



The October Board of Governors meeting was at the USPC National Office in Lexington, KY.

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## Upcoming National Events

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

Festival 2020 July 13 - 20, Kentucky Horse Park, Lexington, KY.

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## General Comments

*Comments from President Ben Duke*

I was able to attend Championships Central at the Colorado Horse Park in Parker, CO. A highlight at Championships East and Championships Central was the Member Showcase, where nationally certified members showcased the various disciplines that they compete in.

Dr. Lori Garkovich in conjunction with the Pony Club Review Team presented a summary of the “Impressions of Pony Club Survey” and Key Informant Interviews. The summary involved hours of interviews and tabulations, encompassing over a thousand comments and viewpoints from within and outside of the Pony Club family. I would like to thank Dr. Garkovich and her committee that includes Gary Carpenter, Pam Buffington, Bill Weiss, Sedate Kohler, Traci Wheeler, and Jerry Schurink. To view the Pony Club Review Team Executive Summary, click [here](#).

Now the work for USPC begins. The report identifies a number of areas that, as a Governing Board, must address and contemplate. We cannot be afraid to think boldly, to think critically, and to recognize that some things in Pony Club must change if the organization is to continue to be vibrant, relevant, and strong, serving our members and the equine world for the next 65 years.

This is an important year in the life of Pony Club, as we celebrate 90 years of the Pony Club movement, begun in Great Britain in 1929. Worldwide, there now are over 110,000 Pony Club members, represented in no less than 27 countries! And, here in the United States, we are celebrating our 65th birthday. The impact our wonderful organization has had on generations of members is significant and something we all can (and should) celebrate. The Manton Foundation’s “65-Year” Annual Fund match is proving to be a great incentive for many to support USPC, and we are grateful to each and every donor.

Board of Governor member, David Courreges, resigned due to family and work commitments. Gary Carpenter has been appointed to fulfill David Courreges's remaining Board term. Mr. Carpenter recently served on the Pony Club Review Ad-Hoc Committee and is currently the CEO of the National Reining Horse Association and is the former CEO of the American Association of Equine Practitioners (AAEP) and of the Jockey Club. He is also currently serving on the Equine Land Conservation Resource (ELCR) Board. He has some Pony Club background.

I want to thank all Board and Advisory members and our tremendous staff members for their dedication, support, and expertise you all demonstrate throughout the year.

*Comments from Executive Director Teresa Woods*

Since the May meeting, the National Office team has implemented several board directives, supported and contributed to the work of various committees, and managed the activities and programs of Pony Club. The departmental reports in the board packet reflect and detail much of this work. A few of the highlights include:

- The Activities Department successfully planned and managed two championships; supported hosting of the International Mounted Games Exchange; provided administrative and logistical support to the International Pacific Exchange team.
- The Development Department led a hugely successful matching gifts campaign and overall, a robust Annual Campaign.
- The Compliance and IT Departments transitioned Pony Club to SafeSport Member Protection Training.
- The Member Services Department tested the application, interview and online contract for Centers and successfully completed the first Center contract under the new formation process. Plans for additional tests are in place prior to the system going live on January 1.
- The Finance Department has diligently worked with clubs and regions to bring all into compliance with state charitable renewals/ submissions. Currently, 97.4% of regions as well as clubs are in compliance with state requirements.
- The Instruction Department has worked closely with the National Youth Congress (NYC) Committee and the Development Department to secure funding for the 2020 NYC and develop the 2020 program. Work has already begun for Festival 2020, including the identification of clinicians and educational offerings.
- Based on feedback from the field, the Marketing and Communications Department has designed and compiled a printable “field guide” version of the Annual Directory. The Annual Directory is still searchable live online, but now a snapshot version is available to print as well. The reorganization of the website toolbars and content placement. This will aid users in website navigation is currently underway.
- The IT department has completed several projects to ease the administrative burden on our volunteers while also improving the efficiency of staff administration. Of note is the recent launch of online registration for new members and the overhaul of the championships registration process.

Throughout the year, I have had the opportunity to work closely with Dr. Lori Garkovich and the Pony Club Review Committee. At this Board of Governors meeting, Dr. Garkovich presented the observations and recommendations derived from thousands of perceptions and ideas of over a thousand past and present Pony Club members, volunteers, staff and equestrian-related organizations. The passion, enthusiasm, and devotion to Pony Club are evident through survey comments and personal interviews. The respondents were open and honest in their expressions, taking the time to share their stories, ideas, and hopes. There are many opportunities identified for Pony Club to help inform and direct our thinking and actions for sustainability and organizational vibrancy.

