



The 2023 USPC Board of Governors meeting was held at the USPC National Office, Lexington, KY.

Upcoming National Events

2023 USPC Championships East - Tryon International Equestrian Center, Mill Creek, NC, July 26-30 for Dressage, Eventing, Mounted Games, Polocrosse, Quiz, Show Jumping, Tetrathlon, Western Dressage, and Open Gymkhana and Trail Competitions.

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

Festival 2024 - Kentucky Horse Park, Lexington, KY, from July 15-22.

General Comments

Comments from President Jennifer Sweet

Congratulations to the Inter-Pacific Exchange Show Jumping Team for their win of the Nations Cup at the 2023 Inter-Pacific Exchange, hosted by the New Zealand Pony Club. The team consisted of Keely Bechtol (Midsouth Region), Nora Goldfarb (Middle Tennessee Pony Club, Midsouth Region), Sierra Shurtz (Piedmont Pony Club, South Region), and Emily Thomas (Greenville Foothills Pony Club, Carolina Region), along with alternate Alexis DiPasqua (Radnor Hunt Pony Club, Eastern Pennsylvania Region), Team Manager Alex Ambelang, and H-A alum from the Big Sky Region, and Coach Jennifer Merrick-Brooks, and an A Pony Club alum who teaches and trains in Michigan.

When USPC was founded in 1954, its operations, club structure, programs, and standards were a model of simplicity – one discipline, one membership type, seven regions, twenty-two member clubs, and 112 sustaining members (Corporate Members). Over the decades, USPC has grown in numbers and developed and evolved its operations, activities, and educational programs. Despite this growth and evolution, the administrative structure of the local club has changed little over the past several decades. It became apparent that a thorough review of the local club structure would be of great value to the organization, and potentially provide recommendations for structural improvements and flexibility to help local clubs better serve their membership and UPSC better support the volunteers in charge of club administration.

In February 2022, the Club and Regional Structure Ad Hoc Committee was formed to review and assess the efficiencies and effectiveness of USPC's local club structure and whether all clubs can operate using the same governance and operation structure currently in place. Their charge is to review and understand the current local club and region structure while identifying any issues or areas that may be impeding a volunteer's ability to effectively perform their duties, or the club's or region's ability to efficiently operate and serve its membership. Their task was to provide recommendations for structural improvements and flexibility to help local clubs and regions better serve their membership and UPSC better support the volunteers in charge of club administration.

Comments from Executive Director Teresa Woods

Welcome Gillian Stover, who began in April as the Activities and Events Coordinator. Gillian is a graduate of the University of Kentucky with a degree in Equine Science and Management and a minor in Business and Agricultural Economics. She has been involved with Champagne Run Farm for several years as a student, a program designer, and currently as a trainer teaching ages 5-70 years old.

At the January Board of Governors meeting, the Board discussed several items related to web development, data management, and technology. Information technology is vital for an organization and makes business processes more efficient, helps businesses stay organized, maintains business security, helps to communicate, and also drives innovation. USPC's Systems Administration Department is responsible for USPC's technology, data management, and technology. As this department has taken on additional responsibilities, Alyssa Sands has been promoted to Director of Information Technology. To help support the Information Technology Department, the Board approved the Technology Infrastructure Advance Committee.

Allpony – is an online learning management system where members learn about horses through horsemanship topics, learning resources, games, and quizzes. Woods recently had a meeting with the owner and developer of Allpony, Susan DiFelice, who is interested in selling her company. Woods is intrigued and impressed with the Allpony website, its infrastructure, content, and educational delivery methods, and in particular how it relates to many of the goals in USPC's Strategic Plan. Per the USPC Strategic Plan:

- Meet the educational needs of agriculture, equine, and equestrian business.
- Explore innovative ways to differentiate USPC from similar organizations and stimulate brand loyalty.
- Develop diverse revenue streams that are consistent with our mission, vision, and values.
- Access and develop new membership models and methods of packaging the USPC curriculum (product) for use outside of traditional clubs/centers.
- Close the opportunity gap by improving access, especially to underrepresented populations.

