

California Square Dance Council, Inc.

Youth Advisory Committee Report

May 8, 2004

2004 STATE CONVENTION TRAIL END DANCE

From all accounts the “Hooterville Hoedown,” held on Thursday, April 22, 2004 at Cal Expo as trail-end dance for the 2004 State Convention, was a rousing success. 24 squares of dancers signed in, 15 books of Convention Grand Prize tickets were sold, and an additional raffle was held for the petticoat donated by Square D Fashions of Sacramento. While hosted in name by the Youth Committee, the bulk of the planning was done by Trail’s End Dance chairmen Gene & Joyce Boone along with committee members Ben & Terri Jellesed, Bob Kamuf and Bonnie Abramson, with assistance by George Fox and Bill Hinson of Sacramento. Scot Byars served as MC for the evening, joined by callers Bill Silver, Ben Goldberg and Lawrence Johnstone. Special thanks go to Ben Goldberg/BLG Sound Designs for donating the use of his sound system; Melissa and Nancy Shelton for making their first aide services available;

SCHOLARSHIP

Emma Jellesed, a 17-year-old senior from Sacramento, and the daughter of ASDSC Presidents Ben & Terri Jellesed, was named as the winner of the 2004 California Square Dance Council’s Youth Scholarship during a ceremony on Saturday night of the State Convention. Emma was one of three applicants, all from Northern or Central California, and has been dancing for nine years.

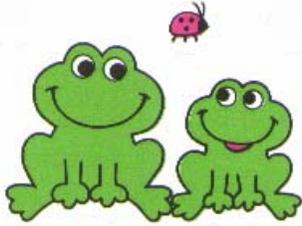
YOUTH COMPETITION

The third annual Youth Square Dance Competition was held at 8:30 p.m. on Saturday night, April 24th at Cal Expo during the California Square Dance Convention. A record six squares of youth dancers signed up to participate this year, and the actual competition took place before a standing room only crowd. Andy Shore stepped in to call for the 90-minute practice session during the afternoon, while Ben Goldberg and Phil Farmer called for the actual competition.

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.

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*



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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).

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.

Respectfully submitted,
Bonnie Abramson, Chair, Youth Advisory Committee