

ASAC 2026 Annual Meeting and Awards

The American Saddlebred Association of the Carolinas (ASAC) held its annual membership meeting and awards banquets on February 7, 2026 in Winston-Salem, NC. Legacy Stables & Events hosted the event for the fifth year. A former Saddlebred training barn and academy powerhouse, Legacy is now a popular special events and wedding venue.

The academy riders had their very own luncheon on Saturday where the spotlight shown on their 2025 achievements. Forty-one riders from seven barns were also recognized with certificates representing ASHBA academy gold, silver, and bronze medallions. Attendees enjoyed a lively panel discussion moderated by Wyatt Lilly and Youth Liaison Erica Rector. Panelists were Paul Boone (UPHA President), Mary Lou Carrick (trainer/judge), Matt and Lindsay Lightner (trainers/instructors), and the Lightners' WC equitation rider Indie Boucher.

Lola Kellam from Lenux Stables won the Sparky Award which goes to the rider who earns the highest overall point total in the Academy Division. Lola topped 202 eligible riders by winning Walk-Trot 7-8 Year Olds in Equitation and Showmanship.

At Saturday's general membership meeting, the following officers and board members were elected:

President – Erin Fann
Vice-President – Cindy Thompson
Secretary – Betsy Boone
Treasurer – Kim Williams-Griffin
NC Corresponding Secretary – Kathy Carpenter
SC Corresponding Secretary – Allison Lazar
Show Affiliate – Erin Fann
SC Amateur – Duncan Huyler
NC Amateur – Kari Hampton

Carol Addison was also elected to serve on the Nominating Committee for the coming year.

Saturday night's banquet featured ASAC High Point Equitation, Performance, and Special Award winners.

Special appreciation goes to Margaret Poovey, Sondra Warren, and the entire Legacy staff who always tend to every little detail, and Wyatt Lilly, who served as master of ceremonies. A long-time ASAC tradition, John and Erin Fann of EventMix provided that extra touch with their slide shows at the luncheon and dinner so attendees could not only follow along with all the winners' names on the big screen, but also see many of those winners in the show ring. EventMix generously provided free downloads of all photos from the luncheon and dinner.

At the end of the evening, attendees were treated with a special surprise, an inflatable Cash Cube loaded with \$2,000 in dollar bills in various denominations. Everyone was given a free ticket when they signed in at the start of the evening. One ticket at a time was drawn with each lucky winner given 20 seconds to grab as much as possible as the bills blew around the inside of the cube. Tickets were drawn until the money ran out. What fun!

2025 ASAC High Point Winners

Place	Horse	Owner	Barn
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FIVE-GAITED

Five-Gaited Open:

1st	Blow Out The Candles	Annette Greene/Corbin Bumgarner	High Caliber Stables
2nd	You Gonna Kiss Me Or Not	Kim Williams-Griffin (lessee)	Jon Walker Stables
3rd	Wingswept Dreamweaver	John & Katherine Singleton	Heritage Stables

Five-Gaited Ladies:

1st	Joseph	Swope Equine Investments	West Wind Stables
2nd	Fashion Forward	Thomas Brock	High Caliber Stables
3rd	Don Corleone	My Bucket List LLC	Boone's Farm & Stables

Five-Gaited Amateur:

1st	Midd's Delaney	Swope Equine Investments	West Wind Stables
2nd	Big Tony	Pair of Jacks Stables	High Caliber Stables
3rd	CH Ridgefields Dancing Soldier	Ellen Susman	West Wind Stables

Five-Gaited Jr Exhibitor:

1st	McClean	Scott Rodland	Four Oaks Farm & Stables
2nd	Monnington Veiled Mistress	Vickie Byrd	High Caliber Stables
3rd	Torrential Kiss NKF	Suzanne & Ella Yeatts	Ingleside Farm

Five-Gaited Pony:

1 st	The Way I Am	Lyla VanderSpuy	Lenux Stables
2 nd	Leatherwood's Eveready	Sally Walser	Majestic Stables

THREE-GAITED

Three-Gaited Open:

1st	Ginger Grant	Stonebreaker Equine Investments	Silvers Stables
2 nd (t)	President Truman	Graceless Farm	Boone's Farm & Stables
2 nd (t)	Walterway's Gracie Slick	Cassandra & Garner Tydings	Jon Walker Stables
3 rd	SH Moonlight Delight	Lisa Shorter	High Caliber Stables

Three-Gaited Ladies:

1 st	SH Michael Douglas	Swope Equine Investments	West Wind Stables
2 nd	Undulata's Fannie May	Isabel Skains	High Caliber Stables
3 rd	SH Moonlight Delight	Lisa Shorter	High Caliber Stables

Three-Gaited Amateur:

1 st	CH Perfect Elizabeth	Holly Johnson	Ingleside Farm
2 nd	SH Moonlight Delight	Lisa Shorter	High Caliber Stables
3 rd	President Truman	Graceless Farm	Boone's Farm & Stables

Three-Gaited Jr Exhibitor:

1 st	Southern Hemisphere	Kati Silvers (lessee)	Silvers Stables
2 nd	Sunset's I Love Vegas	Sally Walser	Majestic Stables
3 rd	Kalarama's Nutty Buddy	Lindsay Cobb & Hayley Cobb	Silvers Stables

Three-Gaited Pony:

1 st	Revere	Carolyn Shirley	Boone's Farm & Stables
2 nd	Leatherwood's Eveready	Sally Walser	Majestic Stables
3 rd	HS Mighty Maria	5 B Investments	Lenux Stables

FINE HARNESS**Fine Harness Open:**

1 st	Monnington Marigold Queen	Vickie Byrd	High Caliber Stables
2 nd	Scream Machine	Cindy Thompson	Shiflet Stables
3 rd	Arrowhead's Different Breed of Cat	Swope Equine Investments	West Wind Stables

Fine Harness Amateur:

1 st	Arrowhead's Different Breed of Cat	Swope Equine Investments	West Wind Stables
2 nd	I'm On Fire	Swope Equine Investments	West Wind Stables
3 rd	Monnington Marigold Queen	Vickie Byrd	High Caliber Stables

THREE-GAITED PARK**Three-Gaited Park Open:**

1 st (t)	Miranda's Marc	Pair of Jacks Stables	High Caliber Stables
1 st (t)	My Beauty Queen RWF	Stonebreaker Equine Investments	Silvers Stables
2 nd	Word For Word	Ledet Ventures	Boone's Farm & Stables
3 rd	Riverdreams' Spitfire	Dove Ventures	High Caliber Stables

Three-Gaited Park Amateur:

1 st	Live From Vegas	Alexandria Cedrone	Boone's Farm & Stables
2 nd	Soul Singer	Pender Ridge Farm	West Wind Stables
3 rd (t)	CH Twice The Dice	Kate & Joseph Michalek	Boone's Farm & Stables
3 rd (t)	Riverdreams' Spitfire	Dove Ventures	High Caliber Stables

Three-Gaited Park Jr Exhibitor:

1 st	Furioso	Julianne Goguen	Ingleside Farm
2 nd	My Crazy Ex-Girlfriend	Allyann Guinn	Boone's Farm & Stables
3 rd	Live From Vegas	Alexandria Cedrone	Boone's Farm & Stables

PARK PLEASURE**Park Pleasure:**

1 st	Tucson Arizona	Elizabeth Newsom Howell	Boone's Farm & Stables
2 nd	CH Simon Cowell	Allison MacLean	Boone's Farm & Stables
3 rd (t)	Look Of Eagles	Swope Equine Investments	West Wind Stables
3 rd (t)	She's That Girl	Fox Grape Farms	High Caliber Stables

SHOW PLEASURE**5-Gaited Show Pleasure Adult:**

1 st	Fortune's Tidal Wave	Doug & Lou Anne Harris	Shiflet Stables
2 nd	CH Heidi	Pair of Jacks Stables	High Caliber Stables
3 rd	Shiftin' Gears	Trotalota Saddlebreds LLC	Jon Walker Stables

5-Gaited Show Pleasure Jr Exhibitor:

1 st	God's Plan	Lauren Tompkins	Landon Farm
2 nd	Sir Henry Higgins	Megan Morris	High Caliber Stables
3 rd	Torrential Kiss NKF	Suzanne & Ella Yeatts	Ingleside Farm

3-Gaited Show Pleasure Adult:

1 st	Undulata's North Star	Thomas Brock	High Caliber Stables
2 nd	Kalarama Shine	Sandy Wierman	Boone's Farm & Stables
3 rd	It's The Mad Hatter	Amy Cedrone	Boone's Farm & Stables

3-Gaited Show Pleasure Jr Exhibitor:

1 st	CH Nobody Knows	Anna Loney	Lenux Stables
2 nd	Marvin Hamlich	Frank & Angie Buie	Scotland Saddlebreds
3 rd	Stacks On Deck	Stacy Watkins	Chestnut Lane

