



# California Square Dance Council, Inc. Youth Advisory Committee Report August 13, 2005

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## **1<sup>st</sup> CALIFORNIA FAMILY SQUARE DANCE JAMBOREE**

This first time event is scheduled for the weekend of August 4 – 6, 2006 in Orange County and will include a Friday night dance hosted by the Croakers club of Orange County and a day of fun and dancing at Disneyland on Saturday. The event is open to dancers and non-dancers of all ages. A separate information sheet on this event will be presented during the youth report and following our youth committee meeting on Saturday. We hope all of the affiliates, clubs and dancers will help spread the word about this event which had initially been planned as a “dancer exchange” between the River City Rugrats of the Sacramento area and the Croakers of Orange County, but it was felt it would be more beneficial to open it up to dancers from throughout the western states.

## **YOUTH PHOTO ALBUM/DISPLAY BOARD**

We’ve started a photo album of youth dancing at various events. This album can be found on the youth display table and we encourage you to take a moment to look through it. Currently most of the photos are from Northern California events because that is where we’ve been to take pictures, however we would love to add photos from throughout the state. If you have photos you would be willing to give us to add to the album and/or to be put onto the display board, please give or sent them to Bonnie Abramson at 3039 Bridgeford Drive, Sacramento, CA 95833. Please provide a brief caption of where and when the photo was taken, and if practical, identify the dancers in the photo. 4” x 6” photos are preferred. All photos will become the property of the Youth Committee.

## **HARVEST HOEDOWN YOUTH “DORMS”**

Harvest Hoedown in Yuba City is going to offer youth dancer the opportunity to stay in “dorms” in hopes of increasing attendance of youth dancers at the festival. Using two of the dance halls, youth who have parents or guardians camping on the grounds will be allowed to sleep in either the boys or girls “dorm”. A nominal fee will be charged to cover their “camping” fee and a continental breakfast that will be served on Saturday and Sunday morning. Dorms will be chaperoned by parents/guardians of the youth dancers. If the idea is successful details will be shared with other festival organizers.

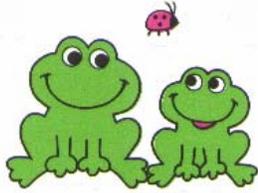
## **YOUTH GROUPS INCREASING**

We’re proud to announce that we are hearing about more and more youth dancers around the state, with current groups growing and more clubs accepting youth into their clubs. Unfortunately, we still hear over and over and over again about clubs that will not accept youth members and do not want youth attending their dances. Please keep us updated on new and growing youth programs in your area, and encourage the clubs in your area to accept youth dancers. **THEY ARE OUR FUTURE!!!**

## **NATIONAL CONVENTION IN PORTLAND**

Youth committee members were very active at the National Convention in Portland. Jesse and Cheryl May and Shirley Delp spent a lot of time observing the dancing in the youth hall, asking questions and seeing how things were done. We’ve got a couple of ideas to try at our State Convention next April. Bonnie Abramson and Bob Kamuf attended several of the youth educational panels, and Bonnie participated, along with a great number of California youth, in the youth round table discussion. Bonnie and Bob also had the opportunity to meet with several youth directors from other states and Canada, and have even been recruited (along with Jesse and Cheryl) to assist with the youth program during next year’s National Convention in San Antonio, TX. We are hoping to set up a network of youth coordinators across the country to share ideas and offer tips to bringing and keeping youth in the Modern Western Square Dance movement.

It was decided that we would gather as many California youth as we could for a photo on Saturday night. Staging took place shortly after the announcement that Long Beach had won the bid to host the 2009 Convention. As a surprise for Ray & Sandy Hutchison we “stole” their 2009 banner for our photo shoot and then had the kids yell out an invitation to attend the convention. It raised quite a stir and brought a lot of attention to the 2009 registration area. Unfortunately, Ray and Sandy



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missed the cheer, but the other committee members seemed to appreciate our efforts. Also unfortunately, a few of our youth dancers just missed the photo shoot as they were dancing at Lloyd Center and couldn't get back in time, so they asked for a "re-shoot" which we scheduled for 10:00 p.m. This time, as we were getting set up, our CA youth asked if they could include their new friends from other states in the photo. We agreed and the word quickly went out. For the next 10 minutes youth dancers came from all over the convention center to join in the photo, which can be seen on the display board. What Fun!!! And what a great experience to see all the cameras going as more and more youth joined the photo. Once again we offered up our own "vocal invitation" to one and all to support the "Youth Friendly" 2009 National Square Dance Convention in Long Beach.

### **CAHPERD PROJECT/SQUARE DANCE 101 WORKBOOKS/ARTS MEETING IN PORTLAND**

Bonnie Abramson and Bob Kamuf attended the ARTS –Dance Foundation meeting on Sunday, June 26<sup>th</sup> in Portland, OR, to give an updated report on the Square Dance 101 project. We reported on overwhelming interest in the workbook and the challenges we had encountered dealing with sales licenses, taxes, distribution, etc. Copies of the workbook were given to each of the sitting ARTS board members as a "thank you" for their initial support of the project and to share with their respective organizations. The ARTS-Dance Board acknowledged the work involved in the project and encouraged us to develop the program for other phases of dance, including rounds, contra and Handicapables. At this time the ARTS-Dance Board chose to take no further action on the project, but will keep in on their agenda for the October meeting. Michelle Jacobs (wife of caller Mike Jacobs) has offered to help put together a version of the program for Handicapable dancers.

As of the May Council meeting all "sales" of the SD 101 binder were stopped, however donations have been accepted from those who wanted to obtain a copy of the workbook. About seven were given out at the Portland convention, and requests have been made for the four remaining books, with requests for at least two additional books. The only remaining book will be the one kept by the committee as a "model." The first CD of the set has been transcribed and the second one is about halfway done. The final major elements needed are additional photos to go along with the text and the sample lesson plans. Focus is being put on having all elements completed by the first of the year so that production can be ready for the 2006 CAHPERD conference in Garden Grove. Pat Herndon did some research and provided us with some copyright wording to be used until such time as Phase I is totally complete, at which time we will copyright the entire document. Pat and Ave' Herndon attended a seminar on sales tax and business tax issues and found some of our biggest challenges are that we are required to have a permanent place of business in order to have an ongoing sales permit. Temporary sales permits can be obtained for periods of time up to six months in duration. This limits our ability to have ongoing sales of the product. Gene Boen also did some research for us on this project. While plans are proceeding to complete the project and participate in the 2006 CAHPERD Conference, we are going to have to find a way to mass-produce the product when all elements are complete and then a way to distribute the product that will not compromise the financial status of Council. We currently do not have a solution for this problem, although it is likely we will have to find some organization or business to partner with.

### **SCHOLARSHIP**

Scholarship applications are available on the youth table. Please pick some up and take them back to your area so they are available to students who are high school seniors up to the age of 25.

### **5<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL YOUTH COMPETITION**

The 5<sup>th</sup> annual Competition will be held on Saturday, April 22, 2006 at Seaside Park in Ventura, CA, in conjunction with the 2006 California State Square Dance Convention. Both an "Open" Division and a "Team" Division will be offered. Brochures containing the competition rules and participation information are available on the youth table. Please take some back to your area and help us get the word out about the competition.