

## 2012 Pony Club Standards of Proficiency

At the October Board of Governors meeting, the Board endorsed the proactive approach of changing the word 'rating' to 'certification' in our new-for-2012 Standards of Proficiency to bring greater professional recognition to achievements of our members.

For over 57 years, USPC—as an educational entity—has had educational Standards of Proficiency (SOP) and a rigorous examination process administered by local and national examiners who certify the knowledge, skills and abilities of USPC Members seeking to achieve a Standard of Proficiency. Upon successfully proving one's proficiency per a standard, USPC awarded the member a certificate of achievement signed by appropriate officers of USPC. The entire process—establishment of the Standards of Proficiency, testing procedures and process, identification and approval of examiners, test sites, etc. —are all governed by Policy and Procedures, and administered by USPC and its officials.

In an effort to bring more professional recognition to work undertaken by USPC and the achievements of our members it was decided to change our word usage from "rating" to more industry recognized terms of "certificate" and "certification." In taking this step, legal counsel for USPC was consulted, and a review of literature pertaining to common industry practices was undertaken.

Therefore, beginning January 1, 2012, members tested at the local level will receive a "certificate" upon completion of their respective examinations (tests) and those completing a national examination will be awarded a "certification." Certificates and certification are more industry, business and educationally recognized terms. Our Pony Club members, particularly upper level members, will now be able to state that they hold a Certification—a B or H-A Certification—of achievement. This change in nomenclature will clearly identify the achievements of our members and provide added value for when they apply for college, jobs, course credits at school, etc.



Kevin Price  
USPC Chief Executive Officer