Show Pleasure Driving:

1 st	Black Tie Only	Laura Cedrone	Boone's Farm & Stables
2 nd	Sylvanhall Highly Classified	Dr. Joe Kinnarney	High Caliber Stables
3 rd (t)	Arm Candy	Annette Greene/Corbin Bumgarner	High Caliber Stables
3 rd (t)	Snowboard	Allyann Guinn	Landon Farm

COUNTRY PLEASURE**Country Pleasure Adult:**

1 st	Nutcracker's Derby Day	Jeanne Frazer/Boyd Wainscott	Ingleside Farm
2 nd	Suddenly Speechless	Dove Ventures	High Caliber Stables
3 rd	Happy Ever After	Lanier Jordan Equine	Boone's Farm & Stables

Country Pleasure Jr Exhibitor:

1 st	Rosridge's Rock Star	Isabel Crane	Landon Farm
2 nd	Balboa	Kaitlyn Robinson	Boone's Farm & Stables
3 rd	Pistol Made Of Roses	Mannella	Landon Farm

Country Pleasure AOT

1 st	Nutcracker's Sweet Memories	Sarah Musser	AOT
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Hunter Country Pleasure:

1 st	CH Candle Magic	Carol Addison	Summer Chase
2 nd	Callaway's Dauphin	Lisa Jordan-Pearce	AOT
3 rd	Cougar Cocktail	Tim & Bobbie Hughes	Boone's Farm & Stables

Western**Country Pleasure:**

1 st	Divine Decree	Jeff Shelley	Scotland Saddlebreds
2 nd	A Splash Of Fire	Vicki Combs/Sheila Wingler	Gallant Stables
3 rd	CH Oh So Debonhair	Carol Addison/Asa Stafford	Gallant Stables

Country Pleasure Driving:

1 st	SHS Grand Reflection	Polly Johnston	Boone's Farm & Stables
2 nd	CH Katharine the Great	Dr. Joe Kinnarney	High Caliber Stables
3 rd	MBA's Blue On Black	Donna Bush	Lenux Stables

PLEASURE WALK/TROT DIVISION

Pleasure Walk & Trot 12 & Under:

1 st	William Dafoe	Nicole & John Stonebreaker	Silvers Stables
2 nd	CH Get Crackin'	Parker Noble	Ingleside Farm
3 rd	Moonchaser	Danielle Styles	Landon Farm

ALPHA PLEASURE

Alpha English Pleasure WTC

1 st	Monnington Adaline	Lauren Lavinder	Ingleside Farm
2 nd	Billion Heir's Good Friday	Lisa Schulte	Silvers Stables

ROAD HORSE

Road Horse to Bike Open:

1 st	Winning Max	Holly Ackerman	Break-Away Farm
2 nd	Gabe The Bear Dean	Duncan Huyler	Angel View Farm
3 rd	She's Outa Sight	Holly Ackerman	Break-Away Farm

Road Horse to Bike Amateur:

1 st	Overandovervictory	Duncan Huyler	Angel View Farm
2 nd	Live Wire	Holly Ackerman	Break-Away Farm
3 rd	Getcha Sum	Swope Equine Investments	West Wind Stables

Road Horse Under Saddle:

1 st	Wheels Up	Cassandra & Garner Tydings	Jon Walker Stables
2 nd	She's Outa Sight	Holly Ackerman	Break-Away Farm
3 rd	Power Stroke	Graceless Farm/Chris Bishop	Gallant Stables

ROAD PONY

Road Pony Open:

1 st	X-Treme Encounter	Holly Ackerman	Break-Away Farm
2 nd	Little Miss Spider	Bent Tree Farm	Heritage Stables
3 rd	Sinatra	Georgette "Cookie" Palassis	Jon Walker Stables

Road Pony Amateur:

1 st	Jimmy Stewart	Sarah Nichol	Heritage Stables
2 nd	Sinatra	Georgette "Cookie" Palassis	Jon Walker Stables
3 rd (t)	Awesome Anticipation	Tim & Bobbie Hughes	Boone's Farm & Stables
3 rd (t)	Heartland Cool Kid	Amy Calisto	Ingleside Farm

Road Pony Jr Exhibitor:

1 st	Gilcrest's Billy Doux	Lauren Tompkins	Landon Farm
2 nd	Heartland Sassafras	Julianne Goguen	Ingleside Farm

Road Pony Under Saddle:

