



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

Upcoming National Events

2023

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

2023 USPC Championships Central – June 5- 8, National Equestrian Center St. Louis, MO (Dressage, Mounted Games, Show Jumping, Tetrathlon, Western Dressage, & Gymkhana, and Western Trail Invitationals).

2023 USPC Championships Central – June 9-11, National Equestrian Center St. Louis, MO (Quiz and Eventing).

2023 USPC Championships East – July 26-30, Tryon International Equestrian Center, Mill Spring, NC.

2024

2024 USPC Convention – January 24-28, Peppermill Reno Resort, Reno, NV.

2024 USPC Festival Championships– July 15-22, Kentucky Horse Park, Lexington, KY.

General Comments

Comments from President Jennifer Sweet

President Sweet attended Championships East at the Tryon International Equestrian Center, in Mill Spring, NC, for the first time and had the honor speaking at the opening ceremonies. She was in awe standing in the arena with all the competitors representing their clubs, centers, and regions. She was able to watch almost all the disciplines competing and stated, “It truly is an experience within pony club that all members should have!”

Comments from Executive Director Teresa Woods

Since the May meeting, the National Office team has implemented several strategic directives, help lead the work of various committees, organized our USPC activities and programs, and provided customer service and guidance to our many members and volunteers contacting the National Office.

A major task that has required much collaboration between all departments, particularly the Systems Administration Department (Alyssa Sands) and the Marketing and Communications Department (Sarah Conrad and Megan Scharfenberg) is the development of the new USPC website and refreshing the look of several pages on the existing site. The refreshed pages have been designed with the user’s immediate needs in mind and restructured to put action items in easily accessible places. Development of the layout for the new website is well underway. This will be an enormous undertaking and will be a lengthy project. Paring down our existing site to remove unnecessary items and reduce the redundancy of information is high on the list of priorities, as is engaging potential members and their parents. Alyssa said it best, “We walk a fine line with our website between attracting new members and providing crucial information to our existing membership. My hope is that our new site will do this with a modern flair and more user-friendly style.

Report from the Treasurer/Finance Committee

The Board approved the 2023 Operating Budget and the Capital Purchase requests for the following – a new server (was previously approved in 2022 but was not completed); USPC Website Rebuild/Redesign; Camera for the Marketing & Communications Department.

Report of VP of Instruction

The Programs Administration Council and the Board approved the following: The Standards of Proficiency (SOP) for Horse Management D-1 through C-2; Removing Does Not Meet Standards for the D-1 level only; and increasing the fees paid to the Visiting Instructors by the region/club/center.

The Standards and Testing D-A Committee will continue with the review of the H-B and H-A Standards next and look at the riding at all levels for the educational continuum D-A.

The D-C-2 Committee met in June and discussed the possible use of a single rubric. It was determined that it might be beneficial to our membership as a ‘checklist’ type of document. Once the Horse Management SOPs have been approved, the committee will be to help revise and build our educational material to support the new SOPs.

The Examiners Committee is working on revisions to the Examiner Handbook. A second newsletter was to all National Examiners (NEs) in June which included guidelines for marking test sheets for Phase testing in the Eventing track along with general reminders. The co-chairs initiated a monthly Zoom Meeting for PIPs, which the first meeting was held in response to a heat-related inquiry following a Mid-South testing, they have continued with the most recent meeting, and examiners were able to ask questions about testing procedures, collaborate on scheduling and logistic issues.

The National Testing Curricula Committee is working on what educational materials are needed to support the Standards of Proficiency.

The Regional Instruction Committee continues to offer monthly “Resources for Regional Instructor Coordinators (RICs) via Zoom meetings covering such topics as Preps, Standards and Certifications, Upper-Level retest procedures, creative ways to use NEs for preps teaching or testing in your region, and an open forum for questions and sharing of ideas

The Visiting Instructor Committee had 11 clubs/centers request Visiting Instructors (VI) with only three available VIs to send to camps. The committee believes that the reason they are not receiving more VI applications is due to the pay/stipend. The committee also believes if they extend the deadline to April for applications, they will receive more applications.

