

The 2025 USPC June Board of Governors meeting was held at the National Office in Lexington, KY.

## Upcoming National Events

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2026 USPC Convention – Lincolnshire Marriott Resort, Lincolnshire, IL., January 28- February 1, 2026

2026 USPC Festival – Kentucky Horse Park, Lexington, KY, July 13 - July 19, 2026

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## General Comments

*Comments from President Jennifer Sweet*

On Father's Day, I attended a local Airshow that was organized and fully staffed by volunteers of all ages. Throughout the day, I observed volunteers working admission gates, handing out water, moving planes, emptying trash cans, and even piloting aircraft—each one playing an integral role in making the annual event a success.

These moments reminded me of the dedicated volunteers of USPC. From parents cooking at Pony Club camps to those in leadership positions, volunteers are the backbone of our organization. USPC simply could not exist without them. They are, and always will be, an essential part of Pony Club.

Just as the airshow depended on volunteers, so too does USPC. And like everything else in our world, the nature of volunteerism is changing. We need to acknowledge that volunteerism has evolved significantly over time, with shifts in participation rates, motivations, and styles of engagement. While traditional, long-term volunteering has seen a decline, new forms—such as short-term, reflexive, and virtual volunteering—have emerged. Factors like changing demographics, technology, and community needs have all shaped this evolving landscape.

Here's a more detailed look at these changes:

### Shifting Participation Rates

- **Overall Decline:** Formal volunteer participation declined between 2019 and 2021.
- **Crisis Spikes:** Volunteer rates historically increase during times of crisis, such as wars, epidemics, and natural disasters.
- **Older Adults:** Participation among those aged 65+ is rising, likely due to longer lifespans and active social networks.
- **Youth Engagement:** Teenagers are volunteering more, often driven by school and college admissions requirements.

### Evolving Motivations and Styles

- **Reflexive Volunteering:** Many volunteers now prefer short-term, flexible roles motivated by personal benefit and growth.

- **Skills-Based & Virtual Volunteering:** Technology allows individuals to contribute expertise remotely and on their own schedule.
- **Micro-Volunteering:** Short, focused tasks appeal to those with limited time.
- **Corporate Volunteering:** More companies now support employee volunteerism through programs and matching grants.

## Impact of Societal Shifts

- **Changing Community Needs:** Volunteerism continues to respond to evolving needs like climate change, migration, and humanitarian efforts.
- **Digital Transformation:** Online platforms and virtual volunteering are now widespread.
- **Emphasis on Flexibility:** Organizations must offer flexible opportunities to attract younger generations and busy professionals.
- **Social Impact:** Volunteering helps build social capital, strengthen communities, and foster cohesion.

In essence, the landscape of volunteering is dynamic and constantly evolving. But its purpose remains the same: connecting individuals with opportunities to make a difference.

As we plan for the future, we must take this evolution of volunteerism into account in our strategy and outreach.

### *Comments from Executive Director Teresa Woods*

Since our January meeting, one of my primary areas of focus has been working closely with Tim Burcham of Burcham Solutions to gather data, solicit feedback, and facilitate planning for the upcoming Board Visioning Retreat. I anticipate a productive session in which we will come to a shared vision and begin outlining strategies to build on USPC's strengths, ensuring a sustainable and successful future.

Although 2025 is a non-Festival year, national-level opportunities for member engagement have remained robust. This year has featured two international exchanges (the International Mounted Games Exchange hosted by The Pony Club United Kingdom and the Inter-Pacific Exchange hosted by Pony Club Australia), four virtual international exchanges, four USPC-hosted virtual competitions (Dressage, Show Jumping, Trail, and Western Dressage), and continued participation in the Member Achievement Program.

In March, we successfully launched AllPony, which has already expanded its content with the addition of two new courses: "Appaloosa Horses" and "Leg-Yield Explained." As we continue to build out this platform, our marketing focus is shifting externally. Notably, AllPony will be promoted at this year's BreyerFest, which is expected to draw more than 35,000 horse enthusiasts.

This spring, the Member Services Department launched a virtual volunteer leadership engagement and training series focused on key responsibilities for Regional Supervisors and local leaders. The Zoom-based sessions were well received, and additional training opportunities are being planned for summer and fall.

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

### May Financial Highlights

Overall- We are below budget in operating revenue and below budget in operating expenses for May 2025. Net operating income is over budget in May 2025 and over budget year-to-date.

Balance Sheet – Cash balances are closer to average for this time of year, but this is due to the Endowment allowance received in May. Careful cash management will still be required to get through the summer without revenue from Activities. Investment activity had a larger gain in May of \$516,913.

