

WE'RE HAVING A BALL - - - -

Connie Barton Barba

Yes, We're Having A Ball! Several hundred of our friends and neighbors are having a ball preparing a Chickens' Ball. People in San Carlos having been doing it every 2 years since 1940. All those years, and we are still having a ball.

And this column has been written most of that time. The earliest I have found is from 1954 written by Norma Bundsen. The column was carried in the *San Carlos Enquirer* until its demise a few years ago. Since then, it has struggled to be printed in other newspapers and some years, not at all. But now, with the internet, web-sites and all that jazz, we can have a regular column every couple of weeks up to the big event takes place.

The Chickens' Ball – what a great event – well, series of events leading up to the big show. It begins with the Steering Committee made up of reps from each of the 7 schools' PTA or parent organizations in town and 3 Members-at-Large. Their first big job is to appoint a General Chairperson for the next Ball. And they did a great job this year. They appointed Sunny Kottmeier to the job. Sunny has been involved in the Ball for many years including her PTA's skits, the Steering Committee and various other jobs. She put some of her most creative and hard working friends to work as her key helpers – Linda Townsend is her Asst. Chair, Elaine Armstrong is her Production Chair and Elaine appointed Beth Taylor as her Asst. Prod. Chair and helping them all with administrative chores is Kathy Smallman. What a team!! They've been meeting weekly and more to get all the details in order and taken care and they are being very innovative with some aspects of the Ball. Internet – Here We Come!

Then, the Steering Committee gets to choose, from the many skits submitted, which ones will be in the show. Sunny and her committee have some input and then they vote. The six skits chosen for the 2010 show are from Tierra Linda/Arundel PTA's, San Carlos Charter Learning Center, White Oaks PTA, San Carlos Lions Club as The Milk Fund Players, Friday Night Funnies and Rebels With a Cause. The core of those last 3 groups are folks who began their Chickens' Ball Skit careers as members of PTA's that were doing skits. They love it and want to stay involved. And the groups are rounded out with lots of your neighbors and friends.

Ticket sales and most communications are happening on the internet. So keep checking this web site, www.2010chickensball.org to keep up with the details. The first test has been reservations and tickets for the Kick-Off Dinner Party. Seems to be a big hit.

And so things are well under way. Skits are rehearsing and building their sets and making their costumes. Entr'actes are rehearsing and getting their costumes under way, plans for the transformation of the Central School MU room into the Ball's special place have been made and building started and all other aspects of the Ball are buzzing. Whew!!

The Theme for this year?? **ONE WORLD**. Sunny has directed her team to focus on the 1915 Panama Pacific Exposition and the people coming from all over the world to the Fair in San Francisco. This international aspect will be seen throughout the show. It will be very colorful and exciting. Sunny's sister, Angie Dillon, is a fabulous costume designer and maker and is busy working away on costumes representing the many nations seen at the Fair. Authentic, colorful and beautiful.