

California Grand Jurors' Association Board of Directors Meeting

April 24, 2018

MINUTES

A. Call to Order and Roll Call

The roll was taken, and the meeting began at 7:01 PM.

Present: Directors Andi Winters (president), Lloyd Bell, Medsie Bolin, Travis Gibbons, John Heckel, Jerry Kunkle, Joann Landi, Jim Ragan, Barbara Sommer; LLRC Chair Karen Jahr, TC Chair Marsha Caranci

Absent: Larry Herbst, Rich Knowles, Lou Panetta, Kathy Wylie

Quorum is present.

B. Agenda and Comments

B-1 Agenda Approval: Winters

Board members unanimously approved the agenda.

B-2 CGJA Member Comments

None

C. Consent Items

C-1 Approve Regular Board Meeting Minutes, 03/27/18: Ragan

C-2 Acknowledge Committee Minutes and other documents in 04/24/18 meeting packet: Winters

The Board unanimously approved the consent items.

D. Officer and Committee Chair Reports

D-1 **President's Report (Winters)**

Winters summarized efforts coming out of the April board retreat:

- **CGJA Document Repository** – Panetta reported we can increase storage with a paid Dropbox subscription that will hold 3 terabytes for \$150/year. The money is in budget. He will go ahead. We need an administrator.
- **Public Education Committee** – Wylie suggested we post an announcement on our website that we have a speakers' bureau consisting of people available to give presentations on what the grand jury is. Board members should sign up. She's working on PowerPoint presentations.
- **Website-Membership Interlock** – Herbst reported that in his working with the Website-Membership Database interlock, he learned that only one person has access to write and read the membership data. We need to take steps to change this. He also said there has been confusion about the login on our website and suggested all of us need to sign up. He also explained some ways using the login in the future could be beneficial.

- **Documentation of Effective Grand Jury Reports on the Website** – Ragan presented a document prepared by Jerry Lewi on the subject. It was agreed that we would focus on Implementation Review material and the annual submittals and awards for Excellence in Reporting.
- **Proposal by Common Cause with Respect to Grand Jury Involvement in Independent Local Redistricting** – It was agreed that Karen Jahr would contact them to say that it isn't a good fit for grand juries.
- **Update on Annual Conference** – Bell gave an overview of the upcoming conference. Santa Cruz was suggested for 2019. It was suggested that the chapter meeting associated with the conference could focus on success stories from chapters.
- **Membership and Chapters** – It was suggested that all board members and trainers help to recruit new members for the MRC. A WebEx with chapter presidents was discussed, and Winters and Heckle have begun to work on it so that it can be presented to the MRC chair when he returns next week.

D-2 Officer Reports

Vice President Bell – no report.

Treasurer Gibbons said that the treasurer transition (Bolin to Gibbons) is now complete. All checks have been issued. He has set up the documents for recording and managing registrations for the annual conference. Four members and two guests are registered this far. He added that during April, he recorded eight two-year, four one-year, and one lifetime memberships.

Secretary Ragan – no report.

D-3 Legal and Legislative Resources Committee (LLRC)

Chair Jahr presented two items:

- **Proposal by Common Cause with Respect to Grand Jury Involvement in Independent Local Redistricting** (discussed at the retreat). LLRC opposes the proposal. Members discussed content for the response. Most expressed opposition to the proposal. Jahr said that she would circulate a draft response to LLRC and board members for comments.
- **Napa County Grand Jury Accusation Against the County Auditor**. The auditor has moved in court to obtain grand jury records with respect to the case. The grand jury is resisting to the court, and the foreperson has asked CGJA to join in supporting the resistance. The attorney general is representing the grand jury. Jahr said that we should not participate, mainly because CGJA has no standing in the trial; it's not what we do in any event – we educate; and we would have to hire counsel. A motion and positive vote would be needed to agree to participate. In the absence of this vote, there was consensus that the effect is an unwillingness CGJA to participate. Jahr said that she would circulate

D-4 Public Relations Committee (PRC)

Chair Ragan directed members to agenda item H-9, website analytics, and said that news blog postings have accelerated.

D-5 Membership Relations Committee (MRC) – no report.

D-6 Training Committee (TC) – no report in addition to the TC meeting minutes.

D-7 Finance Committee (FC)

Chair Bell said that the treasurer transition was seamless. The financials are on track for this time of the year.

D-8 Nominations-Elections Committee (NEC) – no report in addition to the NEC meeting minutes.

D-9 Awards Committee (AC)

Chair Landi reported that:

- AC issued an Award of Special Recognition to Devine Printing, the former printer of the Journal and a couple AC booklets.
- The EIR Subcommittee emailed all chapter and association presidents soliciting nominations for the EIR Awards and placed an article in the April Journal soliciting EIR reports for the best report and the best media coverage.
- AC received a request from Marianne Jameson for a Special Recognition Award to the 2016-17 Contra Costa County Grand Jury for the accusation against the county district attorney that resulted charges being filed against him and in his resignation. Sommer said that the effort was a topic at the 2017 Annual Conference at that an article also appeared in the Journal. Bell said that the chapter feels that this grand jury effort hasn't received the recognition from CGJA that it deserves. The consensus was that we should work on developing a Special Recognition Award. Landi agreed to pursue it. She will present the draft to the board for comments. He asked how we present such recognitions. We don't have a method to do so. One way, in this case, is for a CGJA representative (AC member or president) to go to the chapter to present the award – and it could be posted on the website bulletin board.

D-10 Annual Conference Committee (ACC)

Chair Bell said that the website is ready to accept conference registrations. He urged everyone to register for the conference and secure hotel accommodations soon.

D-11 Bylaws & Policy Review Committee (BPRC)

Chair Jahr said that BPRC is now addressing minor changes to the Policy Manual and the CJGA Bylaws. Appropriate action items will come to the board in a month or two.

D-12 Finance Review Committee (FRC) – no report.

D-13 Public Education Committee (PEC) – no report.

D-14 Ad Hoc Fundraising Work Group (FWG) – no report.

E. Action Agenda – no actions.

F. Director Comments –none.

G. Adjournment (7:50 PM).

Respectfully submitted,
Jim Ragan, Secretary