

Don't forget!

**Register for
Annual
Conference,
October 28-29**

**Jurors:
Register for a
Report Writing
Workshop
See page 2**



**INSIDE THIS
ISSUE:**

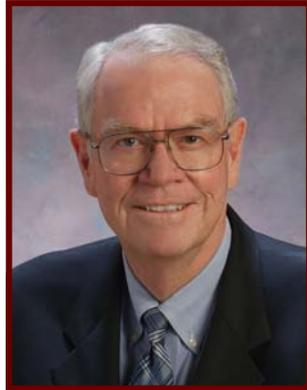
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Grand Jurors' Journal

www.cgja.org

President's Message *By Bill Trautman*



Preparations for the CGJA 2013 Annual Conference are in full swing. Under the tutelage of the Annual Conference Chair, Diane Dame Shepp, and Program Chair, Dan Mufson, the Conference this year in San Luis Obispo will be one you will not want to miss. We have a keynote speaker, Dan Walters, known Statewide for keeping the legislature, governmental entries and officials accountable to the people. His insights will be both very interesting but also helpful to the work of California grand juries. The panels

and panelists will be equally as good. However, the real story behind this event is not only Diane and Dan's efforts but also the unqualified support given the Conference by CGJA Director Jim Ragan, Chapter President Mimi Kalland and the rest of the members of the San Luis Obispo County Former Grand Jurors Chapter when they accepted the belated shift of the Conference to San Luis Obispo. They have undertaken everything from arranging attendance of local dignitaries, contacting the local Chamber of Commerce, procuring wine and entertainment for the reception and much more. I cannot express strongly enough our appreciation for this herculean effort. So come October 27-29 to "Rolling with Realities" in San Luis Obispo to "see what the BUZZ is all about". (See related article for details.)

The CGJA training season winds down this month with the last of the onsite training in San Benito County. From late June, the CGJA trainers have trained over 1000 2013-2014 grand jurors throughout the State. Do the math! With 58 County grand juries of generally 19 (some 11) members each, we have trained over 95% of these jurors. This is an amazing undertaking by 18 trainers who travel up and down the State for 2 to 3 months during the summer. To really understand what goes into the annual CGJA training, do not miss the Annual Conference panel "Behind the Scenes—In Front of the Lights: Showcasing the 2013 CGJA Grand Jury Training" Marsha Caranci, chair of the Training Committee, Karen Jahr, chair of the Curriculum Subcommittee, Ray Frisbie, chair of the Trainers Subcommittee, Dianne Hoffman, Finance and Registration, Jerry Lewi, Public Relations, and all of the rest of the trainers are congratulated for a very successful training season.

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In other exciting news for us, a group of former San Joaquin County grand jurors formed a new chapter of CGJA that was approved by the Board in August. Many in this group were on the San Joaquin County Grand Jury that was lauded by the *Stockton Record* for their efforts. CGJA now has 27 chapters and associations.

At the August Board meeting, we approved that the 2014 Membership Meeting and Annual Conference would be held in Burbank, California on November 12-14, 2014. The conference will be hosted by the Los Angeles Chapter and chaired by Audrey Lynberg. Mark your 2014 calendar.

In order to strengthen our data entry and other financial accounting processes and pursuant to the By-laws, the Board created the position of Assistant Treasurer with a term to run concurrently with the Treasurer's term and with duties prescribed by and under the supervision of the Treasurer. The new Assistant Treasurer is Bonnie Kenk of San Diego, who performs so many functions for us, I would exceed my word limit if I tried to enumerate them. Congratulations, Bonnie!

The Board is assembling a list of subjects to discuss at its Retreat on the day before the Annual Conference. If you have suggestions, we would welcome them. Do not hold back, the Board serves you! Send them to trautman17@sbcglobal.net.

CGJA 2013 Report Writing Workshops

The California Grand Jurors' Association will be presenting six Report Writing Workshops in five locations this November as follows:

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| Friday, November 1, San Rafael | Embassy Suites, 101 McInnis Pkwy, 415-499-9222 |
| Monday, November 4, Sacramento | Crowne Plaza, 5321 Date Avenue, 916-338-5800 |
| Tuesday, November 5, Sacramento | Crowne Plaza, 5321 Date Avenue, 916-338-5800 |
| Friday, November 8, Rancho Cucamonga | Vineyard Training Center, 9607 Business Center Drive, Suite B; |
| Friday, November 15, Fresno | Piccadilly Inn Shaw, 2305 W. Shaw Ave., Fresno, 559-348-5520 |
| Friday, November 22, Redding | Holiday Inn & Convention Center, 1900 Hilltop Drive, 530-221-7500 |

The workshop will include an overview of report writing and will cover the details of: processing the report, choosing a report style, deciding on the functions of the Editorial Committee, setting timelines for report production, and deciding on the review and approval process. The workshop also focuses on the distinction between facts, findings and recommendations and includes group exercises in developing and evaluating grand jury recommendations and in critiquing sample reports.

