

Current Members and Candidates

SC Horsemen's Council Board of Directors - 2008

President: Carol Deacon – Rock Hill

Carol and her husband, Kim, live in Rock Hill, SC. She received a BS degree from the University of Arkansas in Animal Science and Agricultural Economics (double major). She later earned an MBA from Winthrop University in Rock Hill with emphasis in finance and organizational development. She has worked for Wachovia as Operating officer - eCommerce Division and as Financial Officer - Information Technology Development Division. She has worked as Paralegal Practice Manager for Alala Mullen Holland & Cooper. Carol is involved with the Carolina Farm Stewardship Assoc., American Livestock Breeds Conservancy, St Croix Sheep Breeders Assoc, Dairy Sheep Assoc of North America (Treasurer for 2 yrs), SC Dressage and CT Association, NC Dressage and CT Association, SC Hunter/Jumper Association, and the Progressive Show Jumping Association.



An avid horse person, Carol owns & manages a boarding/training stable of 16 horses. She teaches and coaches dressage & hunter/jumper riding. In addition to horses, she raises St. Croix sheep on her farm. She enjoys taking week long trail riding trips "out West". Carol has brought excellent organizational, administrative, financial, and leadership skills to the Horsemen's Council. She was appointed Interim President in August of 2007 and has done an outstanding job of engaging the Board members in making substantial progress toward council objectives in a very short period of time. We are extremely fortunate to have someone of her caliber leading our organization.

First Vice President: Cecil Watkins - Hartsville

Cecil is married to Kaye, and has one son, Bill, daughter-in-law Susie, and 4 yr old grandson, Payne. Cecil and Kaye live in Hartsville, SC. He grew up working on his father's farm with horses and mules, using them in farming, logging and sawmilling. He has been employed by Sonoco Products Co since graduating from Clemson University in 1967. He has held various positions at Sonoco, and is currently Director of Global Engineering for the Industrial Products Division. Cecil has been active in other organizations having served as President of the Hartsville Jaycees & President of the SC Jaycees; member of New Market United Methodist Church; Masons; Shriners; Carolina Trailblazers Saddle Club; served on Advisory Board for Clemson School of Industrial Management; and 10 years on Industrial Development Board for Lee County. He served in the SC National Guard for six years. Cecil has been breeding, raising, training, and riding Tennessee Walking Horses for over 30 years and is a member of the TWH Breeders Association. He and Kaye enjoy trail riding throughout SC and many other states with occasional trips out West. This is Cecil's second year on the SCHC Board where he serves on the Annual Expo committee, the Finance committee, the SETC 2008 committee, and chairs the Nominating committee. He also serves on the trails advisory committees for H. Cooper Black and the Sandhills State Forest.



District One Director: Jamie Roberts – Honea Path

Jamie came on the board this past summer to replace a vacancy in District 1. She has brought a lot of enthusiasm to our board. She worked on obtaining less expensive mailing rates and printing costs for our newsletters. She is also working with the Expo committee. She and her husband, Steve, have 3 children: Jimmy, Ryan, Meagan, and one grandchild – Corley. They reside in Honea Path, SC. Jamie worked eleven years as a veterinary technician for Dr. Poag. She currently owns and operates Horse and Rider Supply in Williamston, SC. Jamie is an avid trail rider. We are pleased to have her on our Board.



District One Director: Terry Boger - Simpsonville

Terry has been nominated to serve as a District Director. Terry and her husband, Bill, live in Simpsonville, SC. They purchased their first horses in 1994. They have done some distance endurance rides, hunter paces, dressage, lower level eventing and trail riding. A favorite pastime is to go camping with the horses. They have also bred Irish Draught Sporthorses for eventing.. Terry has an extensive work background in sales and accounting. She is currently Controller of Community Journals, LLC publishers of the Greenville, Spartanburg and Anderson Journals. Prior to this, she was Controller of TFP Inc., a manufacture of computerized mug shot systems for Law Enforcement agencies. Terry has done extensive computer program development. She has served as Corporate Solicitor – United Way of Greenville County, Loaned Executive – United Way of Greenville County. Past Chair Friday Focus Committee - Small Business Services Board of the Greenville Chamber of Commerce. She enjoys spending her vacation at the Kentucky Horse Park attending the Rolex Three Day Event. In her spare time she does gardening, needlework, sewing and reading. Terry brings a lot of skills and equine experience to the SCHC. We are excited about getting her on our Board.



