

**California Grand Jurors' Association
Board of Directors Meeting – April 24, 2012**

MINUTES

Call to Order & Roll Call:

The roll was taken and the meeting began at 7:01 P.M.

Present: Boultinghouse(7:15), Caranci, Hoffman, Jahr, Landi, Lewi, North, Ragan, Small, Trautman, Walker
Absent: Hern, Mufson

Agenda and Comments:

B-1 Agenda Approval: North

A motion was made by Director Ragan, seconded by Director Trautman and passed by voice vote to approve the Agenda.

B-2 Member Comment (maximum 10 minutes total)

None

Consent Item

C-1 Approval of 3/27/12 CGJA Board Meeting Minutes: Hoffman

C-2 Acknowledge Committee Minutes and reports in 4/24/12 packet: North

A motion was made by Director Hoffman, seconded by Director Trautman and passed to approve the Consent Items.

Officer and Committee Chair Reports:

D-1 Legal and Legislative Resources Committee (LLRC) – Trautman: LLRC has completed the survey re AB622 which will be sent to grand juries in May. The purpose is to find out what their experiences have been with regard to the bill. They are working on a white paper regarding AB1133, the bill requiring jurors who are former county employees to recuse themselves from any investigation dealing with any county department. There is some legislation in the hopper which seems to clarify the issue so that it would only apply to the employee's specific department of employment. The Training Committee will need a position paper prior to the onset of the training season.

Director Trautman gave a few examples of juries/jurors inquiries and the LLRC response. He also reported that SB1357 will clarify that a regular grand jury may issue an accusation even if a second jury has been appointed for that specific purpose. To date, CGJA has not taken a position against the bill. It has not been decided if we will support or take no position.

D-2 Public Relations Committee (PRC) – (Lewi): As reported last month, we will circulate an education packet and had obtained a quote of 49¢ for 30,000 copies. However, the PRC has decided to start distribution in smaller increments.

The Grand Jury Achievement Report webpage is being redesigned with the goal of making it easier for people to submit reports. It should be posted in about 2 weeks.

We are continuing to make tweaks to the website. Cgja.org domain for email has been a bit of a struggle with the provider; the Committee is still working on that. Once the technology is mastered, we can begin to set up cgja.org mailing lists.

Director Lewi will speak before the California Federation of Business and Professional Women on April 28th. He will use a version of the Ron Miguel presentation made to the Yolo County Court several years ago. .

In regard to H-6, do we want to run away from criminal matters? Will speak to that during the brainstorming portion of the meeting.

President North said he met with Precision Intermedia and we are now capable of sending 500 emails. There are also companies who offer email packages.

The Treasurer asked why she received 4 copies of an order for membership. The President said there had been a problem which was corrected. He will notify her of such events in the future.

The President reported that there is a website for volunteers called Coming-of-age. It is a nationwide organization with a branch in San Francisco. They partner with various organizations who want to post volunteer opportunities. Director Boultinghouse posted a notification that San Francisco was looking for grand jurors which generated two applicants.

Treasurer Hoffman asked the President to get an update on the balance owed to Precision Intermedia for the website.

The President said that the Facebook advertising is a fizzle; it just isn't working. Director Small previously donated \$50 to be used for the ad and offered that the Treasurer may use the donation where she believes is appropriate.

D-3 Membership Relations Committee – Boultinghouse for Mufson: MRC met on April 14th and a majority of the discussion was on how to increase revenue and membership without losing members. The discussion included CGJA collecting state and chapter dues. Some feedback indicates that people would not want to be forced to join CGJA.

MRC feels that they need to build from the bottom up. One possibility is to issue a monthly update. They are also looking into the reason CGJA has 3 regions in the State. They discussed having more regions since different areas in the state are very different and have different needs. Membership is growing slowly and the hope is that Introductory Members will become regular members in July. The President mentioned researching ways of reaching the IMs via email where they can opt-in.

President North met with members of the Solano Chapter yesterday. He believes there is a chance to revitalize the Chapter.

Director Lewi said the MRC minutes reflect they are giving a lot of thought to encouraging Chapter members to become participants in CGJA. He mentioned that the blogspot is available for communication. Director Boultinghouse suggested that any CGJA communications include the website address, Facebook page, etc.

D-4 Training Committee – Caranci: The Committee continues to fine tune the curriculum for this year. They are gearing up for the training season and all that entails. They are expanding their report writing workshops. There will be two in Southern California; one hosted by the San Bernardino Court at their training facility in Rancho Cucamonga and another in Bakersfield. Those are in addition to Napa, and two single day workshops in Sacramento. They are hoping to reach more counties this year.