1 st	Heartland Love That Girl	Lauren Tompkins	Landon Farm
2 nd	Awesome Anticipation	Tim & Bobbie Hughes	Boone's Farm & Stables
3 rd	Heartland Country King	Jeoff Bodenhorst	Lenux Stables

HACKNEY PONY**Open:**

1 st	Charlotte's Web	Tammy Whitworth	Boone's Farm & Stables
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Amateur:

1 st	Irresistible	Drs. Gary Crump/Nancy Trent	Heritage Stables
2 nd	Charlotte's Web	Tammy Whitworth	Boone's Farm & Stables

HARNESS PONY**Open:**

1 st	Kilbro's Unimagineable	Bent Tree Farm	Heritage Stables
2 nd	CH LLF She's Unforgettable	Denise Trethaway	Jon Walker Stables
3 rd	Maid Of Honor	Bent Tree Farm	Heritage Stables

Amateur:

1 st	Steely Dan	Bent Tree Farm	Heritage Stables
2 nd	CH LLF She's Unforgettable	Denise Trethaway	Jon Walker Stables

HACKNEY PLEASURE PONY**Driving:**

1 st	CH Heartland Sing My Song	Julianne Goguen	Ingleside Farm
2 nd	Voila	Lyndsey Parker	Heritage Stables
3 rd	CH Mighty Man	Diane Dorsey (lessee)	Jon Walker Stables

Under Saddle:

1 st	CH Honor Bound	Caitlyn Evans	Ingleside Farm
2 nd	Heartland Out & About	Sally Walser	Majestic Stables

EQUITATION**Saddle Seat WTC 14-17**

1 st	Eloise Eirich	Boone's Farm & Stables
2 nd	Emma Huffstetler	Jon Walker Stables
3 rd	Haley Rodland	Four Oaks Farm & Stables

Saddle Seat WTC 13 & Under

1 st	Madison Kelly	Feather Ridge Equestrian
2 nd	Sally Walser	Majestic Stables
3 rd	Nora McNair	Landon Farm

Pleasure Equitation

1 st	Catie Evans	Ingleside Farm
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2nd (t) Isabel Buie
2nd (t) Laken Zimmerman
3rd Nora McNair

Scotland Saddlebreds
Scotland Saddlebreds
Landon Farm

Saddle Seat WT 12 & Under

1st Indie Boucher
2nd Eva Stonebreaker
3rd Oliver Styles

Chestnut Lane
Sivers Stables
Landon Farm

ACADEMY

Elite WTC Equitation

1st Grayson Stamey
2nd Lacie Mauldin
3rd Hayden Collins

Boone's Farm & Stables
Creekwood Riding Academy
Boone's Farm & Stables

Elite WTC Showmanship

1st Hayden Collins
2nd Grayson Stamey
3rd Lacie Mauldin

Boone's Farm & Stables
Boone's Farm & Stables
Creekwood Riding Academy

Adult WTC Equitation

1st Liz Wilson
2nd Frederick Baiz
3rd Ashley Schroeder

Jon Walker Stables
Lenux Stables
Lenux Stables

Adult WTC Showmanship

1st Liz Wilson
2nd Frederick Baiz
3rd Ashley Schroeder

Jon Walker Stables
Lenux Stables
Lenux Stables

14-17 WTC Equitation

1st Olivia Sauer
2nd Sydney Mayhew
3rd Dakota McCarthy

Boone's Farm & Stables
Boone's Farm & Stables
Jon Walker Stables

14-17 WTC Showmanship

1st Olivia Brooks
2nd Dakota McCarthy
3rd Sydney Mayhew

High Caliber Stables
Jon Walker Stables
Boone's Farm & Stables

13 & Under WTC Equitation

1st Kennedy Blue
2nd Riley Auckland
3rd Julie Saunders

High Caliber Stables
Silverlin Farm
High Caliber Stables

13 & Under WTC Showmanship

1st Kennedy Blue
2nd Jillian Gardner
3rd Riley Auckland

High Caliber Stables
Creekwood Riding Academy
Silverlin Farm

1st Year WTC Equitation

1 st	Jordyn Robinson	Boone's Farm & Stables
2 nd	Ashlyn Vaughn	Jon Walker Stables
3 rd	Bexleigh Mahoney	Creekwood Riding Academy

1st Year WTC Showmanship

1 st	Ashlyn Vaughn	Jon Walker Stables
2 nd	Jordyn Robinson	Boone's Farm & Stables
3 rd	Hailey Lemonis	Chestnut Lane