District Two Director: Ivory Johnson III - Elgin

Ivory is in his third year as a SCHC Board member. Ivory has AA and BA degrees. He is employed by Midlands Technical College as Associate Director, Student Assessment Office. Ivory is married and has four children: Ebony - 21, Ivory IV - 18, Elijah - 16, Mensa -13. Ivory is involved in various youth programs including Junior Buffalo Soldier Leadership Academy, Buffalo Soldiers Association, and Celebrate Freedom Foundation. Ivory participates in Youth Leadership Training, and serves as a motivational speaker for youth groups. Ivory is involved with horses for pleasure riding, trail riding and youth involvement. He enjoys camping with his family, mentoring, reading, and physical fitness. In addition to representing District Two on the Board of Directors, Ivory serves on the Youth and Scholarship Committees. Ivory brings excellent communications, organizational, and inter personal skills to the Board. He designed and published professional quality flyers for the Expo. He and his Buffalo Soldiers were an integral part of the 2007 SCHC Expo and made significant contributions to its success. They will also be participating in the 2008 event. Ivory is a solid and well-respected member of the SCHC Board.



District Two Director: Mary Quarles – Rock Hill

Mary and her husband, Al, have two daughters (Carolyn & Stephanie) and live in Rock Hill, SC. Mary is a 1983 graduate of Clemson University with a BS Degree in Animal Industries. She has been employed by: Lasma Arabians, Micanopy, FL; Evensong Farm, Gainesville, FL; Alachua Animal Hospital, Alachua, FL; and Newport Hardware, Rock Hill, SC. She is involved in other organizations: USEF, USEA, NCDCTA, SCDCTA, Eagle Club Board Member (Winthrop University), Colonial Dames, Signers of the Declaration of Independence, Daughters of the American Revolution, Daughters of the Confederacy. She also enjoys soccer. Mary is a Breeder of Thoroughbred & Warmblood sporthorses for dressage and eventing. She is skilled in Equine Reproduction & management. Mary is in her second year on the SCHC Board. In addition to representing District Two on the Board, Mary is involved with the Show and Legislative committees and chairs the Membership committee. Mary brings a lot of equine knowledge to the Board. She has made major improvements in our membership process.



District Three Director: Juanita Ardis – Hartsville

Juanita and her husband, Skip, are avid horse people. They own and operate Ashland Arena, sponsoring numerous equine events during the year. They also enjoy trail riding, barrel racing, cutting, and Parelli Natural Horsemanship training. Juanita attended California Polytechnic University in San Louis Obispo, CA as an Animal Science major and has an AA degree in Business Management. Juanita has one son, James Montgomery, who lives in Beaufort, SC. She has been employed with Sonoco Products Company for 25 years and is currently working out of Hartsville as a Regional Quality Engineer. Juanita is a member of the Manchester Trail Riders and is affiliated with the Parelli training organization. Juanita brings a wealth of horse knowledge, strong analytical and planning skills, and a strong work ethic to the SCHC Board.



District Four Director: John Conner, Jr. - Lexington

John lives in Lexington, SC. 2007 was John’s first year serving on the SCHC Board. He is also Vice-President of the SC Paint Horse Association. He has jumped in and started making an immediate contribution to the Horsemen’s Council. We anticipate even higher levels of participation in the future.



District Four Director: Anthony Dyches - Gilbert

Anthony lives in Gilbert, SC. Anthony has a degree in Graphics Design and has been instrumental in designing sponsor ads for bulletins. He also personally signed up numerous new members at our Annual expo last year. This is Anthony’s second year on the Board. He is currently serving on the Annual Meeting committee and the SETC committee and chairs the Publications committee. He enjoys trail riding. Anthony brings a lot of publications and communications skills to our board.



District Five Director: Natasha Vitkovic – Mt. Pleasant

Natasha is new to the SCHC. She is originally from the Washington DC area, where she competed on the Hunter/Jumper circuit primarily throughout the northeast. Natasha, a graduate of Hollins University, Roanoke, VA; competed on the Intercollegiate team, while earning her BA in Communications. Following her graduation in 2000, she worked for many top professionals in the Hunter/Jumper discipline; at all major levels of competition from Vermont to West Palm Beach, Florida. Natasha has worked for Equus Events, The Classic Company, Progressive Show Jumping, Stadium Jumping, Winter Equestrian Festival, and Equitalk, LLC. Her family is still active in the horse show community; founders of Horse Sports by the Bay, a nationally-rated summer event, located in Traverse City, MI. She is currently involved with sponsorship work for the series; having an active role in fundraising for the Equestrian Aid Foundation. Natasha has been involved in real estate sales and most recently as a Sales Agent for New York Life Insurance Company of Charleston, SC. Natasha brings a lot of energy, enthusiasm, and new ideas to our SCHC Board. We look forward to working with her. Natasha is a resident of Mt. Pleasant, SC.