On the administrative side things, I am pleased to announce the recent hiring of Liz Moyer to the position of Fundraising and Marketing Coordinator. Liz has worked for a number of years in publishing, marketing and advertising for leading equestrian publications. I am delighted to welcome her to Pony Club.

The American Morgan Horse Association will be relocating their headquarters to Kentucky in January, have signed a 6-year lease for office space in Building #2.

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

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The Board approved the 2020 Operating Budget.

The committee approved a Capital Purchase Expenditure for a Learning Management System (LMS).

Charitable Compliance Update – 97.44% of USPC Regions and 97.4% of USPC Clubs are in compliance. That is a 200% increase over last year at this time.

The committee is continuing to update the Treasurer's Guide.

The Board approved the use of \$2000 of principal from the Penrose Fund for the National Examiner seminar.

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

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The Instruction Council has worked on several projects since the May Board Meeting.

- Horse Management only track – Nancy Grout, VP of Instruction, and Connie Jehlik, Instruction Services Director, reached out to the Board of Governors after the May Board Meeting to gain individual feedback/opinions on creating a Horse Management only track. Of those who responded, the majority felt the single track would allow those without horses to remain active in the club/centers, perhaps taking the riding certification at a later time. Appositionally, the point was how Pony Club advancement focuses on both the HM and riding and, as such, should remain in the D-1 as the skills are not demanding. The Board was in agreement that a Horse Management only track should be pursued further.
- Instructor Certification Program (ICP) hosted by The United States Dressage Federation (USDF) – USDF hosted two of the three ICP workshops. USPC hosted the teaching workshop. Liz Doering, National Examiner, and Nancy Grout, VP of Instruction, audited the longing workshop. This was an excellent opportunity to see if USPC and USDF are aligned in their expectations, and where are the two expectations differ. The finding is that they are not far apart.
- Revised Standards of Proficiencies for Eventing D-2 through A for 2020.
- Phase testing for the National Eventing Testing - The goal is to make the National Eventing Certifications more attainable by creating opportunities and flexibility for members to enter and progress through the National Testing Program without changing the Standards of Proficiencies. Members can test the Eventing C-3, B, and A in their entirety or members can choose to test the Eventing C-3, B and A in two phases. This allows members to test for one phase if they are unable to find a horse to do all phases or if a horse goes lame an can not complete the test in its entirety. If

a member chooses to test in phases, phase one would consist of Horse Management and riding on the flat, and phase two would be riding over fences. Members would not receive their certification title until they meet standards in both phases. If a member chooses the phase testing it would be \$200 per phase, or they can take the test in its entirety for \$250. If members choose the phase option, they would need to complete both phases within two years. The Eventing Phase testing option will be implemented for the 2020 testing year.

- The Festival 2020 Committee and Sub Committee Chairs are in place. We are excited about the many clinicians that have agreed to teach during the educational part of Festival.

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

All Discipline Rulebooks underwent a massive reorganization in 2019, it has been discovered that some items were inadvertently omitted. Those omissions and other minor additions/corrections are in the process for rollout in 2020.

The Rally Organizer's Guide for all disciplines is scheduled to be released at the 2020 Equine Symposium and Convention, with the first section being universal to all rallies, and discipline-specific information. A workshop entitled "Pony Club Rally Resources for You" is planned to coordinate with the new organizer's guide.

The Board approved the following that go into effect in 2020:

- Shorten Team Scoring - a uniform shortened team scoring was approved for all applicable disciplines (not Games or Polocrosse). This uniform shortened team scoring also does not apply to the creation of teams. This would only apply to teams that as a short team and then lose a competitor during the competition. Scoring for shortened teams is as follows - The scores of the two remaining team members are averaged for a "ghost" riding score. This creates a ghost riding score when a team loses a member after the commencement of competition. (Does not apply to the creation of teams, or for Games or Polocrosse). Horse Management ghost scores will continue to be determined as listed in the Horse Management Handbook.
- Competitor Disqualification Scoring - a uniform disqualification scoring was approved for all disciplines. Currently, there is no uniform way to score disqualified competitors. While a very rare occurrence at a rally, this has been an issue that was brought forward to the VPA and Activities Director in needing a resolution. Competitors who are disqualified from competition shall have all their scores from the competition stricken. If the disqualification of a competitor causes an already short team, to become a shortened team, then shortened team ghost scoring will apply. If a stable manager is disqualified, all the team's HM points accumulated will be split evenly among the remaining team members.
- Games Rulebook:

#### **A. Division Reorganization**

- Divisions may be combined based on entry numbers and approval of the organizer and the RS (or VPA at Championships).
- Members may play up into older competition divisions but may not play down.

- Before combining Youth or Junior with Senior division competitors on the same team, rally organizers must get the consent of the Youth/Junior competitor and their parent/legal guardian.
- Ideal team formation is 4-5 members per team. If entry numbers do not allow for full teams, the organizer in conjunction with the RS (or VPA at Championships) may run a division as pairs.

