



Grand Jurors' Journal

Special Edition

November 28, 2014

President's Message

By Karen Jahr

As the new President of CGJA, I am pleased to share with you this special edition of the Grand Jurors' Journal to tell you about the meetings conducted in conjunction with our 2014 Annual Conference, which was held at the Marriott Hotel in Burbank on November 13 and 14.

Several meetings took place during this year's conference. This special edition will briefly describe all of those meetings. The various programs that were presented at the conference will be reported on fully in the December regular issue of the Journal.

On behalf of the entire Board of Directors, I want to thank all of the members of CGJA for your support of our Association and for your dedication to California's grand jury system. As 2014 draws to a close, the officers and directors look forward to working with you to make the coming year a productive one.

Special Board Meeting, November 12

The first order of business for the Board of Directors was a brief special meeting to consider two action items: Ratification of the appointment of Gary Spaugh (San Joaquin) to the Board to fill the director vacancy created by Beate Boultinghouse's resignation, and the approval of the contract for the 2015 Annual Conference with the Lafayette Park Hotel and

Spa, Lafayette, in Contra Costa County, to be held on November 2-3, 2015. Both motions passed unanimously.

Board Retreat

At each annual conference, the Board gathers together to discuss and evaluate what the board and association have been doing, and to plan where we will be going in the year ahead. This Retreat was attended by members of both the outgoing and incoming boards.

The first item on our agenda was to establish ground rules for discussion to ensure that Board meetings run as smoothly as possible.

This was followed by a lengthy discussion of a number of issues and concerns raised by members and chapters that will need the board's attention in the coming weeks and months. The Board agreed that we need to listen attentively to our membership and make those changes necessary to improve our governance and communications. We decided that all 11 of the directors present at the conference would attend that evening's Chapter Officers' Meeting and that we would listen to, and not comment about, the members' concerns and suggestions.

We also decided to hold a two-day strategy meeting in January, when there will be time to fully address the issues raised by our members and make clear and well-thought out decisions.

Chapter Officers' Meeting

The Chapter Officers' Meeting and dinner is an annual forum for chapter officers and other CGJA members to interact and share best practices and common endeavors. Twenty-eight chapter officers representing fifteen chapters and local associations were present. Also in attendance were eleven of the twelve members of the Board.

The meeting first addressed some of the issues raised in the former president's October 28 email to the membership. Each chapter officer provided his or her perspective, the majority voicing the need for changes in association governance or operations. The dialogue overall was very constructive. In response, the Board members expressed their appreciation for the input and committed themselves to an active review of the ideas and suggestions that were presented.

(Note: Several of the participants' suggestions have been acted on already, and work on others is under way. For example, the Board has approved moving forward with a financial

review, adopted ground rules for the conduct of its meetings, scheduled a strategic planning retreat, and posted our financial statements and policies on our website. Watch for future communications about the changes we are making in response to the ideas put forth by our members!)

During the remainder of the meeting, the participants discussed a number of ways that chapters can encourage sitting grand jurors to join their local chapters.



Chapter Officers Meeting

Photograph by Ken Buck

Annual Meeting

At every annual general membership meeting, the results of the election of directors are announced. This past October, our members elected:

Northern Region: Marsha Caranci, Shasta; John Monaco, Placer

Central Region: Lloyd Bell, Contra Costa; Beate Boultinghouse, San Francisco

Southern Region: Medsie Bolin, Fresno; Jerry Lewi, Ventura

Karen Jahr noted that directors John Monaco and Beate Boultinghouse had resigned and that, as acting President, she had appointed Gary Spaugh (San Joaquin) to fill the Central Region vacancy. She also reported that the Board unanimously approved the appointment of Lou Meyer (San Joaquin) to a one-year term as a special director under the provisions of Article 6, Section 1 of the bylaws.

The annual Excellence in Reporting Awards were made. This year, the 2011-2012 San Francisco Grand Jury received the award for its report on San Francisco City and County technology deficiencies. The Record of Stockton was the award recipient for its coverage of the 2012-2013 San Joaquin County Grand Jury's report on group homes. Full details of

these awards and award winners will be in the December issue of the Grand Jurors' Journal.

