



Grand Jurors' Journal

www.cgja.org

This issue annually seems to be one for important announcements all leading up to the Annual Conference. Please note these important activities in these pages.

And be sure your membership is up-to-date so you can vote in the annual election of directors.

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Grand Jury Awareness

The courts and most of our affiliated CGJA chapters throughout California are actively recruiting members for the next term of civil grand jury service. Here are some of the activities that are being utilized in various counties.



Fresno chapter President Richard Allen, receives a proclamation from Councilmember Clint Olivier, far right, with former grand jurors Lanny Larson and Cindy Caress looking on.

The Shasta County Chapter has developed a relationship with a local bank that is committed to community service. Member Larry Johnson noticed that the bank allowed organizations to hang banners on the street side of their building. He checked with the authorized bank person who gave him permission to hang a 3 foot by 30 foot banner on the outside wall. The bank even offered to help pay for the banner. Now hanging for its third recruiting season, the banner prominently reminds citizens of the opportunity to join the grand jury.

Larry also notes that he had a letter published in the local daily paper thanking the bank for their help to the chapter and the Superior Court, a recognition appreciated by the bank. This year the bank is donating their advertising space in a local magazine to recruiting grand jurors. Partnering with a local business that is interested in community service can really advance the efforts of the local chapters. Sometimes you just need to ask.

More Grand Jury Awareness

An idea the **El Dorado County Grand Jury Association** is working with this year is one that could be easily adopted by other chapters. President Chuck MacLean thought that yard signs might be effective and has found a printer who is doing 4-color, 22 inch by 28 inch signs, on a lightweight plastic board with posts for \$8 each. The group is planning on putting them on mostly county properties throughout the area. Chuck will have to let us know how effective the chapter thinks they were.

Lynn Runyon, **Kern County chapter** president, reports several Grand Jury Awareness Month activities, including a night at the Bakersfield Condors' hockey game. The home team lost in overtime despite the best efforts of team mascot Col Claw. However, chapter members were elated by good seats (100 allotted, 76 sold) for the game and by the number of people who sought information about the Kern County Grand Jury. Chapter members (pictured are Runyon and chapter vice president Mike Elliott) staffed an information table throughout the evening. Members and sitting grand jurors also provided information to people visiting the Home and Garden Show.



Fresno chapter President Richard Allen orchestrated proclamations about grand jury awareness by the Fresno County Board of Supervisors and Fresno City Council in addition to writing a letter published in The Fresno Bee about the rewards of grand jury service. Chapter member Lanny Larson presented a program for Fresno State's Osher Lifelong Learning Institute on "Why You Should Be a Grand Juror" that helped inspire applicants for the superior court's consideration.



As part of recruiting applicants for upcoming grand juries, the **Santa Cruz chapter** worked with the Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors, to acknowledge February as Grand Jury awareness month. Rocco Chappe, foreperson of the 2016-2017 Grand Jury holds the proclamation that the Board presented to Lauren Tobin, pro tem, during public comment time February 21st, 2017. Lauren seized that opportunity as a valuable recruitment tool, calling attention to what grand juries do and why being a grand juror is so vital to every community.

In other counties, many chapters have had their board of supervisors declare a Civil Grand Jury Month, usually February or March. In Marin County a local judge has made an excellent recruiting video that is being distributed. It is available to watch on YouTube, as [Marin County Civil Grand Jury PSA](#).

New CGJA Chapter – Alameda County

On Feb. 28, the CGJA Board of Directors enthusiastically approved Alameda County’s application to become the newest CGJA chapter.

The chapter has enrolled nine new CGJA members since the start of the year. The chapter’s initial focus is on grand juror recruitment and implementation review.

At its first official meeting on March 7, the Alameda County chapter was presented with a Certificate of Affiliation (presented to President Janet Clark by Richard Knowles, CGJA Membership Relations Committee chair).



Survey Notice to all Grand Juries

In early March, we sent via US mail a letter to all grand jury forepersons requesting that they complete an enclosed survey of grand jury practices. We have received several so far, but a number of juries have not responded. Please let us know if your jury did not receive our letter and the survey, and we will send you another copy.

As reported elsewhere, we had an unfortunate crash of our website from March 14-23, right during the time we had offered juries the opportunity to respond via an electronic version of the survey. That option is once again available by clicking on Grand Jury Survey under Jury Resources on our website, cgja.org. In our letter, we asked for a response within 30 days, but with the website problem, we will extend that deadline to April 21.

Please contact us at publicrelations@cgja.org for any questions. We will publish the results of the survey in a future issue of the Grand Jurors’ Journal.

Our thanks to those juries that have responded, and we look forward to other responses.