Each session will run from 9 to 4:30. The cost for the workshop is \$60 per juror. Further details on each location and a registration form can be found at <http://cgja.org/training-general-information>. Contact us at cgjatraining@cgja.org for more information.

Follow California Grand Juries in the news at our Blogspot
<http://cgja.blogspot.com/>

SLO or Bust!

This is the last article and reminder before the annual CGJA Conference, in San Luis Obispo (SLO), October 28 & 29, 2013. As the saying goes, if you snooze, you loose. If you have not registered for the conference, put down what you are doing and register now, before the deadline of September 27, 2013. The deadline to make hotel reservations is also September 27th, after which the hotel will release our room block and there may not be any rooms available at the special reduced conference rate.

Well worth the effort to get to SLO, panel subjects will cover a selection of current issues of concern to local CGJA Chapters and Grand Juries. Subjects of topical importance include:

Implementation Review, to provide an explanation of exactly how CGJA suggests local Chapters may follow up on Responses to their county's Grand Jury reports.

Chapter Regulatory Compliance, local Chapters should understand about issues of compliance regarding insurance, liability and tax status.

The Effect of Realignment on the Condition and Management of County Detention Facilities—Pros and Cons (excuse the pun), how Governor Brown's State Prisoner Release is impacting the management and condition of the County jails.

Remember crunch time and what it was like in those final months on the grand jury ... reports had to be written, approved and published before June 30th deadline? As hosts, the SLO Chapter members have been under the same pressure to create a special conference in less than two months time before October 28th. They are enthusiastically looking forward to hosting you.

Autumn in SLO is prime time in the "Happiest and Friendliest" town in America, so says the SLO Chamber of Commerce. San Luis Obispo was named the happiest city in America by author and researcher Dan Buettner. Not long after Buettner's book, THRIVE, hit the bookshelves Oprah Winfrey sent her team to check out what makes San Luis Obispo the happiest place in the US.

Just recently San Luis Obispo was part of the USA Today and Rand McNally's Best of the Road competition across the US. SLO was named one of the friendliest towns in America.

See you in San Luis Obispo!

Diane Dame · Shepp, Conference Co-Chair

California

Grand Jurors' Association

32nd Annual Conference

"Rolling with Realities"

October 28th and 29th, 2013,

San Luis Obispo, California



CGJA Chapter News from Around the State *News for You and by You*

By Beate Boultinghouse, Vice President, CGJA

Contra Costa County

Members of the Contra Costa County Chapter conducted three one-hour orientation sessions for the 60 candidate August 2 August 27, 2013, 2013s selected for judicial interviews for the 2013-2014 Grand Jury. Approximately 55 of the 60 candidates attended. Topics presented included the grand jury selection process, administrative issues, the role of the grand jury, and expectations of grand jury members. The presentations had a targeted focus on the time commitment required and the need for a collegial and collaborative approach in getting grand jury work done in committee settings. Many questions were asked during the orientation, so our chapter felt that this group of candidates had a good grasp of the responsibilities and personal commitment that will be required of them should they be selected as grand jurors. As a result of the information presented, 21 of the 60 candidates withdrew their names from consideration before any judicial interview time was expended and thereby wasted. Further, since empanelled, only two jurors had to resign, but due to unforeseen circumstances unrelated to time or energy commitments. The disruptions experienced in previous years caused when empanelled jurors resign simply because they had no idea of the time commitment required, nor the amount of time that would be required of them in the upcoming year, was significantly reduced.

Comments from the current Grand Jury Foreperson indicated that "The reduction in loss of jurors during the orientation or initial phases of grand jury service is a direct reflection on the quality of the presentations by

the chapter." Court Administration officials, also present at all orientation sessions, viewed this program positively.

