



ELECTION EDITION 2022



CGJA Grand Jurors' Journal Vol. 23, No. 4, August 2022

NEW FACES - MEET THE CANDIDATES



Jim Glover, North



Shirley Boracci, North



Gary Cooper, Central



Robert Finlayson, Central



Henry Rible, South



Larry Herbst, South

These folks are running for the CGJA Board of Directors. **This edition of the *Journal* serves as your Voter Information Pamphlet.** Please keep it until you have voted. You will get an email notification in August.

CGJA Board Elections Begin on August 15th

Keep on the lookout for your ballot on **August 15th** and be sure to submit your vote. Ballots will arrive via email and, as always the elections will be by region. Each ballot will contain a link to the candidate statements. Statements are also on the [website](#).

You can simply check the box of the candidate(s) you favor, or write in a candidate of your choice. If a paper ballot is desired, simply request one by email, nominations@cgja.org. *Be sure to leave your complete mailing address.*

All eligible voters must be "members in good standing," i.e. dues are current, as of July 31, 2022. Send questions to nominations@cgja.org.

Candidate statements begin on the next page.

Director Candidate Statements

South Region

Henry Rible (San Luis Obispo)

I am currently a member of CGJA’s board of directors for the south region of California, having been appointed to fill the board seat after the previous occupant resigned prior to the expiration of the term. I am now seeking a full two-year term as director. I am active on the Membership and Chapter Relations committee, as well as the Public Relations Committee.

In addition to being a member and regional director of CGJA, I am a member of the San Luis Obispo County Chapter of the California Grand Jurors’ Association and currently serve on its board of directors.

I was a member of the San Luis Obispo County Grand Jury for four years during the years 2013-19, the last year as foreperson.



Larry Herbst (San Luis Obispo)

I began grand jury service in July 2013 in Luis Obispo County. I served as committee chair, was the original author of several reports and participated on the editorial committee. I was then named by the presiding judge as foreperson for the 2014-15 panel. Since my jury service ended in 2015, I have participated as an at-large board member of the SLO County Chapter of CGJA and am a current member of the chapter.

In September 2015, I joined the Public Relations Committee of CGJA and have been an active member assuming the duties of webmaster in January 2017. During 2017, I was tasked by the board to lead the Website Revitalization Committee which culminated in November with the launch of a new website designed with new graphics and improved navigation.

I have served as a CGJA director since November 2016 representing the south region and served as CGJA President from 2018-20. I am currently the Vice-President of CGJA and am most humbly honored to have been named the Angelo Rolando Service Award winner in 2021. As a continuing board member, I would work to continue to enhance the value CGJA provides to the 58 counties.

I believe an effective way to accomplish that as an organization is to add to the membership and recruiting key skills, resulting in increased support and growth of CGJA and its chapters. Our recent initiative to increase Grand Jury Awareness across the entire state is vital to help recruit new grand jurors and enable the counties to be most effective as a watchdog function. I will work to add to the repertoire of resources provided to chapters and sitting juries throughout the state by expanding the capabilities and usefulness of the CGJA website. I will continue to strive to bring enhanced value to the CGJA board with the ultimate goal of providing the best service to our membership.

With the support of your vote, I will endeavor diligently to promote and protect the grand jury system in California.

Central Region

Gary Cooper (San Joaquin)

I was fortunate to have been selected to serve on the 2018-19 Civil Grand Jury in San Joaquin County as pro-tempore. Having the desire to serve the community has always been a passion of mine, and to serve a capacity that could have a lasting, meaningful, and positive impact is almost unimaginable.

I returned to serve on the civil grand jury for the next two terms as foreperson. And, like many others who serve with CGJA, I found working within the grand jury system to be extremely rewarding. I joined the CGJA training team at the end of my 2021 jury term. I’ve served on the Training Committee, the Program Administration Subcommittee, and the Nominations-Elections Committee. I am also the president of the San Joaquin County Chapter of the CGJA.

I retired from a career in operations management in the transportation industry. There were many unforeseen challenges and opportunities that gave me the benefit of knowing how to use a number of resources to meet established goals and objectives. I intend to bring that mindset to the board. One of the most important things I learned is how important it is to get things done through people, which is the best product CGJA has to offer: qualified people – dedicated to serving.