Do you think that exemplary service should be recognized?

If you answered “yes” then serving on the Awards Committee is a perfect fit. CGJA has a number of awards recognizing outstanding service to the association. We are looking for individuals who would like to be part of this very worthwhile venture.

For more information, contact Awards Committee Chair, Joann Landi, Joannelandi@aol.com.

San Luis Obispo Chapter News

By Nancy Welts, President

The San Luis Obispo County chapter held its annual meeting in January and elected the following officers and directors for the year: Nancy Welts, president; Terry Conner, vice president; Ed Kreins, secretary; Dorothy Schlitz, treasurer; Ann Hansen, director; Larry Herbst, director; and Maryellen Simkins, director. Greg Schlitz is an ex officio member of the board, as he served as foreperson of the 2016-2017 Grand Jury.

The San Luis Obispo County Board of Supervisors has been busy this year, so April will be our local Grand Jury Awareness Month. The board will make a proclamation at its April 18 meeting.

We will also be helping the superior court by conducting the first round of interviews for applicants to the 2017-2018 grand jury. These interviews will take place in April and May. The superior court judges will conduct the second round of interviews.

The 2016-2017 San Luis Obispo County Grand Jury has released its first report entitled "Catching and Passing the Baton: The Work of the Grand Jury." This continuity report followed up on the agency responses to the 2015-2016 report recommendations and 11 still-open recommendations from the 2014-2015 reports. *The Tribune (San Luis Obispo)* published an article on this report March 10.

Butte Chapter News

By Jerry Kunkle, President

The Butte chapter continues to pursue implementation review of past grand jury responses. Several letters are currently out, pending replies. One reply we received was from an inquiry to the Butte County Emergency Response Agency about an action they promised to take in response to a recommendation in the 2014-15 Butte Grand Jury report. They acknowledged the inquiry but asked that we allow them to delay their response because they were "too busy" at the moment. Aware of the ongoing emergency concerning the Oroville Dam, we felt that the response was acceptable for the time being.

Last year we made presentations in a couple of local schools and continue to try to arrange to broaden this program to other schools in the county. As part of our endeavor to inform the public as to the functions of the grand jury, last October we held our first "Public Forum," presenting a PowerPoint program one of our members designed specifically aimed at the Butte County Grand Jury's function. This forum was held in Chico and had a pretty good turnout, despite the fact we were competing that evening against a Chico City Council candidate forum and a nationally televised presidential debate. As well as the general public, we had guests for the presentation from a couple of Butte County agencies and representatives of the Superior Court, whose support we were grateful for.

Based upon that success, we held another Public Forum on March 22, in Oroville. Again, we had some interested members of the public attend as well as the Butte County District Attorney. Expanding this program will be an agenda item at the next chapter meeting.

Alameda Chapter News

By Janet M. Clark, President

Our interest in forming an Alameda County Grand Jury Association (ACGJA) began with ADA Rob Warren who cited a need to recruit new jurors from the southern and eastern parts of the county, a need to follow up on grand jury recommendations, and a need for former jurors to connect.

After discussion among members of the 2015-2016 juries, some of us decided we would like to set up a group to do outreach and follow up. We were uncertain of whether to join the state association. Two of our members undertook a survey of other counties who were, and were not members. We invited Rich Knowles to talk with us about the state association.

We felt the requirements and procedures were not difficult. We felt there were gains for us in terms of a convenient resource, prestige, and other like-minded people. Scott Law and Joe Connell did all the background work. Finalizing the By-laws brought the group closer together. Now with our new membership with the state association, we are off and running. Our video presentation is almost finished. We are set to start evaluating follow up procedures.

I am honored to have been elected President of this Association.

Save the Date - Annual CGJA Conference 10/29-30/17

Lloyd Bell, Annual Conference Committee Chair, is pleased to announce that this year's annual conference/membership meeting will be held in beautiful Monterey on October 29-30 at the Embassy Suites by Hilton Monterey Bay Seaside. We have gone back to a two-day event to provide more program time and social interaction.

The hotel has recently been upgraded, and we are looking forward to an outstanding venue and a dynamic program. Watch these pages and our website as more program details become available.

Website Down for Nine Days

By Jim Ragan, Chair, CGJA Public Relations Committee

On Thursday, March 23, our website was now back online after nine excruciatingly frustrating days for us at CGJA. And we heard from many users who could not access the site. As we previously reported to you, the problem was a hard disk crash experienced by our website provider that affected hundreds of its websites.

When you visit to our website, cgja.org, please tell us of any problems you have: click webmaster@cgja.org.

We thank you for your patience and understanding. We are so happy to be back online.