#### **Competition Levels**

- **Walk Trot** - This regional-only competition level is for riders who are beginning their development of games skills and knowledge. They are forming necessary skills such as dismounting and mounting quickly, balance/leaning for drops and pickups, steering/control, and proper hand-offs. It is at the discretion of the rally organizer and/or Regional Supervisor what kind of assistance (leadline, helpers, etc.) that the teams in this division may use at rally.
- **Intermediate** – This competition level is for riders who have developed basic games skills and can independently complete races. Participants should be beginning to develop skills such as dismounting/mounting at increased speed or vaulting, hand-offs, quick corrections, and put downs/pickups with increased speed and accuracy. Riders who have games experience but are not comfortable with higher speeds, could participate in the intermediate division, to develop confidence.
- **Open** – This competition level is for riders who have experience playing mounted games. Typical Open participants may be able to vault, perform most or all game tasks at speed with accuracy, and perform accurate/quick hand-offs and corrections. Participants must perform all games safely and with control, even at speed. This is the highest level of games competition.

#### **Competition Divisions**

- Youth Division – Up to 14 years of age
- Junior Division – 15 - 17 years of age
- Senior Division – 18 years of age and above

#### **B. New Games Mount/Rider Weight Parameters**

The committee put forward new mount weight/rider weight parameters as a rulebook change for 2020. The formula below was approved by the Board and will be in effect for 2020. A table will be created and added to the 2020 Games Rulebook to provide as a cheat sheet.

#### *Games Mount/Rider Weight Parameters*

(Mount heartgirth measurement in inches squared X mount length in inches)/330 = Approximate mount weight in lbs.

- Approximate mount weight in lbs. X 18% = Maximum rider weight in lbs. dressed and ready to ride.

### **Championships**

A Member Showcase was held during Championships East and Central upon the recommendation brought forth by the National Youth Congress's presentation to the Board during the 2019 Equine Symposium & Convention. The showcase featured the different disciplines that nationally certified members qualified in. In 2020, the Member Showcase will be held in conjunction with the competitor party.

The Activities Department is currently looking at locations for Championships East and West for 2021 and locations for Championships East and Central in 2022.

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

### **International Exchanges in 2019**

USPC hosted the International Mounted Games Exchange in 2019 with the final competition in conjunction with Championships Central. The outbreak of Vesicular Stomatitis Virus (VSV), resulted in the cancellation of the friendly competition early in the exchange and significantly increased the difficulty in finding borrowed mounts for the final competition. Nevertheless, the committee's tireless work paid off and the exchange was a success.

The team members are listed below:

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  
Katie Robertson – Team Coach, Midsouth Region

The 2019 Inter-Pacific Exchange (IPE) team to Hong Kong had a wonderful experience and returned home as winners of the 2019 Nation's Cup. This is the first time the U.S. has won since 2003. The team members are listed below:

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

For 2020, the committee is working with the Foxhunting Committee on the International Foxhunting Exchange which is scheduled for November 2020. An application for the exchange will be posted on the USPC website in October. The exchange will be centered in Aiken, SC, and will include participation from several hunts and polo clubs in the area.

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

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The Document Review Committee with the help of Aileen Gordon, Data/Content Manager, has updated Club/Center and Regions resource pages on the website. Three main resources are listed as well as “Key Responsibilities” for the region, club and center leaders. Please log into the website to view the clubs and centers resource page click [here](#) and for regions click [here](#).

The Leadership Education and Support Committee will begin to review training information available to leaders and identify any updates needed as well as identifying any new areas of training after the Handbook/Guidebook is complete.

The Membership Committee is working on creating a mentoring system for new DCs/CAs and RSs. The committee would like to help facilitate additional round table opportunities during the leadership training that occurs at the Equine Symposium & Convention for all leaders, but especially those who are new to a leadership role in Pony Club. The committee has developed a PowerPoint to be used as a resource for leaders that can be shared with new and prospective members.

The new Riding Center formation process that was approved at the May Board meeting is currently on target for full implementation by January 1.

New members can now join online; previously only renewing members could. This online tool reduces paperwork and the administrative burden of DCs and CAs while increasing the efficiency of membership processing.

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

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With the year nearing an end the NYB is focused on preparing for the Equine Symposium and Convention; electing a new chair and bring in a new group of members, and finalizing the film competition.

### **NYB Committees**

The Upper-Level Committee is working on the following:

- At the 2020 Equine Symposium and Convention, the NYB will have a promotional table where members can meet and interact with NYB members. The committee is working on having interactive workshops in the future, and adding topics such as resume building and focusing on opportunities that are not as widely known.

