



The January 31 and February 2 Board of Governors meeting were at the Hilton Seattle Airport & Conference Center, Seattle, WA.

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## Upcoming National Events

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

2021 Equine Symposium & Convention hosted by USPC will be held January 27 – January 31 at the Marriott St. Louis Grand Hotel, St. Louis, MO.

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## General Comments

*Comments from President Ben Duke*

2019 was a busy and successful year thanks to the hard work of countless volunteers and the National Office Staff. A few highlights from 2019 include:

- Celebrate 65 - We had a very successful year of fundraising with the 65<sup>th</sup> Anniversary with the addition of the Manton Foundation Match, USPC raised over \$328,000!
- The Eventing Phase testing for C-3 through A levels to be implemented in 2020.
- Revised Standards of Proficiencies - Eventing D through A.
- The reorganization of seven discipline rulebooks.
- USPC celebrating 65 incredible years and the UK Pony Club celebrating 90 years. With Pony Clubs in the United Kingdom, Ireland, the United States, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Japan, South Africa, Kenya, and Hong Kong there are over 75,000 members worldwide!
- Two fantastic Championships – Championships East at the Tryon International Equestrian Center and Championships Central at the Colorado Horse Park.
- USPC hosted the International Mounted Games Exchange during Championships Central.

The Pony Club Review Team lead by Dr. Lori Garkovich reviewed the over 1,200 responses from the survey. From the responses, we heard how beloved Pony Club is and it does many wonderful things, but there are areas we need to look at. Three Task Forces have been formed to look at these areas, which are:

- Organizational/Operations – Will look at the complexity of Pony Club.
- Education/Testing – Will explore strengths, weaknesses, and opportunities.
- Membership Adults/Youth – Will look at the integration of adults and youth. Youth and child safety is very important.

The Task Force will look at these areas and will report to the Board later in the year with its recommendations. Please share your opinions with us, as we want to do what is right for our membership. Horse Management will continue to be the foundation of Pony Club and we will continue to have a national testing program. Recommendations from the Task Force could be rolled out at the 2021 Equine Symposium and Convention in St. Louis, MO.

*Comments from Executive Director Teresa Woods*

Since the October meeting, the National Office team has supported and contributed to the work of various committees and managed the activities and programs of Pony Club. A few highlights include:

- The Activities Department in conjunction with the Equine Symposium and Convention Committee put in many long hours leading up to a wonderful Equine Symposium and Convention with preliminary numbers showing 676-weekend registrations and 94 day passes.
- The Development Department exceeded its goal for the Annual Fund by 88%.
- Marketing & Communications department has begun a refresh of the Pony Club Website. The website will be more intuitive and will focus on “what you do” rather than “who you are” once you are logged in.
- Over 150 new memberships have been completed online; previously only renewing members could register online.
- In addition to revising the Eventing D-A Standards of Proficiencies, the Instruction Department has been very busy preparing for Festival 2020 and has secured several top-level clinicians.
- The Regional Administration and Member Services Department have developed and tested the new process for forming new Riding Centers.
- The feedback from the “Impressions of Pony Club Survey” will be made available to everyone to read/review. Click [here](#) for more information.

**Report of VP of Instruction**

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The Eventing D through A Standards of Proficiency has been revised for 2020, along with revised test sheets and updated checklists.

The National Testing Committee is developing an explanatory document for members and leaders on the Eventing Phase Testing for C-3 through A levels.

Festival 2020 – After much feedback, we will offer semi-private lessons for dressage. On change-over day, the Retired Racehorse Project will present a Masters Makeover class. There will be 3-4 professionals that will analyze and work with an off the track Thoroughbred demonstrating their approach to the first ride in a second career.

**Report of VP of Activities**

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The 2020 Discipline Rulebooks, which also includes the inaugural Western Dressage Rulebook, are now available online and for purchase through Shop Pony Club.

The Rally Organizer’s Guide will be available late spring. The guide will be divided into two sections; Section I includes information universal to all disciplines; Section II is broken into chapter by disciplines, with Dressage and Western Dressage co-existing in the same chapter due to their similarities. Organizing documents, i.e. 8 ½ x 11 scoresheets, organizer’s reports, etc. will be included in the guide. In addition, the Rally Organizer’s Web Page will be updated and reorganized.

Nationally maintained, excel scoresheets have been created for all disciplines. Hard copy discipline scoresheets will be available through Shop Pony Club or for downloads from the Rally Organizer's page of the website.