Hunt Seat Equitation WTC

1st	Annie Latunski	RockView Farm
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Hunt Seat Showmanship WTC

1st	Annie Latunski	RockView Farm
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Adult WT Equitation

1st	Wendy James	Silvers Stables
2nd	Linda Greene	Silvers Stables
3rd	Tina Stevens	Silvers Stables

Adult WT Showmanship

1st	Wendy James	Silvers Stables
2nd	Linda Greene	Silvers Stables
3rd	Tina Stevens	Silvers Stables

14-17 WT Equitation

1st	Maggie Barnwell	Silvers Stables
2nd	Katie Burris	Boone's Farm & Stables
3rd	Caitlin Riefner	Lakeside Stables

14-17 WT Showmanship

1st	Maggie Barnwell	Silvers Stables
2nd	Chrisette Tesseneer	High Caliber Stables
3rd (t)	Katie Burris	Boone's Farm & Stables
3rd (t)	Caitlin Riefner	Lakeside Stables

11-13 WT Equitation (largest Academy division)

1st	Tabitha Cherry	Chestnut Lane
2nd	Caitlin Beierwaltes	Chestnut Lane
3rd	Elizabeth Mead	Jon Walker Stables

11-13 WT Showmanship

1st	Caitlin Beierwaltes	Chestnut Lane
2nd (t)	Tabitha Cherry	Chestnut Lane
2nd (t)	Madelyn Leonard	Boone's Farm & Stables
3rd	Elizabeth Mead	Jon Walker Stables

1st Year 11 & Over WT Equitation

1st	Eleanor Wilde	Jon Walker Stables
2nd	Brianna Scarnato	Lenux Stables

3rd	Courtney Beall	Boone's Farm & Stables
1st Year 11 & Over WT Showmanship		
1st	Eleanor Wilde	Jon Walker Stables
2nd	Courtney Beall	Boone's Farm & Stables
3rd	Brianna Scarnato	Lenux Stables
9-10 WT Equitation		
1st	Caroline Holland	Jon Walker Stables
2nd	Arabelle Fiscina	Lakeside Stables
3rd	Madeleine Baiz	Lenux Stables
9-10 WT Showmanship		
1st	Zoe Beal	Feather Ridge Equestrian
2nd	Caroline Holland	Jon Walker Stables
3rd	Arabelle Fiscina	Lakeside Stables
7-8 WT Equitation		
1st	Lola Kellam	Lenux Stables
2nd	Caroline Kuzma	High Caliber Stables
3rd	Neeva Trivedi	High Caliber Stables
7-8 WT Showmanship		
1st	Lola Kellam	Lenux Stables
2nd	Esmeralda Miller	Jon Walker Stables
3rd	Caroline Kuzma	High Caliber Stables
6 and Under, WT Equitation		
1 st	Ellis Orr	High Caliber Stables
2nd	Hannah Pridgen	Majestic Stables
3rd	Adley Varnadore	High Caliber Stables
6 and Under, WT Showmanship		
1 st	Ellis Orr	High Caliber Stables
2nd	Hannah Pridgen	Majestic Stables
3rd	Adley Varnadore	High Caliber Stables
1st Year 10 & Under WT Equitation		
1st	Isla Boucher	Chestnut Lane
2nd	Carly Tierney	Chestnut Lane
3rd	Uma Tibb	Chestnut Lane
1st Year 10 & Under WT Showmanship		
1st	Carly Tierney	Chestnut Lane
2nd	Isla Boucher	Chestnut Lane
3rd (t)	Lilian Kuzma	High Caliber Stables
3rd (t)	Uma Tibb	Chestnut Lane
Hunt Seat Equitation WT:		
1st	Harvest Revels	Feather Ridge Equestrian
2nd	Lora Barbour	Feather Ridge Equestrian
3rd	Maddie Buller	Lakeside Stables
Hunt Seat Showmanship WT:		

1st	Harvest Revels	Feather Ridge Equestrian
2nd	Lora Barbour	Feather Ridge Equestrian
3rd	Maddie Buller	Lakeside Stables

Driving

1 st	Heidi Rodland	Four Oaks Farm & Stables
2 nd	Tammy Whitworth	Boone's Farm & Stables
3 rd	Drew Riehle	High Caliber Stables

The Sparky Award

THE SPARKY AWARD was established by the Chestnut Lane Riding Academy in loving memory of Sparky, a beloved lesson horse. It is presented each year to the rider with the highest total academy points for the show season and can be won only once by the same rider.

