing entries. In turn, we have replaced those classes with pleasure and performance classes that have gained popularity within the last five years. Examples include Pick Your Partner (performance and pleasure), Model Championship, All Day Pleasure Championship, Open Specialty Championship, and Open Pleasure Championships.
- Our show dates are back in October for 2024. We have been riddled with Clemson home games, and competing for dates with other multi-day shows. When October became available, we welcomed the change. The great news? NO home game this year!
- Thousands of dollars in incentives have been added this year. Most incentives are opportunities for the owner to directly benefit, and an exciting \$750 scholarship to the winner of our Juvenile Championship.

Make plans to join us in Clemson this year! A full class sheet can be found at scwha.org

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Horse/Exhibitor Cards

In 2023, the USDA released new rules in their effort to enforce the HPA. As you've heard, the new rules will change the Tennessee Walking Horse and Racking Horse as we know it. Here are some key points in the USDA's proposed rules:

- Prohibits the use of action devices and performance packages.
- Prohibits the use of park pleasure, lite-shod, and trail pleasure shoes.
- Eliminates the HIO (horse industry organization) and replaces DQP's with certified USDA VMO's.
- Requires show managers to hire one VMO and one certified farrier for every 100 horses that participate.
- Removes industry stakeholders in the selection and training process of qualified DQP's.
- Allows USDA-trained veterinary technicians to act as APHIS representatives when the pool of trained VMO's dwindles.

In response to the rulemaking, industry leaders from TWHBEA, FAST, SHOW-HIO, TWHNC and AHS-HIO gathered to determine the best path forward. Once the rules are filed with in the register, industry attorneys will file an immediate lawsuit to challenge the USDA. As you can imagine, this is quite an expensive undertaking. To fund the legal challenges, industry leaders have proposed and implemented horse and exhibitor cards for the 2024 show season. Here are the key points:

- TWHBEA will be overseeing the horse/exhibitor card protocol.
- A horse card will be required when showing with SHOW-HIO and AHS-HIO. Horse cards are \$150 per horse and will be valid through December 31st, 2024. Horses that are exempt are: halter horses (model, weanling, foals, showmanship halter), versatility horses, and open pleasure horses (Go As You Please, Open Pleasure, Ambling, Open Gaited).
- An exhibitor card will be required for any person wishing to show under SHOW-HIO and AHS-HIO. The exhibitor card has no age restrictions and is a yearly fee of \$100.
- A horse and/or rider can show once yearly without a card, After the one freebie, the rider and horse will remain suspended until fees have been paid.
- Exhibitors showing halter horses, versatility horses, or open gaited horses (divisions defined above) do NOT need to purchase an exhibitor card.

FAQ's

1. What if I sell my horse, or purchase a new horse mid-year?

A: Horse cards follow the horse. When a horse is sold, their card transfers to the new owner.

2. When will I receive my physical cards?

A: You won't. Physical cards are not being issued. Once purchased, TWHBEA will maintain a database of all card holders and will verify the applicable entries after each show.

3. Can I purchase cards at the horse show?

A: You can purchase cards at any time online at twhbea.com, or during business hours by calling the TWHBEA offices.

4. How long will we be required to purchase yearly cards?

A: That answer is unknown and will be determined by the amount of funds needed to battle the USDA.

Aside from strong support, the SCWHA has not been involved in the process of implementing show/exhibitor cards. The information that you have is the same information that we have been relayed. Please direct any questions regarding show/exhibitor cards to TWHBEA.

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