



The May 18th - 20th Board of Governors meeting was at the USPC National Office in Lexington, KY.

Upcoming National Events

USPC Charles Owen Championships East 2018 presented by Airowear and Flair July 25-29 at Tryon International Equestrian Center in Mill Springs, NC.

USPC Championships West 2018 August 6-12 at Donida Farm Equestrian Center in Auburn, WA.

Championships West 2018 Eventing will be held in conjunction with the Area VII Young Rider Benefit Horse Trials in Chehalis, WA.

2019 Equine Symposium & Convention hosted by USPC will be held January 30- February 3rd at the Hilton Stamford Hotel in Stamford, CT in the Metropolitan Region.

General Comments

Comments from President Ben Duke

Ben Duke started the meeting with his mission moment; why he serves on the board and what Pony Club has done for him. Pony Club had a huge impact on him as a youth member and as an adult. He appreciated the many volunteers and how they served the organization on different levels and recalled wanting to give back to Pony Club when he was a member. Pony Club is more about the people than the horse, but we also should honor the horse. Pony Club taught him a wide range of skills - Horse Management, Leadership and Communication skills.

Ben was able to spend time in Lexington, KY for the Land Rover Kentucky Three-Day Event. There, he was able to meet with many stakeholders including potential sponsors and supporters. Additionally, Ben met with Committee Chairs and VPs and is willing to help with issues as they may arise. Ben's areas of focus: Pony Club finances, unrestricted funding, continued promotion and making Pony Club more "user friendly" by streamlining and simplifying policies, procedures, membership, along with volunteer engagement and requirements.

Comments from Executive Director Teresa Woods

The National Office has been working with committees to implement the directives of the USPC strategic plan.

Several positive technology actions have been in the works. In February, an update to the Region's online records, of the USPC website, was added to allow regional officers the ability to generate reports on membership for clubs and centers. An additional report that will allow for regional membership data is scheduled to be completed soon.

Launched right before Annual Convention, clubs now have the ability on their online record to designate a centralized location where their club meets. This address (or just city, state) pulls directly to the Find A Club/Center interactive map found on the USPC website.

Report from Treasurer/Finance Committee

The deadline for all clubs and regions to be using the Centralized Financial Reporting System (CFRS) was set at January 1, 2018. There are 301 entities signed up and using the system, which is approximately 62% in compliance. The goal is to have all entities compliant by July 1, 2018. An e-mail from the Office of the President was sent to the Regional Supervisors and Regional Treasurers requesting assistance to have clubs become compliant. Of the 171 clubs and 5 regions that are not in compliance, the Finance Committee will reach out directly via a phone call to each club and region.

Report of VP of Regional Administration

“Finding a Place for Everyone in Pony Club” continues to be Regional Administration’s primary focus. Regional Administration is looking for ways to simplify tasks placed upon our volunteer leaders while striving to develop stronger and more well-trained leaders at both the local and regional level.

The Club/Region Policy/Guideline Review Committee continues to work with the Document Review & Leadership Education & Support Committee regarding the DC-CA Guide and RS Handbook. With the approval for clubs and regions to no longer have their own, separate policies, many items will now either be addressed via national policy or included in the leadership guidelines handbooks.

The Leadership Education & Support Committee will personally be reaching out to new Regional Supervisors to let them know of the educational opportunities available for our leadership.

The first year of Professional Member’s membership has expired, and two have renewed their membership. One of the first members in the category has not renewed their Professional Membership, but formed a Riding Center.

Report of VP of Activities

The Western Committee will have three discipline rulebooks, including Western Dressage, Gymkhana, and Western Trail and three separate committees will begin in 2019. USPC will host an invitational Gymkhana competition at Championships East to teach members about the up and coming discipline.

USPC is hosting the International Tetrathlon Exchange this year, the final competition will occur at Championships East at the Tryon International Equestrian Center. The Exchange team has been selected and are working on fundraising, but currently have not met their fundraising goal yet.

The International Mounted Games team will be heading to Great Britain in August to represent USPC. Sue Smith and Teresa Woods will represent USPC at the Pony Club International Alliance meeting, which will coincide with the Mounted Games competition.

The 2019 Championship dates were approved; Championships East will be held at the Tryon International Equestrian Center July 24-28th and Championships Central will be held at the Colorado Horse Park August 6-11.

The Board approved division restructuring for all USPC disciplines. The goal of restructure is to create simplified procedures that includes all members for Championships starting in 2019. The restructure

will include aligning age divisions with other national equine competition organizations, such as US Equestrian.

Report of VP of Instruction

The main focus of nearly every committee is the Standards of Proficiency review.

The USPC Guide to Bandaging Your Horse and The USPC Guide to Longeing and Ground Training will be revised to coincide with the 2019 Standards of Proficiency.

The Horse Management Committee is working on hiring chiefs and assistants for East and West Championships and revising the Horse Management forms for rallies. The committee is also working with the D through C-2, C-3/HB Curricula Committees, and the National Testing Committee to write the addenda to the D and C Manuals of Horsemanship in 2019.

The Instructor Certification Program will focus on the Young Event Horse for both instructor and professional trainer. Both workshops are being offered in June at Lone Tree Farm in Waterford, CA.

