



THE UNITED STATES PONY CLUBS, INC. PRESS RELEASE
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Press Contact: Shelley Mann, Shelley@PonyClub.org

Pony Club: www.ponyclub.org, 859-254-7669

Awards Abound at 2018 Equine Symposium and Convention hosted by USPC

January 31, 2018 (Lexington, KY) – Equine enthusiasts and Pony Club members and leaders converged on the Galt House Hotel, in Louisville, KY on January 24th -28th, for the 2018 Equine Symposium and Convention hosted by USPC. Over 600 attendees were treated to more than 60 educational workshops, presentations, and interactive learning experiences on a variety of equine topics.

Attendees went “Back to the track” with the Midsouth Region. Representatives from 42 Pony Club Regions, including Alaska and Hawaii, were on hand working to expand Pony Club programming for members and future members. Members of Kentucky 4-H leadership earned continuing education credits and all attendees were treated to a variety of opportunities from Educational Workshops, to the Trade Fair, Silent Auction, Research Project Fair, Anatomy Room, and the new Horse Management and Certifications Room. The Workshop tracks allowed individuals to customize their experience to focus on sessions in topics such as Leadership, Instruction, Veterinary, and Riding Disciplines.

Friday’s convention activities included the 20th Anniversary Celebration of the Academy of Achievement and National Youth Congress as well as honoring the inductees into this year’s Academy of Achievement: John Robert Burk, Timothy M. Leithead, Dr. Katherine Anne Drake, and Dorothy Crowell.

Many Pony Club awards were presented at the Saturday morning Meeting of the Corporation. Three clubs received 50 year awards and 15 clubs received 25 year awards. Upper Level members received special recognition as eight members were awarded A-level certification plaques. The Brookfield Land Conservation Award was presented to Koko Crater Pony Club in the Hawaii Region. The Flash Teamwork Award went to The Prancing Ponies Games Team of Northern Exposure Pony Club in the Western New York Region. For more information on honored clubs and members, visit <http://blog.ponyclub.org/>.

The Saturday night Banquet and Dance were highlights for many attendees as they honored the recipients of the USPC Founders Awards for 2018: Tom Adams, Kimberly Cranford, Cathy

Frederickson, and Anne H. Husted. Featured speaker for the evening was former Jockey and Pony Club graduate, Rosie Napravnick. Napravnick shared stories and personal memories from her days in Pony Club and her racing career. More than 350 people attended the banquet and danced the night away.

It was announced that the 2019 Equine Symposium and Convention hosted by USPC will be held January 30-February 3 at the Hilton Stamford Hotel and Executive Meeting Center, in Stamford, CT in the Metropolitan Region.

[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 9,000 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. Youth members range in age from as young as 4 through age 25. Pony Club also offers educational opportunities to a growing number of adults through Horsemasters membership.