

CALIFORNIA SQUARE DANCE COUNCIL, INC.
REPORT FROM THE YOUTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE
November 9, 2002

HARVEST HOEDOWN YOUTH ACTIVITIES: We had a very successful youth program during Harvest Hoedown in Yuba City in late October. Among the activities planned was a Friday evening "get-acquainted activity" where we served popcorn and punch; the Saturday afternoon badge dances; Saturday night "hot hash" dancing; and the Saturday night campfire. Parents were invited to participate in each of the activities so that they could also become acquainted with us and the other youth dancers. Nearly two squares of youth participated the Grand March on Saturday night, proudly waiving the new banner donated by Michael & Kimberlee Streby. The youth dancers ranged from September new dancers through A2 in level, but most of them chose to dance together at the lower level to enjoy their new friendships. Advance information was posted on the Internet via email notices, and the activities were listed in the festival program. From all accounts the kids had a great time, and we've received many compliments from the youth and their parents, stating that this has given them the opportunity to forge some very strong friendships. We've received offers to coordinate a youth program at Silver State in Reno, and we hope to put something together at Spring Jamboree in Plymouth if the festival chairmen are interested. We really encourage festivals to try to plan similar programs in your area – it doesn't have to be elaborate, just "youth friendly."

DISPLAY BOARD: The display board made by the Jelleseds has been shown at Square Affair in Santa Maria; Jubilee in Watsonville; Harvest Hoedown in Yuba City; and Fiesta de la Cuadrilla in San Diego. I'm hoping someone will take it to one of the next festivals on the calendar for display there. It seems to get good response wherever we have it.

PROMOTIONAL FLYERS: The new promotional flyers distributed at the last meeting are nearly gone. After "mass" distribution via e-mail, I received nearly 20 additional requests for copies of the flyers and the newsletter from individuals throughout the state, and as far away as New York. Please contact a member of the committee or download an "original" of the flyer for duplication and distribution in your area.

YOUTH PAGE ON COUNCIL WEB SITE: The two youth flyers were added to the website, but the Fall issue of the newsletter was not, nor were the updates made to the youth club listings. I received a few complaints from youth clubs hoping we would be helping them promote their classes by having their listings on the website but the information was not updated as requested. I'm hoping these issues will be resolved in the next quarter.

"FROGGIE TALK" NEWSLETTER: The Winter issue of the youth newsletter will be published next week and distributed via email and the Council's website, assuming we can get it added. Additional copies will be mailed to the youth dancers who do not have email access. Clubs and Associations are encouraged to download the newsletter and make copies for your local dancers.

YOUTH CLUB/DANCER LISTING: We continue to expand our youth club and youth dancer listings, with several new names and addresses being added following the youth activities at Harvest Hoedown. Please continue to forward youth information to us at CAYouthSqr@aol.com.

CALIFORNIA YOUTH SQUARE DANCE COMPETITION: This year's competition will take place on Saturday, April 26, 2003 on board the Queen Mary in Long Beach. The event will once again be held in conjunction with the California Square Dance Convention. The competition is open to all youth dancers who are 21 years of age or younger at the time of the convention. The "mystery hot hash" format will include calls 1 – 68 as based on the Callerlab teaching schedule. This way, even those youth who joined a September new dancer class will still be able to participate. Printed rules for the competition will be available via email and the Council website within a couple of weeks.

CALIFORNIA YOUTH SCHOLARSHIP: Per request by this Council, the committee was asked to review the IRS implications of Council presenting a scholarship. Bob Kamuf reviewed the IRS codes and found nothing in them that would prevent us from awarding a scholarship, particularly one as low as \$250. Since the amount is under \$600, we would not even be required to issue a 1099 form.

The committee reviewed the proposed qualifications for the scholarship today. Qualifications include: a) Must be at least a senior in high school, but not reached the age of 21 by May 1st of the current year; b) Must be an active member of a club that is a member of the California Square Dance Council, Inc., through its Association affiliation; c) Must provide three letters of recommendation, one of which must come from the club where the individual is an active member.

Selection committee for the scholarship will be chaired by the Youth Advisory Committee Chairman, and consist of the remaining members of the Youth Advisory Committee, Council's four Area Vice Presidents and the Council President. If any of the selection committee members have a family member or relative who is an applicant for the scholarship, they are to remove themselves from the selection process. If a replacement on the selection committee is needed, the replacement will come from the same geographic region of the state as represented by the individual(s) removed.

Application deadline will be March 1st of each year, final review and selection of the winner made during the annual State Square Dance Convention. Presentation of the scholarship will take place during the May meeting of the California Square Dance Council, Inc. The committee reserves the right to not present a scholarship if a suitable candidate is not found.

We request Council's approval to proceed with this program so that we can finalize the documents and begin advertising the scholarship's availability.

Youth Advisory Committee
Bonnie Abramson, Chair

Ben & Terri Jellesed; Bob Kamuf; Don Orsbern; John & Jackie Rowe; Michael & Kimberlee Streby