The Chapter's Pre-Selection Orientation Committee will revise the presentation and intends to present it to future prospective candidates for the grand jury.

Fresno

The Fresno chapter of CGJA will host the San Joaquin Valley Regional meeting which will be held on Friday, December 6, 2013, in Fresno. The guest speaker will be Dorothy Holzem, Legislative Representative for the California Special Districts Association.

Kern

The Kern County Chapter continues to work on the development of a logo and the upgrading of our website. We would like to thank the CGJA members who have offered excellent suggestions on both of these on-going projects.

Our chapter is looking ahead to the upcoming recruitment period. Our Public Relations Committee chairman is beginning to schedule presentations with local organizations throughout Kern County to heighten grand jury awareness and hopefully gain 2014-15 applicants.

We are also researching, at the request of several CGJA Board Members, the history of the Kern County (KC) Grand Jury Senior Office Services position and how the jury was able to acquire this much needed addition to the KC Grand Jury office. It has been fascinating to contact those involved in the 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 Kern County grand juries and to learn the ins and out of how

this position came to be, and is now an vital part of the grand jury day-to-day operations.

Los Angeles

We are beginning to lay the groundwork for the 2014 CGJA Annual Conference.

Marin

Marin civil grand juries learn early in their year that they are strongly supported. In addition to the county counsel, administrative aide, District Attorney and dedicated chapter members, they have the full backing of the Presiding Judge and full court system. This support was recently underlined when Kim Turner, our Court Executive Officer, was awarded the coveted Vickrey Leadership in Judicial Administration Award for her statewide contribution to statewide advances in administration and service delivery of the Superior Courts. It is all too easy to take our support systems for granted and when we are able to recognize and thank our movers and shakers, we should do so. So thank you Kim... you are greatly appreciated!

San Diego

The San Diego Past Grand Jurors Association elected a new board at the June 2013 meeting. New officers are Mike Hall (president), Meredith Avery, (vice president), Anne Sturz (secretary) and Jim Lewis (treasurer). Public Relations Committee is moving forward. The Association members are looking forward to the year

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CGJA Chapter News from Around the State *News for You and by You*

Continued from page 4
with new leadership.

San Francisco

The San Francisco chapter has elected its officers. Leading the chapter is Linda Clardy as president. Continuing in their positions are Leslie Koelsch as vice president and Julia Hansen as secretary. Hal M. Smith is the new treasurer.

San Luis Obispo

Jim Ragan, Ellen Polinsky and Mimi Kalland met with this year's grand jury members to provide information about our local organization and the CGJA. Several members of the current jury have already volunteered to help with the CGJA annual conference to be held on October 28-29 in San Luis Obispo.

Sutter

Several members of our small chapter have been traveling and others have been ill, so there has not been much recent activity. However, they hope to have something to report in our next issue.

Tulare

The chapter requested that the grand jury invite the county chief administrative officer to their meeting for the purpose of requesting laptop computers for each jury member, as well as allowing some of the budgeted grand jury funds be utilized for awareness and recruitment purposes. He agreed to both items. Computers are now in use and

additional funds were expended for awareness and recruitment.

We established a Speakers' Committee for awareness, educational and recruitment purposes. The committee made presentations and did recruit members who are now on the grand jury. We also informed the judge of our willingness to be involved in presentations, training and interviewing of new volunteers. We run a continuous dialog with the Superior Court and pass all recruitment materials to them for their approval. They in turn are adding our handout to the material given to grand jury volunteers.

We placed two of our members on a School Bond Oversight Committee as well as two members on our local junior college Citizens Advisory Committee for Accreditation.

This August, we assisted this year's Regional CGJA Grand Jury training held in Visalia. Seven counties were represented. We staffed the registration tables and provided other services as required. One of the tasks was to provide welcome bags to each attendee with items provided by local businesses. This was a nice group effort by our chapter.

Our September meeting's guest speaker was the Chair of the Tulare County Board of Supervisors. This was a very informative session for both sides and left everyone feeling positive about continuing an open dialogue with the

Board of Supervisors.

We try to send a representative to all of the Fresno and Bay Area Regional meetings. These meetings are always informative and provide new knowledge and ideas for the chapter!

One of our priorities this year will be to urge an increase in the jurors' per diem rates. We will also increase the activity of our Response-Review Committee.

