

The 2024 USPC May Board of Governors meeting was held at the National Office in Lexington, KY.

Upcoming National Events

2024 USPC Festival - Kentucky Horse Park, Lexington, KY, from July 15-22.

2025 USPC Convention - Grand Traverse Resort and Spa, Acme, MI, January 22-26.

General Comments

Comments from President Jennifer Sweet

USPC's fully mobile-optimized website is up and running. Thank you, Alyssa Sands, Information Technology Director, and all the USPC Staff for all their hard work in making the website a reality.

USPC's 70th anniversary is being celebrated through messages about our history on Facebook and Instagram and requests to share special stories for our blog and *Discover USPC* magazine. There are also fundraising challenges to celebrate 70 years at every opportunity. Please join in and help us celebrate!

During the 2024 USPC Festival, the Pony Club International Alliance (PCIA) with representatives from Australia, the United Kingdom, New Zealand, and Canada will be hosted by USPC for their Secretariat meeting at the USPC National Office. Australia will be handing the reins over to USPC for its two-year leadership term. They will be attending the Opening Ceremony, viewing some of the Championship competitions and Festival Education seminars/demonstrations, and attending some cultural activities.

Comments from Executive Director Teresa Woods

The United States Pony Clubs, Inc. was named and honored as the 2024 Equine Industry Vision Award Winner at the American Horse Publications Equine Media Conference in Lexington, KY, on Friday, May 17, 2024. A big thank you to the Marketing and Communications Director, Sarah Evers Conrad, for all her hard work documenting the information for the application.

Report from the Treasurer/Finance Committee

Overall - USPC is below budget in operating revenue and below budget in operating expenses for April 2024, and net income is above budget year-to-date.

Balance Sheet - Cash balances remain steady. Investment activity had a loss of -\$279,190 in April. Advisory fees for the last quarter were \$19,847.

Income Statement – Membership revenue is below budget in most categories. Departmental expenses are below budget.

Marketing and Communications shows a credit in the Shows/Exhibit category due to a year-end correction as the 2024 Defender Three-Day Event cost was charged in December 2023 and January 2024.

Shop Pony Club revenue is below budget. Website traffic is down, and the Defender Three-Day Event sales were down from last year. The Cost of Goods Sold has been estimated for April 2024.

Development revenue is below budget but shows an 8% increase over this time last year.

The Insurance Department shows the results of the increase in the fee for the Property Recording Fees, though this jump is not solely attributed to that increase. With Membership down by 6%, members are active, thus contributing to this jump in revenue. Expenses are well below budget.

Report of VP of Instruction

Festival Education registration opened on May 6, 2024. The Festival Education Committee meets monthly and is securing volunteers for the event to run smoothly. The Polocrosse clinic was removed as no clinicians were available, though a Trail clinic has been added.

The Examiners Committee - Held a virtual examiners seminar in February. The first two and half days were sessions for National Examiners and the third day the session was open to the public. They also revised local and national Examiner handbooks. There are three new apprentice examiners for 2024 – Hilary Murphy, Alexa Ehlers Thompson, and Sarah Lorenz.

The National Testing Curricula Committee is reviewing the Standards of Proficiency (SOP) changes focusing on the H-B, H-A, and B. They are examining current information to see if they need to add, modify, or remove as members feel that information on the website is overwhelming.

The Regional Instruction Committee is having quarterly video conference meetings. On May 9, their meeting focused on the Standards of Proficiency (SOP) updates, templates that the Regional Instructor Coordinators can use for evaluations, planning a prep clinic, and how regions can be more cost-effective by using national examiners in multiple ways.

The National Youth Congress (NYC) Committee – McKenzie Kielman (Chair), Connie Jehlik, Instruction Services Director, Marian Wahlgren, Development Director, and Sarah Andres, VP of Instruction had a call and shared ideas and possible plans for the NYC during the USPC 2025 Convention. Overall, the structure of the

NYC program needs some changes due to time spent during the USPC Convention. Funding is also a challenge and a concern.