District Five Director: Deanna Bass – Harleyville

Deanna came highly recommended by other equine people in her area. She and her husband, Brett, live in Harleyville, SC. She previously worked for DSM Chemicals, in Augusta, GA. She moved to Harleyville last year and now works for SCE&G in the Charleston area. Deanna enjoys trail riding and training horses. When not involved with horses, she enjoys boating, canoeing, and other outdoor activities. We are looking forward to working with Deanna to strengthen the SCHC presence in the district five area.



Director at Large: Ellen Hutto - Orangeburg

Ellen and her husband, Ed, live in Orangeburg, SC. She has a son Jason, daughter-in-law Mandy, and grand daughter Katelynn; a daughter Jessica; a daughter Jackie and grandson Ethan; and a son Dargan. Ellen graduated from Brookland Cayce High School, attended Tri-Dent Technical College, and attended clinics at Monetta Farrier Supply in Georgia. Ellen has worked as a bank teller, electrician's helper, waitress, automotive heating and air, managed Express Parts in Charlotte, and for over 10 years has been training and shoeing horses full time. Ellen bought her first horse in 1989, went to shoeing school in 1994, and apprenticed under Jim Fisher (Arabian Trainer) from 1997-2000. She managed and trained Paso Finos for Buck Ridge Stables from 2000 to 2006. She is a member of the American Farriers Association, the South Carolina Farriers Association, S.C. Arabian horse Assoc., Secretary of Professional Paso Fino Trainers Assoc., and USEF. She enjoys golfing, welding, and being creative. Ellen is in her second year on the SCHC Board. Last year she championed and served as Chairperson of the Annual Meeting and Equine Expo 2007 for the Council. She is currently chairing the Expo committee for 2008. Ellen brings a lot of equine knowledge, enthusiasm, and experience to the Board.



Director at Large: Betty Rankin - Catawba

Betty and her husband, Jim, live on their family farm near Catawba, SC. Their son, John, lives in Virginia. She received her BA in History from Winthrop College and a Master of Education from Cambridge College. Betty has been an educator for over 34 years and spent 30 years teaching students with disabilities in Loudoun County, VA. She was the recipient of numerous awards and grants before retiring in 2002. Prior to Virginia she taught in Tampa, FL and Caracas, Venezuela. She is a North American Riding for the Handicapped (NARHA) certified instructor and was Program Director for the Rainbow Center 4-H Therapeutic Riding for the Handicapped in Manassas, VA. Betty has over 50 years of experience with horses and was privileged to study Forward Seat riding and Dressage with old masters including Alexis Wrangel (Captain Littauer's student who wrote 2 chapters in Commonsense Horsemanship). Since moving to SC in 2004 she has become involved in many organizations including ASC Greenway where she volunteers for handicapped riding; SCARE; Arabian Horse Association; Historic Rock Hill; Rock Hill/York County Saddle Club; Nations Ford Land Trust; The Old Edgefield District Genealogical Society; and the Catawba Chapter of the DAR. She is a former member of the VA Horse Council; Bull Run Hunt; both the VA and SC TB Associations; and co-founder and treasurer of Northwest Prince William (VA) Citizens Association. She has served from 1988 to the present as President and co-founder of Save the Battlefield Coalition. She enjoys genealogy, reading, and being involved in planning for the future through preservation of open space, land use, and alternative transportation. She currently owns 2 horses and trail rides for pleasure. Betty brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to our Board.



Director at Large: Dee Cross - Central

Dee and his wife Betty Jo live in Central, SC. They have a daughter, Deena Jo, and a son, Bruce. Dee earned his BS degree from Austin Peay State Univ. in Clarksville, TN and his MS and PhD at the University of Kentucky. Dee has over 30 years in research, teaching, and university extension work. He has been involved with equine Research at Clemson University and at the corporate level for the past 20 years. He is a Professor Emeritus of Animal & Veterinarian Science at Clemson. He serves as President/CEO of Equi-Tox, Inc, a pharmaceutical research and development company that he founded. Dee belongs to the American Society of Animal Science, he is Board Certified on the American



Registry of Animal Scientists, a member of the Equine Nutrition and Physiology Society, and a member of the American Horse Council. Dee has also been involved with his cattle farm since 1973. He has been a member of the SCHC since its beginning. He enjoys working cattle with horses and trail riding. He also enjoys golf and flying as a pilot. Dee joined us on the Board this past November. We are truly excited to have someone with Dee's experience, knowledge, and expertise willing to serve on our Board.