On September 7, our grand jury report dealing with the hidden interest costs of school bonds made front page of our local newspaper [the Visalia-Times Delta today!](#)

WHY A Grand Jury

By Walter Hofmann, San Diego

Editor Note: This article was submitted before the issue about the Mayor of San Diego was resolved, so some of Walter's points have been superseded by events. But his ideas are still relevant and so we are printing it as submitted.

The system is the best example of democracy-in-action of which I am aware.

It provides a way for the ordinary citizen to have a significant impact on the ethical regulation and harmony that we all want to achieve in our society. Let me explain why I think the best fulfills this role.

I was on the grand jury in San Diego County from July 2004 until June 2005. We were charged with the oversight of the governing entities

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within the county. We were given specific instructions to evaluate the county jail facilities.

It was a valuable experience. I learned a lot about how things functioned within our society. It was reassuring to be in the process where 19 citizens had an equal voice and equal vote on the issues we dealt with. True democracy in action.

The 19 members of this group had volunteered for the task. We had filled out an application, had been interviewed and recommended by a Superior Court judge, then chosen by lottery from a pool of over 100 applicants. We worked hard at facing the challenges placed before us. Any citizen could file a "Complaint" with our "Civil" Grand Jury which we would then examine. -- (This is in contrast to a Criminal Grand Jury, a separate and different group that the District Attorney could assemble on demand for a criminal charge, instead of the usual preliminary hearing.)

Advantages: Having such a diverse group of citizens from all walks of life, with varying personal and professional backgrounds was a distinct benefit. We had representatives of both genders, both young and old, sophisticated and naive, active and passive personalities. The group developed their own rules as to how they would function.

Disadvantages: The unique and varied composition of our group also provided a possibility for disharmony. By the very nature of these conditions, it soon became apparent that this caused some danger of disruption. A few members had a specific agenda and pet projects they wanted to promote. One was on his own personal campaign, the other had tunnel-vision. One lady was hostile and critical of all government agencies, which was clearly unpro-

ductive. One man had a pet project of getting rid of castor beans. His idea did not gain traction, and he soon resigned in anger. We functioned much better after he left.

Observations: Over the past 10 years I have mostly seen grand juries who were productive and useful in their evaluations. There were others who provided very little value in their year-end reports. The factor that seemed to make a difference was the selection of a foreperson from the group by the presiding judge. A leader who provides fairness to all and does not allow factions to be disruptive is essential.

Specific issues: The areas of evaluation were varied. We examined all the complaints lodged by citizens. Any member of the jury could also suggest topics for examination. For the most part we worked hard to provide better policies and practices in our city and county leadership, more effective schools, improved jail and prison facilities. One specific ability of the grand jury is to examine any misconduct by any government official. This is very relevant and necessary at this time. In the past few months allegations have emerged that our mayor has sexually harassed several of his female co-workers. As of now, 14 have come forward with these complaints. In addition there have been questions about his fiscal mismanagement and improprieties. As per a special provision in our Government Code, Section 3060, the can evaluate these allegations and then file a formal "Accusation" with the District Attorney's Office -- who must then empanel a regular petite-jury who hears the case and determines if misconduct has occurred. If they so determine, he is immediately removed from office. This seems a more efficient way of dealing with the issue, rather than the costly and time-consuming task

of getting 100,000 signatures for a recall election and then putting the question to a vote of the people. The grand jury process provides the requirement for due process for the accused, as well as appropriately meeting the needs of our society.

FAQ of the Month CGJA Website

By Beate Boultinhouse, VP CGJA

Editor Note: On behalf of the website team, we want to thank all those chapter presidents for taking the time to provide comments about our website. We will evaluate every single one and make those changes we think appropriate. If there is one thing we have learned in the two years the site has been up and running, you can always make improvements. Also thanks to Beate for pulling this together.



The question presented to chapter presidents this month requested "Any suggestions you have to improve the web site. What works for you, what does not? How easy is it to navigate from one page to another? Are you able to readily find what you are looking for? Have you used the online membership form to renew via credit card or PayPal? Did you have any problems? Is there anything you would like to see on the site that is not there? Anything else?"

This columnist was amazed at how many do not visit the web site with its plethora of information, news, and tips about how to accomplish many things and address many issues. For those who do meander through the extensive menu presented on the site, here are some of

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the suggestions and comments made:

"I think the CGJA web-site is quite good, and offers many options for inquiry; perhaps a couple of seconds longer on the rolling blog window (for us old guys!)."