Income Statement- Membership Revenue is below budget, with expenses well-controlled and under budget.

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## **Report of VP of Instruction**

Exceeds Standards ‘ES’ was added to the national level test sheets as an overall option for examiners which has always been an option at the local levels.

Planning and budgeting for the 2026 USPC Festival, Monday, July 13 - Sunday, July 19, 2026, has begun. With the loss of one day due to the Kentucky Horse Park schedule, Festival Education will run 3 days at the beginning of the week, followed by 4 days of Championships.

Upper-Level National Testing has begun, with over 100 candidate applications received.

## **Committee Reports**

### ***D-1 through C-2 Curricula Committee***

- The Instructor Toolbox was completed and posted to the USPC website last year and includes documents demonstrating how to use different items in teaching.
- The committee is working on “standards vertical alignment”.
- Updated the D study guide with parts of the Western saddle and bridle.
- Continuing to work on the ‘teaching matrix’ document that takes each part of the standard with suggestions on how to teach each portion.
- The committee has asked for help with a tail bandaging video and also would like help to add more Western riding resources on the website.

### ***Examiners Committee***

- The committee has made a plan to follow up with the retest of eligible candidates via personal connection.
- The National Examiner (NE) feedback program has been renamed to “Candidate Readiness Program”, which is open to C-1 and up.

- There are two new Apprentice National Examiners, which makes the total four.
- Committee Chairs are continuing with PIP calls, a Zoom with the assigned Examiners before a test to go over reminders.
- Looking to increase the sense of community among all Examiners (local and national)

### ***Horse Management Committee***

- The goal for 2025 is to create a Chief Horse Management Handbook.
- A virtual Horse Management seminar will be held in the Fall of 2025 or the Spring of 2026.
- At the 2026 USPC Festival, there are training sessions for those interested in becoming a Chief Horse Management Judge (CHMJ) or those interested in becoming more familiar with horse management in the barn.
- Provisional CHMJs are down to five due to one who had a family emergency; we are looking to continue to add more.

### ***National Testing Curricula Committee***

- The committee is in a holding pattern, waiting for the Horse Welfare Task Force to present to the Board of Governors.

Note: The Horse Welfare Task Force presented to the Board of Governors at the June Board Meeting and was tasked by President Jennifer Sweet to develop curriculum for the Standards of Proficiency with Instruction.

### ***National Youth Congress and Academy of Achievement Committee***

- The top four alumni have been chosen and are likely to have two alumni acknowledged.
- Fundraising will begin next with a goal of \$8500.

### ***Regional Instruction Coordinator (RIC) Committee***

- The committee is presenting a Q&A in July. They are asking what is going well in the regions and where help is needed, etc. The idea is to pair up more experienced RICs with those less experienced.

## **Report of VP of Activities**

The following programs were approved by the Programs Administration Council and ratified by the Board of Governors:

- ***USPC Member Recognition Award***, a program to support active USPC members at accredited shows, horse trials, and events while connecting USPC with the equine community around the country. Any accredited or recognized show, horse trial, or event by an organization listed below may apply for levels to be awarded at their event.

United States Equine Federation (USEF)  
United States Eventing Association (USEA)  
United States Dressage Federation (USDF)  
Western Dressage Association of America (WDAA)  
United States Hunter/Jumper Association (USHJA)  
American Vaulting Association (AVA)  
American Polocrosse Association (APA)  
United States Mounted Games Association of America (USMGAA)  
American Driving Society (ADS)  
United States Polo Association (USPA)

- New programming for the Presidents Cup and Prince Phillip Cup. Please click [here](#) for more information.
- The Discipline and Breed Recognition Program Template. Please click [here](#) for more information.

## **Committee Updates**

### ***Education***

- The Education Committee has been working on adjusting the educational handbooks for the Activities Department to review. Vaulting is the first one that has been sent to the department for an internal review.
- The Educational Handbooks for resource disciplines have been started (Foxhunting, Driving, Distance Riding, Polo, and Hunter Seat Equitation).

### ***Competitions***

- The committee is looking at the Quiz questions as well as monitoring TD reports.