Ask the Trainer

By Marsha Caranci, CGJA Training Chair



This regular column allows the CGJA Training Team to share with Journal readers our responses to some of the questions we receive from grand jurors. Please remember the following: Our trainers are happy to answer questions in their areas of expertise and may be contacted by using the information in Tab 8 of our training manual; you may not take any response as legal advice; and you should contact your local legal advisors to answer any question that might divulge confidential information. Please submit your questions to me at cgjatraining@cgja.org. The Training Team's response to your question might appear in a future edition of the Journal.

Q. Our grand jury is working on a report with one finding, but we are suggesting three recommendations related to the finding. Is this an acceptable format?

A. The grand jury can include in its report as many findings or recommendations as are appropriate. But in this situation, you might ask yourselves:

- Do the facts stated in the narrative or discussion section of the report logically lead to only one conclusion (which is what a finding is)?
- Does each of the recommendations solve the single problem identified in the finding, or should the finding be broken down into more than one item?
- Can each finding and recommendation be easily responded to by the person or entity that will be required to respond? If not, you might get vague or irrelevant responses.

Remember, too, that you can have a finding that is positive. So if there are facts in the report that lead you to a conclusion that the local government is working properly, rather than identifying a problem, you might want to add a positive finding, to which there would be no recommendation.

Q. Why is it recommended that we conduct an exit interview before sending a report to the judge for approval? We would prefer not to disclose our findings before the report is released.

A. As you know, the Penal Code allows the grand jury to meet with the "...subject person or entity ... for the purpose of reading and discussing the findings of the grand jury report that relate to that person or entity in order to verify the accuracy of the findings prior to their release." Since factual accuracy is crucial to the report, we recommend that grand juries take advantage of this opportunity to ensure that their findings are correct and timely. If you find out that you got something wrong or that things have changed, there will be time to fix the error before releasing the report.

For more on how to conduct exit interviews, see Tab 5 of our 2016 Report Writing Workshop training manual.

**Follow California Grand Juries
in the news at our BlogSpot
cgja.blogspot.com**

Nominate Now for Best Grand Jury Report

By Barbara Sommer, Excellence in Reporting chair

Surely your county grand jury has produced an outstanding report within the past five years. Nominate it now for the CGJA's **Excellence in Grand Jury Reporting Award**.

The deadline is June 30, which seems a long time away. But you know it will be here tomorrow. Once you have written an explanation and collected the documentation, the submission process is online. See cgja.org/eir.

Last year's winner was Mendocino County for two reports on the library's misclassification of revenues and disbursement of funds. You can view the other 2016 nominees at cgja.org/eir (see 2016 EIR Award Nominations).

To be eligible, a single investigation or a series of directly related investigations must have been published between 2011 and 2016 (allowing sufficient time for responses).

The report will compete with other nominations on the basis of these criteria:

- Report quality – legible, documented, succinct, complete, and understandable
- Citizen impact: Importance or severity of problem
- Duration/persistence of the problem
- Difficulty of the investigation – many agencies, bureaucratic interference (e.g., denials, subpoenas), etc.
- Substantiated findings and recommendations within the report
- Exposure of the report by the media, or response from the public
- Documented success of the investigation

The deadline for nominations is June 30, 2017. One nomination per county, please.

This nomination can be combined with that for the Best News Media Coverage Award (see below). The winner will be announced at the CGJA Annual Conference in the fall.

Media Coverage Award nominations due June 30

By Barbara Sommer, Excellence in Reporting chair

It's time to recognize excellent media coverage of grand jury activities. If you know a media outlet that has been particularly supportive of your county's grand jury, either through coverage of a particular investigation or more general support, nominate it for CGJA's **Excellence in Grand Jury Media Coverage Award**. All media – print, broadcast, web-based – are eligible. Nominations can be for an individual reporter or reporting team.

Last year, the Independent Journal was recognized for its coverage of the Marin County Civil Grand Jury over the past three years. You can view the other 2016 nominations at cgja.org/eir (see 2016 EIR Award Nominations).

The nominating process is done easily online at cgja.org/eir. The main task is to describe and document how the media outlet or reporter met the following criteria:

- Increased familiarity with and understanding of the grand jury system
- Increased public awareness of a specific grand jury investigation
- Improved public understanding of the issue investigated
- Community awareness of the outcome of a grand jury investigation

The deadline for nominations is June 30. One nomination per county, please. This nomination can be combined with that for Best Grand Jury Report (see above).

You may not think of an outlet to nominate now, but you might in the future. Please keep a file of media posts (online material sometimes disappears over time) or newspaper clippings about grand jury reports and activities.