I will work to continue to grow the organization and to develop our civil grand juries through responsible training, engagement, encouragement, and leading by example. I certainly appreciate being considered for this position.



Robert Finlayson (Contra Costa)



In my first term as director for the central region, I have worked in the following ways to achieve the goal of improving the grand jury system:

- Regularly attended local chapter meetings of Contra Costa County CGJA Chapter plus San Joaquin County Chapter on one occasion.
- Proposed the expansion of the volunteer county clerk position that currently exists in Santa Cruz County to Contra Costa County and assisted in gaining court approval for this very helpful program.
- Continued to learn more about how all of California counties work as a trainer for the CGJA.
- Chaired the new CGJA Jury Effectiveness Workgroup that is exploring new ways to promote the effectiveness of grand jury reports, working with Josh Franco, Assistant Professor Cuyamaca College and his student staff and others to create a statewide database that would capture findings and recommendations from all 58 county grand jury reports, along with the responses to same.
- Served on the CGJA Training Committee, the Public Relations Committee and attended the monthly statewide meetings of the current board of directors.

I look forward to continuing to represent the CGJA central region and to further advance the effectiveness of grand juries in the future.

North Region

Jim Glover (Humboldt)

I have worked over 50 years in retail, first as a drugstore clerk, then primarily in supermarkets, working for local independents and chains in all capacities, with many years in management. I have learned how much people really value an honest, sincere relationship.

Over time, I broadened my horizons to give back to my community. I served on the Eureka Redistricting Advisory Committee. I have served four terms as chair of the Humboldt County Human Rights Commission and was recently reelected to a fifth term, advising the Board of Supervisors.

I have added grand jury service to my efforts, serving one initial term in 2015-16 and then three different terms as foreperson. The most recent term is the current one that was greatly impacted by the pandemic. Our current jury started late and will have served 16 months. I am currently secretary-treasurer of the Humboldt County Chapter of the CGJA.

I pride myself on common sense and the good fortune of expressing myself well in public gatherings. While I have lived away from Humboldt a couple of times, my heart and my thinking have been shaped by the small community in which I grew up.

I have lived in Eureka for the last 27 years. I have the time and energy to continue serving my community. I believe CGJA can continue to broaden its influence in counties up and down the state and I wish to be part of that process.



Shirley Boracci (Glenn)



I am a retired banker, my career of 30+ years was wonderful and a great learning experience. I started out as a part-time teller; curiosity kept me working my way to become a commercial lending officer. After retirement, looking for things to do, I joined a couple of non-profit organizations. Then, I was asked to be on the Glenn County Grand Jury. In 2001-02, I chaired two committee investigations. In 2005-06 I had another term as a Grand Juror. I was secretary of the jury in 2017-18 and then foreperson in 2018-19. Currently I am the secretary/treasurer of the 2021-22 jury.

I have been a director for the north region for the past two years. In 2021 I was chairperson of the Noinations Elections Committee; currently I am co-chair of Membership and Chapter Relations Committee (MCRC) and a member of Program Administration Subcommittee (Training).

With the help of other past Glenn County Grand Jurors, we created our CGJA Chapter in 2019. I am currently president. We have made PowerPoint presentations about the grand jury to local community clubs/organizations. Recently we secured a Grand Jury Awareness banner that hangs across the main street at different times during the year.

Everything is a learning process, and I am learning how to support grand jury awareness. As a member of the MCRC, I help with chapter involvement, recruitment of new members and member retention. I will do my best to continue supporting CGJA and to encourage the populace to become involved.

2022 Annual Conference Ready for Prime Time!

by Lloyd Bell, Chair, Annual Conference Committee

October 23-24, 2022 – be in San Rafael for the **39th CGJA Annual Conference and Membership meeting**. The theme is ***Celebrating Grand Jury Successes at the Local Level***. Review the program and registration information [here](#) (scroll down).

The conference opens Sunday afternoon, October 23, at 1 p.m. with a keynote address by **Ethan Rarick**, Executive Director of the **Little Hoover Commission**.