## **Special Opportunities**

***The Inter-Pacific Exchange (IPE)*** will take place September 21 – October 5, 2025, and is hosted by Pony Club Australia. The team members are:

Amira Cooney, Virginia Region  
Hannah Fountain, Great Lakes Region  
Mia Valdez, Old Dominion Region  
Alternate: Sierra Shurtz, South Region  
Team Manager: Alex Ambelang  
Team Coach: Jennifer Merrick-Brooks

***The International Mounted Games Exchange (IMGE)*** will take place July 27 – August 1, 2025, and is hosted by The Pony Club United Kingdom. The team members are:

Landon Carrier, Western New York Region

Sienna Coffie, South Region  
Joshua Ertle, South Region  
Lyla Stotler, Virginia Region  
Tilly Westrich, Midsouth Region  
First Alternate: John Ertle, South Region  
Second Alternate: Zoe Sanborn, Virginia Region  
Team Manager: Laura Gorrell  
Team Coach: Sharon DeCant

***Equestrian Events Inc. (EEI) Mounted Game Invitational*** – Three teams participated in the Chewy EEI Mounted Games Invitational at the Kentucky Three Day Event, April 24-27, 2025. Full Throttle placed first, Hot Rods placed second, and Bravacados placed third.

***United States Equestrian Federation (USEF) Pony Jumper Team*** – USEF had a major overhaul in the programming for the Pony Jumper Championships; as a result, USPC has seven members attending the competition. Four members will be on the official USPC team, and three will be USPC Ambassadors, filling out other Zone teams that have not been filled.

#### USPC Team

Savannah Nieman – 1.05m  
Pearl Baldi – 1.05m  
Molly Myers – Large Pony  
Georgia Myers – Large Pony

#### USPC Ambassador aiding Zone Teams

Audrina McCall – Medium Pony  
Emma Shade Kleintop – Medium Pony  
Lily Brenes – Medium Pony  
Richard Lamb will be the chef de équipe and coach for the USPC team.

### **USPC 2026 Festival**

The championship competition in Dressage, Western Dressage, Eventing, Mounted Games, Polocrosse, Quiz, Show Jumping, and Tetrathlon, along with open competitions in Gymkhana and Trail, will be held concurrently July 16-19.

### **Virtual Competitions**

#### ***Dressage***

Forty competitors competed across 7 divisions. You can view the results [here](#).

#### ***Trail***

Twenty-nine competed across 8 divisions, one division that was added was In-Hand, which was a hit for those that may not ride or for those who might own miniature horses. You can view the results [here](#).

#### ***Show Jumping***

Seventeen competitors competed in 5 divisions. You can view the results [here](#).

## ***Western Dressage***

Nineteen competitors. Results will be available on the [Virtual Competitions page](#) on August 6.

## **USPC Convention**

The 2026 USPC Convention will be held at the Lincolnshire Marriott Resort in Lincolnshire, IL, January 28 - February 1, 2026.

The 2027 USPC Convention will be held at the Madison Marriott West in Middletown, WI, January 31, 2027.

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

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Leadership Training progressed with two Zoom opportunities for RS and DC/CA education on Key Responsibilities of the RS and the local leader. YouTube recordings of the presentations are posted on the website now for those who could not attend in person. These can be reached on the Region and Club/Center Responsibilities pages or at the following links (after log-in):

[Region Key Responsibilities](#)

[Club/Center Key Responsibilities](#)

## **National Youth Board (NYB) Report**

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### **NYB Executive Board 2025-2026**

- Chair - Marissa Redmond: *Carolina Region*
- Vice Chair - Mason Konesky: *Great Lakes Region*
- Treasurer - Isabelle Dow: *Northeast Region*
- Secretary - Lindsey Groves: *Delmarva Region*
- Social Media Coordinator - Kate Gerth: *Northwest Region*
- Board Advisor - Jocelyn Hunt: *Delmarva Region*
- Board Liaison - Yvette Seger: *BOG, Marketing and Communications, Strategic Planning*
- Staff Liaison - Sarah Conrad: *Marketing and Communications Director of USPC*

### **NYB Board Members**

- Cecilia Freese: *Northern Lakes Region*
- Ariana Dickey: *Capitol Region*
- Riley Rebholz: *Lake Shore Region*
- Sydney Langley: *Carolina Region*
- Meghan Hill: *Sierra Pacific Region*

## ***Expanding the Pin Promise***

The Pin Promise group has been brainstorming on new ways to expand on the Pin Promise. A giveaway has been planned and will be announced within the next few months. Members will share pictures on social media wearing their Pony Club pin at a non-USPC event and share what Pony Club means to them. Prizes will consist of Shop Pony Club items.