Report of VP of Activities

The Programs Administration Council and the Board approved the following:

- Approve a permanent Alternative Championships Path for Dressage, Mounted Games, and Quiz.
- To change the minimum of games for Mounted Games Championships Eligibility played at a qualifying rally from eight to six.
- To add the option of a riding or non-riding stable manager and spare mount for Mounted Games.
- To approve changing Western Trail to Trail and allowing competitors to participate in appropriate tack as stated in the Rulebook.
- To approve the Quiz scoring concept of equality of phases.

USPC Championships Dates

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International Exchanges and Special Opportunities

2022 Foxhunting Exchange – This is the first in-person exchange since 2019. USPC will host the exchange in Aiken, SC, November 17-28. The following USPC members will be participating:

Lydia Eilinger, South Region
Michaela Frye, Midwest Region
Delaney O’Neil, Maryland Region
Johanna Stahl, Maryland Region
Team Manager – Nicola Watson, Sunshine Region

2023 Inter-Pacific Exchange – New Zealand will be hosting the exchange from January 8-26, 2023. The following USPC members will be participating in the exchange:

Keely Bechtol, National Member
Nora Goldfarb, Midsouth Region
Emily Thomas, Carolina Region
Sierra Shurtz – South Region
Team Manager – Alex Ambelang
Team Coach – Jennifer Merrick-Brooks



Virtual Dressage – Hosted by USPC and the Hong Kong Pony Club. There are 162 entries with Training Level 1 having the most competitors.

Virtual Show Jumping – Each PCIA country will submit a team of four in the 100-meter class. USPC does not have a team entered.

Virtual Quiz Competition – The Australian Pony Club will be hosting the competition in early December 2022.

International Quiz Exchange – USPC is scheduled to host the exchange in 2023.

Report of the VP of Regional Administration

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the in-person Regional Leadership was on hiatus, with some training done virtually. The Leadership Education team has incorporated new training topics, inspired by the pandemic and has reviewed and revised existing educational modules, as well as additional topics. The refreshed Regional Leadership Education program will be available and promoted at the 2023 USPC Convention in St. Louis, MO.

The VPRA initiated a series of educational mini messages in response to Frequently Asked Questions (FAQS) on topics such as the nomination process and/or elections for clubs and regions. Other USPC staff and Board members have provided additional content, such as the introduction to the Annual Fund and a two-part financial message about compliance and budget creation.

There will be a Professional Development session at the USPC Convention in St. Louis on Friday, January 20, 2023. After consultation with USPC's Activities, Instruction and Regional Administration directors, Jay McChord will present two ½ day sessions tailored to leaders, in addition to making recommendations for ongoing volunteer engagement. USPC will provide completion certificates to USPC Convention attendees who may be able to earn continuing education or volunteer training credit with their employer.

National Youth Board (NYB) Report

Updates from the NYB Committees:

The Marketing and Communications Committee has been working to streamline the process to submit content to USPC, keeping content educational, fun, and engaging to keep content relevant along with highlighting the incredible service that Pony Club encourages and the work that members do in membership highlights.

The NYB now has its own pin, the new pins were distributed to current NYB members in August.

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. Currently, the committee is evaluating the logistics of the competition and how to rectify if any copyright issues come up. If the film competition goes forward, it will be completely revamped and coincide with National I Love Horses Day, which will become fun and interesting as it puts the focus on the shared love for horses. There will be “Competition Rules” documenting an outline of the criteria for judging, requirements for the video, and a video release form. The goal is to highlight the passion that lives on in the lives of our Pony Club members and the love that they have for horses.

The Member Affairs and Networking Committee worked and developed the Student Incentive Program that rewards USPC members who not only participate in USPC activities but who also is pursuing a post-K-12 education. The program was passed at the October 4, 2022, PAC meeting with the National Office helping to implement the program.

The Service Committee is working on a service project that will coincide with the 2023 USPC Convention in St. Louis, MO.

