

California Square Dance Council, Inc. Youth Advisory Committee Report August 9, 2003

YOUTH CLUB UPDATES

We continue to see progress in our efforts to bring youth into square dancing. The River City Rugratz in the Sacramento area had eight squares at their second dance in June, with youth coming from all over northern California. They also took home the first prize team competition trophy at Fun Weekend in their first year out. There were many youth dancers present at Fun Weekend, with several saying they had come because they knew other youth would be there. The Rugratz's next dance is on August 24th, and then they will begin a new dancer class in mid-September. The Ruffles & Beaus in southern California have reported an increase to eight youth dancers, and the dance program at the Santa Clara County Fair in San Jose was revised to make it more accommodating for youth dancers to participate. We've also seen an increase in the number of youth dancers at Adobe Squares in Petaluma. We're hoping to see a lot of new youth showing up for September classes. Please keep us apprised on youth activities in your area – even a little progress is still progress.

STATE CONVENTION

We are looking forward to having a solid youth program at the 2004 State Convention in Sacramento. We have been heavily promoting the event to our Sacramento area youth dancers and hope other associations are doing the same. My understanding is that we will have our own hall both Friday and Saturday night, and plan to encourage the youth to dance in the other halls during the day. The third annual Youth Square Dance Competition will take place during the convention on Saturday, but a time has yet to be determined.

2004 STATE CONVENTION TRAIL END DANCE

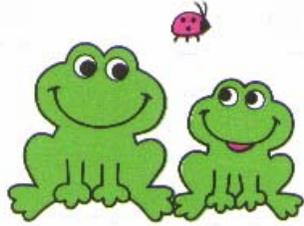
The California Youth Dancers will be hosting the trail-end dance for the 2004 State Convention in Sacramento. Calling the event the "Hooterville Hoedown" (appropriately named after the *Petticoat Junction* television show), the dance will be held from 7:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. on Thursday night of the convention at Cal Expo. Scot Byars will serve as MC for the evening, joined by what we hope will be a showcase of former youth callers who are now "all grown up." Donation will be \$3, with all proceeds from the evening going towards the youth scholarship and youth promotional funds.

GRAND PRIZE TICKETS

Council has given their approval for the youth program to continue to earn commission on the sale of State Convention Grand Prize Tickets. Please support our efforts by helping to spread the word that by writing the word "YOUTH" in the space where the club is identified, we can continue to build our scholarship program. Even one ticket per book sold could make a big difference.

SCHOLARSHIP

Scholarship applications are available on the back table, or can be downloaded from the youth section of the Council's webpage ... www.squaredance.org. Make sure you have copies available for members of your association, and remind youth dancers in your area of the availability of both our scholarship and the USDA Scholarship. USDA's scholarship application can also be downloaded from the Council's website.



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SURVEY

Attached with this report is a survey designed to gather information relative to your policies regarding the youth as far as admission prices, age policies, whether or not you have a special hall and/or program for the youth, etc. The purpose of the survey will be two-fold ... first to see if we can establish some average “guidelines” for festivals to get some consistency from event to event, and secondly, to help promote whatever youth activities are available. Discounted admission for youth dancers is very important – if we don’t make it affordable for families to attend then they are going to stay home. We are also looking for some consistency in what age range is considered a youth dancer. Please complete the information yourself or encourage your festival chairmen to complete them and return them to us by the August 31st deadline. Attach a copy of the festival flyer to the survey, if possible.

HARVEST HOEDOWN/YOUTH CALLER AFTER PARTY

Several activities are planned for the youth at Harvest Hoedown. The Youth Advisory Committee and youth dancers will be operating one of the concession stands as a fundraiser for the youth promotional fund. In addition, there will be a youth-sponsored after party on Saturday night that has been designated as a “Green Caller/Open Mike” event for youth callers. Whether they have any experience or not all youth callers or “wanna-be’s” will be welcome to take a turn at the microphone.

YOUTH PROMOTIONAL FLYERS

The two youth flyers developed last year have been updated with current information. A copy of the originals for these flyers have been attached for you. Please make copies for use in your area. Additional copies of the flyer can be downloaded from the Council website.

COMMITTEE

I want to take this opportunity to thank all of the members of the Youth Advisory Committee for this past year. You all worked hard and we accomplished a lot. I really appreciate your efforts and the support you have given to me. For those leaving our ranks, thank you. For those of you joining us for the coming year, this is a hardworking committee and we have a lot to do this coming year to keep our momentum going. The support of everyone on Council and in the square dance community is needed to help us accomplish our goals.

Respectfully submitted,

Bonnie

Bonnie Abramson, Chair
Youth Advisory Committee