

The 2025 USPC January Board of Governors meeting was held at the Grand Traverse Resort and Spa, Acme, Mich.

#### **Upcoming National Events**

#### Virtual Competitions

Discipline	Entry Period	Upload Period	Judging Period	<b>Finalized Results</b>
Dressage	March 3–31	April 1–22	April 23–May 5	May 7
Trail	March 31–April 28	April 29–May 20	May 21–June 2	June 4
Show Jumping	May 5–June 2	June 3–24	June 25–July 7	July 9
Western Dressage	June 2–30	July 1–22	July 23–Aug 4	August 6

### **General Comments**

### Comments from President Jennifer Sweet

I continue being honored to serve in the role of President for USPC. I truly believe in this organization and what it teaches its members and volunteers. We are at a crossroads, and if we want to continue growing and expanding our programs to people and places that would benefit from all that Pony Club is and what it teaches, then it is time for USPC to invest in itself.

In 2025 three main topics must be addressed:

- Membership Decline
- Horse Welfare and Social License
- Database Hosting/IT Development

By investing in ourselves, we are paving a path to the future!

#### Comments from Executive Director Teresa Woods

In the three short months since the last board meeting, many of the programs and strategic initiatives approved in 2024 have been implemented. Of note are the Member Achievement Program and the Allpony website.

The USPC Member Achievement Program (<u>achieve.ponyclub.org</u>) launched in early January, with 62 members enrolled in the first week and a half. The Allpony website is now fully being administered by USPC and was introduced to USPC leadership during the 2025 USPC Convention. A press release and full social media blitz will begin to promote the acquisition of Allpony directly following the convention.



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#### **Report from the Treasurer/Finance Committee**

December 2024 Financial Highlights.

Overall – USPC is below budget in operating revenue and above budget in operating expenses for December 2024. Net operating income is significantly above budget year-to-date.

Balance Sheet – Cash balances are strong due to Membership renewals for 2025. Investment activity experienced a loss of (\$222,755) for December. With the due diligence of USPC's investment advisor, investments are up for the year.

Income Statement – Membership revenue is below budget in several big categories. Membership dues are low, and we are seeing the trend expand into categories like current-year partial dues (dues for those joining in September), initiation, Corporate Memberships, and new Riding Centers. Departmental expenses are being well controlled and ended the year well below budget.

### **Report of VP of Instruction**

Committee Updates:

Examiners Committee – The National Examiners virtual seminar will be held February 21–23, 2025. On Sunday, February 23, from 11:00 a.m. E.T. to 7:00 p.m. E.T., the seminar will be open to leaders/examiners.

National Testing Curricula Committee – The committee is working on older H-A documents that need updating. All the H-B documents have been completed.

Regional Instruction Committee – Changed from monthly virtual meetings to quarterly meetings, plus a newsletter. The committee meets on Friday during the 2025 USPC Convention and will be reviewing resources.

National Youth Congress (NYC) Committee – The NYC shifted to a Wednesday p.m. time to Thursday p.m. through Friday to better integrate with the USPC Convention. The delegate program fee increased from \$200 to \$250, and delegates will be required to register for the convention and banquet.

Horse Management Committee - Continue to discuss the following:

- Clubs/Centers that send numerous teams to rally the potential of being able to share equipment, i.e., first aid kits.
- Cell phones/smart watches/medical apps use around horses and how to work with them.
- Ideas for members that don't have a horse.
- Virtual Seminar in 2025 to offer continuing education, tentative date is for the first weekend in March.
- Melissa Dabadie and Cindy Medina presented the HMO Training at the 2025 USPC Convention.



D-1 through C-2 Curricula Committee – Focused on the Horse Management Room during the 2025 USPC Convention. The committee is also working on Horse Management projects D-1 through H-A, potentially continuing beyond the C-2 level. In addition, they are identifying new ideas to incorporate Western into the website.

### **<u>Report of VP of Activities</u>**

The USPC Member Achievement Program is now open for enrollment! Members can begin earning points and can find more information as well as sign up online at <u>https://achieve.ponyclub.org/.</u>

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### 2025 USPC Virtual Competitions – For more information, please click here.

Three teams have been invited to the Equestrian Events, Inc. Mounted Games Invitational, which occurs during the Defender Kentucky Three-Day Event. The teams are the Bravacados, Full Throttle, and the Hot Rods.

The United States Equestrian Federation (USEF) added additional categories to the USEF Pony Jumper National Championships. USPC is hopeful to have more participants as a result. The categories are Small Pony, Medium Pony, Large Pony, and 1.05 Category. For more information on the new categories, please click <u>here</u>.

# **USPC** Convention

- The North Central Prairie Region will be hosting the 2026 USPC Convention.
- The Lake Shore Region will be hosting the 2027 USPC Convention.
- The Deep South Region will be hosting the 2028 USPC Convention.

# **Report of the VP of Regional Administration**

Following a unanimous vote from the Regional Council, the Western New England Region has decided to close. Continuing clubs and centers were reassigned to the Central New England Region and the White Mountain Region.



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Returning Presenter Jay McChord presented the professional development session during the 2025 USPC Convention on Friday, January 24. His presentation on, "Excellence in Communication, Even When Communication is Hard" was well received.

