



The February 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Board of Governors meeting was at the Hilton Stamford Hotel & Executive Center, Stamford, CT.

### **Upcoming National Events**

---

Championships East 2019 July 24-28 at Tryon International Equestrian Center, Mill Springs, NC.

Championships Central 2019 August 5-9 at the Colorado Horse Park, Parker, CO.

Championships Central Eventing August 9-11 in conjunction with Spring Gulch Horse Trials, Littleton, CO.

2020 Equine Symposium & Convention hosted by USPC will be held January 29<sup>th</sup> - February 2<sup>nd</sup> at the Hilton Seattle Airport & Conference Center, Seattle, WA, in the Northwest Region.

Festival 2020 July 13<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> Kentucky Horse Park, Lexington, KY.

---

### **General Comments**

*Comments from President Ben Duke*

Pony Club is a dynamic organization that is doing a lot and doing it right. Thank you to the many volunteers and staff members for their hard work in 2018.

Pony Club's Development efforts, which were so successful in 2018, will continue as, collectively, we encourage our supporters to recognize both the needs and successes of Pony Club, and the positive impact our programs have on the development in both youth and adults in our country.

The recently appointed *Pony Club Review Team*, led by Dr. Lori Garkovich, will be reaching out to a broad spectrum of USPC supporters as well as to those in other equestrian disciplines in order to gain a better understanding of how Pony Club is perceived, what its strengths and challenges might be, and how we can better integrate our programs and educational curricula with other organizations. This exciting study also will help guide our own strategic planning over the next few years.

I am excited about 2019 and what it will bring for Pony Club. In this, our 65th year, Pony Club is continuing to shine, as it did in 1954 as the most extraordinary of equestrian organizations serving both youth and adults unlike any other.

*Comments from Executive Director Teresa Woods*

Highlights from 2018 include:

- The reorganization of all competitive discipline rulebooks. All now having the same format and informational flow, making it easier to understand and reference for our members, parents and volunteers.
- Championships remodeling. Championships now is more inclusive to our membership and

offers a national competitive experience to more members.

- Revision of 2019 Standards and Test sheets for D-H/H-HM Horse Management, D-A Dressage, D- C-2 Hunter Seat Equitation, and C-3 -A Show Jumping.
- Continued support of the International Exchange program, sending a team to the UK for International Mounted Games Exchange and hosting Australia, Canada, Ireland and UK at the International Tetrathlon Exchange.
- Strong financial performance from various departments. Development had an exceptional year, surpassing the goal by \$59,518.

The National Office has several projects currently underway or lined up for development in 2019. The primary goal is to simplify processes and procedures, ease workload for volunteers, activate pathways to improve member experiences, and assist our staff efficiency in overall support of the organization.

- Online New Member Sign Up – allow clubs/center to issue an invitation to join their through an online signature and payment process. This will be an option instead of the current hard copy process.
- Updated Find a Club/Center page – help prospective new members find the right club or center with easier access to contact information as well as information about the club/center.
- Online Officer/Leader Changes – permit changes to region or club officers and center leaders that occur during the year to be reported to the National Office through an online submission.
- Expand Website In-House Maintenance Access – allow National Office staff to update page titles, landing page pictures, side bar links & text, mark pages as active or inactive, and enter tags.
- NE Test Availability – allow NEs to enter and maintain throughout the testing year, dates they are available to examine, to assist the NE Chairs and volunteer in making test assignments, in particular during the busy summer/fall test season.
- Additional Regional Membership Reports – providing RSs and other regional leaders with more concise information about their members and the clubs/centers in their regions.
- Allow members to register for Championships to improve member experience and ease burden of leadership.

### **Report of VP of Instruction**

---

The Standards of Proficiency (SOP) for D-H-HM Horse Management, D-A Dressage, D-C-2 Hunter Seat Equitation, and C-3-A Show Jumping have been revised for 2019. The Eventing and Western SOPs riding portions were not revised, but the Horse Management portion have been updated.

The National Testing Committee will explore breaking up the Eventing track into two separate test dates vs. the current one test date. The first test date would be flat work and horse management and the second test date would be the jumping portion of the SOP. The committee will be discussing this option with Regional Supervisors during the Equine Symposium & Convention and will come back with more information for the May Board Meeting.

The Curricula and Standards Committee will work with the National Testing Committee to explore a new C-3 to A Eventing format.