The top three from 202 eligible riders:

- Wendy James – Adult Walk/Trot – Silvers Stables
- Lola Kellam – 7-8 Walk/Trot – Lenux Stables
- Liz Wilson –Adult Walk/Trot/Canter – Jon Walker Stables

During the 2025 season the winner earned points at a total of 9 horse shows. All but three of her ribbons were firsts and seconds. What a tremendous accomplishment!

Congratulations to this year’s winner of the Sparky Award

Lola Kellam from Lenux Stables

HIGH POINT BARNs

PERFORMANCE – Top 10

- Boone's Farm & Stables – Champion**
- High Caliber Stables – Reserve Champion**
- Ingleside Farm
- Landon Farm
- West Wind Stables
- Silvers Stables
- Heritage Stables
- Jon Walker Stables
- Lenux Stables
- Break-Away Farm

ACADEMY – Top 10

- Lenux Stables – Champion**
- High Caliber Stables – Reserve Champion**
- Jon Walker Stables
- Boone's Farm & Stables
- Chestnut Lane
- Lakeside Stables

Silvers Stables
Creekwood Riding Academy
Ingleside Farm
Feather Ridge Equestrian

CAROLINAS' FUTURITY AWARDS
(presented by Wyatt Lilly)

2025 DISTINGUISHED SERVICE

The Carolinas' Futurity members recognize a member each year who has faithfully supported the Futurity with their presence at meetings, help with Futurity fundraisers, and participation in Futurity activities. After contributing to Futurity meetings for several years as a general member, this year's recipient took over the reins for a Board member who had to resign. A trainer, owner, coach, exhibitor, and American Saddlebred enthusiast, this year's winner represents the future of the Carolinas' Futurity. Voted on by the membership, the 2025 Distinguished Service Award winner is **MACKENZIE TODD**.

2025 BREEDER OF THE YEAR

Each year, the Carolinas' Futurity recognizes a person or persons who support the Futurity by breeding, nominating, and showing their American Saddlebreds in the Futurity classes in the fall. Seven Futurity classes are offered at the fall show, and a points system is used to determine the winner of this award. This year's winner continuously breeds fine Saddlebreds, stands a Saddlebred stallion or stallions to the public, donates the service of their stallion to the Futurity's Live Stallion Auction, and generally shows in multiple Futurity classes in the fall. Carrying on the tradition of well-bred and trained American Saddlebreds, the 2025 recipient of the Breeder of the Year Award is **MATT SHIFLET STABLES**.

ASAC SPECIAL AWARDS

(presented by ASAC President Erin Fann)

ASAC Eddie Case Memorial Scholarship

The Eddie Case Memorial Scholarship was established to honor a man who dedicated his life to service, mentorship, and a deep passion for the American Saddlebred community. Eddie Case gave unselfishly of his time and talents as an ASAC Board Member, a devoted volunteer, and an unwavering supporter of youth in the sport. Whether announcing in center ring, managing the paddock, serving as an auctioneer, or competing with his beloved road horse, he was a fixture at horse shows and a role model to all who knew him.

It is my honor to present the Eddie Case Memorial Scholarship, which recognizes a student who reflects strong character, dedication, and a commitment to excellence.

This year's recipient exemplifies those values. Kaitlyn Robinson has demonstrated outstanding academic effort, integrity, and a genuine drive to make a positive impact in her school and community.

We are proud to recognize her achievements and confident she will continue to represent the spirit of this scholarship well.

Please join me in congratulating the Eddie Case Memorial Scholarship recipient, **Kaitlyn Robinson**.

Special Recognition

I would like to take a minute to recognize Susan Harris, the outgoing chair of the memberships, show affiliations, and high point awards committees.

Tonight is her last official awards ceremony, as she is retiring from her volunteer ASAC duties in 2026. For the past many years, she has generously donated her time and talents to ASAC, masterfully overseeing memberships, show affiliations, and high point awards. Many of you may see her here behind the scenes, ensuring everything is done with great attention to detail. Susan, we cannot thank you enough for all you have done. We hope you enjoy your well-deserved retirement but remain connected with your ASAC family.

Sandra Hall Distinguished Service Award

The Sandra Hall Distinguished Service Award was established to honor ASAC members whose tireless and unselfish efforts have strengthened our organization over time. This award recognizes individuals who, like my mom, Sandra herself, willingly serve ASAC in every capacity, always putting the association's best interests first. It is meant for someone whose dedication is consistent, meaningful, and felt across nearly every level of ASAC.

