



The November 3<sup>rd</sup> - 4<sup>th</sup> Board of Governors meeting was at the USPC National Office in Lexington, KY.

## Upcoming National Events

2019 Equine Symposium & Convention hosted by USPC will be held January 30- February 3<sup>rd</sup> at the Hilton Stamford Hotel in Stamford, CT in the Metropolitan Region.

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

USPC Championships Central 2019 August 6-11 at the Colorado Horse Park in Parker, CO.

---

## General Comments

### *Comments from President Ben Duke*

Ben Duke stated that over the summer he read the USPC Policy Book and USPC By-Laws, which was an eye-opening exercise in many ways. Ben stated that he learned a great deal about Pony Club and he has started to formulate some of the areas on which USPC might want to focus in the coming years.

A highlight for him was attending Championships West in Auburn, WA, where it was very rewarding to watch terrific competitions, fantastic Horse Management judging, education and very happy Pony Club competitors and participants.

There are some challenges that are in front of USPC, which one is the budget. The process for the 2019 budget has been lengthy, detailed, and, at times humbling. The Finance Committee and staff have had to make many tough decisions regarding programs and activities as our membership continues to decline.

Ben recently met with Dr. Lori Garkovich who is a retired Sociology professor from the University of Kentucky. Dr. Garkovich will lead an ad-hoc committee to assess where Pony Club is and will look at what we do, how well we do it, are we too complicated or just right, why is membership dropping along with several other topics.

### *Comments from Executive Director Teresa Woods*

A big highlight of her summer was attending Championships East at the Tryon International Equestrian Center.

She traveled to England in mid-August for the Pony Club International Alliance (PCIA) meeting. The primary role of the PCIA is to promote Pony Club membership across the world and to collaborate on international programs. The members of PCIA, which include Ireland, Australia, the United Kingdom, the United States, and Canada. A signed charter was one of the results from the meeting, which it will

serve as the guiding principles for the PCIA moving forward. The PCIA members agreed to share information on the operations, structures, sports and membership trends on Pony Club in each country, manage the international program and promote PCIA activities in each member country. One of the discussions at the meeting involved the challenges of sustaining membership, all member countries with the exception of Ireland, are experiencing the same challenges as USPC with declining membership. Upcoming discussions via conference calls, which will be held quarterly, will focus on uniform policies for international exchanges and coaches. The next face-to-face meeting, which is every two years, will take place in Australia.

A priority of the National Office in the coming year will be to address some contributing factors affecting membership and revenues:

- Streamline and simplify the processes and procedures
- Adding to development/fundraising capacity
- Lessening the administrative burden of our volunteers
- Removing administrative barriers to joining a club or center

### **Report from Treasurer/Finance Committee**

---

The Board of Governors approved USPC could charge clubs/regions a late fee for Charitable Compliance Registration if the cause was due to a late submission of financial and tax information. At this time, 96.69% of clubs and regions are in compliance with submitting renewals/submission to their state for Charitable Registrations.

The Board of Governors approved expenditure from the Equipment Fund for website development, and from the Building Fund to replace a heating /air conditioning unit at the National Office.

The 2019-2021 budget was approved by the Board of Governors.

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

---

Now that club and regions may not have individual policies, the Club/Region Policy/Guideline Review Committee is recommend for closure.

The Document Review Committee is reviewing and updating the DC Guide. In conjunction with the Leadership Education Committee, they are working on the RS data bank with plans to introduce it at the Equine Symposium and Convention in Stamford, CT. It will be arranged by calendar as well as categories. Leaders will go to the month and category to see what they need to be aware of and can select a link to view more information about the topic.

The Leadership Education and Support Committee is reviewing and updating the RS Handbook, along with reviewing RS/VRS and DC/Jt. DC job descriptions. New RSs have been contacted about educational opportunities available for them. Several leadership trainings have taken place through the summer and continue in the fall.

The Membership Committee has reviewed the satisfaction survey and some recurring threads have been identified, there are no recommendations at this time.

The Riding Center Committee is working on contacting operational Centers to discover their satisfactions and concerns about the program. The committee is considering an exit survey for non-renewing Centers.