Following the keynote, we will receive an update on the state of the association from CGJA President Lou Panetta, be introduced to the newly elected CGJA officers and directors, and meet the winners of the **Excellence in Reporting Awards**.

Closing out the afternoon portion of the program, Public Relations Chair, Juliana Jones, will discuss the Committee's statewide grand jury awareness initiative.

As a finale to the first day's program, this year's **Angelo Rolando Service Award** recipient will be revealed at our gala Sunday evening banquet (cost included in your conference registration).

The conference reconvenes at 9 a.m. Monday morning, October 24, and will feature panel discussions about the utilization of former grand jurors as assistants to seated grand juries, and another panel discussing best practice ideas that can make our local chapters and associations more effective.

We will hear updates from the Grand Jury Effectiveness Workgroup and the Diversity Study Workgroup. There will be time for member comments, a Q&A session, and closing remarks from our newly elected CGJA President.

Along with the updates, presentations, and speakers that will challenge and inspire us, we are bringing back our **silent auction** – a fun, well-received hit over the years. Chapters and Associations are encouraged to create gift baskets containing products that represent the bounty of their county, such as olive oils or preserved olives, wine, dried fruits and nuts, or holiday floral arrangements. Auction baskets will be displayed throughout Sunday afternoon until the conclusion of the Sunday evening dinner, so there will be plenty of time to review the items during the day before selecting a favorite

If you can provide a description of the donation in advance, it will help our committee prepare bid sheets. Send it to annualconference@cgja.org. Donors will be recognized in the Annual Conference Program if the information is received by September 15, 2022.

Plan to bring your silent auction item with you when you arrive for the conference. We look forward to having a lot of fun with this, and your participation promise will be cheerfully received and appreciated in advance.

The **Embassy Suites, San Rafael**, is a newly renovated facility minutes from Northgate Mall and the Marin County Civic Center. It is located between the wine country and San Francisco, putting the Golden Gate Bridge, Bay Area attractions, and Sonoma wineries within a 30-minute drive. A two-room suite, free made-to-order breakfast, and complimentary evening receptions add to your enjoyment of this fine conference venue.

Take time today to register for the conference. We're looking forward to seeing you in person again and renewing old acquaintances!



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 questions we receive from grand jurors. However, most grand juries are just getting started and have recently taken part in CGJA's two-day training seminar, so we won't be answering any questions in this month's Journal. But for future issues, you can submit your questions to me at cgjatraining@cgja.org. Our response to your edited or redacted question might appear in a future edition of the Journal.

CGJA wishes to extend a special welcome to all 2022-23 grand jurors who have signed up as introductory or paid members for this year. And we would like to remind you of the resources available to you from CGJA via our [website](#) and your training manual.

Under **Jury Resources** on our website [home page](#), you will find these helpful tools and resources:

Frequently Asked Questions: These are common questions asked by jurors. The answers come from our Legal and Legislative Resources Committee (LLRC), and they can help you understand the law and the grounds for our best practice recommendations.

Local Government Information: This page provides links to many government and other agency websites that have to do with various local governments.

Sample Documents: We spoke a great deal about this page in our seminars. There are nearly 100 useful documents on a variety of subjects on this page. You may download and use these as is or modify them. Our thanks to the many grand juries who have shared these documents.

Your **2022-23 CGJA Training Manual** should continue to be a resource for you throughout the year. You will find

- useful information about the law in Tab 2,
- more about local government entities in Tab 3,
- information on ethics and transparency in Tab 4,
- how to conduct grand jury investigations and interviews in Tabs 5 and 6,
- information on writing reports in Tab 7.
- Tab 8 contains additional resources and a glossary.

We hope you will take advantage of all our available resources. We welcome questions and comments about any topic related to our training program or to the civil aspects of grand jury work.

Have a great grand jury term – we look forward to reading your reports this time next year.

Letters

Send your thoughts or opinions on CGJA or grand jury matters to editor@cgja.org.

July Chapter Presidents' (and Others) Meeting by Barbara Sommer, Editor

Plan on attending the annual conference in October and let us know beforehand about your activities for expanding grand jury awareness and how you have been working with the courts. Be on the panels!

