



CALIFORNIA SQUARE DANCE COUNCIL, INC. YOUTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE 2004 YOUTH DANCE COMPETITION

6 SQUARES COMPETE IN 3RD ANNUAL YOUTH SQUARE DANCE COMPETITION

The 3rd Annual Youth Square Dance Competition sponsored by the California Square Dance Council, Inc.'s Youth Advisory Committee, was held on Saturday, April 24th at Cal Expo in Sacramento, CA, in conjunction with the 45th Annual California State Square Dance Convention.

Six squares of youth dancers from all across the state participated in this year's event, which was held on Saturday evening before a standing-room-only crowd. The competition itself culminated a day of preparation as dancers got to know each other and held practice sessions with the help of caller Andy Shore and several coaches. Participants ranged in age from 8 to 18 years old.

The actual competition consisted of a 15-minute, timed event. Callers Ben Goldberg and Phil Farmer challenged the dancers with the first 60 calls on the basic list. Each square had a caller or dancer who served as their "Coach", plus 3 timers and a judge. As long as the square was able to keep dancing their time continued. If the square broke down, timers for that square stopped their watches until the square was reset in "lines" ready to begin again. Once the square was reset, the stopwatches were started again.

The winning team kept dancing for 14 minutes, 41 seconds of the total 15 minutes. The team consisted of Preston Silveira (15), all from the Cactus Corners of Livermore, CA; Michelle La Chance, AJulius Abati, Marshall Styczinski, Danielle Olivera, Athena Bevans, Mike Bereiter, and Aleksandra Olivera. Dan Silveira filled in for Thomas Figures (12) who was injured earlier in the day. Both are from the Cactus Corners. The winning square received commemorative T-shirts donated by Ben & Lori Goldberg of BLG Designs and passes to the Queen Mary's "Ghosts & Legends" Tour, donated by the hotel.

Other participants in the 2003 competition included Lanette Sweany (14) and Jordan Raynor (13), from the Lads n' Lassies Club in Mission Hills, CA; Mike Beriter (13) and Joseph Bereiter (11) from the Funsters in Walnut, CA; Elisabeth Carpenter (11) from the Sundowners of El Cajon, CA; Heather Figuers (14) from the Cactus Corners in Livermore, CA; Jenny Moffitt (11), Jackie Moffitt (9), Elizbeth Blais (16) and Jessica Blais (12) from the Ramblin Rouges of Mission Viejo, CA; Jordyn Merrill (10), Ruffles & Beaus of El Cajon, CA; Heidi Jellesed (13), River City Rugratz/Overalls, Sacramento, CA; Ashley Parker (13), Manteca Trailblazers, Manteca, CA; and Amanda May (10) from Lakewood, CA.

In addition to the judges, several other individuals assisted with the competition, including Jim & Nancy Dillon, Erin Byars, Gregg Duke, Mario & Aileen Farinha, Edie Spiers, Ken Ott, Ben & Terri Jellesed, Bruce Gantenbein, Conrad Pearce, Reid Fahrung, and MC/Youth Advisory Committee Chair Bonnie Abramson.

Plans are well underway for the 3rd Annual Competition, set to be held in conjunction with the 45th California State Square Dance Convention scheduled April 24, 2004 at Cal Expo in Sacramento. Ultimately the Youth Advisory Committee hopes to expand the competition to include different dance levels and possibly youth caller competitions. For more information on the competition, visit the Council's website at www.squaredance.org or e-mail

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