The D through C Curricula and the National Curricula Testing Committee will be reviewing pages in the Pony Club Manuals to correlate with the new Standards of Proficiency. Working with Curricula & Standards and the National Testing Curricula Committee these committees will review their Web pages to align materials vertically for members, examiners, and administrators.

The Horse Management Committee completed the revisions of the 2019 Horse Management Handbook. The Amplifications Section has now been moved to the Website, so that updates can be made in a timelier basis.

The Instructor Certification Program (ICP) in conjunction with the United States Dressage Federation will be offered this year. Pony Club members that are over the age of 18 may apply.

### **Report of VP of Activities**

---

With approval from the USPC Board of Governors, USPC will host the 2020 International Foxhunting Exchange to be held November 20-29 in Georgia and South Carolina. Invitation to include: Great Britain, Ireland and the US.

All competitive discipline rulebooks have now been revised and reformatted for 2019 and include discipline specific attire descriptions. The Western Committee has been split into three new committees – Gymkhana, Western Dressage and Western Trail. Gymkhana and Western Dressage are currently in the process of working on their rulebooks with target implementation date later in 2019. Western Trail is working on creating the first USPC Western Trail rulebook with target implementation date of January 2020.

During the Equine Symposium and Convention, the Activities Department promoted the new Championships Expansion with a workshop. Webinars will follow to address the new registration process and questions or concerns about the expansion. The Championship Guidebook will have a new format this year, which will make it easier to find information.

Championships East will be returning to the Tryon International Equestrian Center on dates of July 24-28, 2019. Championships Central will be held at the Colorado Horse Park in Parker, CO, August 5-11, 2019. Festival will be held at the Kentucky Horse Park July 13-20, 2020.

USPC will be hosting the International Mounted Games Exchange in 2019 with the final competition being in conjunction with Championships Central. The team has been selected:

Lena Bruno – Carolina Region

Brynn DeLong – South Region

Brianna Philipp – Northwest Region

Natalie Tanski – Sunshine Region

Kali Walker – Sunshine Region

Allison Thomas – Team Manager, Sunshine Region

In addition, a team will travel to Hong Kong in 2019 to compete in the Inter-Pacific Exchange. The team has been selected:

Ella Groner – Maryland Region

Ema Klugman – Capital Region

Cooper Madden-Hennessey – New York/Upper Connecticut Region

Kaylee Van Winkle – Tri-State Region

Janna Rittaco – Team Manager, Carolina Region

Nicole Ligon – Team Coach, Eastern Pennsylvania Region

To address concerns related to the new Championships eligibility model the Board of Governors approved Games Divisions as listed below:

Championships Divisions

Remove Novice Team

Junior Team - age 12-17

Advanced Pairs – 18+

Modified Championships Divisions

Remove Novice Team

Junior Team – 10-17

Senior Pairs – 18+

### **Report of VP of Regional Administration**

---

The Document Review Committee in conjunction with the Leadership Education and Support Committee along with the help of Aileen Gordon ( Content Data Manger), have completed the calendar formatted Data Bank. The Data Bank is arranged by dates as well as categories where leaders can go to a month and category to see what they need to be aware of and can select a link to view more information about that topic. Jennifer Sweet made a presentation to the RSs during the Equine Symposium on the live calendar. The committees are also working on “Phase Two” of the replacement of the RS Handbook and DC/CA Guidebook, which consists of reworking the leadership resource pages to make them simpler.

The Riding Center Program Committee is working with the Riding Center Task Force on simplifying the process to become a Pony Club Riding Center. Four main changes are being planned for recommendation.

Two Leadership Training Outreach weekends are planned, Middle California Region requested a training in March and the Sunshine Region in April. A presenter training is scheduled for May.

After recent discussions on the DC Digest on having a Horse Management Track only, Regional Administration has requested that the Instruction Department/Council consider a “complete” Horse Management Track.

**National Youth Board (NYB)**

---

The National Youth Board's service project during the 2019 Equine Symposium and Convention was at Endeavor Therapeutic Horsemanship Center where the NYB members assisted cleaning and organizing tack and other equipment.

The NYB debuted the "Upper Level Opportunities" workshop during the Equine Symposium & Convention in Stamford, CT, where current NYB members shared their personal experiences and success stories.

In November 2018, they promoted a new Facebook campaign, "Thank You Pony Club" in which they received 23 submissions and gained 12 new followers over the month.

