



The October 28th and 29th Board of Governors meeting was at the USPC National Office in Lexington, KY.

Upcoming National Events

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

Championships East 2018 will be held July 25-29, 2018 at Tryon International Equestrian Center in Mill Springs, NC.

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

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

General Comments

Comments from President Nancy Pittman

Festival 2017 was a success including great attendance, a revamped award ceremony, and the launch of the USPC fundraiser the Discipline Challenge. As we move into 2018, the Board continues to be fiscally responsible while still delivering programs and services to members.

Comments from Executive Director Teresa Woods

Championships at Festival 2017 had the highest percentage of membership attendance in recent history. Members had a positive experience due to the hard work and planning of leadership, volunteers, and staff.

USPC participated in four International Exchanges in 2017, including hosting the Inter-Pacific Exchange in June.

There are 33 Professional Members since the launch in March. Karol Wilson and Shelley Mann presented on the subject at the Certified Horsemanship Association International Conference in Lexington, KY.

Board Committee Highlights

Technology: The year-round online renewal of members has been completed. The change allows past members from 2012 forward to renew online. Other website and database updates have been made and staff continues to work on year round online submission of leadership changes.

The committee is looking into online software that could handle Pony Club's submission of college scholarships and possibly international exchange applications. In addition, they have researched peer to peer payment app.

Safety: Dr. Sarah Andres (Safety Committee Chair) has drafted a manuscript on the effectiveness of body protection vests, which is being reviewed by Dr. Yvette Seger. Dr. Andres will submit the manuscript after the review to the *American Journal of Sports Medicine*. She found there was a significant difference in the level of injuries among riders participating in cross-country of those who wore a vest vs. those who did not wear a vest.

The Safety Frequently Asked Questions document is being finalized and will be posted on the Safety page of the website.

The ASTM International has several upcoming meetings throughout the US, Pony Club Board members may attend a meeting.

Strategic Planning: The next strategic planning session will be in May 2018.

Marketing & Communications: Marketing and Communications committee members helped brand the Kentucky Horse Park with “Pony Club” during Festival including signage, sidewalk chalk, banners and flag coverage.

Shop Pony Club now has 2018 Convention spirit wear for sale and has started taking holiday orders.

As part of the marketing plan for the professional membership, in 2018 National Office staff will attend the National FFA Convention in November. USPC will host a booth in the trade fair to promote and sign-up professional members and present a workshop to the Ag educators potentially reaching 60,000 FFA students, instructors, and teachers over four days.

The new table-top display is available for rental at \$50/event. The display has been rented and is scheduled for four more events in 2017.

The Marketing department has taken over the content management of the website and will continue to work to ensure an intuitive, consistent and up-to-date informative site for users.

Development: The Development committee continues to reach donors outside Pony Club. The Discipline Challenge kicked off at Festival and through outreach to non-giving alumni gained fifty new donors and renewed many lapsed donors.

Three sponsors have been secured for the 2018 Equine Symposium and Convention; the Jockey Club Thoroughbred Incentive Program is the Keynote Sponsor, the Grayson-Jockey Club Research Foundation as the presenting sponsor of the Research Project Fair, and Specialty Program Insurers. In addition to the sponsors, a gift was received to celebrate the 20th Anniversary of the National Youth Congress and Academy of Achievement at the Convention. There will be a special reception on Friday evening during the Convention, inviting all past NYC and Academy graduates. The reception is open to everyone and tickets may be purchased with the online convention registration.

With recent natural disasters that have impacted country, we have seen an increase in donations to the Disaster Relief Fund. Hurricane Maria devastated the U.S. Virgin Islands which is where the St. Croix Pony Club in the Sunshine Region is located. With a donation from Zoetis and the help of several

dedicated Pony Club volunteers, Pony Club was able to provide feed and medical supplies to the horses of St. Croix Pony Club. Any items that were not needed by the club was sent to others in need.

Policy: Standing committees submitted updates and changes to their respective policies regarding committee responsibilities, tasks and descriptions. A new policy on Gaming Practices, Policy 7350, was approved by the Board, please visit the By-Laws, Policies and Resolutions to read the policy.

Nominating: The following slate for the 2018 USPC Officers was presented and approved by the Board. The USPC officers will be approved during the Board of Governors Election Meeting at the 2018 Equine Symposium and Convention.

