

PHS DANCERS PERFORMING TO RAISE FUNDS

The Poway High School Dance Team will be dancing its heart out during two 7 p.m. performances on May 12 and 14 at the Poway Center for the Performing Arts, 15498 Espola Road.

Dancers will perform a variety of dance moves, including a few winning routines at competitions during the past year, according to Cindy La Rue, Dance Booster Club president.

Tickets are \$12 for adults and \$5 for students, available at the box office.

The event will serve as a kickoff by booster parents to begin a two-part fundraising campaign. Their goals are to convert a former wrestling room into a practice space for dance and cheerleading programs, and get physical education or performing arts credit for the dance class in the weekly curriculum.

Initially, the dance boosters will focus on raising their half of \$40,000, which would pay for a new sub-floor, mirrors and other room improvements, according to LaRue.



Members of the Poway High School Dance Team are shown above after winning first place in the recent United Spirit Association Dance Nationals in Anaheim. The team won in the large dance/pom category.

The cheerleading parents have agreed to help with the fundraising effort, according to Dorothea Wall, cheer advisor and parent.

Wall's group is planning a golf tournament this summer at Carmel Mountain Ranch Country Club, but has not yet set a date. For details, contact her at dwall@lorberlaw.com.

Currently, the PHS dance team practices in the school's multipurpose room and is the only dance program within Poway Unified that does not have a dedicated dance room

or class, LaRue said.

Because the district is facing budget cuts, parents know getting funds for improvements will be up to them, so they have devised a new "dance patron" campaign.

"We're seeking dance patrons, those who want to support our efforts with a \$250 donation," LaRue said.

Having a practice room with the suggested improvements could ultimately bring dancers' skills to a whole new level, said dance instructor Dean Cortez, who also teaches Spanish at

Poway High.

"It would dramatically improve their skills," Cortez said. "We've done well this year, but with a better facility, we could do much better."

The second phase of the campaign would be to raise roughly \$15,000 to \$20,000 to pay the salary of a dance instructor for a school year.

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