



THE UNITED STATES PONY CLUBS, INC. PRESS RELEASE

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Ben Duke Elected as United States Pony Clubs President

February 14, 2018 (Lexington, KY) — The United States Pony Clubs, Inc. is pleased to welcome Ben Duke as the President of USPC. Duke will “take the Pony Club reins”, from outgoing President Nancy Pittman, with passion to keep Pony Club striving for excellence. Ben is focused on strategic thinking to streamline Pony Club, emphasizing what Pony Club does well and ensuring a positive experience for all members.

“It is humbling to now serve as President of the very organization that has given me so much, over so many decades. The United States Pony Clubs, as the nation’s most notable equestrian and leadership development organization, strives to share, to teach, to encourage, and to celebrate as it develops in its members the qualities needed to become successful, and to share that success with their communities.” Ben stated.

Ben is a graduate A (1974) from Cherry Creek Pony Club and grew up in Colorado Pony Clubs from 1964 to 1974. In 1975 he received his B.A. in Geology from Williams College in Massachusetts. From the Rocky Mountain Region, he began volunteering with Pony Club in 1977 and has served on numerous committees, including the Horse Management Committee, Advisory Committee, and the Board of Governors in the 1980s and 90s. Duke was a Chief Horse Management Judge at the first USPC Festival in Lexington, Kentucky, and served as a National Examiner. He also is an active member of the Arapahoe Hunt in Colorado, where he serves as an honorary whipper-in.

Outside of Pony Club, Ben has been a non-profit development leader and executive for nearly 35 years, following a career in education and school administration. He now is retired. Ben has been, throughout his life, a community leader, serving on numerous boards and committees. He presently serves as Chair of the Colorado Cattlemen’s Agricultural Land Trust, Chair of the nominating Committee for the National Western Stock Show, and serves on the boards of both the Colorado State Fair Foundation, and the Colorado Cattlemen’s Foundation. He previously served on the boards of Denver Academy, the Colorado Historical Foundation, and the Denver Public Library Friends Foundation. He is a 27-year 4-H Leader in Elbert County, and he is the past president of the Elbert Douglas County Livestock Association. He was recognized for his accomplishments in Pony Club’s Academy of Achievement in 2004, and he was a recipient of the

USPC Founders Award in 2011. Duke is a rancher, raising Red Angus commercial cattle, outside of Elizabeth, Colorado.

About Pony Club - The United States Pony Clubs, Inc. (Pony Club) was founded in 1954 as a nonprofit national youth organization to teach riding and horsemanship through a formal educational program. There are approximately 10,000 Pony Club members in over 600 clubs and riding centers throughout the country. Many of the nation's top equestrians, including several of our Olympic team members, business professionals, government leaders and career military officers, have roots in Pony Club. Traditional members range in age from as young as 4 through age 25. Pony Club also offers educational opportunities to over 500 adult members in its Horsemasters Program. www.ponyclub.org.