They are seeing a slight trend in counties where there are somewhat active chapters/associations with repeat and holdover jurors opting to conduct their own training. Ventura and Sonoma are two examples of counties doing their own training this year. Director Lewi said that a representative from the Los Angeles County Courts will attend one day in San Bernardino.

D-5 Finance Committee - Ragan: The committee will meet in May.

D-6 Awards Committee – Small for Mattea: Reported that the April 11th minutes reflect the current status of the Committee.

Ad Hoc Committee Reports (as needed)

D-7 Policy Manual Subcommittee – Hern, Jahr, Landi: No report.

D-8 2012 Annual Conference Committee - Shepp/Mufson: No report.

Action Agenda

E-1 Confirm Annual Conference Registration Fee of \$121

Diane Dame-Shepp, AC Chair

Recommended Action: Approve the proposed registration fee of \$121

Director Trautman said that 80 attendees is the break even point. The 2011 AC had approximately 110 registrants. Director Lewi said he cannot support the motion because the costs are so high. He is afraid that we are going to drive people away. He knows that Napa is working very hard on this and is to be commended for coming up with a balanced budget. It was mentioned that last year the registration fee was \$96 and dinner was \$46 which did not include tax and tip. Director Lewi said that some of the expenses seem to be a bit high, i.e. \$1,200 for AV equipment. He offered an amendment to the motion as follows: “The 2012 AC budget shall be based on a registration fee not to exceed \$96 per person and a dinner cost not to exceed \$49. The host chapter shall strive to reduce costs as much as possible and raise additional revenue to reach a break even point. To the extent the chapter is not able to achieve this, CGJA shall underwrite the difference in an amount not to exceed \$2,500.” He added that to attract people, even at the lower pricing, we have got to come up with a dynamite keynote dinner speaker and suggested Lt. Governor Newsom or someone of that caliber as a possibility. Director Small seconded the amendment.

Director Walker asked if there could be any possibility of asking for donations to cover the tax and tip; it could be a line item on the registration form. Director Lewi said that is in the spirit of his amendment. This idea lacked support.

Director Trautman said that \$2,700 for supplies, postage, name badges, etc. is about the same as last year. In regard to the increase to AV, that could be reduced some. But he disagrees with CGJA having to underwrite the AC. He said that he and Director Boultinghouse are working on putting together a program equal or better than last years. He also hopes that last years’ attendees are looking forward to coming to Napa again this year. Director Caranci agreed that the experience last year was wonderful but she wonders if attendees will be willing to pay \$30 more. She agrees with Director Lewi’s amendment and believes that the AC should be available to as many members as possible. When we increase the fee for a 1½ day conference we are eliminating a segment of the membership from being able to attend. She thinks that it worth CGJA having to pick up some of the tab if it opens up the conference to more people. Director Hoffman asked if anyone has looked at prior attendance lists to determine if the same people attend year to year. She doesn’t believe that people in the outlying counties are priced out of attending. She disagrees that we are pricing people out of attending.

Director Boultinghouse agrees with Director Hoffman and doesn’t think that the \$25 increase is going to make a big difference to a majority of people who regularly attend. The quality of the conference last year was very professional and that is what attracted people. They are expecting something similar this year.

Director Ragan supports Director Boultinghouse's comments but understands what Director Lewi is saying.

The amendment failed by the following roll call vote:

Ayes: Caranci, Landi, Lewi

Noes: Boultinghouse, Hoffman, Jahr, Ragan, Small, Trautman, Walker

Absent: Hern, Mufson

Treasurer Hoffman said that the costs need to be kept down and as we go forward we must not exceed what is budgeted. The original motion passed by a majority voice vote.

Directors Brainstorming Session

•Director Lewi: We take the position in training that if a jury sees something that is potentially criminal in nature, you take the matter to the DA and run away as fast as you can. We may want to soften that a little bit and perhaps jurors should be told that if they find something criminal they should go to the DA and work with them and possibly have some involvement in seeing it through. The President said that this is something for LLRC and Training to explore. Director Trautman said we have to know how each county selects its grand jury to know if it meets the constitutional requirements to pursue indictments. He confirmed that the grand jury is the only body that can issue an accusation. The Training Committee is going to survey juries and perhaps one question could be, does your county use the grand jury for the indictment process.

Adjournment

The meeting ended at 8:25 P.M. The next meeting is May 22, 2012.

Information Items Submitted Directly by Sponsor

- H-1 Board Roster: Landi
- H-2 Critical date reminder: North
- H-3 Budget/Actual - March, 2012: Hoffman
- H-4 Balance Sheet: Hoffman
- H-5 Annual Conference Registration fee estimate - Shepp
- H-6 Indictment Authority of Regular County grand Juries - Lewi

Submitted by,
Joann Landi