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

---

The Activities Department has had a busy year :

- Revision of all seven current rulebooks and created two new ones
- Created three new disciplines to be offered in Pony Club
- Created a comprehensive attire grid that represents all of our disciplines
- Created a unified definitions of Excuses/Elimination/Disqualification to be used for competition purposes
- Explored and evaluated each discipline's practices as it relates to the new definitions
- Worked closely with HM to create a consistent voice and presentation with their rulebook
- Organized two championships
- Hosted a Tetrathlon exchange of 44 people

The Western Committee has been split into three discipline committees for 2019. Gymkhana, Western Dressage and Western Trail.

The Dressage Committee proposed an Overall Scoring Formula change after feedback from rallies and Championships. The change was approved by the Program Administration Council (PAC) and the Board of Governors.

The Eventing Committee is working on clarifying their "Comparable Event" parameters of Championships qualifications.

The Games Committee is working on hosting the 2019 USPC International Mounted Games Exchange which will be held during Championships Central at the Colorado Horse Park. The Committee also put forth several rule changes that were approved. The changes will be in in the 2019 Games Rulebook.

The International Exchanges and Special Opportunities Committee has been very busy this year. USPC sent a team to England in August to compete in the International Mounted Games Exchange. USPC hosted the International Tetrathlon Exchange in the Carolinas that concluded with competition during Championships East at the Tryon International Equestrian Center (TIEC). In 2019, USPC will send a team to Hong Kong for the Inter-Pacific Exchange being held June 30 - July 13.

The Board of Governors approved the Championships Restructure model. Details about the new model will be shared at the 2019 Equine Symposium and Convention.

---

**Report of VP of Instruction**

---

The Instruction Council and Committees have been working hard revising the following Standards of Proficiency for the following: D-H/H-A Horse Management, D-A Dressage, D through C-2 Hunt Seat Equitation, and C-3 through A Show Jumping.

The Board of Governors approved the new lower heights for the C-3, B, and A Show Jumping Standards of Proficiency along with the revisions to the Standards of Proficiencies mentioned above.

The term “Traditional” has been changed to “Eventing”.

In conjunction with the Activities Council, the new attire grid has been completed. This will let members know how to clothe themselves for club activities, certifications, and competitions.

New 2019 Horse Management Handbook will be released in 2019.

---

**Board Committee Highlights**

---

**Advisory:** The Riding Center Task Force is looking at simplifying and streamlining in the formation of new Centers. They are reviewing the application process, considering whether the site visit process is it still relevant, and revamping the Riding Center informational booklet.

The Task Force will report their preliminary finding to the Executive Committee in December and have full report at the Board Meeting during the Equine Symposium and Convention.

**Nominating:** The following slate for the 2019 USPC Officers was presented and approved by the Board.

The USPC officers will be approved during the Board of Governors Election Meeting at the 2019 Equine Symposium and Convention.

President- Ben Duke

1st Vice President – Jennifer Sweet

VP of Regional Administration – Allison Thomas

VP of Instruction – Nancy Grout

VP of Activities – Sue Beth Bunn

Treasurer – Sue Ann McClelland

Secretary – Ron VanDyke

**Development:** We kicked off the Twenty- Five Days to 25K on the Friday afternoon before the Board meeting. By the end of the Board meeting, a total of \$18,000 has been raised for the 2018 Annual Fund!

\*Update - currently the campaign has raised \$62,830.00! Thank you to everyone who donated and supports our wonderful programs at Pony Club!

Shapley’s Grooming Products have renewed their sponsorship for 2019 and we are currently in negotiations with Triple Crown. FLAIR is considering being a sponsor for Championships East in 2019.

**Strategic Planning:** At the May Board meeting, Tim Burchan led a workshop focusing on the “Why”

---

of Pony Club. The Strategic Planning Committee strongly feels that USPC's product is "Education". From the notes and report that Mr. Burcham sent, the following words and concepts that were repeated over and over were:

- Inspire
- Empower
- Develop leaders
- Develop good citizens
- Multi-generational
- Our horses as partners
- Responsibility
- Serving the community
- Confidence
- Compassion

The committee had multiple conversations to create an over-arching 'why' statement that embodied the spirit of these words/phrases along with a statement broad enough so that no matter what your passion is within Pony Club, it would fit within this statement.