*The Pin Promise Project aims to have Pony Club members and alumni commit to wearing their Pony Club pin outside of Pony Club events with pride*

*The Pin Promise Pledge: I will wear my Pony Club pin with pride, knowing it stands for the best in horsemanship and sportsmanship. I will wear my pin as a symbol of Pony Club's purpose: to instill in me confidence, character, and leadership. I will wear my pin, honored to represent the community of the United States Pony Clubs*

## ***Regional Youth Boards (RYB)***

The National Youth Board is reaching out to current RYBs, dissolved RYBs, and regions wanting to create RYBs to connect regions into a cohesive and supportive group, along with providing information and support for developing RYBs. The first annual Regional Youth Board Conference will be held on July 20 via Zoom.

## ***Annual Service Project at the 2026 USPC Convention***

The current plan is to have the service project on the hotel grounds. Vice Chair, Mason Konesky, has been working to secure an organization that will accept homemade gifts and crafts created by the NYB, National Youth Summit, and potentially Pony Paddock.

## **Pony Club International Alliance Report (PCIA) Report**

### ***PCIA Exchanges 2025***

#### **In-Person Exchanges**

*International Mounted Games Exchange* – July 27-August 11, hosted by The Pony Club U.K.

*Inter-Pacific Exchange* – September 21-October 5, hosted by Pony Club Australia.

#### **Virtual Exchanges**

*Show Jumping* – Hosted by the New Zealand Pony Club and Pony Club South Africa, August through September.

*Quiz* – Hosted by the Canadian Pony Club, December 6

*Dressage Training Challenge* – June & September/October

*Dressage 1<sup>st</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup> Levels*, September/October

## Board Committee Highlights

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**Safety:** The committee is proud of its stance on the banning of peacock stirrups. USEF will implement the same ban effective December 1, 2025.

The committee approved a new medical wristband as recommended by Horse Management, which is an economical, waterproof bracelet. Click [here](#) for more information. Remember that any Medical Bracelet must visibly list the following six items: Name, Date of Birth, Contact Information, Known Allergies, Current Medications, and Existing Medical Conditions.

**Marketing & Communications:** Allpony was launched to the USPC membership on March 13. USPC Members can subscribe to Allpony for a discounted price.

Clubs and Centers can receive promotional materials, including brochures, discipline rack cards, back issues of the magazine, and prospective member booklets/postcards in a promotional packet upon request (at no cost). Complete the Request for Promotional Materials form to receive materials before your next event. A tabletop display is also available (for a rental fee) by request. Please click [here](#) for information on promotional materials.

**Development:** The goal for the 2025 Annual Fund is \$350,000, and as of June 15, we have raised \$73,404.

The Annual Fund makes it possible for USPC to subsidize nearly 40% of each membership. Every gift made to the Give a Leg Up- Get a Leg Up Regional Challenge not only strengthens USPC nationally, but it also directly benefits each region: 10% of every donation raised by a region comes back to them.

Give a Leg Up – Get A Leg Up Regional Challenge – The challenge launched on May 1 and will run through October 1. To participate in the Regional Challenge, please click [here](#).

Thank you to our 2025 Corporate Sponsors

Shapley's Grooming Products  
Triple Crown Nutrition  
Wintec  
Kerrits Activewear  
Zoetis Equine  
The Horse

USPC College Scholarships – We received 19 eligible applications this year, and we will announce the scholarship recipients by the end of June.

The Inter-Pacific and Mounted Games Exchanges have started their fundraising activities. You can follow along on their pages:

<https://www.ponyclub.org/support/int-ex-spec-ops>

<https://donate.ponyclub.org/team/657498>

<https://donate.ponyclub.org/team/657236>

National Youth Congress - USPC has partnered with one of our Affiliate Partners, Dreamers and Schemers, for a Pony Club Sales Week.

<https://dreamersnschemers.com/>

For the week of July 28 – August 2, Dreamers and Schemers will donate a portion of all proceeds from online sales to the National Youth Congress. This also includes a “round up” option for shoppers to round up their purchases to support the National Youth Congress.

**Strategic Planning:** In March, the Board approved working with Burcham Solutions on the Transformation of USPC. Executive Director Teresa Woods asked if the Strategic Planning Committee could help with the transformation. The committee was then tasked to look at the data from the last 10 years of membership, Revenue, and Marketing and Communications.

**Access and Engagement:** The Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility Committee has evolved with a new name and strategic focus, shifting from tactical activities to broader strategic goals.

**Governance:** The committee reviewed and discussed the proposed changes to the Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility name change to the Access and Engagement Committee.

**Technology Infrastructure Advancement:** In conjunction with the Instruction and Marketing Departments, IT completed a preliminary assessment of existing courses available on the Allpony platform. Most courses were updated. Two new courses have been launched post-purchase: Leg-Yield Explained and Parts of the Horse, Level 2. Several courses are currently under construction, and we look forward to launching more content in the coming months.