The Horse Management (HM) Committee – The committee is working on a virtual seminar similar to what the Examiners Committee did for February or March 2025. The committee is working on getting photos for the amplification section of the Horse Management Handbook and posting them on the website.

The D-1 – C-2 Curricula Committee is working on navigating the new website making sure all content is current with the SOPs. The committee is working on the HM curriculum flow chart to reflect current SOPs through C-2.

The Standards and Testing D-A Committee plans to meet quarterly as needed this year unless there is something that requires discussion due to the last two years of multiple meetings per month.

Report of VP of Activities

The 2024 USPC Championships at Festival will include Dressage, Eventing, Polocrosse, Mounted Games, Quiz, Show Jumping, Tetrathlon, and Western Dressage will run concurrently July 15-19 along with an Open Gymkhana and Trail competitions. Entries opened on May 6 and will close on June 24. The 2024 USPC Festival Guidebook is available and be found [here](#).

This year Connie Jehlik, Instruction Services Director, and Erin Roland, Activities & Events Director, have collaborated to create “Festival Features,” a short video or clip each week that highlights a different aspect of the 2024 USPC Festival. They have been well received and are helping educate members and mentally prepare them for the Kentucky Horse Park.

Three teams participated in the Equestrian Events Inc. (EEI) Mounted Games Invitational during the Defender Kentucky Three-Day Event, with the Hurricanes placing first, Quick Silver placing second, and Full Throttle placing third.

Fifty-two members participated in the USPC Foxhunting Recognition program in which members learn about Foxhunting in mounted and unmounted capacities. After they submit a signed form, they earn a pin and a certificate for their achievements.

USEF Pony Jumper Team – Aiden Beaubain (Southern California Region) declared USPC as his Zone. Richard Lamb will be the chef d'équipe representing USPC.

Last fall the Board of Governors approved restructuring the USPC Championships rotation to a Festival two-year cyclical rotation at the Kentucky Horse Park and approved the USPC Points Program and Virtual Competitions. The USPC Points Program will open for sign-up in the fall of 2024. Members can record their points beginning in January 2025. Below are the dates for the 2025 Virtual Competitions:

Dressage – Entry Period March 3-31; Upload Period April 1-22; Judging Period April 23-May 5; Finalized Results May 7.

Trail – Entry Period March 31-April 28; Upload Period April 29-May 20; Finalized Results June 4.

Show Jumping – Entry Period May 5-June 2; Upload Period June 3-24; Judging Period June 25-July 7; Finalized Results July 9.

Western Dressage – Entry Period June 2-30; Upload Period July 1-22; Judging Period July 23-August 4; Finalized Results August 6.

International Exchanges

Quiz – USPC is hosting the exchange from July 10-20 during the 2024 USPC Festival and will have teams from the United Kingdom, Australia, Canada, and for the first time New Zealand. USPC's team – Larua Chin (Eastern Pennsylvania Region), Anna Jacobs (Midsouth Region), Mason Konesky (Great Lakes Region), Lillian Weidner (Virginia Region), Ann Hill (Team Manager), and Becky Logsdon (Organizer).

Tetrathlon – The exchange will be held in two locations, Ireland, and Great Britain July 23- August 8. USPC's team – Annie Rogers (Eastern Pennsylvania), Michaela Frye (Midwest Region), Robin Wherry (Team Manager).

Mounted Games – The exchange will take place August 28 – September 8 hosted by the Canadian Pony Club. USPC's team – Stella Rosen (Sunshine Region), Mariana R (Sunshine Region), Riley Fitzpatrick (Tri-State Region), Claire M (Maryland Region), Laura Gorrell (Team Manager).

Report of the VP of Regional Administration

Regional Administration is working on the Healthy Region Project and is in the process of creating a list of Benchmarks that will be applied to each Region to create a rating to determine if Regions need further guidance in one or more areas.

