

# Boys Club officials uncertain on future

By JOAN RAYMOND

Sentinel Staff Writer

SANTA CRUZ — Six weeks after state Supreme Court judges ruled the Boys Club of Santa must open its doors to girls, club officials are still uncertain about the youth center's fate.

"We're still just hanging in limbo," local Boys Club Board President Betty Elward said today.

Elward said she was disappointed that the Boys Club national board of trustees did not reach a decision at a meeting in New York Monday afternoon on use of an endowment to the Santa Cruz club. If the Boys Club cannot use the interest on the \$1.5-million endowment, local officials say it might have to shut down.

At a meeting at The Waldorf hotel in New York national trustees reaffirmed the Boys Club of America policy giving local clubs power over their own destinies. The policy is based on the fact local clubs are self-governing, said national marketing and communications director Jerry Bergman in a telephone interview.

But no decision was reached on the Santa Cruz case specifically. Instead, trustees unanimously voted to refer the case to the national executive committee. The date of the

executive committee meeting has not been set, but may occur within a few days, said Bergman.

According to Bergman, trustees were also told by their lawyers the Boys Club is not now a party to the California litigation and does not anticipate being a party to any future litigation.

"We're disappointed. We don't know whether we can use Mallery (endowment) funds or not," said Elward.

The endowment from Ruth Mallery and her late husband, John, was jeopardized last month when Mrs. Mallery announced she did not want the interest from the endowment to continue supporting the club if it were going to serve both sexes.

The Mallerys had endowed club construction money in 1969 and put the endowment fund in the hands of the national organization with the interest to be returned to the Santa Cruz club.

Local board members have said they will honor Mrs. Mallery's request. In October, the board returned \$168,000 of a \$200,000 contribution to Mrs. Mallery at her request, said Elward.

The endowment underwrites about 75-percent of the club's budget, say local club officials.