The Regional Youth Board Committee is looking to have more interactive workshops during the Equine Symposium and Convention.

The Service Committee is working on thank-you note letters to members who shared their Service Month projects. The NYB's service project during the 2020 Equine Symposium and Convention in Seattle, WA, will be at the Little Bits therapeutic riding center in Redmond, WA.

The Marketing Committee completed the film competition promotional video, member spotlights, Upper-Level opportunity spotlights, and service month. Improvements were made on the NYB Facebook page with plans to increase shares and connect with the general membership more. The committee is also working on further developing the LinkedIn page.

Pin Promise Committee continues to receive photos from NYB members wearing their USPC pins. The committee is looking at how to improve and engage with the membership at large during the Land Rover Kentucky Three-Day Event.

### **Board Committee Highlights**

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**Safety:** The committee is looking to increase awareness and utilization of existing safety resources (Safety Handbook, Incident Reporting, etc.)

#### **Strategic Planning:**

The committee has been laying the foundation to most efficiently utilize the report from Dr. Lori Garkovich's report.

#### **Marketing & Communications:**

USPC staff attended the FFA national convention in Indianapolis, IN, in November. In 2020 we will continue our outreach and promotion of USPC at the following:

February 11 – 14, 2020 – American Camp Association.

May 9 - 10, 2020 – Interscholastic Equestrian Association (IEA) Dressage Finals.

April 17 - 19, 2020 – IEA Hunt Seat Finals

June 13 - 14, 2020 – IEA Western Finals

September 25 – 27, 2020 – EQUITANA USA

We are excited to announce that Pony Club has partnered with EQUITANA USA to provide educational content during the three-day equestrian event. 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.

Table Top Displays are being utilized throughout the country and are available for a minimal expense for a professional display to have at horse shows, horse fairs, open houses, etc.



**Development:**

Celebrate 65 Annual Fund Campaign. Through the generosity of the Manton Foundation, the Manton Match kicked off on August 3. Not only did USPC donors meet the match, but they exceeded it by raising \$36,579 towards the \$32,500. The Manton Foundation will be matching \$32,500 of this.

For the 2020 Annual Fund Campaign, we would like for donors to make a multi-year pledge (3 years).

Official Sponsors for 2019 are: Star Stables, Wintec is the 2019 Official Saddle Sponsor, 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 USPC Scholarship Committee awarded six scholarships to deserving Pony Club members in June.

**Governance:**

The committee was tasked to review all policies with the goal of simplifying and clarifying the following – what are policies, what are procedures, and what can be eliminated. The format of the policies was addressed first, the committee proposed a new format to be adopted represented by a revision of Policy 1700, Procedural Policy. The subject of the policy has been changed from “Procedural” to “Policy Development and Review”. This new format incorporates the format into the procedures and thus will eliminate Policies 1710, Format Policy and 1710.A, Format.

The committee then tackled the first section of Policies under the heading “Corporate Philosophy,” evaluating each one asking the questions – What are necessary policies, what are procedures and what can be eliminated. Neither the Mission, Policy 0000 nor the Core Values, 0100, are policies. Instead, along with the Vision, they offer guidance upon which all of our Policies are based. The committee, therefore, recommended that these two policies and their attachments be retired and be stated as a preamble to the By-Laws and Policies.

With the goal to simplify and clarify safety and training requirements, Policy 0900, has been updated to Member and Volunteer Safety and Protection to combine and replace its former policies regarding Background Checks\*, Member Protection Training, Concussion Training\*, and Heat Illness Training\*.

The following policies have been eliminated:

- 1710, Format Policy & 1710.A, Format
- 0000 & 0000.A, Mission Statement
- 0100, Core Values & 0100.A Core Values & Vision Statement
- \*0721 Background Checks for Volunteers & \*0721.A Background Check Appeals Process
- \*0800.B Concussion and Return to Play
- \*0800.C Heat Illness
- 3010.A Duties & Responsibilities of Center Administrators

The following policies with their procedures have been revised:

- 0110, Inclusion and Inclusion Procedure

- 0710 Conflict of Interest and Code of Ethics and Conflict of Interest and Code of Ethics Procedures and Attachments (Code of Ethics, Committee Member Agreement).
- 0730 Whistle Blower and Whistle Blower Procedure
- 0800 Safety
- 0900 Member and Volunteer Safety and Protection and Member and Volunteer Safety and Protection Procedure and Background Check Appeal Procedure.
- 1700 Procedural Policy and Policy Development and Review Procedure.

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

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

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The 2020 Equine Symposium & Convention will be at the Hilton Seattle Airport & Conference Center, Seattle, WA, January 29 - February 2.

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.