

The May Board of Governors meeting was held at the USPC National Office, Lexington, KY, and via Zoom.

Upcoming National Events

2022 USPC Championships West - July 1-8, at Twin Rivers Ranch in Paso Robles, CA.

2022 USPC Championships East - July 27-31, at Tryon International Equestrian Center in Mill Spring, NC.

2023 USPC Convention – January 18-22, Marriott St. Louis Grand, St. Louis, MO.

General Comments

Comments from President Jennifer Sweet

President Sweet is very honored to be USPC's President and truly believes in the organization and what it teaches its members and volunteers.

USPC is poised to continue our growth and expand our programs to people and places that may or may not know who we are, but who will benefit from all that Pony Club is and what it teaches.

In January, President Sweet appointed the Local Club and Regional Ad-Hoc Committee. Their task is to review and understand the current local club structure while identifying any issues or areas that may be impeding a volunteer's ability to effectively perform their duties, or the club's ability to efficiently operate and serve its membership. Based on the conclusions of the Ad-Hoc Committee, specific recommendations may be brought to the Board of Governors to address.

President Sweet will be attending Championships East at the Tryon International Equestrian Center in Mill Spring, NC, and is thrilled to be able to attend.

Comments from Executive Director Teresa Woods

Staff Updates:

Welcome, Sarah Conrad, Director of Marketing and Communications, and Megan Scharfenberg Communications/Instruction Services Coordinator.

Karen (Kay) Kelley, the Member Services Coordinator, recently retired after serving many club/center leaders/volunteers over the past 10 years. We wish her the best.

Dawn Strickler has transitioned into the Member Services Coordinator position. In May we welcomed, Jennifer Wasserzug, Development and Membership Coordinator.



Woods thanked Lorelei Coplen and volunteer Margie Williams for promoting Pony Club at the Interscholastic Equestrian Association (IEA) Finals. Pony Club also sponsored the USPC National Finals Online Horsemanship Test, presenting the winners placing 1-8 with USPC ribbons and plaques. Woods also thanked Rae Birr for promoting Pony Club at the Mid-West Horse Fair which is billed as the top 3-day horse fair in America.

Report from the Treasurer/Finance Committee

USPC is below budget in operating revenue and below budget in operating expenses.

USPC's cash balance remains strong.

Excess revenue from the January National Youth Congress (NYC) event has been moved to deferred revenue to support the 2023 NYC.

The 2022 USPC Convention received a total of \$23,050 in total sponsorships and the Old Dominion received \$2,105 as part of revenue share sponsorship.

Report of VP of Instruction

Committee Updates

The D-C-2 Committee is focusing on reviewing resources on the website for updates and consistencies with the local level instructional material. The committee continues to work on developing short Horse Management skill videos. They also are looking at developing simple rubrics to be used by both members but especially examiners at the local level to help with consistency.

The Examiners Committee is concentrating on communication across the board from Regional Instructional Coordinators to local level examiners, and leadership. Nancy Grout offered continuing education to all local level examiners on Testing Anxiety in May. The committee is currently reviewing the National Examiner (NE) Handbook and the Local Level Examiner Handbook and is providing a quarterly newsletter beginning with the National Examiners and in the future local level examiners.

The Horse Management Committee is continuing to look at HM Handbook revisions and corrections as document was created in a different program. Continued simplification and streamlining of information is at the core of this revision. Committee plans to work on local HM judge training, provisional recruitment and how to engage the H-B and H-HM/H/H-A certified members.

The National Testing Curricula Committee is working to find the weak links on website and to fill in holes if possible, for resources on the website. Committee is also looking and discussing the social/emotional well-being of members testing with co-chair, Nancy Grout, providing an Anxiety Testing webinar for all examiners and leadership.

The National Youth Congress/Academy of Achievement Committee is working to fill two to three spots on the committee. The committee is working on next year's programming and donor letters along with looking for inductees for the Academy of Achievement for 2023.

The Regional Instruction Committee (RIC) is updating the RIC resource page on the website and invites all RICs to attend the monthly RIC resources Zoom meeting.

The Standards and Testing D-A Committee have local-level instructors on the committee. They are working on a plan to review the Standards of Proficiency (SoP) this year focusing on reviewing all Horse Management SOPs beginning with the D level through the H-A level in 2022 with the plan to release new SOPs in 2023. The riding SOPs will be reviewed in 2023. It was suggested by a Board of Governor's member that ground handling should be included in the SOPs.

The Visiting Instructors Committee is working on filling Visiting Instructor requests for 2022, but they only had three viable applicants complete the application update for 2022.

The Instructor Certification Program (ICP) will be held at Jigsaw Farms in Illinois in June (Dressage) and July (Jumping) 2022. USPC is sponsoring 13 candidate instructors through the Brennan Fund for both workshops. Karen O'Conner and Mary (Connie fill last name) will be the Dressage instructors and Karen and David O'Conner will be the jumping instructors. United States Eventing Association (USEA) is hosting another workshop in conjunction due to high interest in the ICP program.

