

**California Grand Jurors' Association**  
**Board of Directors Meeting—April 22, 2014**

**MINUTES**

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**A. Call to Order & Roll Call**

The roll was taken, and the meeting began at 7:00 PM.

Present: Directors Boultinghouse (president), Bolin, Caranci, Dame' Shepp, Jahr, Jennings, Lynberg, Monaco, Mufson, Ragan

Absent: Directors (excused) Hern, Hoffman

**B. Agenda and Comments**

B-1 Agenda Approval: Boultinghouse

Shepp moved, Caranci seconded, and the Board unanimously approved the agenda as submitted.

B-2 Member Comments

None

**C. Consent Items**

C-1 Approval of the CGJA Board Minutes, 03/16/14: Ragan

C-2 Acknowledgement of Committee Meeting Minutes and Reports in the 04/22/14 board meeting packet: Boultinghouse

Bolin moved, Monaco seconded, and the Board unanimously approved C-2.

Boultinghouse pulled C-1 from the Consent Calendar to consider two changes to the 03/16/14 Board Minutes:

The meeting began at 9:00 AM, not 7:00 PM.

Item D-9, NEC report: Replace the text with: "Chair Boultinghouse reported that Diane Shepp had placed an article in the Journal and sent letters to chapter presidents about nominations to the CGJA Board with two-year terms starting in November 2014."

Lynberg moved, Caranci seconded, and the Board unanimously approved the 03/16/14 Board Minutes, as amended.

**D. Standing Committee Chair Reports**

D-1 Legal and Legislative Resources Committee (LLRC)

Chair Jahr said there was nothing else to report other than what was in the LLRC meeting minutes.

D-2 Public Relations Committee (PRC)

Chair Ragan reported on five items. First, the CGJA brochure is now at the printer. Second, the special committee review of the Grand Jury System book is now completed, resulting in a final agreed on text. Ragan has delivered the text to Lewi for publication.

Third, Jennings is taking the lead on getting legislation to declare February 2015 as Grand Jury Awareness Month.

Fourth, PRC would like the Board's agreement that PRC can delete blog posts on the CGJA website in excess of five years and has the flexibility to delete blog posts that are time sensitive. Caranci and Monaco specifically agreed. There was no opposition.

Fifth, in late March PRC posted on the blog an opinion column from the San Francisco Chronicle that was somewhat critical of aspects of the grand jury. At Boultinghouse's request, PRC removed it. The question is, do we only post neutral or positive pieces? PRC's position has been that anything of interest about the grand jury goes on the blog. What discretion does the editor have in posting news items on the blog? Boultinghouse explained the background for her request, saying that the columnist interviewed the court's executive officer (CEO) and public relations manager. During the interview, the columnist asked why the court wasn't receiving enough applications to serve on the grand jury. The CEO responded with many reasons. The only one ending up in the column were negative reasons. Mufson said that PRC should not censor news. But in this case, PRC should respond to the newspaper and the court to set the record straight. Boultinghouse said that the San Francisco chapter did so and received a reply from the court. Bolin asked whether the chapter's response could be posted on the blog as a comment to the original post. Ragan said yes. Jahr questioned whether we could post the court's reply without the court's permission. In any event, with regard to the specific incident, it was agreed that no additional action is needed.

With respect to whether PRC has discretion to post all interesting information about the grand jury on the blog, Jahr said that PRC should determine what is appropriate to post and what is not. If PRC determines that the item is a "slam job" against the grand jury and is not representative of what we believe in, the item should not be posted. Bolin added, "follow the mission statement." Ragan said that he thinks PRC should continue to have the authority to decide what is posted and what is not. Boultinghouse summarized board comments by saying that PRC should continue to have the discretion to decide. If PRC finds an item prickly, she would hope that it not be posted, but if an item is somewhat negative or controversial, so be it.

D-3 Membership Relations Committee (MRC)

Chair Boultinghouse said there was nothing else to report other than what was in the MRC meeting minutes.

D-4 Training Committee (TC)

Chair Caranci provided an update from the TC meeting minutes provided. First, TC continues to work on a one-day on-site training seminar for incoming Orange County grand jurors now scheduled for June 4.

Second, TC is working on getting ready for the upcoming training season. The schedule is now set for seven Report Writing Workshops in October and November throughout the state.

Third, 2014 grand juror training is upon us. TC estimates that it will need 1,060 training manuals for the summer workshops (an all-time high). All training assignments have been made. The Curriculum Committee worked very hard in updating the PowerPoint presentations and written material for the manuals.

D-5 Finance Committee (FC)

Chair Monaco said there FC did not meet in April, so he had no news to report.

D-6 Awards Committee (AC)

No report.

D-7 Annual Conference Committee (ACC)

2014 Conference Chair Lynberg provided an update on the conference program developed to date.

ACC Chair Shepp asked whether the evening speaker would be during dinner. Lynberg said yes. Shepp said that, just for information, Napa had decided not to have an evening speaker mainly because of attendees' desire just to socialize (based on their feedback). Lynberg said she appreciated the information. Shepp then asked about the provided conference cost spreadsheet, specifically about the dinner and wine costs. Bolin and Jennings asked about parking costs.

Boultinghouse suggested that the ACC first discuss these items in conference call. Board members agreed.

**Ad-Hoc Committee Reports**

D-8 Education Committee (EC)

Chair Boultinghouse said that the mock jury with the students (pilot program at Balboa High School) was a huge success and that she would write a report on it.

D-9 Nominations-Election Committee (NEC)

Chair Shepp reported that the NEC is right on schedule for the 2014 election. Letters have been sent to all chapter presidents requesting nominations. The Journal has an article. NEC has communicated with most of the current Board members with expiring terms as to whether they would like to run again. NEC will discuss which League of Women Voters chapter to use to conducting the election. NEC will also ask from each candidate biographical information and a statement of what they wish to do for our organization.

**E. Action Agenda**

**E-1 Approve budget for the 2014 CGJA Annual Conference.**

It was moved and seconded to table the motion. The motion passed unanimously with the understanding that after deliberations by the ACC, the Board would consider the motion again at its May 27 Board meeting.

**F. Directors' Brainstorming Session (none)**

**G. Adjournment (7:55 PM)**

Respectfully submitted,  
Jim Ragan, Secretary