The Board approved that Teresa Woods continue discussions with Allpony and she will report back on her discussion to the Board.

Report from the Treasurer/Finance Committee

USPC is below budget in operating revenue and above budget in operating expenses for April 2023.

USPC's cash balances remain strong. Investment activity had a gain of \$178 in April.

The Membership Department is below budget in all revenue categories with expenses below budget. Membership numbers are down 5% for April as compared to April 2022.

The Marketing and Communication Department revenue is above budget through April. Expenses are slightly above budget, due to activity in the Shows/Exhibits with Equine Affair and the Land Rover Three-Day Event

expenses.

Upper Level Testing revenue remains above budget so far, with expenses coming down in subsequent months. The Activities Department has some Championships revenue in April. Revenue and expenses for the Equestrian Events Inc. (EEI) Games Invitational are shown under the Prince Phillip Cup categories.

Shop Pony Club revenue is up for April with the cost of Goods Sold above budget at 56%.

The Development Department revenue is below budget with the Annual Fund and Major Gifts being behind. Expenses for the department are well controlled.

Higher insurance premiums are driving the loss in the Insurance Department. Location fees and the insurance portion of member dues are below budget.

Investments had a gain of a little over \$200,000 from the January losses.

Report of VP of Instruction

With committee members being on multiple Zoom meetings it has helped with consistency and the ability to be more efficient. This has helped increase communication within the instruction committee structure, which has allowed us to share and be more engaged during our meetings.

The Standards and Testing D-A Committee are reviewing all national level standards along with developing the new D-2 through C-2 Western Dressage Standards which will be ready for approval at the October Board meeting.

Three new Provisional Chief Horse Management Judges have been accepted into the program and Cindy Medina is the new Provisional Chief Horse Management Chair and is doing a wonderful job of mentoring.

The Instructor Certified Program (ICP) is now called the Eventing Coaches Program (ECP) which USPC has hosted in the past in conjunction with the United States Eventing Association (USEA). ECP is funded through USPC's Eleanor Brennan Memorial Fund. Two instructors from the Deep South Region recently applied and will receive some scholarship funding once they complete the June ECP workshop. The Instruction Department has been advertising the opportunity for scholarships and is waiting for USEA to present a Workshop partnership agreement that will benefit both organizations.

National Testing – As of May 8, 2023, 134 applications have been submitted for Upper Level Tests and 14 candidates have been tested.

Visiting Instructors Program – Four instructors have applied but the number of requests for instructors is twelve.

We need members to apply to become Visiting Instructors. For more information about becoming a Visiting Instructor click [here](#).

Report of VP of Activities

2023 USPC Championships East – July 26-30 at the Tyron International Equestrian Center, Mill Spring, NC. Entries opened on May 1, 2023, and close at noon on July 3, 2023, for Dressage, Eventing, Mounted Games, Polocrosse, Quiz, Show Jumping, Tetrathlon, Western Dressage, and Open Gymkhana and Trail Competition.

Due to low entries for the 2023 USPC Championships Central at the National Equestrian Center in Lake St. Louis, MO, June 5-8, the board made the hard decision to cancel the event as it would no longer provide a national Championships experience for members, parents, volunteers, or sponsors.

Festival 2024 – The dates for Festival 2024 have been confirmed with the Kentucky Horse Park for July 15-22. Entries will open on May 1, 2024, with a closing date of June 24. The 2024 USPC Championships coincide with the 70th anniversary of the USPC. Special celebrations are planned for the event.

The Board approved the Virginia Horse Center as the location for the 2025 Championships East, July 23-27, 2025.

The Activities and Events Department reviewed the 2022 Regional Summaries that each Region submits to Regional Administration / Member Services Department and found it immensely helpful in the various areas the Activities and Event Department touches.

Rulebook Updates

Mounted Games – The Activities Department will work with knowledgeable volunteers to evaluate and compare the U.S. Mounted Games Association (USMGA) and Mounted Games Across America (MGAA) rulebooks to the existing USPC Mounted Games Rulebook to better align USPC Mounted Games with the outside competitions.