President- Ben Duke

1st Vice President – Jennifer Sweet

VP of Regional Administration – Allison Thomas

VP of Instruction – Nancy Grout

VP of Activities – Sue Beth Bunn

Treasurer – Sue Ann McClelland

Secretary – Yvette Seger

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

Governance: Governance committee members would like to improve the notification of board resolutions that affect leaders, members, and volunteers. Staff has begun to extract and publish Board Resolutions on the USPC By-Laws, Policies & Resolutions page on the website. In addition, the resolutions will be posted through various USPC communication channels such as E-News, course walk, and digests.

Finance: The 2018-2020 budget was approved by the Board of Governors. There are currently 115 entities signed up for the Centralized Financial Reporting System (CFRS). All clubs and regions are required to use the CFRS by January 1, 2018.

A Task List is being compiled for development of the Financial Life Skills Certificate Program, which will be offered to all members with the goal of creating future volunteer Treasurers.

Of the required clubs and regions that are registered as Charitable Organizations, there is 94% compliance as of October 12, 2017.

Report of VP of Activities

All current championship disciplines have adjusted their scoring formulas to fulfill the goal of Horse Management accounting for 20% of the total score. There will be workshops at the 2018 Equine Symposium and Convention outlining the implementation of the new scoring.

Festival 2017 was a success with 1061 competitors, making up 12.5% membership attendance; the highest percentage attendance in ten years. The USPC Festival 2020 dates have been set for July 13-20

at the Kentucky Horse Park; entry closing date will be June 22nd. Activities is also working to create a three-year Championship location rotation.

There has been considerable interest in the New Vocations Pony Club Challenge, with 107 applicants, 80 approved adopters and 19 horses adopted. New Vocations will be presenting at the 2018 Equine Symposium and Convention.

The discipline chairs of the Activities Committee are working with *The Horse Magazine* to incorporate the attire grid into their rulebooks, 2019.

The International Exchange Committee has updated their handbook. The committee has been busy with USPC members participating in four different exchanges this year. There was a Foxhunting Exchange held in Ireland this past February. The International Mounted Games team competed in Canada in July; and the Inter-Pacific Exchange was hosted by USPC in June. The International Quiz competitors traveled to Canada at the end of September. The Tetrathlon Committee is working hard on its fundraising efforts to build the Strassburger Fund. USPC will be hosting the International Tetrathlon Exchange in 2018, and the committee needs to raise an additional funds to host the exchange.

Report of VP of Instruction

Instruction has been working on providing additional instructional materials on the USPC website for National Level candidates.

The D – C-2 Committee has completed the revised D-1 - C-2 Examiners Handbook. The committee has updated and finished the USPC Guidelines for Club and Riding Center Level Testing. The Local Level Examiner Checklist is completed and on the website. The Local Level Examiner Best Practices as well as the Local Level Examiner Review will be published on the website when completed.

The National Testing Committee discussed splitting up the Traditional Certification, and plans to discuss this further during the Regional Supervisors round table at the 2018 Equine Symposium & Convention. They are also working on updating the Attire Grid and preparing for the Standards of Proficiency review in 2018.

The Curriculum & Standards Committee has completed the USPC Video Guidelines and is working on finalizing the National Examiners' handbook.

The Regional Instruction Coordinator (RIC) Committee is finalizing a template for Standards and Certification clinics to include, but not limited to, time-frame, purpose, and audience.

The Pony Club Equine Management Curriculum is being finalized and will be released through the Professional Membership before the end of the year.

Report of VP of Regional Administration

Regional Administration document revision committee is working on updating the DC Guidebook and RS Handbook. This is a large undertaking and on schedule to be completed by December 2018.

The Leadership Training and Support Committee meets monthly and is working on several topics such as: checklist for transition of club leaders, creating a standardized club annual meeting agenda document, volunteer topics for Regional Training Outreach presentations and job descriptions for joint DC and Vice RS.

National Youth Board

The NYB had a successful month of service in August with six clubs sending their personal stories of service projects. The NYB received three large boxes of horse related educational materials to send to the Compton Jr. Posse; we continue to track their relationship with Pony Club and look forward to seeing the successes of their students. We are looking forward to doing another horse-related service project in Louisville, KY during the 2018 Equine Symposium and Convention.

The NYB Facebook page has been very active. With several major natural disasters, we posted on how to help the equine community. We also did a fun theme in October with everyone sharing their favorite equine Halloween costume. In November, we are going to highlight Pony Club Sponsors.

The NYB will also look at bullying and bullying prevention.