Leadership Education Outreach – Three Zoom sessions were held at various times of day across various time zones this fall that covered – Preparing for the Annual Meeting; Conduct of the Annual Meeting; and year-end reporting to USPC. A variety of questions came up that helped identify further training needs and areas that were solid. The live sessions, which included ample time for Q&A, continue to be the best means of outreach for those who seek education. The Regional Resource Committee continued to support regional leaders and work as liaisons as needed.

#### National Youth Board (NYB) Report

NYB Executive Board 2025-2026 Chair- Marissa Redmond Vice Chair – Mason Konesky Secretary – Lindsey Groves Treasurer – Isabelle Dow Social Media Coordinator – Kate Gerth Board Advisor – Jocelyn Hunt

# NYB Members

Sophie Redmon Charlotte Tincher Cecilia Freese Ariana Dickey Riley Rebholz Sydney Langley Meghan Hill

The NYB held a National Youth Summit during the 2025 USPC Convention, with 21 USPC members attending. The purpose of the National Youth Summit is to bridge the programming at the USPC Convention between Pony Paddock, the National Youth Congress, and the National Youth Board. The objective is to introduce leadership principles, member opportunities, and a forum for youth members to experience feedback.

2025 NYB Service Project – During the 2025 USPC Convention, members of the NYB went to Autumn House Assisted Living Community in Williamsburg, Mich., where they led group exercises and made crafts using horseshoes.



## Pony Club International Alliance Report (PCIA) Report

PCIA and the International Pentathlon Association (IPA) signed a memorandum of understanding recently, which will work together to help develop, promote, and manage equestrian multi-sport. IPA was founded when the Olympic Committee eliminated the horse phase in Modern Pentathlon after the 2024 Paris Olympics concluded.

### **2025 PCIA International Exchanges**

- International Mounted Games Hosted by The Pony Club, July 27 through August 11.
- Inter-Pacific Exchange Hosted by Pony Club Australia sometime in late September/early October.
- Virtual Show Jumping Hosted by the New Zealand and South African Pony Club and will be open in August–October.
- Virtual Quiz Hosted by the Canadian Pony Club in November.
- Virtual Dressage Hosted by USPC and the Hong Kong Pony Club and two other countries, TBD. It will take place in May/June.

#### **Board Committee Highlights**

**Safety:** The USPC Safety Handbook has been revised for 2025 and can be purchased through <u>Shop Pony Club</u>, or you can download it <u>here</u>.

**Marketing & Communications:** The department now has two retractable banners for the USPC booth to promote Pony Club to outside entities. They will make their debut at Equine Affaire, and then they will be at the Kentucky Three-Day Event.





Marketing has published the following blog posts since the October board meeting:

Horse Management is Calling: Becoming a Pony Club Judge Dancing with a Western Flair Mental Health for the Rider Becoming a United States Pony Clubs National Examiner Expanding the Hoofprint for Healing Tips to Help Off-Track Thoroughbreds to Shine in Second Careers Cold Weather Grooming Tips Top Tips to Set Your New Foal Up for Success

**Development:** The USPC Regional Challenge for the Annual Fund winner was the Great Lakes Region, who will receive an exclusive Zoom party hosted by Ride iQ.

Thank you to our 2025 Corporate Sponsors Kerrits – Official Apparel Sponsor Shapley's – Official Grooming Product Sponsor Triple Crown Nutrition – Official Feed Sponsor Wintec – Official Saddle Sponsor Zoetis – Official Equine Health and Wellness Partner The Horse

Thank you to our 2025 USPC Convention Sponsors. Banquet and Keynote Speaker Sponsor Via Nova Training Anatomy Room Sponsors Michigan State University - Title Sponsor **Riverside Animal Clinic** Saginaw Valley Equine Clinic Coffee Break Sponsors Daniel Stewart / Pressure Proof Academy Metamora Hunt II Pony Club Members, Sponsors, and Alumni Workshop Sponsors Kentucky Equine Research (2 workshops) Trafalgar Square Books Amerian Association of Equine Practitioners Western Dressage Association of America Pierport Pony Club **USA Working Equitation** Ag Pro Trading William Woods University Orlando Masonry and Construction LLC and Orlando Masonry Development LLC



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Candy Tavormina Lori Pickett Mounted Games Across America The McKinley Family Pony Paddock Sponsors Arabian Horse Youth Association **Portfolio Sponsors** Kentucky Equine Research The Equestrian College Advisor Otterbein University Dressage4Kids Trafalgar Square Books **Tipperary Equestrian ID-MyHorse Research Fair Sponsors** Grayson-Jockey Research Foundation - Title Sponsor Michigan State University Kentucky Equine Research The Equestrian College Advisor Horse Management Room Candy Tavormina – Title Sponsor HMO Training Horse Sport Other Sponsors Karen McDougal Western Specialty Insurors Midwest Dressage Association Traverse City Tourism

The Great Lakes Region received \$1,343 per the revenue share program.

**Strategic Planning**: The committee's primary tasks since the May Board meeting have been to identify key performance indicators (KPIs) that are measurable, attainable, specific, and relevant to driving success in our strategic goals. As data becomes available, the committee will continue to work on KPI measurables for each pillar, along with making sure that everything that is in the Strategic Plan has a way to be evaluated.

**Governance:** The committee worked on By-Laws wording around meeting notices in each section of the By-Laws. Please click <u>here</u>

**Technology Infrastructure Advancement:** The committee continues to research options to host the USPC Database and Website.