Polocrosse – The Activities Department will work with knowledgeable volunteers to evaluate and compare the American Polocrosse Association (APA) rulebook to the existing USPC Polocrosse Rulebook. By aligning the USPC rulebook with the national governing body discipline organization, USPC can encourage the cohosting of competitions to improve member experience by not having to remember two sets of rules for the same discipline.

International Exchanges and Special Opportunities

2023 International Games Exchange – The exchange will be hosted by the Australian Pony Club, on November 8-19 in Sydney, Australia. USPC is sending a scramble team which allows our members to be part of a team with other countries.

The 2023 Pony Club International Alliance (PCIA) Dressage Show applications are closed, and teams are currently being selected.

2024 International Quiz Exchange – USPC is hosting the exchange in July 2024 during the USPC Festival.

Report of the VP of Regional Administration

The Regional Administration’s Leadership Outreach Program team of presenters continues to review and revise existing topics and materials while developing and/or expanding materials for some topics.

The mini-messages continue from the Vice President of Regional Administration. Topics are identified based on frequently asked questions received by Regional Administration. Once relevant information is sent to leaders via email, each topic is added to the club/center and or region administration pages of the website. The topics are also shared with a wider audience via E-News.

The Region Resource Committee meets via Zoom meetings and is independently going through the year-end reports submitted by each region at the end of 2022 to ascertain the general “health” of each region and to learn about the extent that USPC programs are made available to all members. Committee members began to reach out to each RS to communicate ways the organization can support them in their work with the intent to build connections, uncover and help fulfill leadership training needs, and support each region in providing a complete USPC program.

National Youth Board (NYB) Report

Goals for the National Youth Board in 2023

- Increased and consistent involvement from all NYB members
- Committee chairs have a bigger leadership role in coordination with their given committee and its member.
- Increase USPC member engagement and interest.
- Continue to generate and develop new innovative and modern ideas.
- Guide and assist in the formation of 3 new Regional Youth Boards.
- Secure service projects around the major events in the U.S., including the Land Rover KY Three-Day Event, Maryland 5*****, Rebecca Farms, and more (pending member availability in each location).
- Secure a service project for the NYB and National Youth Congress for the 2024 USPC Convention (pending).
- Continue the What is Pony Club Ad Hoc committee, absorbed by Marketing Committee
- Document the NYB history in detail.
- Modify language in the NYB guiding documents to reflect diverse gender identities, and pursue this language shift in other areas of USPC guiding documents as well.

NYB Committee Updates

Marketing and Communications Committee - Has begun work with the Marketing and Communications Director and is thrilled to continue submitting content for both the Instagram feed and the USPC Blog. The Ad Hoc committee dedicated to the “What is Pony Club” goal was absorbed by the Marketing committee, which will utilize the input of NYB, NYC, Alumni, and other members to carefully craft a statement document that

details what Pony Club has meant to the members, and what it has provided them with on personal and professional levels. The Pin Promise Committee was successful in creating an NYB Pin, which was distributed to the NYB attendees at the Annual Convention.

Member Affairs & Networking Committee – The committee is working on the History of the NYB. They will be reaching out to Alumni along with researching prior NYB sessions to compile the success and challenges of the NYB over time. The information will be helpful to better understand and demonstrate the changes made over time and guidance on further improvement of the NYB and USPC as a whole.

Service Committee - The committee has begun to reach out to three potential opportunities for their service project during the 2024 USPC Convention in Reno, NV, which are – BLM Mustang Rescue, The National Forest Service, and partners of the Right Horse.

Regional Youth Board (RYB) Committee – The brochure for websites and regional leaders is being finalized; it discusses the benefits of RYBs and information on how to start a Regional Youth Board. The committee wants to encourage RYB leadership communication between regions to build stronger connections between members in different geographic locations. Teleconferences sessions for RYB members, led by committee members, will begin being scheduled soon for this purpose. The committee is also working on a guide on how to start an RYB with a list of potential activities and structures is currently being drafted.