Presentation by Grayson-Jockey Club Foundation

The Grayson-Jockey Club Foundation's Executive Director, Jamie Hayden gave a presentation to the board regarding the work of the foundation. The Foundation receives a majority of its funding from Central Kentucky, but has funded over \$26 million on horse health for all breeds including infectious disease, reproductive, musculoskeletal, respiratory, laminitis, stem cell, etc. Grayson is the largest single funder of equine research. The foundation will continue its sponsorship of the Research Fair in 2019 for a second year.

Board Committee Highlights

Advisory: The Riding Center Task Force is looking at the history of Riding Centers and the roadblocks that Riding Centers encounter. The goal is to have a recommendation to the Executive Committee by the end of December. The task force will also review the process, including site visits, to becoming a Riding Center.

Governance: The Board approved By-Laws and policy changes, please visit the [website](#) to review the changes. Among the approved changes, was an amendment to eliminate the requirement for regions and clubs to have their own policies and changes to background checks to include International Exchange Team Managers. Clubs and regions will now operate under guidance from national policy, DC-CA guide and RS handbook instead of their own separate policies.

The board approved changes to Policy 0800 to include the requirement of body protectors effective January 1, 2019. "Wearing a properly fitted (per manufacturer's guidelines) equestrian body protector is required when jumping cross-country/solid obstacles during any activity sponsored by the USPC, its Regions, Registered Clubs or Riding Center Programs."

Updates to policy 9200 USPC Logo Use and Information was approved; changes were made to reflect current practices of the policy.

Development: The Committee expressed the importance of 100% Board giving.

The Committee has engaged the entire Board to implement an outreach strategy with Pony Club leaders and community focusing on four goals: engagement, education, information, and appreciation. The ultimate goal is for each Board Member to be a direct contact and resource for their assigned RS to boost cooperation and understanding of the Annual Fund and how it impacts their region.

Flair, LLC repositioned their sponsorship from a corporate sponsor to a presenting sponsor of Championships East. In addition, Charles Owen has signed on as the title sponsorship for Championships East and Gore Trailers is the traffic and parking sponsor.

Additional events have received sponsorships – Western and English Sales Association will be the 2019 National Youth Congress and Academy of Achievement sponsor. The Grayson-Jockey Club Research Foundation will be returning as the 2019 Research Fair sponsor.

Marketing & Communications: The Table Top Displays have traveled to seven events so far for in 2018. Free e-memberships have been promoted at two events so far, which are a successful way to introduce people to Pony Club. As of May 7th, eleven new members have joined during the promotional time period.

Continued promotion of the Professional Membership category are scheduled throughout the year, including at the English and Western IEA Finals, FFA Convention in October, CHA International Conference in September, and at Professional Association of Therapeutic Horsemanship International (PATH), in the fall. Professional Membership was also promoted during the Land Rover Kentucky Three-Day event and at the American Youth Horse Council annual symposium in April.

Committee members have been reviewing areas of the website as an on-going project focused on the four goals: Intuitiveness, Updating Information, Consistent Look and Feel, Search Engine Optimization.

The Annual Directory is available on-line and drawing from the database; therefore, there is a need to input older data from pre-database times. This will make the Annual Directory a searchable, live document with up to the minute data and all the USPC history.

The Marketing and Communication department will be launching a new social media quiz as a new way to encourage members and leaders to stay up to date on changes in USPC. These weekly fun quizzes will test Pony Club, Equestrian and Horse Management knowledge.

Volunteer Development: The committee is in the process of researching a way to create online registration for new members and leadership; streamlining and making this initial step easier for leadership.

The committee is currently reviewing and updating a few guides and documents within the organization such as the “Parent Answer Book”, Youth Protection module, and the Rally Organizer’s Guide.

Safety: The USPC study on the effectiveness of body protection vests now include the 2017 Incident Report statistics. As a result there was a significant difference in the cross-country, but not a significant

difference to the torso if the rider wore a body protection vest or not (as we do not ask on the Incident Reports if there was an injury to the torso, only if a vest was worn). Sarah Andres is working on a new manuscript draft with plans to submit to the *British Journal of Sports Medicine*.

There is a new helmet on the market with MIPS technology, which allows a slight amount of rotation inside the helmet. The helmets are still snug, but do have a slightly different fit to them.

The committee will be working this summer/fall to update the Safety Booklet, which will include body protector/vest fit.

There is a webinar on body protectors that can be referenced by members/parents/guardians regarding fit for body protectors. The Summer Edition of *Pony Club News* will also include information as the responsibility of fit is on the member/parent/guardian.

National Youth Board

The National Youth Board is currently working to update Policy 1350, to clarify eligibility and dismissals of NYB members. Currently the NYB does not have a Board of Governor liaison, Yvette Seger volunteered to be the liaison for the remainder of 2018.

Month of Service will once again be the entire month of August. NYB will be posting last year's service project on social media in late July to promote and encourage clubs, centers and regions to participate.

There are currently ten (10) Regional Youth Boards that are active. We are creating a survey to update information about which regions are active and who the members are serving on their Youth Board as well as gathering information on their victories and obstacles so that the NYB can better support their efforts.