The Regional Youth Boards Committee is currently working on a brochure about Regional Youth Boards.

NYB “What is Pony Club” Project. The progress has been slow but steady, the NYB decided that to better serve USPC members, they needed to dig deeper and better understand what Pony Club has meant to the membership. During Championships East a survey was launched for members, volunteers, judges, parents, staff, and Pony Club leaders to take with the purpose to gain more insight from different perspectives. The survey has been distributed to regions, clubs/centers, and friends of Pony Club, and in Enews in September. The next step will be to analyze the data and use the information to better explain “What is Pony Club,” that is not only understandable but also allows our members to share and explain “what is Pony Club” in a way that is uniform while also capturing the heart and soul of USPC.

Pony Club International Alliance Report (PCIA) Report

The PCIA Charter, Mission, and Vision were approved at the last meeting.

Charter – To promote Pony Club membership across the world and to collaborate on international programs.

Mission – Creating opportunities to promote a strong international Pony Club community through equine education, friendship, volunteerism, and leadership.

Vision – To become the world’s preeminent horse sport organization developing skills and character through a century-long tradition of sportsmanship, horse welfare, safety, teamwork, and friendly competition.

The PCIA Youth Council (YAC) has been active and launched an Instagram page and is planning content. With Jessica Flores at the helm, they approved a charter that coincides with the PCIA charter. Horse welfare has been a topic of discussion among countries.

In 2024 during USPC Festival the PCIA and YAC will hold an in-person meeting, which will allow member countries to see USPC's Championships and the Education portion. At this meeting, USPC will accept the rotation schedule and assume the responsibility for being the Secretariat for the following two years.

Virtual Exchanges

- Virtual Dressage Exchange hosted by USPC and the Hong Kong Pony Club. There are 162 entries with Training Level 1 having the most competitors.
- Virtual Show Jumping – Each PCIA country will submit a team of four in the 100-meter class. USPC does not have a team entered.
- Virtual Quiz – The Australian Pony Club will be hosting in early December 2022.

In-Person Exchanges

- Foxhunting Exchange – Hosted by USPC, November 17-28, 2022. This is the first in-person exchange in almost three years. The exchange will be between USPC members and members of the Irish Pony Club hosted in Atlanta, Ga, and Aiken, SC. The Atlanta Pony Club will welcome both teams with dinner on their arrival. The teams will hunt with Aiken Hounds, Whiskey Road, and Belle Meade hunts.
- Inter-Pacific Exchange – Hosted by the New Zealand Pony Club in January 2023.
- Games – hosted by Pony Club Australia in July 2023.
- Quiz – hosted by USPC at the 2024 USPC Festival.

Board Committee Highlights

Safety: Thank you to Emily Harris who designed the USPC Emergency Preparedness Safety Poster. She will design the USPC Helmet Poster once the committee has sent her the wording.

At the USPC Convention in Norfolk, VA, earlier this year the committee received some feedback from leaders that they would like to see an Air Quality Index and a Cold Weather Index. The Safety page has been updated with the new indexes and they will be added in the next revision of the Safety Handbook.

Marketing & Communications: The committee, led by Marketing & Communications Director, Sarah Evers Conrad, has been working on a few short surveys to send out to Regional Supervisors to learn more about marketing opportunities in each region, how regions communicate with clubs/centers, and what resources may be needed for marketing clubs/centers, and regions. The survey will be sent out in late fall/early winter.

We are working on blog posts and an eBook that will define job descriptions of different Pony Club positions and also have the Pony Club acronym list.

The Podcast has been restarted with Sarah Conrad and Megan Scharfenberg, Marketing & Instruction Coordinator as hosts. Their first interview was with Alyssa Sands, a USPC graduate, provisional Horse Management Judge, and USPC National Office staff.