Nominations for CGJA Director Now Open

By Jerry Kunkle, Nominations-Elections Committee Chair nominations@cgja.org

We invite you to consider becoming a candidate for CGJA director or recommending another CGJA member as a candidate. It is nominations time and contrary to a popular misconception, it is perfectly OK to recommend yourself.

Every year, we elect 6 of our 12-member board of directors: 2 from each region for 2-year terms. The board establishes management-related policies, makes decisions on major association issues, and generally oversees the association's activities – carried out mainly through board committees. The term of office for this election is November 2017 to 2019.

Being a director is a very rewarding experience. You have a direct say in how we carry out CGJA's mission to promote, preserve, and support the grand jury system through training, education, and outreach. And you work with a group of wonderful, committed people from all over the state.

When considering candidacy, it is important to understand the requirements . A director (1) must be a voting CGJA member on July 31, 2017 and throughout the term, and (2) must reside in the region represented. It is desirable to have had some experience with CGJA or its chapters (e.g., committee membership, chapter officer).

To find out more, read the current meeting agenda and minutes of past board meetings. These are available on the member business page of our website: cgja.org/board-information. If interested in running, attend a board meeting held via computer and telephone on the fourth Tuesday of every month. Linkages to the meeting are at the top of the current meeting agenda. See page 9 (next page) for a statement of director responsibilities.

Nominations are now open and should be submitted to nominations@cgja.org. The timetable follows:

Nominations close	May 31
Candidate statement submitted	June 9
Ballot submitted to Board	June 20
Membership closes for eligibility to vote	July 31
Ballot mailed	Aug. 30
Ballot returned	Sept. 30
Ballots counted and reported to Board and candidates	Oct. 9
Results announced in October Journal and at Annual Conference	Oct., Oct. 29

The CGJA Nominations-Elections Committee (NEC) oversees the nomination and election of directors. Its primary duty is to seek out the most competent CGJA members to serve as directors.

If you have any questions, please contact any of the following committee members:

North Region, Director/chair, Jerry Kunkle (Butte), nominations@cgja.org, Member , Marsha Caranci (Shasta), caranci@aol.com

Central Region, Director, Lloyd Bell (Contra Costa), lloyd.bell@comcast.net, Member , Karin Hern (Marin), karinhern2322@comcast.net

South Region, Director, Jim Ragan (San Luis Obispo), jimragan@charter.net, Member/vice-chair, Jerry Lewi (Ventura), cgjaprguy@roadrunner.com



CGJA Nominations-Elections Committee Duties and Responsibilities of CGJA Directors

Any candidate should be advised of **ALL** of the following **BEFORE** they are asked to decide whether they wish to serve as a CGJA Director.

Directors' responsibilities are covered in CGJA Bylaws, Article 6. DIRECTORS, Section 4. Duties (a) - (g), as follows:

Section 4. Duties

It shall be the duty of the Directors to:

- a) Perform any and all duties imposed on them collectively or individually by law or these Bylaws.
- b) Prescribe the duties and fix the compensation, if any, of all officers, agents, and employees of the Corporation, except as otherwise provided in these Bylaws.
- c) Supervise all officers, agents, and employees of the Corporation to assure that their duties are performed properly.
- d) Meet at such times and places as required by these Bylaws.
- e) Register their address, including any electronic address (e.g., e-mail or fax) with the Secretary of the Corporation.
- f) Recommend a slate of candidates to the membership for election every year for twelve (12) Directors.
- g) Elect officers of the Corporation.

And in the CGJA Policy Manual, Section 2.013, (A.-E.), Director's Responsibilities, as follows:

2.013 Director Responsibilities

- A. In addition to those duties outlined in the CGJA Bylaws, Directors shall attend all Board meetings except when excused by the President. Directors must be willing to participate in teleconference or face-to-face Board meetings at their own expense.
- B. Directors shall read and review all agenda packet items in preparation for each Board meeting.
- C. Directors shall attend the CGJA Annual Conference if possible, and shall do so at their own expense.
- D. Each Director shall be active on at least one of the CGJA's committees.
- E. Directors shall monitor and when necessary promptly respond to email and voicemail communications regarding the business of the Board and their committee(s).

Recent Board Actions -- by Jim Ragan, Secretary jimragan@charter.net**Board Meeting, January 24, 2017**

Ratified the president's appointment of Karen Jahr to the Executive Committee.

Ratified the president's appointments of Jerry Kunkle as Chair of Nominations-Elections Committee, and Jerry Lewi and Jim Ragan (Southern Region), Lloyd Bell and Karin Hern (Central Region) and Jerry Kunkle and Marsha Caranci (Northern Region) as committee members.