This year's recipient truly embodies those qualities. She has been a steadfast advocate for ASAC and a driving force behind many of the moments that bring our members together. From thoughtful planning to careful decision-making, she consistently ensures that every detail reflects what is best for the association and its members.

One of her most visible contributions has been her leadership in planning our annual banquets. She has secured the location at Legacy and negotiated cost-effective solutions when they were most needed, all while maintaining a high standard of quality. Her goal has always been to make each event better than the last—creating an experience our members can enjoy, feel proud of, and look forward to year after year.

Her commitment reflects the very spirit of the Sandra Hall Distinguished Service Award, and it is with sincere appreciation and gratitude that we recognize her contributions tonight. For her dedication, hard work, and selfless service to ASAC, please join me in congratulating this year's recipient of the Sandra Hall Distinguished Service Award to **Margaret Poovey**.

Frank Ogletree Youth Award

The Frank Ogletree Youth Award honors an adult who generously gives their time and energy to benefit the youth of ASAC. This award recognizes someone who serves as a positive role model, not only in equine-related activities but also in everyday life. It is given to an individual who exemplifies dedication, integrity, and a true passion for the American Saddlebred, leading by example while instilling strong values and ethics in our youth.

This year's recipient has gone above and beyond in her commitment to guiding and supporting the ASAC youth. Through leadership, encouragement, and consistency, she has helped ensure an environment where young members feel supported, motivated, and inspired to grow—both within the organization and beyond it.

As the ASAC Youth Committee Chair, she has worked tirelessly to lead our youth with care and purpose. Her passion for helping kids develop into confident, responsible young adults is evident in everything she does.

For her unwavering commitment to the youth of ASAC and for exemplifying the values this award represents, it is our honor to present the Frank Ogletree Youth Award to **Erica Shirley Rector**.

Margaret Stewart Memorial Youth Award

The Margaret Stewart Memorial Youth Award recognizes a junior ASAC member who has consistently demonstrated true sportsmanship throughout their show career. This award honors a young rider who not only participates and achieves in the show ring, but who also exemplifies positive character, integrity, and dedication to the American Saddlebred horse and ASAC.

This year's recipient embodies these values through hard work, perseverance, and an unwavering sportsmanlike attitude. Known for spending countless hours at the barn, this individual is always willing to help care for horses and support others, representing ASAC with pride at both the barn and horse shows. Win or lose, she demonstrates grace, determination, and respect—qualities that define true showmanship.

Throughout the season, she has showed remarkable commitment and achievement in the ring, earning notable success while maintaining humility and a strong work ethic. Her dedication, tenacity, and passion for the sport have set an example for fellow youth members, reflecting the very best of what this award represents.

For her outstanding sportsmanship, dedication, and achievement, it is our honor to present the Margaret Stewart Memorial Youth Award to **Catie Evans**.

Barbara Blackwelder Humanitarian Award

The Barbara Blackwelder Humanitarian Award recognizes an ASAC member whose actions reflect a deep commitment to others and to the greater good of the organization. This award honors someone whose philosophy is centered on service, generosity, and belief in the values, potential, and interests of others. It is given to an individual who consistently goes the extra mile to promote ASAC, horse shows, and the love of the American Saddlebred.

This year's recipient is someone whose dedication seems to know no limits. She is known for her tireless energy and unmatched work ethic, working day and night to promote the American Saddlebred in ways many could only dream of. The strength of her barn reflects that dedication, built on consistency and excellence, resulting in continued success in the show ring while maintaining the highest standards of horsemanship.

Even in the face of personal challenges this year, her commitment never wavered. After undergoing open heart surgery, she returned right back to the horse show world, immediately finding ways to improve the business and support the community she loves. Through her leadership and vision behind the High Caliber Hot Shots show, she helped raise \$90,000 for William Woods University, demonstrating both extraordinary generosity and purpose.

For her selfless service, resilience, success in the show ring, and unwavering dedication to ASAC and the American Saddlebred, it is our great honor to present the Barbara Blackwelder Humanitarian Award to **Mary Orr**.

MARTINA ROSEBERRY SPORTSMANSHIP AWARDS are named in honor of ASAC's first president. Martina served ASAC for many years and worked tirelessly to promote our association and our breed. Martina sadly passed away in 1999 far too soon. The following awards honors individuals who consistently support ASAC programs and exemplify the definition of sportsmanship: the fair and generous behavior or treatment of others, especially in a sports contest.