The Show Jumping Committee received several grants and purchased timing equipment and radios to be used at Championships and lend it to regions to support their regional rallies. Starting in 2020 a formal lending program will be implemented, in which regions will be charged a flat shipping fee to cover costs.

Festival 2020 - will be at the Kentucky Horse Park, July 13-20, with a closing date of noon ET, June 22.

The process for Championships entry has been reconfigured for 2020. Regional leadership will mark members who are eligible for Championship once they meet the competition eligibility criteria. Members will then be notified of their eligibility for Championships, and the member will be responsible for registering and paying for themselves. Once members are registered, the regional leadership can form teams.

Championships East for 2021 and 2022 will be held at the Tryon International Equestrian Center. 2021 dates will be July 21-25, with an entry closing date of June 28, 2021; 2022 dates will be July 27-31, with an entry closing date July 5.

International Exchanges in 2020 – Australia will host the International Mounted Games competition; The United Kingdom will host the Tetrathlon Exchange, and the United States will host the Foxhunting Exchange. Applications for all three exchanges are currently available on the USPC website.

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

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The Leadership Training Outreach program started 2020 off with three training weekends in January. Presenters traveled to the South Region, North Central Prairie Region, and the Great Lakes Region.

Several applicants tested the new process for forming new Riding Centers before the official rollout. Under the new process, USPC has signed contracts with five new Riding Centers.

The Document Review Committee completed the Resources for Regions and Clubs and Centers resource pages on the website. Please log into the website to view the clubs and centers resource page click [here](#) and for regions click [here](#).

The Membership Committee completed a PowerPoint Presentation with the 2-Minute video done by USPC which now available [here](#). The committee believes that this overview of the “Why Pony Club” will help new members, parents and volunteers to better understand the long-term benefits of Pony Club. Leaders can also use the presentation to introduce new members to their club or center so that they have

a better understanding of what is expected of them and the benefits of joining. Many new leaders are unable to attend the leadership training that occurs during the Equine Symposium and Convention, the committee is planning to work with the National Office to put on monthly webinars that all club/center leaders and/or regional leaders could utilize to receive training. The webinars will be targeted to training the club, center and region level leader. Webinars will be organized through the year in a manner that addresses topics relevant to the time of year – i.e. beginning of the year “Stepping into your new Role” which is targeted to the new DC/CA/RSs.

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

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The National Youth Board’s service project during the 2020 Equine Symposium and Convention at the Little Bits Therapeutic Riding Center in Redmond, WA, where members of the NYB helped with maintenance at the facility and mucking out stalls.

During the 2020 Equine Symposium and Convention, they had a booth set up next to registration where they have information about member opportunities and the NYB experience.

For the past three years during the month of August, the NYB has promoted clubs and regions across the nation who participated in service projects throughout the year. Please consider incorporating the Month of Service into your Pony Club calendar.

The NYB continues to improve communication with the Pony Club membership by utilizing the NYB Facebook page along with social media campaigns highlighting their love for Pony Club along with a variety of projects they are working on. One of their favorite projects was the “Member Spotlights” on Facebook, USPC National Youth Board. The NYB created a USPC LinkedIn page to continue to promote Pony Club networking on a national level in a professional setting and encourage everyone to add it to his or her profile.

The NYB applications for new board members are accepted every fall. They are looking for passionate, mature USPC leaders with exceptional communication skills. Click [here](#) to apply.

### **Board Committee Highlights**

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**Safety:** The Governance Committee sent proposed changes to policies under the heading of Corporate Safety for the committee to review, specifically how attachments to Policy 0800, Safety should be displayed. Attachments included requirements for helmets, medical armbands/bracelets, and body protection vests. The committee agreed that these policies need to be visible since they are core policies of the organizational activities. There was extensive discussion about Policy 0900 and Procedure 1, Member and Volunteer Safety and Protection pertaining to background checks and particular groups to whom the background check should be expanded.

In the Research Project Fair, which was held during the 2020 Equine Symposium and Convention, two entries focused on Safety. One was the project on “A Mechanism for Chevron Cross Country Jumps to Decrease the Risk of Rotational Falls”, and “Helmet Usage by Equestrians”.

Dru Malavase, who was instrumental in working with the American Standard Test Method (ASTM) on certifications for equestrian helmets, reached out to a former committee member to see if USPC could provide information from its Incidents Reports and give the data to ASTM.