Director at Large: Bill Steele – Fort Mill

Bill is the Director of the Ann Springs Close Greenway in Fort Mill, SC. Bill, his wife, Janet, son Will, and daughter, Baillie are an equestrian family. Bill manages 54 horses for the Greenway and boards an additional 32 horses for area people. Bill graduated from Clemson University with a BS in Forest Management in 1986 & a MS in Wetland Ecology in 1993. He has worked as a computer hardware technician for National Computer Corp. He worked as a Graduate Assistant at Clemson, and an Ag. Science Associate. He worked for the NC Forest Service as a Water Quality Forester in Rocky Mount, Whiteville, and Mt. Holly, NC. He also worked for the SC Forestry Commission as a BMP Forester in Walterboro, SC prior to taking his current position with Leroy Springs & Co. in 2000. Bill is a Certified Prescribed Fire Manager, certified chainsaw operator, IFR/Seaplane pilot rating, and mule skinner. He belongs to the Society of American Foresters, SC Registered Forester # 1431, NC Registered Forester # 1055. In his spare time, he enjoys bow hunting and fly fishing. Bill came onto our Board this past summer and has become active in helping with the SETC as well as becoming a valuable source of knowledge on equine trails management.



Director at Large: Hayward Simmons, Jr. – Fairfax

Hayward and his wife, Dona, own and operate Lakeview Plantation at Barnwell, SC which is a trail riding and horse camping facility in Allendale County, SC. They also operate Lakeview Plantation Equestrian Escapes, a cross-country trail riding & horse camping outfitting service. They have a daughter, Heather, who is married and lives in Anderson, SC. Hayward is an avid horseman and trail rider. He is hosting RFD Ride America with Tom Seay again this year for the second year in a row. Hayward attended Florida Southern College. He has worked as a Farmer, Outdoorsman, Hunting Lodge/Horse Camp Operator, and Hunting/Trail Riding Outfitter. He is very knowledgeable and experienced in all aspects of trails management and conducting organized trail rides. When not riding, Hayward is involved in other activities: he is a member of Clemson University School of Forestry & Natural Resources Advisory Board and a member of the South Carolina Parks Recreation & Tourism Regional (Thoroughbred Country) Advisory Board. He also enjoys doing some hunting and fishing. Hayward came onto the Board in November and has already participated in our SCHC Planning session and is eager to make improvements in the council activities. He brings a tremendous amount of talent and enthusiasm to the Board.



Meet Your Board Appointed Officers for 2008

Treasurer: Donna Patterson – Clemson

Donna and her husband, George, live in Clemson, SC. They have one daughter, Angela Mettlen, and one grand daughter Holly Mettlen. Donna is a graduate of Pendleton High School, Forrest Junior College, and SC School of Banking at USC. She has taken additional finance courses from Furman University. Donna has 25 years in banking, having previously worked with Wachovia and currently working as senior Vice President of Capital Bank in Clemson. Donna and her husband are members of the Pendleton Saddle Club where she also serves as Treasurer. Both are avid trail riders. Donna credits her love of horses to her grandfather who raised and raced harness horses. She is active in other organizations as Secretary of the Rotary Club of Clemson-Calhoun; board member of Clemson Child Development Center; and Past chairman of Clemson Area Chamber of Commerce. She is active at Rock Springs Baptist Church of Easley. In her spare time, Donna likes single action shooting and camping. Donna has taken charge of the Council finances and is providing detailed monthly reports to the Board of Directors. She has done an excellent job of organizing this area and providing Board members with much needed information. She brings excellent financial, organizational and administrative skills to the Board.