**Board Committee Highlights**

---

**Safety:** Sarah Andres' manuscript *Effects of body protection vests and experience levels in prevention of equestrian injuries* was published in the BMJ Open Sport & Exercise Medicine on November 16, 2018.

You can read the full manuscript here:

<https://bmjopensem.bmj.com/content/bmjosem/4/1/e000426.full.pdf>.

The United States Eventing Association (USEA) and USEF have been approached regarding a similar study on air vests using their incident report database.

The Safety Handbook has been updated for 2019 and includes information on how to properly fit safety vests/body protectors.

**Finance:** USPC ended 2018 in a good place, partly due to the 25Days to 25K campaign.

Currently, eight clubs are non-compliant with using the Centralized Financial Recording System (CFRS). Five of these clubs had thought about being discontinued, but now have reconsidered.

**Strategic Planning:** The committee presented to the RS/DC/CA group the new "Why" statement that was approved by the Board of Governors – *The why of USPC is to inspire and educate all generations to develop responsibility for self, others and their equine partners*. During the Equine Symposium and Convention, committee members also encouraged all participants to tell their one-word "Why Pony Club?". Now that the committee has the "Why" of Pony Club, they will focus on "How" the current Pony Club program is delivered.

**Marketing & Communications:** Table top displays continue to be used for local and regional outreach and are scheduled to go out to several regions and clubs in early 2019.

USPC staff will be promoting USPC at several events this year including the American Camp Association (ACA) national convention in February, Land Rover Three-Day Event in April, Interscholastic Equestrian Association (IEA) Hunt Seat National Finals in April, IEA Western National Finals in June, and possibly the IEA Dressage Finals in April.

Several new products have been added to Shop PonyClub, which include a cosmetic bag that hangs, a popular sweater that comes in a zip up version, a new backpack seat, a light that goes on your belt or cap and headband.

The Marketing & Communications department maintains and monitors social media sites that USPC members, families and leaders frequent. We have found that Instagram, Facebook, and Snapchat have more use and interaction when we host different admins. We also advertise and run promotions on social media that include:

#fanfotofriday

#workshopoftheweek

#countdowntoconvention, which now will be replaced with #champion4championships

#websitewednesday

#ponyclubproud

In coordination with Instruction, the new Standards of Proficiency and Test Sheets have been re-formatted, branded and copyrighted for 2019. In addition, with coordination from Activities, 2019 Rulebooks are standardized, formatted, branded and copyrighted. Please note that all materials are available on the USPC website as printable or downloadable documents if you log into your USPC profile and your credentials are up-to-date.

**Development:** With the generous support of the Bates Family Foundation, the 25 Days to 25K Challenge Campaign was a huge success. With the efforts from the Board of Governors, Advisory Committee Members and the National Office Staff, we raised slightly more than \$66,000! With the 25 Days Campaign, USPC finished 2018 more than doubling what was raised during this same time in 2017.

The unrestricted Annual Fund exceeded the budgeted goal of \$188,500, ending the year at \$200,594!

Shapley's Grooming Products is the 2019 Official Grooming Product and Triple Crown Nutrition is the 2019 Official Feed Sponsor of The United States Pony Clubs, Inc.

The 2019 Annual Fund goal is \$217,600. 2019 is also the 65th anniversary of USPC! Let's take advantage of this anniversary to increase our Annual Fund giving percentages in every sector of the Pony Club family!

**Volunteer Development:** While updating the Parent Answer Book the committee identified that a "Member Answer Book" would be a valuable tool for members over the age of 18.

At the May Board Meeting, the committee working with the Safety Committee will bring a recommendation to the Board regarding the use of the SafeSport Training. Currently, United States

Equestrian Federation (USEF) members, officials, and volunteers who take the SafeSport training can submit proof of completion in lieu of USPC's required Member Protection Training.

The Activities Department requested the committee to help with the Rally Organizers Guide revisions. The project is underway and will have the guide completed this spring.

**Governance:** The following policies have been revised:

- 6001 – Activities Council Committees which adds three new attachments for the following committees: Western Dressage Committee, Western Trail Committee, and Gymkhana Committee.
- Policy 9100.A – USPC Representatives in Horse/Equestrian Groups.
- Policy 5001.E – National Testing Committee.

For all updated and revised Policies and Resolutions, please visit the website.