"On the drop down menu on the left side pane, under the title **join/support-apply or renew** - we need a better description of the forms, i.e., Voting/Associate Members, Introductory Members, Honorary Members."

"The site is well done and works well overall, however, when a selection is more than one page long we have not been able to print out the entire article/selection. Only the first page will print, which has been very frustrating especially when trying to print out training information." That same person finds navigation around the site to be easy and for the most part information is easily located. Using the PayPal feature for membership renewal worked quite well.

Another user had no complaints except for the PayPal feature, but offered some good suggestions. The pay pal issue was one of getting into a continuous loop. "Each time I filled it out it would re-cycle back to inputting the same information I already put in. I could never get to a point where it said, you are paid, etc." He also offered: "I think the website is fine. I still feel strongly that amassing information from other chapters is invaluable to chapter presidents. For example, I recently was told that if I wanted to get into the schools I should go to student government as well as or instead of the school administration. Hearing about those kinds of solutions from other chapters is better than chocolate!

In addition, he shared that "Recently my wife and I spent a great deal of time evaluating web-sites. We just upgraded our church website and it invoked a lot of introspection. With extensive research we found that websites are seldom used by our folks for ongoing information. Most of them go there only to get specific information in which they are interested and only a few used it as a source of current information. (But maybe that's not a full sampling.)"

Another commented, "We MUST eliminate the redundancy in our website structure. The same information is found in multiple places (like the annual conference links in 4 different places) so site visitors can find the information. That's the problem - it's confusing to have the same information in multiple places.

If all this information is on the CGJA

website, video, book, etc., why join CGJA? What is the value? Perhaps we ought to have a member login for access to the materials.

Opting out of the paper delivery should be available at the same time as signing up for electronic delivery. Having to send a separate email to the editor is inefficient." (*Note: We have fixed this.*)

Some constructive suggestions have been made by regular users of the web site. We are always looking to improve ourselves (as well as our web site), so if you have any further suggestions, please use the **Contact Us** button on the side menu.

Remember, you are our best "customer" and as the saying goes "the customer is always right", so we need to *and* want to be sure that you are happy and will use the product which in this case is www.CGJA.org.

Awards (<http://cgja.org/cgja-awards>)

Excellence in Reporting – best Grand Jury report (Geiss award) and best media coverage

Angelo Rolando Memorial – for outstanding service to CGJA

Local Achievement – for chapter members advancing Grand Jury in the region

Grand Jury Achievements

Please look for grand jury reports that made a difference and submit to our [Grand Jury Achievement](http://cgja.org/grand-jury-achievement-2) data base <http://cgja.org/grand-jury-achievement-2>.

Change of Address

Please notify Bonnie Kenk, parroted@cox.net, of any address changes. When you don't, it costs us \$1.00 or more to get your correct address from the Post Office and your journal mailing is delayed.

Journal Available Electronically

If you are interested in electronic delivery of the journal, please email editor@cgja.org to be sure we have your correct email address. This is definitely an opt-in situation as we will always print copies for regular mail distribution. If you "opt in" for electronic delivery you will automatically be removed from the print copy distribution.

Committee Reports

Training Season Wrap-up

By Marsha Caranci, Chair,
Training Committee



The 2013 summer training season is a wrap with completion of our final on-site training seminar of the season in San Benito County on September 13.

Our 18 trainers covered most of the state, from Del Norte County in the far northwest corner to Imperial County in the far southeast corner, and Modoc County in the far northeast corner of the state, and from the coastal counties to those in the Eastern Sierras. Starting June 24, we presented at 29 different venues (20 on-site seminars, 4 regional seminars, and 5 Foreperson Workshops). In attendance at our regular seminars were nearly 1,000 jurors and alternates plus over 30 county and court officials, including many grand jury legal advisors. Our Foreperson Workshops were attended by 71 Forepersons, Pro Tems, or other officers.

The evaluations filled out by the attendees at each seminar and workshop show that our curriculum and program changes over the past



Mariposa Training – Trainer Judi Lazenby addressing the Mariposa Grand Jury in their own quarters.

couple of years are really paying off. The attendees particularly seem to appreciate the personal interaction with the CGJA trainers, who bring with them a broad base of experience and depth of knowledge, and our well organized and very thorough CGJA Training Manual. And they love those buff colored note taking pages!

We were fortunate to have great volunteer staffs at all of our regional seminars, and we had CGJA Chapters that provided lunches and beverages at many of our on-site seminars. Our thanks go out to all of you.

