



California Square Dance Council, Inc.

Youth Advisory Committee Report

May 13, 2006

2006 STATE CONVENTION YOUTH HALL

There was a good turnout of youth dancers in the youth hall throughout the convention this year. The hall was shared with the Educational panels, which would have worked out fine but it left too long of a period of time on Saturday morning with no dancing specifically for youth, although they could have danced in any of the other halls. Jesse & Cheryl May prepared and hosted both a pancake breakfast on Saturday morning and a hot dog/hamburger dinner on Saturday night for the youth dancers and their families. Others contributed with either potluck items or money to help offset the cost, and all was well received. Another great addition this year was offering to put all campers with youth together in one area to camp, no matter which club they belong to. This invitation was well received by the families with youth and it gave the youth more “down time” to get acquainted with each other. We are recommending that all festivals offer an area where families with youth can camp together if they wish to.

YOUTH COMPETITION

The fifth annual Youth Square Dance Competition was held at 8:30 p.m. on Saturday night, April 22nd at Seaside Park in Ventura during the California State Square Dance Convention. Three squares of youth dancers participated this year. Special thanks to callers Eric Henerlau and Ben Goldberg who called for the actual competition – it’s almost as much work for them as it is for the competitors! With only a 14-second difference separating the first and third place teams, the winning square consisted of Josh (16) & Shelene (13) Baxter, Circle T’s, Taft, CA; Joe Bereiter, 14, Funsters & Croakers, Walnut, CA; Shane Garside, 16, LaCrescenta, CA; Heidi Jellesed, 15, River City Rugratz & Elk Grove Hoedowners, Sacramento, CA; Leah McDonald, 10, Croakers, Covina, CA; Lanette Sweeney, 17, Lads n’ Lassies, Mission Hills, CA ; and Travis Taber, 13, Croakers, Riverside, CA. Special thanks to all of the volunteers who served as judges, coaches and timers, and to all who came out to support the competitors. Other clubs represented in the competition were Calico Quails, Whirlaways, Grape Stompers, Church Mice, Gandy Dancers and Wagon Train Squares.

FAMILY JAMBOREE AT DISNEYLAND

Plans are progressing for this first-time event, although we do need your help. Shirley Delp and Jesse May met in late April with Disneyland representatives to finalize plans for the August 4th & 5th event. Don’t forget to register yourselves and your friends as it’s going to be a lot of fun. One thing we have noticed – people are balking at the \$95 price tag until they realize this is an “ALL INCLUSIVE” price! The registration fee includes Dinner and Dance on Friday night; Full Breakfast on Saturday and Sunday morning; Disneyland admission; \$15 in Disney Dollars to be used for food at the park on Saturday; transportation to and from Cedarbrook Dance Center and Disneyland, and a commemorative pin. Special pricing is also available for non-dancing family and friends, and those with annual admission passes to Disneyland. Ben Goldberg has graciously donated the ribbons, and Shirley is coordinating donations of food and volunteers to prepare the meals. Please help us promote this event to dancers and friends in your areas – this event is open to EVERYONE!!! Let’s make a great impression on Disneyland so that we will be invited back. Scot Byars, Ben Goldberg and Roy Stevenson are donating their calling talents while Eileen Silvia and Erin Byars will provide cueing expertise. Flyers are available on the back table. **We would like to request a listing and a link to the registration form be put on the opening page of the Council’s webpage promoting this event.**



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SCHOLARSHIP

We are disappointed to announce that there were no applicants for our youth scholarship this year so none will be awarded. While we extended the application deadline last year to try to secure applicants, the committee chose to not extend the deadline this year as we felt it would set a poor precedent that is was “okay” to miss the deadline.

CAHPERD CONFERENCE/SD 101

Bonnie Abramson, Bob Kamuf, Jim Maczko and Patty Wilcox attended the 2006 CAHPERD (California Association of Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance) Conference March 9 – 11 in Garden Grove. Over 1500 elementary, high school and college teachers, recreation leaders and athletic directors attended this year’s conference. Once again Council had a booth in the exhibit hall which was well received. Thanks to our new partnership agreement with David & Susan Cleek we are able to produce and distribute the *Square Dance 101* manual on an on-going basis with a small portion of the proceeds coming back to the Council’s youth committee. Order forms for the books are available on the back table. Several books were sold during the conference and we will make sure order forms are available at the National Convention. In addition, Bonnie Abramson and Phil Farmer conducted a workshop during the conference which drew approximately nine squares of teachers to participate in learning the basics of square dancing. We have already tentatively reserved a space for next year’s conference.

FESTIVAL YOUTH PROGRAMS

Please let me know if you have a special youth program set up at your festival so that we can help you promote it. Also, we again recommend designating an area where campers with youth can all be together. It really worked out well in Ventura.

Respectfully submitted,

Bonnie Abramson, Chair, Youth Advisory Committee