Ratified the president's appointments of Rich Knowles as Chair of the Financial Review Committee, and Lou Panetta and Lanny Larson as committee members.

Approved the proposed CGJA 2017 Budget.

Approved the Embassy Suites, Monterey Bay, Seaside, California, as the Annual Conference location, and Sunday, October 29 through Monday, October 30, 2017 as the conference dates.

Renamed the following CGJA awards:

- 1) The Jack Zepp Award to be the "Lifetime Achievement Award"
- 2) The Angelo Rolando Memorial Award to be the "Angelo Rolando Service Award" to better reflect its significance
- 3) The "Robert Geiss Excellence in Reporting Award" to be the "Excellence in Reporting Award" (the previous name, with the recommended alteration described in #4 below)
- 4) The two Excellence in Reporting Awards (best report and best media coverage) to be distinguished by listing them separately and naming them as follows:
 - a) "Excellence in Grand Jury Reporting Award"
 - b) "Excellence in Grand Jury Media Coverage Award"

Board Meeting, February 28, 2017

Approved the Alameda County Civil Grand Jury Association (ACCGJA) as a CGJA Chapter.

Approved the conduct of a mail survey of grand juries.

Approved negotiating with Elevation Web and signing a contract at a cost of \$8,800 to redevelop the CGJA website with contemporary graphics, integrated store operation, and improved navigation.

Ratified the president's appointment of Dianne Hoffman to the position of assistant treasurer, whose term shall be consistent with the term of Treasurer Medsie Bolin.

Approved the budget for the 2017 Annual Conference and approve the hotel contract with Embassy Suites for this event.

Board Meeting, March 28, 2017

Adopted the revised CGJA Bylaws.

All approved board meeting minutes are available on the CGJA website.



California Grand Jurors' Association Voting Member Application

To promote, preserve, and support the grand jury system through training, education, and outreach

Check all that apply: New member * Renewal Donation

Check one: 12 month membership @ \$30 2 years or more (specify if more____) @ \$25 Lifetime @ \$500

Please type or print legibly

Email address: _____ Telephone: _____ - _____ - _____

Name _____

Mailing address _____

City _____ County _____ State _____ Zip+4 _____

California County of Service _____ Year(s) served on Grand Jury (e.g., 2000/01) _____

Are you a member of a local chapter or association? _____ Chapter/association _____

Please consider adding a donation: \$ _____ Do you wish your donation to remain unpublished? Yes No

Make check payable to California Grand Jurors' Association or enter credit card information below

The California Grand Jurors' Association will not knowingly provide, sell, trade, transfer or in any other way deliberately reveal any such private member information to any party outside of the California Grand Jurors' Association

Applicable fees will be charged on returned checks

Amount Enclosed _____ or

Credit Card amount _____ (MC, Visa, AMEX, Discover, fill in the information below)

Card Number: _____ - _____ - _____ - _____ Exp. Date _____ - _____ security code
from back of card

Billing name (if different from above) _____

Billing address (if different from above) _____

Signature _____

***CGJA is a California Nonprofit Public Benefit Corporation and designated an IRS Section 501(c)3 Tax Exempt Corporation.
CGJA annual membership dues of \$75 or less are of token value, not substantial, and fully deductible.
Contributions to the association are deductible to the extent permitted by law.***

***Individual (voting) membership** is open to any person who is serving or has served as a member in good standing on a county grand jury in California. Members elect a Board of Directors to conduct association business. Members are eligible to serve on association committees, attend the association's annual conference at locations throughout California and receive the *CGJA Journal*, containing periodic updates of association and grand jury developments.

Please continue to page 2 to indicate or update your volunteer choices and information support our important work with your time!!!!

After you have completed this form, you can either

- 1.) Save the form and email as an attachment to: Treasurer at treasurer@cgja.org
- 2.) Print and mail to: California Grand Jurors' Association, 1017 L Street #320, Sacramento, CA 95814-3805 Attn: Treasurer



Grand Jurors' Journal

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Format for submitting letters and articles

Articles submitted by email should be saved in Rich Text Format (.rtf) and transmitted as an attachment to editor@cgja.org

See more detailed instructions on our website cgja.org/submit-article.

Change of Address

Please notify Editor, editor@cgja.org of any address changes (it costs CGJA \$1.00 or more to get your correct address from the Post Office and your Journal mailing is delayed).

To sign up for electronic delivery, go to **Grand Jurors' Journal/Get JOURNAL** by email (on left side bar) at cgja.org

You will automatically be removed from the printed copy mail list.

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Deadline for submitting articles for publication in the next issue

May 22 2017