I would also like to thank the hard working members of the Curriculum Subcommittee, the Trainer Subcommittee, and the Program/Workshop Subcommittee, who helped make all of the above happen.

But wait – our work is not yet finished for the year. Throughout the month of November we will be presenting six Report Writing Workshops throughout the state (see more information elsewhere in this issue or visit our website). And we are beginning our work already for next year’s summer training season. It will be here before we know it.

Again, thanks so much to all my fellow trainers and other volunteers for your hard work in making this the best ever CGJA training season. Job well done!



San Bernardino Training – Trainer Lew Avera speaking to the San Bernardino pool of jurors in the San Bernardino Court training facility in Rancho Cucamonga

Continuity and Response Monitoring

By Jerry Lewi, Lead Trainer, Continuity

At this year's training seminars we introduced some new ideas about monitoring final report responses by identifying three levels as follows:



1. Monitoring for procedural compliance: Determining if the responses have met the legal requirements for timeliness, response format, and content as defined in PC §933 and §933.05. If they do not, the jury may request that the court insist on a legally adequate response. Alternatively, the jury may conduct a new investigation and publish a follow-up report that will focus additional attention on any public agency that failed to comply with the legally mandated response format and content.

2. Monitoring for responsiveness: Determining if the response reflected that the entity understood the issues in the report, responded accordingly, and provided a response that was clear and not evasive. If the jury wishes the entity to readress the issues, the only action possible is to initiate a new investigation and issue another report on the topic.

3. Monitoring for implementation: This is the most difficult area for the sitting jury to address as significant time may elapse before it is possible to verify whether the entity has done what it stated it would do.

Implementation review is often done by organizations outside the grand jury itself such as a CGJA chapter. There are, however, examples of grand juries that have conducted investigations and published reports on implementation of prior grand jury recommendations. Only a grand jury has follow-up investigative authority.

In our Continuity Workshops at all regional seminars and some on-site seminars, we polled jurors on practices and were gratified to learn that most juries are practicing some form of response monitoring. As we learned about this, another thought came to us: An important reason for grand juries to monitor responses over the years is for the jury in each county to keep track and publicize the cumulative positive effect grand juries have had over the years. Thus each grand jury, perhaps in collaboration with a CGJA chapter in their county, could publish its own *Grand Jury Achievement Report*, rather than rely solely on the CGJA Report that records achievements from all counties.

We would be interested in any feedback on this idea.

Bay Area Celebrates Three Years of Regional Meetings

by: Beate Boultinghouse, VP SF Chapter

The Bay Area chapters of the CGJA held their first regional meeting after Dan Mufson cajoled members to join him on Saturday, August 28, 2010. Twenty three people from seven counties attended. They discussed such things as communications with court and staff, continuity, recruitment of jurors and how

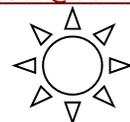
effective this meeting was. There was a resounding approbation of the gathering that three months later, the second regional meeting was held.

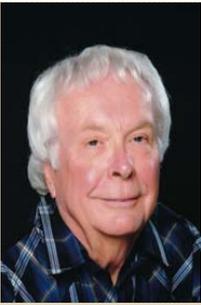
On August 24, 2013, the Bay Area chapters celebrated three years of quarterly meetings. Twenty two people from eight Bay Area chapters attended. In addition, members from Tulare, Santa Cruz, and Fresno drove more than four hours each that they might attend.

There is rarely a guest speaker, but at this session, Fiona Ma, former California Assemblywoman and member of the San Francisco Board of Supervisors was our guest. She told the group how to look for supervisors' pet issues, and either address them in a current jury report or point them to recent reports on the topic. They may perceive the report as giving their stance strength when speaking of issues to their constituents and other legislators.

Ms Ma also suggested that the CGJA send copies of reports to legislators in Sacramento along with links to the CGJA web site, brochures about the grand jury, and perhaps a newsletter. This can inform them of issues in their districts when they run for the local elections. This will also heighten awareness of the grand jury at the state level. This may also be done for the California Press Association to increase awareness in the media.

The next Bay Area regional meeting will be November 16, 2013. For more information, please contact me at beateb4@aol.com.





**Board
of
Directors
Actions**

August 27, 2013

By Jim Ragan,
Secretary

Made the Annual Conference Committee a standing committee of CGJA. It had previously been an ad hoc committee.