Pony Club International Alliance Report (PCIA) Report

Virtual Dressage Show – There are six classes offered with the expansion to Third Level, Test 1. In addition to the eight-member PCIA countries, the following Pony Club United Kingdom (PCUK) teams have entered: Singapore, Dubai, Zimbabwe, Zambia, Jamaica, and two riding centers from the Caymans. At this time there have been 173 entries submitted.

Virtual Show Jumping – This will take place in September with the Australian Pony Club hosting. USPC has requested to participate with videos to be completed in July.

Virtual Quiz -This successful exchange will be held the first weekend in December with PCUK hosting the exchange.

In-Person Exchanges 2023

The Inter-Pacific Exchange was a tremendous success with USPC bringing home the Nation's Cup.

International Mounted Games will be hosted by the Australian Pony Club in November.

In-Person Exchanges 2024

International Tetrathlon Exchange – will be hosted by PCUK and the Irish Pony Club in late July/early August.

International Quiz Exchange – will be hosted by USPC during the USPC Festival.

USPC is planning to host the first in-person PCIA meeting since 2018 during the 2024 Festival.

Board Committee Highlights

Safety: The Safety Handbook has been updated and includes new appendixes – Wind Chill and Air Quality charts have been added. The Heat Index chart has been updated to include lower humidity levels. You can find the updated Safety Handbook [here](#) it is also available at [Shop Pony Club](#).

The Instruction Department in conjunction with the Chair of the Safety Committee worked on a document called “Guidelines for Delay, Cancellation, or Disruption of Events due to Severe Weather or National Disaster.” This document was created as a guideline/tool for any Pony Club activity from national, to regional to local activities. You can find the document [here](#).

The Incident Report form has had some minor changes, you can download the updated form [here](#).

Marketing & Communications: USPC applied for the American Horse Publications Equine Industry Vision Award and out of 15 entries, USPC was announced as one of the top four finalists. The official winner will be announced in June at the American Horse Publications Conference.

USPC had a booth at Equine Affair in Columbus, OH. Thank you to the members from the Tri-State and Midsouth Region who helped staff the booth and served as representatives for USPC.

USPC partnered once again with the Interscholastic Equestrian Association (IEA) as the sponsor of the Virtual Written Knowledge Test.

USPC was a sponsor at the Land Rover Kentucky Three-Day Event with a booth on The Hill which promoted various events such as the Barn Tour, the Show Jumping Course walk with course designer Steve Stephens, a contest to give away two Pony Club IQ E-memberships, the flag-bearers on Sunday morning (Bluegrass and Keeneland Pony Clubs), and the Equestrian Events, Inc. (EEI) Mounted Games Invitational. Items were also for sale from Shop Pony Club.

Development: The Annual Fund Goal for 2023 is \$284,000 and as of May 4, we have raised \$66,159.

Thank you to our 2023 Corporate Sponsors:

- Wintec Saddles and Accessories
- Kerrits Activewear
- Shapley’s Grooming Products
- Triple Crown Nutrition
- Zoetis Equine
- The Horse

The National Youth Congress (NYC) and the Academy of Achievement (AA), and the International Exchanges and Special Opportunities now have dedicated donation pages.



Strategic Planning: The committee has reviewed both the short- and long-term goals of each pillar in the strategic plan, and it became clear that some of the goals are worthy but are hard to evaluate in terms of completion or success. A member of the committee commented that we would do well to concentrate on a topic and move forward. The committee is going through the Education pillar as this USPC's primary reason for existence.

Diversity, Equity, Inclusion & Accessibility (DEIA): The committee continues to review and discuss current materials (rulebooks, forms, etc.) and how they correspond with current policy and procedures regarding DEIA.

The committee has been looking at the Standards of Proficiency (SoP) and discussing what they would like as addendums to current paperwork or education to ensure that any person with disabilities is provided reasonable accommodations at any regional and national activities including, but not limited to events, rallies, or certifications.

Governance: The committee is conducting a holistic review of the By-Laws to assess whether they are up-to-date and relevant. The committee will bring forward any recommendations once the initial review is completed.

Report of the USPC Convention Committee

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