

CPSD REBORN

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By Karl Arnold Belser

The CPSD advertising campaign that Van Symons promoted in the late 1990's and early 2000's did not achieve the desired results despite the efforts of all the clubs in the Santa Clara Valley. Van let the CPSD hibernate. It still had about \$900 in assets but there was no on-going activity.

In 2006 Van's health started to worsen and he asked Karl Belser to become chairman.

Karl had a friend who wanted to learn to square dance but there were no local classes. Gary Hinze, Karl Belser, Jackie Daemion, and caller Roger Smith got the City of San Jose to give the CPSD free space to have a free class in the fall of 2006 because the CPSD was a 501(c)(3) charity. Roger agreed to call for free.

This first class started with about 30 students because of the pent up demand. The class had 8 squares, and the City decided to make the class a Parks and Recreation drop-in class starting in January 2007 after considerable negotiation. Roger would get paid and the students would pay \$2.50 per night.

The CPSD paid the city several hundred dollars at the end of the classes in June of 2007 and 2008 because the class did not pay for itself, after which time the class fee was raised to \$5.00 per night.

Jackie Daemion became CPSD chairman in 2009 and greatly expanded the activities.

CPSD started a summer Starlight fundraiser hoedown and began getting income from hoedowns and from the Lucky S.H.A.R.E.S program. This income allowed it to pay for the class cost, give new caller scholarship starting in 2009, sponsor free summer square dancing, sponsor a New Caller seminar with Tony Oxendine, and have holiday and graduation celebrations every year.

The CPSD ran a free Saturday new caller workshop in 2009/2010 year and three callers became active. One of these student callers is running the Camden class for the 2011-2012 year.

This year, 2011-2012, CPSD has expanded to two new dancers classes.

Despite the new dancers and new callers the square dance community has not grown substantially. The best that can be said at the time of this writing is that the decline in participation has been significantly slowed.

Please see the Chronological History on the CPSD website <http://www.c-p-s-d.org/> for more historical details.