Alyssa Sands, the Systems Administrator and Content Manager, has been redesigning various pages on the Pony Club website, with edits and content updates from staff and Marketing Director Sarah Conrad to fine-tune the content, style, and the design. All pages will be done in the new style, but the overall look of the website will also change with the redesign of the website. So far, pages that have been restyled include:

Volunteers: <https://www.ponyclub.org/Volunteers/>

Resources for Committee Members: <https://www.ponyclub.org/Volunteers/Resources/Committee.aspx>

Volunteering Requirements: <https://www.ponyclub.org/Volunteers/Requirements.aspx>

Convention: <https://www.ponyclub.org/Events/Convention/>

Inspired to Give: <https://www.ponyclub.org/Giving/>

Equestrian Safety and the USPC Experience: <https://www.ponyclub.org/Volunteers/Safety/>

The Marketing and Communications Department and Alyssa Sands have been coordinating a framework for the site redesign. An overall framework for the site design has been worked out and a style template is in progress.

Development: The Annual Fund goal is \$267,200 and as of November 17, \$219,900 has been raised.

The Regional Challenge kicked off on September 1 and runs through November 30. The winning Region will have a Zoom party hosted by Ride iQ and will have the chance to chat and ask questions with some of the top riders and coaches.

We would like to thank USPC's 2022 Corporate Sponsors:

Shapley's Grooming Products

Triple Crown Nutrition

Wintec

Kerrits Activewear

Zoetis Equine

The Horse

We are happy to announce the following USPC Scholarship recipients:

The Triple Crown Nutrition Scholarship was awarded to Hannah Fisher, C-3 EV/HB HM, Radnor Hunt Pony Club, Computer Science & Biology majors, attending Haverford College.

The Dorothy Renfro Memorial Scholarship was awarded to Emily Garside, C-3 EV/HB HM, Bath Pony Club, Biochemistry major, attending the University of Akron.

The Stanley R. and Martha C. Helbert Scholarship were awarded to Savannah Connor, C-2 HM/C-1 EV, Quad Cities Pony Club, attending Illinois State University.

The Pony Club Jubilee Scholarships were awarded to Rachel Marsh, B EV/H-B HM/D-3 DR, Timber Ridge Pony Club, Marketing major attending Arizona State University, and Abigail Frank, D-3 EV/HB HM/C-1 DR, Rose City Pony Club, Aeronautical & Astronautical Engineering major, attending Purdue University.

The Anson W. H. Taylor Memorial Scholarship was awarded to Liesel Fazekas, C-3 EV/H-B HM, Atlanta Pony Club, Environmental Engineering major attending the University of Georgia.

The Bodgie Read Memorial Scholarship was awarded to Julia Magsam, C-3 DR/C-1 EV/H-B HM, Bluegrass Pony Club, Biomedical Sciences major, attending Georgetown College.

Strategic Planning: With the new Strategic Plan in place and keeping USPC's Mission Statement front and center, it became clear that the current Vision Statement was not as effective in line as it could be, and a revision was developed. The Board approved and has adopted the new Vision Statement: *To be the leading source and voice of education in horse care, safety, and equestrian pursuits.*

Diversity, Equity, Inclusion & Accessibility (DEIA): The committee will be going through USPC materials (rulebooks, forms, etc.) following current policy and procedures regarding DEIA. Once completed, if necessary, the committee will evaluate any issues they encounter and work with other committees to recommend amendments that better address DEIA policy and procedures.

Governance:

The following revised Policies, Procedures and Resolutions were approved by the Board:

[Policy 0810](#), Safety Requirements for Helmets, which includes an additional approved certification, SNELL Memorial Foundation E2016 or E2021.

[Policy 0860](#), Veterinary Care & Equine Medications and its [Procedure](#). The revision eliminates a vet certificate for horses at a Pony Club rally. The intention is to place the responsibility for managing and/or policing a mount's medication on the owner/rider.

[Resolution #6](#), Centralized Financial Reporting System, which has been updated to current practices and provides additional oversight.

One new Resolution was approved, [Resolution #12](#), Regional Resource Committee

For all updated and revised By-Laws, 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.

The 2024 USPC Convention will be the Peppermill Reno Resort, Reno, NV from January 24-28.