Approved that the 2014 Membership Meeting and Annual Conference be held in Burbank, CA, November 12-14, 2014, hosted by the Los Angeles Chapter of CGJA.

Created the position of Assistant Treasurer and appointed Bonnie Kenk to serve in that capacity.

Approved the petition from CGJA members residing in San Joaquin County to become a Chapter of CGJA.



New Members

| Name | County |
|--------------------------|-------------|
| Peter M. Talia | Lassen |
| Ben Kelly | Madera |
| Hilary Wardlaw | Napa |
| Lixya Preston De Silva | San Diego |
| Anne Sturz | San Diego |
| Kenneth Buck | San Joaquin |
| John D. Britto | San Joaquin |
| Gordon Allen Deckelmeier | San Joaquin |
| James du Clair | San Joaquin |
| Larry Graser | San Joaquin |
| Louis Meyer | San Joaquin |
| Karen Migliori | San Joaquin |
| Donald S. Romero | San Joaquin |
| S. Gene Shibata | San Joaquin |
| Gary Spaug | San Joaquin |
| Patricia Stump | San Joaquin |
| Chuck Walker, Sr. | San Joaquin |

PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT

By Keath North, Chair



The Board's recent approval of the PR Committee's outreach to our former Introductory Members, using the email management services of Constant Contact, has been met with considerable success. The rate of both "opens" and "clicks" far exceeds industry averages for non-profit organizations like CGJA. By providing these former grand jurors with a link to read the current issue of *The Grand Jurors' JOURNAL*, we can keep them informed and up-to-date on the activities of CGJA, as well as the challenges we face.

Elsewhere in this issue of the *JOURNAL*, are some comments and suggestions regarding our website, www.cgja.org. The PR Committee appreciates and honors all such constructive criticism and pledges to take each and every one under consideration. Thanks to all you Chapter presidents that responded.

One of the most telling observations expressed is that many of our members don't visit the site very often, only when they are searching for a specific piece of information. I can't let this opportunity pass to tout our social media sites for ease of staying abreast of breaking news. On most days, a media article is posted that not only is scrolled on the website, but also is published to Facebook, LinkedIn and Twitter. When you subscribe to one of these services, you allow us to deliver grand jury news to you.

One of the benefits of being able to manage the content of our website "in-house" is our ability to rapidly make changes and improvements without depending on outside professionals to make those changes. The PR Committee is fortunate to have three members currently qualified to operate the content management system, but we continually are looking for volunteers to learn the system and join the website management team. If you have any experience with Drupal website development, or have an interest in learning our content management system, please contact me at knorth@cgja.org.

**TAX-FREE IRA ROLLOVER OPPORTUNITY
TO EXPIRE SOON**

Fiscal-Cliff Bill Restores Tax-Free IRA Distributions

As part of the American Taxpayer Relief Act (ATRA) of 2012, individuals aged 70½ or older may make **tax-free transfers** up to \$100,000 from an IRA to non-profit organizations for the 2013 tax year. The transfer must be made directly by your IRA custodian. Gifts for the 2013 tax year must be made by December 31, 2013. These transfers can fulfill some or all of your required minimum distribution **without increasing taxable income**.

The California Grand Jurors' Association, is recognized by the U.S. Internal Revenue Service and the State of California as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, tax identification number #33 0079227.

Please consider making a gift to the California Grand Jurors' Association. The Fund Development Committee of the CGJA encourages you to contact your tax advisor right away to obtain the proper transfer form(s).

Related questions, please contact:

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**The Mission
of the
California
Grand Jurors'
Association
is**

**To promote government
accountability by
improving the training
and
resources available to
California's
58 regular grand juries
and
educating the public about
the substantial local
government oversight
and
reporting powers
these grand juries have**

**Format for submitting
letters and articles to the
Grand Jurors' Journal**

Articles submitted by e-mail should be saved in Rich Text Format (.rtf) and transmitted as an attachment to Jerry Lewi, editor@cgja.org
See more detailed instructions on our website, <http://cgja.org/submit-article>

Limit Letters to the Editor to 200 words.

Limit opinion articles by readers, experts, and issues advocates to 600 words.

We are especially interested in articles on Grand Jury issues or solutions to improving public education of the grand jury system in California

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Opinions: The views expressed in the Grand Jurors' Journal are those of the writers unless otherwise stated.

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