



The May 20 and 21st Board of Governors meeting was at the USPC National Office in Lexington, KY.

Upcoming National Events

USPC Festival 2017 will be Monday, July 17th – Monday, July 24th in Lexington, KY at the Kentucky Horse Park, Championships will be the 17th-21st and Educational sessions held July 22nd – July 24th.

2018 Equine Symposium & Convention hosted by USPC will be held January 24-28, 2018 at the Galt House Hotel in Louisville, KY.

General Comments

Comments from President Nancy Pittman

The Board and all of Pony Club needs to be diligent with continued efforts to meet Annual Fund goals. Much appreciation for everyone involved in helping showcase Pony Club at international events like the Rolex Kentucky Three-Day Event and FEI World Cup Finals in Omaha, NE.

USPC Festival 2017 is fast approaching and registration is now open. It is encouraging that several disciplines are working to accommodate shared horses to allow for greater participation from Pony Club Riding Centers. We look forward to a great event and successful award ceremonies at Championships since three of the disciplines will be using online scoring systems.

Comments from Executive Director Teresa Woods

Spring was a busy season as USPC staff and Board members attended several equestrian events. Pony Club had presence at the FEI World Cup Final in Omaha, NE which provided opportunities to speak with alumni and equestrian organizations like US Equestrian and Equitarian Initiative on potential opportunities. At the Rolex Kentucky Three-Day Event USPC was once again a sponsor, set up ShopPonyClub, had activities for alumni and members, and a shared hospitality tent with USEA on Saturday.

Pony Club has two new collaborations: Right Horse Initiative (RHI) and Time to Ride. USPC signed on as a partner with RHI, which is a collection of equine industry and welfare professionals working to improve the lives of horses in transition and increase horse adoption in the United States.

Additionally, USPC has joined many other equine organizations in the Time to Ride Challenge as an Association Program. The Challenge, organized by the American Horse Council, is an incentive program to encourage clubs, associations, equine businesses and stables to welcome newcomers to the horse industry. USPC will be giving away two free registrations to the 2018 Equine Symposium and Convention, hosted by USPC and a \$100 gift card to ShopPonyClub to the top club/center entered in the challenge.

The New Vocations Pony Club Challenge is off to a good start with over 60 approved adopters and more than 70 current applications. This program will be highlighted during Festival 2017.

New for this year, the Annual Directory will be online and searchable.

Board Committee Highlights

Technology: The committee presented to the Board technology considerations for a Pony Club App and Learning Management Systems (LMS) to help support the education and training of members and leaders. Cost and time for the implementation of developing new technology in Pony Club is a major consideration.

Safety: Committee Chairman, Sarah Andres will be using her affiliation with the University of Louisville to conduct a study regarding the effectiveness of body protective vests.

The committee is planning to add a Safety FAQs on the Safety page of the website, once live it will be publicized in Enews and the digests.

Finance: Ninety-six Clubs/Regions have transferred over to the Centralized Financial Reporting System (CFRS). At this time, we are on target to have all Clubs/Regions on the CFRS by January 1, 2018.

The Budget is on target overall with total revenues just below budget and total expenses below budget year to date.

The Finance Committee was asked to review the need for a Gaming Policy (as related to raffles, auctions etc.). The USPC Board of Governors recognizes the inconsistencies between USPC's current position statement and Local, State, and Federal rules that govern non-profit gaming activities including raffles. Further work is being done by the Policy and Finance Committees to clarify that position statement.

A new certificate is being developed by the Finance Committee called Finance Life Skill Certificate; the Finance Life Skill Certificate is being modeled after the Fox Hunting Certificate. Members would acquire financial education by enabling them to take on a Treasurer role in their Club with the supervision of an adult volunteer.

Strategic Planning: A strategic planning exercise was held on Friday, May 19th that included staff, board and advisory members. The goal of the exercise was to produce a preliminary "report card" of progress towards the goals in USPC 2020. President Pittman formed an Ad-Hoc Committee to focus on the adaptability of Pony Club's programs and organization structures.

Marketing & Communications: USPC Marketing Staff, Marketing & Communications chairman, Rae Birr, USPC Executive Director Teresa Woods, along with the full Traveling Educational Display, traveled to Omaha, NE for the 2017 Longines FEI World Cup in Jumping and Dressage. Pony Club was also responsible for organizing and facilitating the demonstration ring. Over 3,000 students, families and attendees passed through the free educational exposition; 26 countries were represented in the competition and 170 members of the media from all over the world. In addition to the 52,000 ticket buyers, 15,000 people attended the free educational exposition. Pony Club has had a presence at the International Omaha Horse Show for the past six years.

The new Table Top Display was set up at the International Omaha Horse Show and at the Midwest Horse Fair. There are two table top displays and they are now available for clubs, centers and regions to reserve for a fee which includes shipping and any wear and tear the display may encounter for upcoming events (the displays are for inside use only).

