



## AMERICAN SHETLAND PONY CLUB, INC.

American Shetland Pony Registry • American Miniature Horse Registry • American Show Pony Registry

81-B East Queenwood Road Morton Illinois 61550

Phone: 309-263-4044 Fax: 309-263-5113

[www.shetlandminiature.com](http://www.shetlandminiature.com)

### President's Message to Our Members,

The Coronavirus Pandemic has presented us with unprecedented challenges in our personal and public lives that require changes in how we interact with each other, how we continue our work, and how we protect our family and friends. The American Shetland Pony Club Board of Directors has been proactive in addressing these issues as we try to get ahead of and keep up with the changing social landscape.

The Board of Directors met via conference call on Thursday, May 28<sup>th</sup> and made a decision regarding whether or not it was prudent to hold the 2020 Congress. We understand that every decision of this magnitude has unintended consequences and may be one that some members will not agree with.

The Board addressed the issue of cancelling the 2020 Congress through two lenses: 1) What is in the best interest for the health and welfare of our total membership and, 2) What is in the best financial interest of the ASPC Corporation we represent. Serious consideration, of COVID-19 infection rates across the nation and other issues which might hinder participation, led to this decision. The health risks for many of our exhibitors/judges/stewards and staff, individual members economic circumstances, the club's financial risk, and state/national restrictions on travel, as well as the border closure with Canada were all considered. Also, after observing the videos of masses of people that congregated during the Memorial Day Holiday, it is obvious that maintaining social distancing, practicing sufficient hygiene, and protecting ourselves/others by wearing masks is difficult and not likely to happen in a major, indoor horse show setting.

The decision to cancel the 2020 ASPC/AMHR Congress was excruciating and not made lightly. **NOT ONE OF OUR DIRECTORS WANTED TO CANCEL** this important showcase of our breeds, but the majority felt that it was the correct decision. I agree with this decision and hope all of our membership can accept it.

We hope that, regardless of how you feel about this decision, you will continue to support the American Shetland Pony Club and find ways to continue to enjoy your small equine. Thank you for your understanding and appreciation of the efforts, to serve our



## AMERICAN SHETLAND PONY CLUB, INC.

American Shetland Pony Registry • American Miniature Horse Registry • American Show Pony Registry  
[www.shetlandminiature.com](http://www.shetlandminiature.com)

membership appropriately, made by every member of the Board of Directors. We are all looking forward to the day that we can resume our normal way of life.

Sincerely,

Stephen Henderson, President

May 29, 2020