The Regional Resource Committee is dedicated to offering support to groups of Regions with many Regional Supervisors (RSs) and other officers embracing this support. The relationships with the leaders have provided

best practices to promote, needed areas of further training, and connection to appropriate National Office and USPC Officer support.

National Youth Board (NYB) Report

Goals for the National Youth Board in 2024

- Increased and consistent involvement from all NYB members
- Committee chairs to have a bigger leadership role in coordination with their given committee and its members
- Increase USPC member engagement and interest
- Continue to generate and develop new innovative and modern ideas
- Attend the Defender Kentucky Three-Day Event, Mars Maryland 5 Star at Fair Hill, and other large horse events
- Continue What is Pony Club Ad Hoc Committee, absorbed by the Marketing Committee
- Put out content for horse behavior/welfare
- Promote western/other tracks and outside PC environment
- Annual Service Project
- Help create more Shop Pony Club gear
- Continue expanding on the Pin Promise
- 100% giving to The Annual Fund

Marketing and Communication Committee – The focus is on current and alumni members and creating content from interviews. Genvieve Crouch attended the Intercollegiate Championships at the Stable View Horse Trials in May and interviewed current and past USPC members. There will also be a committee member attending The Event at Rebecca Farm, they will be interviewing upper-level event riders who are also USPC alumni. The goal is to provide a connection between competing riders and USPC to provide comments about USPC from the riders.

Member Affairs & Networking Committee – Working collaboratively to create new and fresh ideas to submit to the National Office and focusing on completing their smart goal, horse welfare.

Service Committee – Working on a service initiative for all regions to participate in, we are considering a competition between regions to help motivate participation by donating food or supplies to local charities. Discussions of a service project during the 2025 USPC Convention will begin after the summer.

Regional Youth Board (RYB) Committee – They are working on streamlining and promoting regional youth boards. They plan to utilize the brochure the committee made last year to bring awareness to regions that do not have an RYB.

Pony Club International Alliance Report (PCIA) Report

Virtual and In- Person Exchanges

International Quiz Exchange will be hosted by USPC during the 2024 Festival.

International Tetrathlon Exchange – Will be hosted by the Pony Club United Kingdom and the Irish Pony Club from July 27 – August 10.

International Mounted Games – Will be hosted by the Canadian Pony Club with dates to be announced.

Virtual Dressage – This will be hosted by USPC and the Hong Kong Pony Club in September/October.

Virtual Show Jumping – This will be hosted by the Australian Pony Club. Dates to be determined.

Inter-Pacific Exchange (IPE) – This will be hosted by the Australian Pony Club in 2025.

Board Committee Highlights

Safety: During the Safety breakout session for leaders during the 2024 USPC Convention there were several questions about qualified medical personnel at rallies. There is a document on the Safety Page on the website on the qualifications of medical personnel required which can be found [here](#).

The committee has been recently receiving questions on helmet replacement. Committee member, Kimberly Chick, shared a chart on the certifications and dates of certification with the committee. The committee discussed adding the certification dates to Policy 0810, Safety Requirements for Helmets. Education and socialization of this requirement would happen before implementing any change to the Policy.

The current Safety Requirements for Body Protection Vests, Policy 0830 states - that wearing a properly fitted (per manufacturer's guidelines) equestrian body protection vest is required when jumping cross-country/solid obstacles during any activity sponsored by the USPC, its Regions, Registered Clubs, or Riding Center programs. Certifications for Body Protection Vests exist and there are a range of vests that have certifications and those that do not. The committee may recommend revising this Policy to include certifications.

Marketing & Communications: Marketing and Communications Director, Sarah Evers Conrad renominated USPC for the Equine Industry Vision Award. The United States Pony Clubs, Inc. was named and honored as the 2024 Equine Industry Vision Award Winner at the American Horse Publications Equine Media Conference in Lexington, KY, on Friday, May 17, 2024.

USPC had a booth at Equine Affaire Ohio with members from Tri-State Region and Hunter's Run Pony Club helping to staff the booth and serve as representatives for Pony Club, along with Liz Moyer, Fundraising & Marketing Coordinator from the USPC National Office.