The Board Resolved the following: The "Why" of USPC is to inspire and educate all generations to develop a sense of responsibility and respect for self, others, and their equine partners.

The Committee will be engaging participants at the Equine Symposium and Convention in Stamford, CT, to tell them their one-word "Why:.. This will boil down to filling in the blank of what is their "It" – ***Where IT all Begins.***

**Safety:** Committee Chairman, Dr. Sarah Andres's manuscript on the *Effects of body protection vests and experience levels in prevention of equestrian injuries* has been accepted by the *BMJ Open Sport and Exercise Medicine Journal*.

The committee has been working on educating our members about the new Body Protection Policy that will be effective, January 1, 2019. The Horse Management Handbook and Safety Handbook will be updated with the requirement along with how to properly fit body protectors/safety vests.

The Incident Report has been updated to include the new western disciplines and to clarify whom should fill out the report and has changed "Injured Person" to "Person Involved in Incident".

**Marketing & Communications:** The department promoted Pony Club and the Professional Membership category at several conferences and conventions this fall.

The Standards of Proficiency, Test Sheets, the Horse Management Handbook, Safety Handbook and Discipline Rulebooks are all being formatted, branded and copyrighted through the department.

The USPC App was updated and in use at Championships East and West. It will continue to be updated for use at the 2019 Equine Symposium & Convention in CT.

**Governance:** The Board approved the By-Laws and Policy Changes, please visit the website to review the changes. Among the approved changes, were the following amendments to the By-Laws:

- Decrease the minimum time to have Region and Club nominating committees in place from 90 days to 30 days.
- Remove any references pertaining to Region and / or Club Policies.
- Retiring resolution #5, Policy Template for Regions
- Clarify what constitutes attendance at a Regional Council meeting
- The addition of and “and USPC” to both Club and Region By-Laws to the statement regarding Federal and State Taxes.

The following policies have been revised:

- 0150, Core Activity – to Core Activities. The core activities of The United States Pony Clubs, Inc. are based on the instruction of horse management and the instruction in any equestrian discipline supported by the organization. Horse Management is a required Core Activity.
- 1000.A, Membership Categories & Eligibility –Removes the upper age limit for a National Member (policy 1000.F), and the term Horsemasters has been removed as a category.

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

**Volunteer Development:** The “Parent Answer Book” has been updated and is currently with the Marketing & Communications department for review.

The committee completed a revision to the Member and Volunteer Training Module, which includes a more in-depth training on bullying. It was noted that USEF requires all competing members (ages 18 and up) to take the US Center for SafeSport Training. The SafeSport training includes more in-depth training on bullying and includes the prevention of abuse in sports. The Executive Committee approved to accept this SafeSports training with proof of completion in lieu of the USPC required Member and Volunteer Training. It was noted that a lot of USPC’s members and volunteers are members of USEF. The Volunteer Development Committee and Safety Committee will make a recommendation at the February Board Meeting as to whether we replace the USPC Training Module with the US Center for SafeSport Training.

### **Report of the Equine Symposium & Convention Committee**

The main function of the Equine Symposium & Convention is to provide leadership training to our volunteers, conduct the Meeting of the Corporation, which is required per our By-Laws, and to conduct educational workshops.

Registration is currently open for the Equine Symposium & Convention in Stamford, CT.

Planning for the 2020 Equine Symposium & Convention in Seattle, WA, which will be held January 29-February 2, is underway.

The committee received two proposals for the 2021 Convention with the same dates of January 27-31, 2021. The first proposal is from the Marriott St. Louis Grand hotel and the second proposal is from the Westin Kansas City Crown Center hotel. Pros and cons were discussed on each location.

---

The Board approved the 2021 Equine Symposium & Convention will be at the Marriott St. Louis Grand hotel.

### **National Youth Board (NYB)**

---

Current NYB members have been busy over the summer and fall in the recruitment of next year's NYB members.

The NYB is continuing their work on the Upper Level Opportunities presentation for our workshops at the Equine Symposium & Convention. The presentation will include current member's stories with personal insights on how they benefitted from opportunities, especially in the academic and professional arenas.

There were nine submissions for the month of service in August, which is a 50% increase from last year. The NYB gained 700% more followers on Facebook in August than any other month in 2018.