Report of VP of Activities

Committee Updates

The Competitions Committee is reviewing the USPC Mounted Games Rulebook in comparison to the United States Mounted Games Association and the Mounted Games Across America rulebooks. The goal is to bring the USPC rulebook in great alignment with the outside organizations to decrease confusion and conflict for our members. The committee is also reviewing the Quiz Question Bank.

Discipline Education Committee – Clare Burkhart was elected as Committee Chair and confirmed by the Executive Committee. The committee has monthly calls and progress is being made on the introductory handbooks for each discipline.

Discipline Promotions Committee – Sue Beth Bunn was elected as Committee Chair and confirmed by the Executive Committee. The committee was on pause until the Marketing Department was put in place and is now working on interviews with prominent equestrians in different USPC disciplines. Once gathered, this content will be shared with the Marketing Department to determine the best use.

The Special Opportunities Committee is working on gathering information about all special opportunities within Pony Club to share with members and leaders. The committee is also creating a long-term fundraising

campaign to raise money. Chair, Alex Weiss, solicited the expertise of a Florida State University economist to review USPC's Special Opportunities Funds to assist in creating budgets and projections for the future.

Championships 2022

Championships East will be held July 27-31 at the Tryon International Equestrian Center in Mill Spring, NC.

Championships West will be held July 1-8 at Twin Rivers Ranch in Paso Robles, CA.

USPC and the Western Dressage Association of America (WDAA) will recognize Western Dressage Championships at USPC East and West Championships. USPC members who are also WDAA members will receive WDAA points for their participation.

Report of the VP of Regional Administration

The Regional Administration Department in conjunction with the Activities, and Instruction Departments are planning the 2023 Convention Leadership Training. USPC signed a contract with McChord, Inc. to provide professional development training to leaders attending in-person or virtually. The training will be about multi-generational communications and interactions and how proficiency in this area can enhance member and volunteer experience for all. Erin Woodall, Activities Director, Connie Jehlik, Instruction Director, and Karol Wilson, Regional Administration & Member Services Director recently met with the speaker, Jay McChord, with McChord, Inc. for "tailoring" presentation and plan to have additional meetings closer to the Convention. In addition to a tailored presentation, McChord, Inc. will collaborate with the Directors to identify and customize promotional and post-convention opportunities for leaders.

VP of Regional Administration, Lorelei Coplen, initiated a series of mini messages for USPC local and regional leadership in February 2022. Topics include the Nominating Committee and process (March 2022); and the purpose of and process of voting (April 2022). The next topic will focus on the Member in Good Standing policy and its application with emphasis on the policy revision (May 2022). At the end of summer, the mini messages will focus on the voting process for officer elections, as that remains a recurring governance issue.

National Youth Board (NYB) Report

The NYB Marketing and Communications Committee has elected a new Chair and a Social Media Coordinator which has increased the rate of content creation and submission.

- The Pin Promise Committee was absorbed by the Marketing & Communications Committee and now is a sub-committee due to the tasks being so interconnected between the two.
- A committee member received a media internship for the Land Rover Three-Day Event. It was noted that the NYB does not have a pin available for NYB members or Alumni, the NYB would like to have a pin and are in the process of planning it out.
- The "Shop Pony Club Photo Challenge" was a success, with the winner's photo displayed as a full picture ad on the back cover of the *Discover USPC* magazine. Due to the success of the competition plans are being made to reorganize the project so it will be ready to go in 2023.

- After the first NYB meeting during the USPC Convention, it was voted to table the annual Film Competition until the end of next year, to revamp and update the competition to garner more enthusiasm and participation amongst members. The competition will highlight the passion that lives on in the lives of our Pony Club members.

The Member Affairs & Networking Committee is working to bring new members up to date on the workings of the committee. A priority for the committee is to finalize the Student Incentive Project to be reviewed and approved at the fall Programs Administration Council meeting.

The Service Committee underwent a minor change which requires all members of the NYB to serve on the committee and participate in all activities. The committee is planning to continue the Championship-wide service project this year.

The Regional Youth Boards Committee elected a new Chair and interest and participation have increased within the committee. The purpose of the committee has been re-evaluated and discussions on how to increase Regional Youth Board participation across USPC regions are underway. Information on Regional Youth Boards will continually be updated and communications with those regions that are interested in Regional Youth Boards maintained. Information on the website is being reviewed so that it can be updated to the current standards of Pony Club members.

The NYB has expressed interest in Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility (DEIA) and voted to turn it into a “Passion Project”. The NYB will work closely with the DEIA Committee on any projects that are deemed feasible, activity on the project has yet to begin as the NYB is awaiting direction from the DEIA Committee.

The NYB has contacted members of the National Youth Congress to show their support and enthusiasm for their “What is Pony Club” Project with discussion taking place on how to proceed with the project.