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 2024 Annual Fund is \$330,000 and as of May 7, we have raised \$79,106.

To honor USPC's 70th Anniversary the Seven Days of Giving Campaign kicked off on February 24 (Founders Day) – March 1, and raised \$2,753 from twenty-one donors for the Annual Fund.

Thank you to our 2024 Corporate Sponsors:

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

The sponsorship goal for the 2024 USPC Festival is \$25,000; we are currently at \$23,000. Thank you to the following sponsors:

AAETT (American Association of Equine Therapists and Technicians)
Workshop Sponsor (\$500)
Absorbine
Workshop Sponsor (4 - \$2,000)
Dimples Horse Treats
Packet Sponsor (\$750 plus product)
Equine Veterinary Education Program at Lincoln Memorial University
Jog Strip Sponsor (\$1,100)
Fire Rock Ranch
Jump Sponsor (\$500)
Gore Trailers
Traffic, Parking, and Welcome Sponsor (\$1,500)

Kentucky Performance Products

Award Ceremony and Packet Sponsor (\$2,500)

Ultra Cruz

Discipline Sponsor (\$1,000 plus product)

WESA

Trade Fair Sponsor (\$750)

Western Specialty Insurers

Educational Partners/Award Sponsors/In-Kind

Gift Horse Baskets

Meade Tractor

Retired Racehorse Project

Riding Warehouse

Spy Coast Farm

StudFast

Candy Tavormina

Festival Program Advertisers

Ultra Cruz (\$500)

Georgetown Tourism (\$750)

Otterbein University (\$750)

USPC College Scholarships – We received 31 eligible applications this year and we will announce who received scholarships by June 30.

2024 Regional Challenge- We are planning for the 2024 Give A Leg Up – Get A Leg Up Regional Challenge Campaign this fall. We are also planning to bring awareness of the Challenge to this year's Festival.

International Exchange Fundraising

The International Exchange and Special Opportunities Committee has been hard at work raising money for the International Quiz Exchange that will take place during Festival. Pony Club received a generous grant from Equestrian Events, Inc. for \$2,500 for the Quiz Exchange.

<https://donate.ponyclub.org/team/561889>

The International Games and Tetrathlon Teams have started their fundraising efforts:

<https://donate.ponyclub.org/team/561886>

<https://donate.ponyclub.org/team/561888>

The International Exchange and Special Opportunities received a one-time donation of \$23,982 from the Helen K. Goves Fund. With this donation this meets the \$25,000 per year to sustain the fund.

Strategic Planning: The committee has been seeking input and data to confirm the success of progress toward completing strategic goals. Recent meetings have focused on the Innovation and Brand Development Pillar.

Diversity, Equity, Inclusion & Accessibility (DEIA): The committee held a workshop during the 2024 USPC Convention which was well attended, and we received ideas on how to proceed forward.

Governance: The committee reviewed the process of onboarding Regional Officers after the new website was launched and it was noted that several items need to be activated or added. The committee will continue to review Regional Officer onboarding materials and communicate with the Regional Resource Committee to collaborate to avoid duplicate work.

In 2023, the committee reviewed the USPC By-Laws. Review of Regional and Club By-Laws is on hold pending the decision of the Board of Governors related to the recommendation of Direct USPC Membership which will be brought before the Board of Governors at the October Board meeting.

Technology Infrastructure Advancement:

- The new website is up, and it is mobile-optimized.
- The Centralized Financial Reporting System has new features.
- The new platforms for Championships entries and Festival Education registration are up and operational. In the past, the Instruction Director had to hand schedule, with the new platform registrants can create their own schedule for Festival Education.
- Next projects are the club, center, and region year-end requirements and membership renewals and then the USPC Convention Registration

Report of the USPC Convention Committee

The 2025 USPC Convention will be held at the Grand Traverse Resort and Spa, Acme, MI, January 22-26.