**Finance:** USPC ended 2019 in a good place, partly due to the Celebrate 65 and the Manton Match campaign.

**Strategic Planning:** Dr. Garkovich's research and the Pony Club Review Team has provided the committee with an enormous amount of useful data. President Duke has established three Task Forces under the auspices of the Strategic Planning Committee, which will focus on the following identified areas:

- Organization Structure/Operations
- Judging/Examining
- Memberships – Adults/Youth

During the Equine Symposium and Convention in Seattle, the Strategic Planning Committee had two sessions during the RS/DC/CA meetings and gathered information, which they will share with the Task Forces. The Committee also met with the Task Force members who were able to attend the Convention.

The committee is working on devising a method to make the details of Dr. Garkovich's research available to the membership.

**Marketing & Communications:** 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. EQUITANA USA in September.

Pony Club is collaborating with EQUITANA USA to provide educational content to the three-day equestrian event, which will run from September 25-27. USPC will have the full education display and booth space, as well as demonstrations by interested Clubs/Centers/Regions. The partnership includes free tickets for every USPC Member whether attending for a single day or all three days. For members to claim their free ticket they must register at [equitanausa20.com/USPC](http://equitanausa20.com/USPC) using the code USPC2020. Note – members may be asked to verify their USPC Membership at any point.

Shop Pony Club has new products for sale including a keychain, set of four leather coasters, a new ultra-soft throw blanket, and a special on a quarter-zip shirt from Charles River.

The Marketing & Communications committee continues its ongoing work on reviewing the website and reports on broken links, lack of intuitiveness, out of date material, and duplicated material. Remember to sign in to the website to access the proprietary USPC content. New Menu Bars and a new Profile page will be coming soon!

USPC has a presence on the following platforms:

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/USPonyClubs/>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/unitedstatesponyclubs/>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/USPonyClub>

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/ponyclub>

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/user/TheUSPonyClubs/featured>

USPC Blog: <http://blog.ponyclub.org/>

Online Pony Club News Magazine: <https://www.ponyclub.org/News/Magazine/>

USPC Digests

USPC website: [www.ponyclub.org](http://www.ponyclub.org)

**Development:** The 2019 Annual Fund goal was \$217,600; we exceeded our goal raising \$247,149. Overall fundraising for all programs, activities, and events was \$333,000+.

USPC 65th Annual Fund Giving – Celebrate 65. Through the generosity of the Manton Foundation and our generous donors, we were able to meet the Manton Match by raising a total of \$36,579 from the August 3 kick-off through October 11. The Manton Foundation matched \$32,500 of the funds raised.

During the 2020 Equine Symposium and Convention, we kicked off “20 in 2020” Campaign, which focuses on 20 ways to give to the Annual Fund. Our goal for the 2020 Annual Fund is \$247,600.

Corporate Sponsors for 2020:

Wintec Saddles as the Official Saddle Sponsor

Kerrits Activewear as the Official Apparel Sponsor

Shapley’s Grooming Products as the Official Grooming Product Sponsor

Festival 2020 Sponsors:

SSG Riding Gloves – Title Sponsor

**Governance:** The committee continues its work to review and simplify all policies, reformatting and removing procedures from policies.

After reviewing the Corporate Safety Policies, the Equine Safety Policy was incorporated into Policy 0800 – Safety to eliminate redundancy; thus, a new format is included. Following the discussion with the Safety Committee, the Safety attachments were reformatted into stand-alone policies. The following Safety Policies and their procedures have been revised:

- 0800 – Safety – Which now incorporates Policy 0910, Equine Safety
- 0810 – Safety Requirements for Helmets
- 820 – Medical Armbands and Bracelets and Medical Armbands and Bracelets Procedure
- 0830 Safety Requirements for Body Protection Vests
- 0840 – Mounts

- 0850 – Bitting
- 0860 – Veterinary Care and Equine Medications and Veterinary Care and Equine Medications Procedure
- 0900 – Member and Volunteer Protection and Member and Volunteer Protection Procedure. The Policy and its Procedure will be updated and communicated once office procedures are in place.

Under Corporate Philosophy, the following Policies and Procedures have been revised:

- 0735 – Dispute Resolution Policy and Dispute Resolution Procedure

For all updated and revised Policies/Procedures and Resolutions, please click [here](#).

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

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The 2021 Equine Symposium & Convention will be held at the Marriott St. Louis Grand Hotel, St. Louis, MO, January 27-31.

The 2022 Equine Symposium & Convention will be held at the Norfolk Waterside Marriot, Norfolk, VA, January 26-30.