

California Square Dance Council, Inc. Youth Advisory Committee Report February 14, 2004

Since we have some of our local youth dancers present with us here today I've asked them to give part of the youth committee report for us.

2004 STATE CONVENTION TRAIL END DANCE (Emma Jellesed, ASDSC District 3 Director)

The California Youth Dancers will be hosting the trail-end dance for the 2004 State Convention in Sacramento. The "Hooterville Hoedown" will be held on Thursday, April 22, 2004 from 7:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. 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." Level for the dance will be alternating Mainstream/Plus, with single rounds and mixers in between. Admission will be \$3, and we will be selling State Convention Grand Prize tickets which will do dual purpose as tickets for our prize drawings. Several items have already been donated and we are looking for more. Proceeds from the evening will go towards the youth scholarship and youth promotional funds.

SCHOLARSHIP (Jessica Horton - 2003 CA Youth Scholarship Winner)

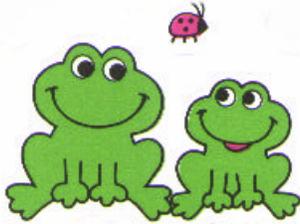
Scholarship season is upon us. I'm happy to report that at least three Northern California dancers have applied for the USDA Founders' Memorial Scholarship this year and we hope to see it awarded to a California dancer this year. This is also a quick reminder that April 1st is the deadline for the committee to receive applications for the CA Youth Scholarship. Dancers who are at least seniors in high school but who will not have turned 21 by May 1st are eligible to apply for this \$250 scholarship. Please help us spread the word. Copies of the application are available on the side table. Thank you all for your continued support of the scholarship program.

YOUTH COMPETITION (Krystal Horton - Vice President, River City Rugratz)

The third annual Youth Square Dance Competition will be held at 8:30 p.m. on Saturday night, April 24th at Cal Expo during the California Square Dance Convention. The competition is open to any youth dancer and will cover the first 60 basics as defined by Callerlab. Sign-ups will be taken beginning Thursday night during the trail end dance and continue up until Saturday afternoon, with square assignments made and practice sessions scheduled. Please invite any youth dancers in your area to come up and participate with us - it's lots of fun and a great way for youth dancers to get to know each other.

CAHPERD PROMOTIONAL PROJECT

Contact has been made with the California Association of Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance, an association encompassing physical education teachers, dance teachers, and staff members of recreation departments from throughout the State. While we were too late to participate in this year's convention, the committee proposes that the youth committee and/or Council take a booth in next year's convention in Monterey (\$350 for a non-profit organization) where we would hand out informational material about square dancing, particularly the youth activities. I would also coordinate the submission of a proposal to do a workshop presentation about square dancing at this event (subject to selection by their program committee) and submit articles to their association newsletter (subject to selection by their editorial committee). Booth rental fees could either be taken from the Youth Advisory Committee fund or from Council funds, or shared by the two. The CAHPERD Annual Convention is held in March of each year and attracts nearly 1500 attendees.



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From the CAHPERD website: *The California Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance (CAHPERD), founded in 1930, is a non-profit, voluntary membership corporation formed exclusively to promote the organizing and progress of school, community and statewide programs of health, physical education, recreation and dance which will embody such opportunities and which will insure the inclusion of such programs within the most appropriate philosophical and social context of life in California.*

THE MURTHA PROJECT

In addition to the CAHPERD promotional effort, the committee will be bringing Council a proposal in May to work with callers Bronc Wise and Jet Roberts to update the late Jack Murtha's elementary school square dance teach program. Many feel this is still one of the best teaching tools around, but it needs to be revitalized with updated music and put into CD or mini-disk format for use by today's teachers. The formal proposal will be presented at the May meeting with specifics as to cost, distribution, reproduction rights, etc., but we wanted to give the associations advance notice in case there are any other ideas or suggestions out there, or if there are individuals who would be working on one or both of these projects. If so, please contact Bonnie Abramson, Chair, Youth Advisory Committee at CAYouthSqrs@aol.com or by phone at 916/649-2714 (home) or 916/213-3640 (cell).

GRAND PRIZE TICKETS

Please continue to sell State Convention Grand Prize tickets on behalf of the youth scholarship program. It's an easy way for us to continue supporting both the State Convention and the scholarship program.

FESTIVAL YOUTH PROGRAMS

It's nice to see so many of the festivals starting to offer a youth program and/or special activities for youth dancers during their festivals. Rose Styczinski of the River City Rugratz is working with the Silver State Square and Round Dance Festival committee in Reno, NV to coordinate their youth program. Sarah Osofsky and Emma Jellesed of the River City Rugratz are serving on the Fun Weekend committee to coordinate youth activities there, while Emma and Heidi Jellesed are doing the same for the Harvest Hoedown committee. Ruth Riegelhaupt-Herzig and her daughter Sarah are coordinating youth events at Jubilee in Watsonville, while Golden State Round-up is once again planning their special luncheon and other programs for youth dancers. If the festival in your area is planning something special for the youth dancers please let us know so we can help promote them. Our numbers are growing and it's great to see three, four and even five squares of youth dancers out at the festivals.

USDA YOUTH PROMOTION IDEA

A promotional idea has been submitted by the USDA Youth Directors for consideration as a way to attract youth dancers. A preliminary summary of this idea has been provided to the youth advisory committee and will be reviewed and discussed by the committee over the next couple of months prior to presentation to Council in May.

Respectfully submitted,
Bonnie Abramson, Chair, Youth Advisory Committee