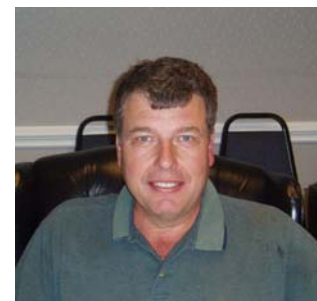
Secretary: Kaye Watkins - Hartsville

Kaye and her husband, Cecil, live in Hartsville, SC. Kaye is a graduate of Cheraw High School, attended Coastal Carolina, and graduated from Florence-Darlington Technical College. She worked for many years as a Dental Assistant at Conner's in Hartsville and as a Physician's assistant at Women's Care OB-GYN in Hartsville. She is currently President of the Carolina Trailblazers Saddle Club where she also serves as newsletter Editor. She is active in New Market United Methodist Church. Kaye and Cecil are avid trail riders, riding as many different trails as they can throughout SC and surrounding states with occasional trips out West. They breed, raise, and ride Tennessee Walking Horses on their farm in Darlington County. Kaye is active in all aspects of farm life from driving the tractors, building fences, building the barn, and tending the horses. Her passion is working in her flower garden and digging in the dirt. She also enjoys learning big words from her four year old grandson who says he is going to be a paleontologist (whatever that is). Kaye has served as Secretary this past year, setting new standards in getting minutes out after the meetings. She is also serving as Sponsor Chairman for the SETC, working on the Expo committee, and handling the SCHC email.



Vice President Governmental Affairs – Tim Sigmon - Union

Tim is a graduate of NC State University with a BS degree in Forestry. He currently operates his own farrier business. Tim, his wife, Sandra and sons Cody & Cole reside on their family farm in Union, SC. Tim has served on the SCHC board of directors as Director at Large. He has chaired the Legislative Committee and has been active in working with other organizations in reaching an agreement on an Equine Promotional Bill that the SCHC can support. Tim is a member of the American Farriers Association, SC Farriers Association, and is active in the Farm Bureau. Tim was recently appointed by the Board to the new position of Vice-President Governmental affairs to further strengthen our interaction with legislators. Tim enjoys working and driving draft horses. He owns several horses and lots of horse drawn equipment. His friends say that he is really interested in Hamster breeding and racing, but we've never seen them. Tim brings a lot of drive and energy to the council. He is extremely persistent and constantly seeks to improve the equine industry throughout the state.



Vice-President External Activities - Jim Edwards - Laurens

Jim and his wife, Anne, live in Laurens, SC. They have two sons (Reed & Todd) and a daughter (Suzanne). Jim graduated from the University of South Carolina with a degree in Business Administration. After four years in the US Air Force, he earned his Juris Doctor degree from the USC Law School. He retired in 1964 after 17 years as Instructor/Coordinator of the Criminal Justice Program at Piedmont Technical College. Prior to that position, he was engaged in private law practice for 15 years. Jim has served as an elder at Westminster Presbyterian Church in Clinton, SC.



Jim and his son, Reed, breed, raise, and train Quarter Horses on their farm in Laurens. Jim is an avid trail rider and student of various training methods. He also enjoys gardening. He is an active member of the Pendleton Area Saddle Club and rides extensively throughout SC and the Southeast with occasional packing/riding trips to the western states and Canada. In addition to representing District One on the Board for the past two years, Jim serves as Chairman of the Southeastern Equestrian Trails Conference that is being hosted by the SCHC in 2008. Jim is actively involving state, federal, and local agencies who operate public trails in South Carolina in the planning for this event. He is also the Chairman of the SC Public Trails Committee.

Jim is totally committed to making the Southeastern Equestrian Trails Conference an event that will be a source of pride to all South Carolinians. He has worked tirelessly since March of 2007, forming an alliance with state & federal agencies, assembling an excellent planning committee of talented & experienced people, securing grants, obtaining national caliber speakers, negotiating hotel arrangements, working with past conference hosts, and the numerous other tasks associated with planning and executing an event of this size. In addition to the work on the SETC, Jim still meets with state parks & other state lands officials to address specific trails issues impacting trail riders. Jim has brought a quiet, strong leadership to the Horsemen's Council at a very critical time. We are extremely appreciative of his efforts and grateful for having him on the Board.

Summary

As you can see, some outstanding candidates have been nominated to the SCHC Board of Directors for 2008. Several of them have been working together on the board for some time and have formed strong friendships as well as good working relationships. A large number of new people are being brought in to offer new thinking and new ideas in order to continue to improve this organization and assure that we are meeting the needs of equine people across our state. All of these candidates have strong backgrounds in the economic and/or recreational aspects of the equine industry. Many bring excellent relationships with legislators and agency managers to the party. The group is very diverse with breeders, show people, trail riders, trainers, harness driving, trail managers, farriers, equine business owners, insurance providers, youth groups, educators, attorneys, bankers, accountants, engineers, business managers, secretaries, and much more. This group possesses a wide diversity of skills, experiences, knowledge, and talents that compliment each other. Remember that these are all volunteers who give up their personal time and pay their own expenses to try to make a difference for all equine owners across the state. If all of us get behind these officers and directors, and pitch in where we can, then the SC Horsemen's Council can be the strong, dynamic force we need it to be in shaping the future of our industry.