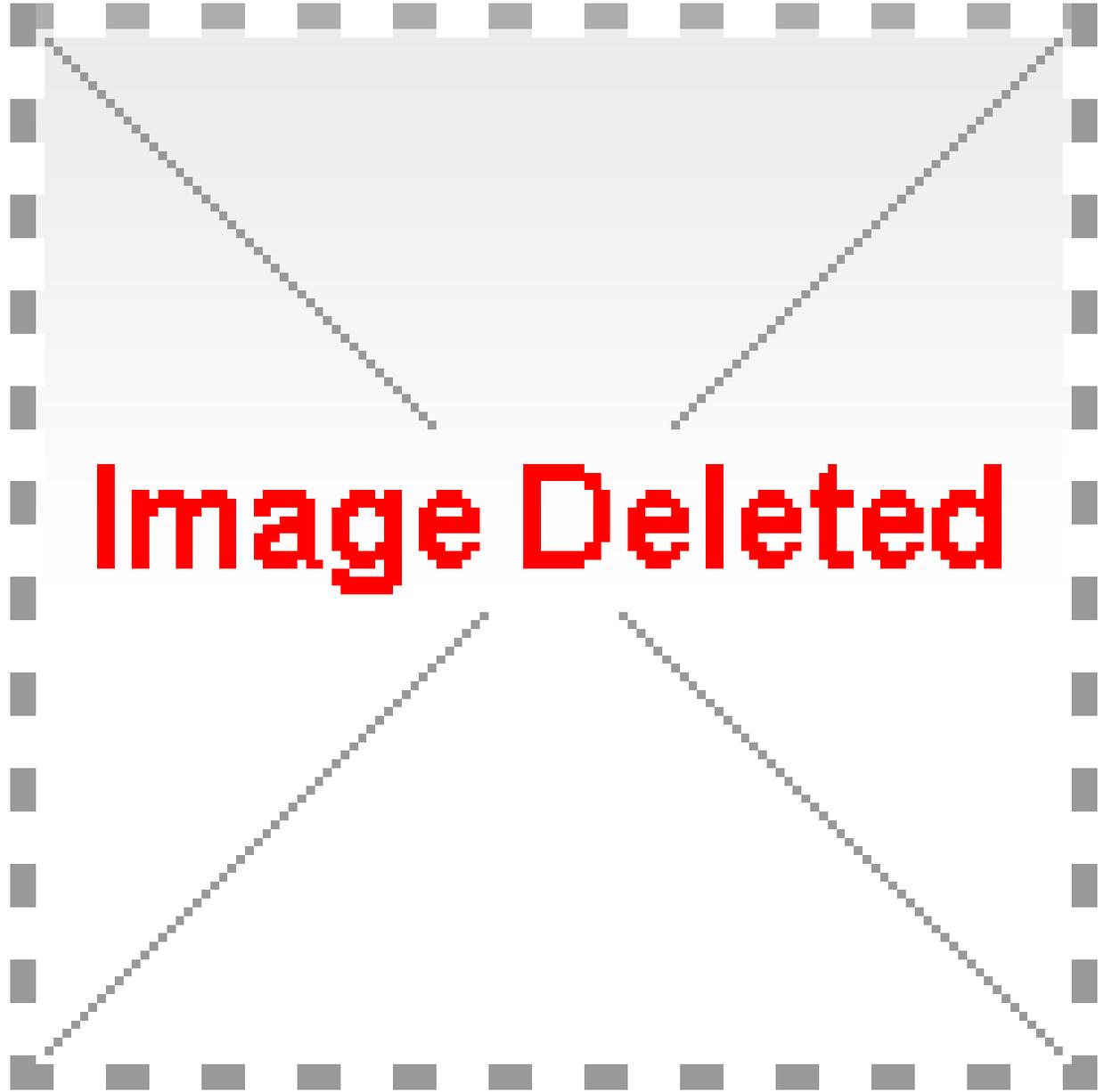
The membership meeting concluded with brief reports from each of the standing committee chairs. Written committee reports were included in the conference book and will be included in the December Journal.

Special Board Meeting, November 13

At the conclusion of the first day of the conference, the Board met to publicly elect officers for a two-year term.

The chair of the Nominations-Elections Committee, Diane Shepp, reported that the committee had initially recommended a slate of Karen Jahr as the nominee for President; Diane Shepp as Vice-president; Jim Ragan as Secretary; and Dianne Hoffman as Treasurer. However, Dianne Hoffman had recently withdrawn her name for the office of Treasurer, having previously indicated her intention to step down from that position, so the committee amended the slate to substitute Lou Meyer as the nominee for Treasurer.

The amended slate was approved unanimously by voice vote.



Photograph by Ken Buck
The honorable Mary Thornton House, Supervising Judge for the Northeast and North Central Superior Court of Los Angeles County swore in the new Board of Directors

STAY CONNECTED



[Forward this email](#)



This email was sent to cgjaprguy@roadrunner.com by editor@cgja.org | [Update Profile/Email Address](#) | Rapid removal with [SafeUnsubscribe™](#) | [About our service provider.](#)



California Grand Jurors' Association | 1017 L Street | Suite 320 | Sacramento | CA | 95814