

California Grand Jurors' Association
Board of Directors Meeting – April 26, 2011
MINUTES*

Call to Order & Roll Call:

The roll was taken and the meeting began at 7:02 P.M.

Present: Boultinghouse (7:04), Caranci, Hoffman, Lewi, Mufson, Noce, North, Petersen,
 Small
Absent: Hern(excused); Landi(excused); Trautman-absent
Chairpersons: Phillips-absent; Mattea(excused)
Members: None

Agenda and Comments:

B-1 Agenda Approval: North

 A motion was made by Director Small, seconded by Director Hoffman and unanimously passed by voice vote to approve the Agenda.

B-2 Member Comment (maximum 10 minutes total)
 None

Consent Item

C-1 Approval of 3/22/11 CGJA Board Meeting Minutes: A motion was made by Director Small, seconded by Director Petersen and unanimously passed by voice vote to approve the Agenda.

C-2 Acknowledge approved Committee Minutes and reports in 4/26/11 packet and transmitted via email: North

Officer and Committee Chair Reports:

D-1 Legislative Affairs Committee – Director Hoffman gave an abbreviated report in the absence of Director Trautman: The emphasis is to prepare documentation of the great expense that AB 622 will confer on the counties. Numerous support documents and copies of letters sent by members and Judges are posted on our website. Director Boultinghouse suggested that a form letter be provided to facilitate sending correspondence to the Appropriations Committee. Director Caranci suggested that people cut and paste to customize letters. AB 1133 has passed the Appropriations Committee and moved on to the Assembly.

D-2 Public Relations Committee – Lewi: The website team is being challenged to learn the methods of modifying the web pages in the new format. Director North said that the current pages are a learning tool so that we can be self-sufficient going forward. We are on target for June to have a functioning new site. Director Caranci asked how to view the current work-in-progress. It is available at www.Cgja.dividential.com. Apparently this site cannot be accessed from some versions of Internet Explorer. President North suggested that Mozilla Firefox be employed. A canine friend of a Director seconded this suggestion by a bark. The Committee has been supporting the LAC on AB 622 and is currently reviewing their procedures for Director Small's Committee.

D-3 Membership Relations Committee – Mufson: Chair Mufson reported the disappointing news that only four Introductory Members had applied to date for full voting membership and that it was time to evoke Plan B. The MRC will discuss direct communication with IM at its next meeting. He suggested that most IM are too busy in April writing reports to consider joining. Several Directors agreed (North, Hoffman).

D-4 Training Committee – Caranci: The committee has really been busy planning and coordinating for 17 different seminars! The curriculum review is continuing to fine tune the manuals of which over a thousand will be required this year. Director Caranci described the massive coordination effort to book conference rooms and hotel rooms for the trainers at so many sites. With great pride she announced that we would be offering the training in the smallest northern county, Modoc, for the first time and, in fact, would be holding the training in three of the four corners of California (Del Norte and Imperial). Due to some controversy reported in an Alturas Blog, the Modoc Court was sympathetic to allowing us to provide our training this year.

D-5 Finance Committee – Phillips: In the absence of the Chair, Treasurer Hoffman reported that she had sent the required information to our accountant in Watsonville for filing of federal and state tax returns.

D-6 Awards Committee – Mattea: Director Small is the Vice Chair and reported on the draft minutes.

D-7 Policy Review Committee – Small: The goal is to develop a real policy manual that all can agree to rather than the 2006 manual and sometimes use of the Red Book.

Procedures should be clearly written so that succeeding members will know what to do. President North cited the step-by-step procedures recently prepared for the EIR Awards as a good example. Director Hoffman said the procedures must be written but not every alteration needs to have Board approval. President North concurred that the Board shouldn't get involved with procedures unless there was an obvious need; no micromanaging. Director Caranci reiterated that procedures would get committee approval not Board approval.

Action Agenda

E-1 Approve President's appointment to fill vacancy - Southern Region Director
President North

Recommended Action

Move to approve President's appointment of Director Mac Small to fill the vacancy in the Southern Region created by the resignation of Director Meredith Avery. The term will expire in 2012.

Directors Comments

Director Lewi asked if Mac would help to revitalize the Monterey Chapter.

The motion was approved unanimously by a roll call vote.

E-2 Creating special annual award in memory of Robert Geiss
Betty Mattea, Awards Committee Chair, and Jerry Lewi, Director

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Approve the creation of an annual award to be known as the Bob Geiss Award for Excellence in Report Writing.

Directors Comments

President North sent this Action item on April 21 to the Board for consideration with the following note: "The urgency is the desire to announce this new award to the people gathered at Bob's memorial service on May 21st." In the absence of Chair Mattea, Director Lewi spoke to the purpose of the Action. President North asked for a clarification whether this award would rename the existing EIR Award. Director Lewi said it would be a secondary award to honor

Bob's long time commitment to effective report writing. Director Boultinghouse asked what our policy was to name awards for deceased members. Director Lewi explained that we have honored past achievements by creating the Angelo Rolando and Jack Zepp Awards and the Daye Index. President North suggested we might consider creating memorial section on our website; that the intent of consolidating the Awards Committee last year was to limit the number of awards; that he was concerned that we would run out of awards to name for future efforts. He said he was hoping that we would name the CGJA after him (some day). Director Hoffman said that some individuals had been instrumental in growing the CGJA.

Director Mufson proposed an amendment to name this award the Robert Geiss Excellence in Reporting Award as the primary award for best report. Second: Director Lewi. Mufson reported that Sarah Simpson (Chair, EIR Awards) and he felt that it would be unwieldy to tease out and reward a well-written report that did not result in community benefit and recognition. Director Small, Vice Chair of the Awards Committee, said that this action was not reviewed/vetted by the Awards Committee; the Action should go back to the Awards Committee for discussion; he had only found out about the proposal via the email to the Board on April 21. Director Lewi agreed that it had not been fully vetted but that there had been some discussion. It was mentioned that Director Lewi had been asked to preside at a memorial service for Bob Geiss and wanted to be able to announce that the CGJA was honoring Bob.

The question was called on the amendment with the following roll call votes:

Aye: Caranci, Hoffman, Lewi, Mufson,
Nay: Boultinghouse, Noce, Petersen
Abstention: North, Small

President North changes his vote to aye, which resulted in the passage of the Amendment.

The motion to create the Robert Geiss Award for Excellence in Reporting was approved by a roll call vote:

Aye: Boultinghouse, Caranci, Hoffman, Lewi, Mufson, North, Petersen
Nay: Noce
Abstention: Small

Directors Comments

President North reported that we would soon switch to a different conferencing system.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:13 P.M. The next meeting is May24, 2011.

Information Items Submitted Directly by Sponsor

- H-1 Committee Roster: Landi
- H-2 Critical date reminder: North
- H-3 Budget/Actual- March, 2011: Hoffman
- H-4 Training Schedule-2011: Caranci

Submitted by,
Daniel Mufson

*The meeting was not recorded.