

California Grand Jurors' Association
Board of Directors Meeting—October 28, 2014

MINUTES

A. Call to Order & Roll Call

The roll was taken, and the meeting began at 7:10 PM.

Present: Directors Boultinghouse (president), Bolin, Caranci, Hern, Hoffman, Jahr, Jennings, Lynberg, Mufson, Ragan, Shepp; Jerry Lewi

Absent: None

B. Instead of proceeding to the agenda, President Boultinghouse made the following statement:

I have been a member of the grand jury community for 10 years. During that time, I successfully chaired two committees on my jury despite having come on as the 11th alternate in November with 4 months of the term spent. One of the reports was the recipient of the Robert Geiss Award in Excellent Reporting.

Following my term on the jury, I was elected to be president of the San Francisco Chapter of the CGJA. When I termed out, the chapter changed the bylaws because they wished for me to continue on as their president for another term. It was an exemplar chapter which others modeled themselves after.

Bill Trautman nominated me to be on his board three years ago. I shared many of my ideas with him, including the chapter formation guide because members were asking for something of that nature.

Since then, I have successfully (with the help of many) supported the regional meetings first in the Bay Area, in the Greater North Central region, in the San Joaquin Valley, and now in Redding. I have attended all Bay Area and Northern Central Region meetings and one of those held in Fresno. I have seen and heard of the accomplishments of many chapters and wonderful leaders within our membership.

I started an Education Committee with Bill Trautman's blessing. Karin Hern, Kathy Wylie, Leslie Koelsch, and Paul Cheng were members of the original the committee. Kathy Wylie works and was unable to attend meetings, but sends me articles and news that may benefit the CGJA mission to educate students about the civil grand jury. Karin promised to speak with the superintendent of schools in Marin and I am still waiting 1½ years later for her to fulfill that promise. I went to Sacramento to speak in front of the Chief Justice about the CGJA and the grand jury and received her blessing to move forward with the Law Academies in California. Leslie and Paul actively participated in the Mock Grand Jury Program in San Francisco high school. I have reached beyond the four walls of the CGJA to speak with leaders in the education field to determine how we can bring the program to other schools. Progress is being made with the law academies and with the Junior Statesmen Foundation, a nationwide organization. Four chapters are at the ready to participate in the mock jury program in schools in their counties.

The training program that the CGJA offers jurors is excellent and well run. We all agree that backups must be put in place and have been talking to that end for as long as I have been on the board with no progress having been made.

The website and Journal are good but could be so much better if there were some true IT mavens at the helm. The store on the website has been a problem for at least 1 ½ years and nothing has been done to fix it even though there are easy fixes that can solve our problem.

The Finance Committee is in disarray. John tried to bring professionalism to the committee and the organization but was thwarted at almost every turn, including to the unconscionable point that he was not given access to QuickBooks as the chair of the committee. I have been dissuaded by certain board members from asking for a much needed audit of our books to be performed.

The Membership Committee is falling apart because you deemed it more necessary to keep me as chair despite the fact that as president, I was working virtually full time than to allow someone else to run it even with oversight. The database manager resigned because she resented that anyone asked her questions about anything she did. This September, the members of this organization elected me to the board because they believe in what I stand for.

Now it has been brought to my attention that I am causing divisiveness on the board; that I have not been a good communicator. I would venture to say that each of you knows what my goals have been, and what I have been doing. I have no secrets. I have worked hard, at times 40+ hours a week over the last 10- months trying to fix ongoing problems, find solutions, break down walls between the membership and the board; and manage one crisis after another.

When I told a couple members of the board that some very qualified members do not want to run for the board, and do not want to get involved with the board because it is dysfunctional, they did not see why anyone would think that.

Communication goes two ways. Only two board members have actually taken the time to call me and share their ideas during my 10 months at the helm.

Now I find that there is a move to unseat me as your president. That there is a rumble going on in the background. This rumble is more than a rumble, it is an active campaign to run a candidate against me at the November board elections. This all behind my back, in a secretive, mean spirited way. Not in a mature manner of calling me to let me know why you are displeased with my management style. This is one symptom of a dysfunctional group of people. Dysfunctional families do this. I do not expect mature business professionals to pull this kind of stunt.

I have thought long and hard about why I have worked so hard for the organization; about my goals to make it function as a professional organization; that there are numerous members who also see that this is necessary; many of whom have held back in being too deeply involved because they did not want to get sucked up into the politics of this board.

Many members have supported my efforts and have said they are a member and involved because they believe in the direction I have been trying to take the board and the organization. It is because of them that I have remained dedicated to the CGJA.

I see a split board – half wish for business to remain as it has been for the last 10+ years. Half see the need to move to a different business model for the organization to remain solvent. If the board votes for me to stay on but 5 of the board are going to oppose all strides for betterment nothing will get done and divisiveness will remain. If a slim majority does not want me as president of the board then there will still be a divided board – those legacy leaders/old guard who wish for business as usual and those who are frustrated because nothing changes.

I apologize to those who have supported me and believed in me. I do not want to let you down. However, the tipping point has been reached. Since the board wishes to have a conflict free environment, effective immediately, I am resigning as president, as a board member, as MRC Chair, as Education Chair, the Training Team, and all other CGJA activities in which I have participated.

I wish you and the CGJA the best.

Thank you,

Beate

Beate Boultinghouse

Past President, California Grand Jurors Association

Past Chair, CGJA Education Committee

Past Chair, CGJA Membership Relations Committee

Boultinghouse then left the meeting. Due to her resignation, Vice President Jahr, in accordance with CGJA Bylaws (Article 7, Section 4), assumed all the duties, authority, and responsibility of the president.

Under the circumstances, the Board suspended other items on the meeting agenda except for an update on the upcoming November 13-14 Annual Conference in Burbank. Hern left the meeting due to another engagement.

D. Standing Committee Chair Reports

D-7 Annual Conference Committee (ACC)

Jerry Lewi said that, as of October 28, there were just 37 paid registrants (2 nonpaid—as comps). This means that, without many more additional paid conference and hotel room registrants, CGJA faces major financial penalties. Jahr asked Lewi to send Board members the approved conference budget. Discussion ensued on how best to minimize the loss (for example, having the hotel provide the chapter officer dinner to help offset the meal guarantee). Discussions will continue among the principals outside the meeting.

Adjournment (7:55 PM). The Executive Committee agreed to meet immediately following to discuss the unexpected resignation of Boultinghouse.

Respectfully submitted,
Jim Ragan, Secretary