Martina Roseberry Sportsmanship Award - Juvenile

This year's juvenile recipient truly embodies the spirit of this award. Known for her contagious enthusiasm, she is often found at the barn welcoming new families, introducing them to the horses, and helping young riders feel included and encouraged. At horse shows, she is always ready to jump in wherever she is needed—grooming and tacking Academy horses, changing saddles, or offering much-needed words of encouragement when fellow competitors doubt themselves.

Her sportsmanship extends beyond kindness and support; it is reflected in her dedication to learning and growth. She has risen through the Academy ranks into Performance, always eager to improve her skills and deepen her understanding of the sport and the horses she loves. In addition, she has given back to ASAC as an active member of the ASAC Youth Board, helping to promote and lead the next generation of our breed. This past year, she served as Youth President and earlier today, she received the Eddie Case Memorial Scholarship, where she plans to study at the University of Kentucky in the fall.

Whether in the show ring, assisting with fundraisers, helping at the barn, or leading others by example, she consistently demonstrates positivity, integrity, and true sportsmanship. It is with great pride that we present the Martina Roseberry Sportsmanship Award – Juvenile to **Kaitlyn Robinson**.

Martina Roseberry Sportsmanship Award - Amateur

This year's amateur recipient reflects those values through a lifelong commitment to ASAC and the American Saddlebred. Her involvement has evolved over the years and her dedication to the breed has remained constant. She previously served the ASAC membership by heading up the high point awards program. Today, she continues to support the industry through her breeding program and her involvement with the North Carolina Futurity, helping to strengthen the future of the American Saddlebred.

Known for her humility and genuine love of the sport, she approaches horse shows not simply as competitions, but as opportunities to celebrate the breed. She often says horse shows are her vacations—time spent doing what she loves most. Whether she is in the ring or on the sidelines, she cheers for and supports fellow exhibitors, taking joy in watching and appreciating every horse and rider.

Her passion, positivity, and unwavering sportsmanship make her a true ambassador for ASAC and the American Saddlebred. It is with great appreciation that we present the Martina Roseberry Sportsmanship Award – Amateur to **Anita Simpson**.

Martina Roseberry Sportsmanship Award – Professional

This year we are excited to share the trainer's spotlight with two deserving individuals.

Tonight's first professional recipient is known for her generosity, kindness, and unwavering commitment to others. She goes out of her way to help fellow competitors, students, and families, always offering encouragement and congratulations regardless of the outcome of a class. Her actions reflect a genuine respect for the sport and for everyone who participates in it.

As a trainer and mentor, she strives every day to instill the same strong work ethic and sportsmanship in her students that she holds herself to. She leads by example, teaching not only horsemanship and skill, but also integrity, perseverance, and respect. Through her dedication, she helps shape not just successful riders, but well-rounded individuals who represent the best of ASAC.

She is hardworking and very dedicated to our breeds. She is always there if you need a hand, or a word of encouragement. She strives to bring new ideas to the business and introduce the ASB to as many as they can at Chestnut Lane.

For her consistent sportsmanship, selfless service, and positive influence on the American Saddlebred community, it is our honor to present the Martina Roseberry Sportsmanship Award – Professional to **Lindsey Lightner** of Chestnut Lane.

Martina Roseberry Sportsmanship Award Professional

This year's second professional recipient represents horsemanship, showmanship, and ringmanship at the highest level. In the show ring, her performances appear effortless, yet are driven by intensity, precision, and a deep understanding of the horse. She consistently brings out the very best in each horse she rides, striving for their fullest potential through a natural feel and authentic connection that sets her apart.

Beyond the ring, her sportsmanship is equally evident. She is always willing to support ASAC, UPHA Chapter 12, the Carolinas Futurity, and countless organizations through donations, auctions, and hands-on involvement. Whether contributing an item, an experience, or thoughtful input on a new idea, she gives generously—always with a smile and a genuine desire to help the sport grow.

Perhaps most admirable is her willingness to take on challenges—pairing horses and riders others might doubt, pushing through obstacles, and building true partnerships based on trust and respect. She challenges her riders to rise to the occasion while training her horses to support those partnerships. She always says to her riders, "Ride like the wind." One of her nominees commented that she admired her amateur of the year chair, and had stated "I want one of those chairs." It is now your turn for the chair. For her sportsmanship, dedication, generosity, and unwavering commitment to the American Saddlebred, it is our great honor to present the Martina Roseberry Sportsmanship Award – Professional to **Kim Cowart**.