Shop Pony Club total sales are up from this time last year. D- Level Flashcards and Membership Pins (tie tack back) are the highest sellers monetarily and in quantity.

Development: The Development Committee continues to work towards a sustainable fundraising/campaign strategy with the goal of strengthening and reinvigorating existing donors.

The goal for 2017 is to focus on the unrestricted dollars for the Annual Fund, which has a direct impact on the USPC operating budget.

The Middle Tennessee Pony Club Fund is a new restricted fund created to support Quiz Championships. Central uses of the fund will provide financial support of the Quiz Competition at Championships (East, West, Festival or other locations), or other Quiz-related expenses deemed necessary.

A “Discipline Challenge” is kicking off around USPC Festival 2017 to continue into the fall, there will be an opportunity for donors to “vote” for their favorite discipline.

There are six USPC scholarships available, 37 applications have been received and are under review.

Policy: The Policy Committee continues to work on updating policies to reflect necessary changes, for example the Professional Membership category.

Volunteer Development: The committee has been working on guidelines and best practices documents for volunteers. With input from Regional Administration, the Committee has developed a guideline for Committees Conference Calls/ Conference Call Etiquette.

The Committee is working on developing procedures and best practices for volunteers along with the development of a National Event Volunteer Coordinator.

Governance: Is looking at the current structure of Pony Club and the best way to ensure sustainability for the future.

Report of VP of Instruction

The Horse Management Committee is focusing on working with the disciplines to incorporate HM scoring into the riding scores. The committee is also working with the Curriculum & Standards Committee on the attire grid along with the Activities Council to incorporate them into the Rulebooks in 2019.

D and C Committee is working with the Regional Instruction Coordinator (RIC) Committee on best practices for Instructors/Examiners, checklists, and finishing the USPC Guidelines for clubs/centers level testing and local level Examiner handbooks.

The National Examiners (NEs) seminar was held at Wheatland Farm in Virginia and was very successful. Fifty-two of the eighty-two current NEs attended.

The RIC Committee is working on creating a template to gather essential regional information: instructors' contacts, examiners, facilities, etc.

Registration for Festival Education opened May 1st with good response.

Report of VP of Activities

The Guidebook to Festival 2017 has been posted online.

Proposals are being reviewed for the Championships 2018 locations.

A new logo has been created for the 2018 Equine Symposium & Convention hosted by USPC which will be held at the Galt House, Louisville, KY – January 24th – 28th. A new workshop abstract submission process is in place with a selection panel that will review all submissions and presenters.

This year at the Rolex Kentucky Three-Day Event a media internship for two Pony Club members, along with a special barn tour for ten Pony Club members were offered and both were well received. Two competitors from last year's Championship East Dressage Competition performed a Pas de Deux in the demonstration ring. The stadium course walk this year was open to members only and the 2017 Prince Philip Cup and Celebrity Round were crowd pleasers as always. The following are the placings from the Prince Philip Cup:

- 1st Demolition – Carolina, Midsouth and South Region
- 2nd Turn N Burn – Midsouth Region
- 3rd Butterfingers – Sunshine Region
- 4th It's A Game Thing – Midwest Region

The 2017 International Foxhunting Exchange Team traveled to Ireland, February 17th -27th and was a great success. The members exceeded their fundraising goal for the trip.

The International Mounted Games team continues to make their plans to travel to Canada from June 30th – July 17th. Some team members will be returning directly from Canada to compete in Festival.

USPC will be hosting the Inter-Pacific Exchange in the Carolina area of the U.S. from June 28th – July 10th, 2017.

Report of VP of Regional Administration

The Professional Membership category was launched in March. Promotional efforts are underway to send information to summer camps, people/facilities that inquired in the past on forming Riding Center or Clubs and also reach out to Riding Centers that have not renewed their contracts.

After the Board's approval of the E-Membership dues restructure, USPC has given out promotional codes at the Interscholastic Equestrian Association (IEA) Hunt Seat Finals and at the Rolex Kentucky Three-Day Event. Since then, USPC has acquired several new introductory level (tier 1) of E-Members.

Regional Administration is in the process of planning a leadership engagement during the Championships and Educational portions of USPC Festival 2017.

The Leadership Training and Support Committee continues monthly email communication to leaders on various topics. Mentoring, job descriptions for Joint DC and VRSs are being developed, face-to-face outreach are other areas of focus.

National Youth Board

During the Equine Symposium & Convention in Los Angeles, CA, the NYB's service project was visiting and working with the Compton Junior Posse. Since the visit, the group is organizing a book drive to help their membership grow in their horsemanship knowledge. This includes Pony Club manuals and any other horse-related books or resources.

Four NYB members attended the Rolex Kentucky Three-Day Event and continued the Pin Promise campaign. New this year was a sponsorship opportunity for a Pony Club member or Alum who wore their Pony Club pin for all there phases and media, then place highest, the NYB would pay their entry fee for the next year's RK3DE (traditionally \$100). This year's honor will be presented to Madeline Backus, a current member.