Pony Club International Alliance Report (PCIA) Report

The PCIA will continue to have virtual exchanges in 2022. The Australian Pony Club will host a Virtual Quiz Exchange in September. USPC and the Hong Kong Pony Club will host the Virtual Dressage Exchange in October. A Virtual Show Jumping Exchange will take place with more details to follow.

USPC is hosting the 2022 Foxhunting Exchange in Aiken, SC, at the end of November. The Irish Pony Club and The Pony Club (UK) will be sending teams. This will be the first in-person exchange in over two years.

The PCIA Youth Council (YAC) held its first meeting in March and another one in May with all countries represented with two members apart from The Canadian Pony Club and The Irish Pony Club. PCIA board members are eager to hear about the activities and projects the council wishes to embark on. Jessica Flores and Tanner Kooister are the USPC representatives. On the last call, they discussed having an international Instagram account, but the details and coordination would need to be worked out. Another topic that arose there

are differences are age requirements for certain disciplines and another main difference is certifications and where they align with the different countries. YAC also voted on its officers and committee chairs.

New Zealand will be hosting the Inter-Pacific Exchange in 2023 in January. The Australian Pony Club will be hosting the Games Exchange in July 2023. USPC will host the Quiz Exchange at Championships East in 2023. The Pony Club will host the Tetrathlon Exchange in 2024.

Board Committee Highlights

Safety: The Safety pages of the website have been reviewed and updated.

Disaster Plan Poster – Thank you to Emily Harris, NYB Chair, she has designed the poster. She suggested that the Safety Committee have a Safety Slogan.

Marketing & Communications: Welcome, Sarah Evers Conrad, Director of Marketing and Communications on April 4. Sarah is orientating to all Pony Club happenings and programs and kicking off content production from the Marketing and Communications Department. Sarah brings over 20 years of marketing and communications experience to USPC, her background includes media and marketing positions at The Horse magazine and was the digital content manager for Horse Illustrated and Young Rider magazines.

Welcome, Megan Scharfenberg, Marketing and Communications/Instruction Services Coordinator. Megan is a recent graduate of Lake Erie College with a double major in Equine Business Administration and Marketing.

USPC provided the Horsemanship Test at the Interscholastic Equestrian Association (IEA) National Finals. Over 400 IEA members took the USPC Horsemanship Test which included 25 timed questions, plus tiebreaker questions. Thank you to volunteer Margie Williams who attended on USPC's behalf and presented the awards for the Horsemanship Test. USPC is a member partner of the IEA and a longtime sponsor of the IEA Horsemanship program.

Development: As of May 20, 2022, the Annual Fund has raised \$77,194 of its \$267,200 goal for 2022.

USPC welcomes Zoetis as the “Official Equine Health and Wellness Partner” of USPC.

USPC would like to thank all our Corporate Sponsors:

- Shapley's Grooming Products
- Triple Crown Nutrition
- Wintec
- Kerrits Activewear
- The Horse

Kentucky Performance Products and Achieve Equine are the first two sponsors to sign on for the 2022 Championships.

USPC College Scholarships – We received 28 eligible applications out of the 51 that began the process. The Scholarship Committee is currently reviewing the applications and will notify the recipients by June 30, 2022.

With the success of the Revenue Share Partnerships with the hosting regions for the USPC Convention, we have decided to expand this model to the Annual Fund Campaign. It will be a Regional Challenge Campaign that will begin in the fall, with the timing tying into the annual meetings of clubs and regions – September 1-November 30. Each region will have their own fundraising page on the USPC website, so it will be able to see in real-time their progress and progress of other regions. All donations will go towards the Annual Fund Campaign. Once the challenge is over, USPC will give 10% of the total raised by each region back to that region. We are reaching out to all RSs to discuss the idea and answer any questions.

Strategic Planning: With the new Strategic Plan in place, the committee continually monitors its alignment with USPC's Mission, Vision, and Core Values. The new Strategic Plan is available on the [website](#).

Diversity, Equity, Inclusion & Accessibility (DEIA): A virtual workshop was presented during the USPC Convention to introduce the committee and to gain visibility. The committee sent out an email blast to the membership to build its network and committee. If you are interested in being involved with our committee, please email us at DEIA@ponyclub.org

Governance: Regional Administration asked the committee to review Policy #1002, Member in Good Standing to consider incorporating the compliance expectations outlined in Policy #0900 Member and Volunteer Safety and Protection for adults (age 18 and over) members of USPC. Policy #1002, Member in Good Standing is now revised.

Instruction asked the Safety Committee to review Policy #0800, Safety Requirements for Helmets as some volunteers are confused about what constitutes approved certifications of approved helmets. Policy #0800 is now revised.

For all updated and revised Policies/Procedures, and Resolutions, please visit the [website](#).

Report of the USPC Convention Committee

The 2023 USPC Convention will be at the Marriott St. Louis Grand hotel in St. Louis, MO, from January 18-22.

