Founders Awards Presented at USPC Annual Meeting and Symposium

January 30, 2015 (Lexington, KY) – During the 2015 USPC Annual Meeting and Equine Symposium held January 21-25 in Arlington, Virginia, four individuals were awarded the Founders’ Award, an honor reserved for Pony Club’s most worthy volunteers. This prestigious award is made each year to those who have made a significant contribution to Pony Club at the Local or Regional and National Levels over a period of 20 years or more. The recipients of the Founders Awards for 2014 are: Anna Clader, Ellen Fischer, Vicki Fox, and Barbara Germann.

Anna Clader. Anna has had a near-life-long affair with horses. She began her Pony Club involvement when her children joined the Mendon Pony Club in Western New York in the early 1990’s. She quickly became involved with the club and also volunteered to be both club and regional Games organizer from 1993-2004. The next year she was club treasurer and then Co-DC in 1996 and DC from 1997-2000. Her involvement at the national level began with service on the Games Committee in 1997. She served on that committee from 1997-2004, including as Chair from 2000-2004 and again in 2011. Her service on the Board of Governors began in 2005 and continued to 2010, and then she returned to the Board in 2012 and continues serving at the present. She has been the Vice President of Activities and Secretary, as well as serving as Chair of the vital committees of Safety and Strategic Planning.

Ellen Fischer. Growing up in New York State, Ellen Holdsworth Fischer’s familiarity with Pony Club began with a brief involvement with Golden’s Bridge Hounds PC. However, because she did not own a horse, she was unable to participate in club activities – common practice in those days. Disappointed but undaunted, the teenager happily discovered nearby Salem View Farm, run by the soon-to-be legendary George Morris.

Ellen became active in the Tri-State Region right after graduating from Bethany College, WV. An avid foxhunter, she was Whipper-In and later MFH for the Dutch Fork Hunt. In 1973, she became Jt. DC of Dutch Fork Hunt Pony Club. A Chief Horse Management Judge for over 15 years, she is approaching her 35th anniversary as a National Examiner, has sat on several
nation committees, and currently is on the D-1 to C-2 Curriculum Committee. She launched Peace Point Riding Center as a pilot group for the program, and it is now a thriving club based at her farm. Ellen is also a proud mom of graduate C-3 Brandon and she has positively impacted the lives of hundreds of Pony Club Members.

**Vicki Fox.** Vicki’s involvement in Pony Club began 22 years ago when her daughter Melissa joined Pony Club. Vicki spent nine of those years as Jt-DC of Loudoun Hunt Pony Club (2003-2011), and 12 years as secretary of the club’s two annual recognized horse trials. She was also involved in organizing many regional rallies for show jumping, dressage, and eventing.

In 2010 Vicki was recruited for regional service in the Virginia Region and for the next five years she was the Vice Regional Supervisor for Education, and the RIC. During her tenure she single-handedly provided excellent upper level education, both mounted and unmounted, to the Virginia Region. As a result of her hard work, the Virginia Region produced many successful national level members during her time in office, including several H-A’s, and four A’s, which includes Vicki’s daughter Melissa. Vicki also organized many, many H-B, C-3, B, and A national certifications, making them run smoothly for the candidates, the parents, and the national examiners.

Vicki held key positions for several years at USPC Eventing Championships, both in Virginia and Kentucky. In 2009 Vicki began serving on the Eventing Committee, acting as both secretary and organizer of Eventing Championships and from 2011-2014 Vicki served as chair of the Eventing Committee.

**Barbara Germann.** Barbara first became involved with Sangamon Valley PC in central Illinois in 1987 because of her then 12-year-old twin sons, Carl and Hans. As the boys grew, so did her contributions on both local and regional levels. Within five years she was DC of SVPC Barb then became the RS of the region from 1994-1997, and Vice RS in 1998. Barb was on the Board of Governors from 1996-2001. Her contributions to the board were highly significant. Past presidents Cindy Piper and Emsie Parker both laud her for her great work and help to them during their leadership tenure with USPC. Barb was active in the International Exchange, NYC/Academy of Achievement, Safety, Policy, Regional Administration, and Nominating Committees.

**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 over 500 adult members in its