

## **Press Release SCHC Annual Meeting & Expo 2008**

Carol Deacon, President of the South Carolina Horsemen's Council, reports that this year's Annual Business Meeting and Equine Expo was a tremendous success. The Circle M Ranch in Pelzer, SC was the host site and all enjoyed the great weather and the beautiful facility. Attendance exceeded the 650 mark set last year by about 100 people. More than 50 vendors displaying feed, trailers, trucks, tack and many other horsey items joined in the fun. In addition, a silent auction and used tack sale raised over \$1500 for the scholarship program. In 2007 the SCHC gave a \$500 SC Equine Industry Scholarship at the State Fair in Columbia. This year the Board voted to award \$1200 in scholarships. Representative Laurie Funderburk gave the crowd an update on the Equine Promotion Bill currently in committee in the SC House of Representatives.

We appreciate the involvement of our youth in the Expo. In addition to parking cars & helping throughout the day, the Junior Buffalo Soldiers opened the Expo with a stirring display of their drill team maneuvers. We were also entertained later in the day by the Upstate Ministries Youth Drill Team from Whispering Pines Stables in Mauldin, SC. In keeping with the SCHC's mission of education and sharing, the Expo presented four very knowledgeable speakers who covered topics on the national animal identification system (NAIS), general equine health, nutrition, and hoof care. The annual business meeting covered some important by-law changes and elections of officers for 2008. Following the business meeting, the large crowd of equine enthusiasts was entertained by the Parade of Breeds with over 30 different breeds of horses and mules on display, many of which were shown by our youth. These breeds ranged from the tiniest miniature horses up to the giant Percherons with everything in between. They were all beautiful and delighted the crowd.

Ms Deacon expressed her appreciation for all of the participants: sponsors, vendors, speakers, equine presenters, the Circle M Ranch, spectators, SCHC members, the Junior Buffalo Soldiers, and all of the workers that made this Expo such an overwhelming success.

The SCHC is a non-profit statewide organization that strives to represent the interests of all equine owners and enthusiasts across the state of South Carolina. For more information, check out the website at [www.schorseouncil.org](http://www.schorseouncil.org) or email [schorseouncil1@aol.com](mailto:schorseouncil1@aol.com).