These words from CGJA President, Lou Panetta, opened the July 20, 2022, online meeting of chapter and association officers and members. Representatives from twelve chapters and one association (Orange) met with Panetta and Membership and Chapter Relations Committee (MCRC) chair, Diane Lloyd, to discuss issues relevant to their concerns.

Training Committee chair, Marsha Caranci, updated participants on this year's training. "Everybody's back in business." The trainers are very busy, and the program is going well.

Lloyd (MCRC) outlined an incentive program, perhaps involving subsidized memberships, to get more chapter members to join CGJA and participate in the activities of the association. The subsequent discussion yielded very helpful suggestions from chapter representatives. Further developments will be unveiled soon.

The next topic dealt with financial support from the county superior court for grand jury outreach efforts. Shasta County has a memorandum of understanding with the court that allows them to bill for recruitment activities. See [Shasta County Chapter-Court Personal Services](#) listed under **Juror Recruitment**.

There was general agreement that court personnel have more money than time to spend on grand jury recruitment. Thus, there might be a willingness in other counties for the courts to similarly subsidize chapter involvement. A panel at the annual conference in October will explore this issue further, along with other aspects of the chapter-court relationship.

During the open discussion at the end of the meeting Al Witten described intensified implementation efforts by the Placer County Grand Jury (*more on continuity in the next issue of the Journal – ed.*).

Juliana Jones, chair of the Public Relations Committee (PRC), said that the committee is preparing a modifiable template for chapter use promoting grand jury month. It will be sent to chapter/association presidents in advance of February.

She also requested that chapter Facebook pages be linked to that of the CGJA by a "like." In turn, CGJA will "like" yours with a hopeful result of increased readership. An article in the [June 2022 CGJA Journal](#) provides more detail (see page 7).

Panetta pointed out that we need volunteers who understand social media, and the Membership and Chapter Relations Committee needs more members.

The Chapter Officers' meetings have been held every 3 months. However, we will not meet in October and instead, hope to see all of you in-person at the annual conference for a vibrant exchange of ideas.



Angelo Rolando Service Award Nominations Due

Deadline is 8/26/22. Click [here](#) for details.

Excellence in Reporting Award Nominations

by Barbara Sommer, EIR Subcommittee Chair

This year we received three nominations for CGJA's **Best Grand Jury Report** award and one for the **Best News Media Coverage** award. The four-member Excellence in Reporting Subcommittee of the CGJA Awards Committee is reviewing them.

See the [award criteria](#). The winners will be introduced at the [annual conference](#) in San Rafael on October 23, 2022.

Here are summaries of the nominations. View the list of [past award recipients](#).

BEST GRAND JURY REPORT

SACRAMENTO

(2020-21) [Del Paso Manor Water Dist. \(DPMWD\) Flooded with Public Safety Dangers](#)

(2021-22) [Sacramento County Grand Jury Status Review: Del Paso Manor Water District](#)

The report tells the cautionary tale of a small and troubled special district with a storyline that could readily apply to other special districts whose failings have not yet come to public awareness. It spotlights the "we are not legally required to assist" mentality of some elected leaders and heads of local and state agencies. The investigative report, agency responses, and subsequent April 2022 status review expose a deficiency in the current grand jury model and provide a remedy by incorporating the continuity report functions within the same grand jury term.

SAN BERNARDINO (2019-20) [County of San Bernardino Economic Development Department](#)

On the eve of the worst global pandemic in a century, the degree of preparedness at the San Bernardino County Economic Development Department (charged with leading both the county's business growth as well as recovery from such a potential calamity) could mean the difference between permanent economic disaster and the kind of rapid, organized, and effective recovery strategies needed to save the county's businesses. The grand jury found that the department was woefully unprepared and understaffed to handle the impending crisis.

SAN FRANCISCO (2020-21) [Van Ness Avenue: What Lies Beneath](#)

The grand jury uncovered a hornet's nest of city government inefficiencies and brought to the city's attention millions of dollars in budget overages on the Van Ness project. It made the front page of the local paper and received the most press of any grand jury report in San Francisco.

BEST NEWS MEDIA REPORTING

SACRAMENTO (2021-22) Genoa Barrow, reporter for [The Observer](#) (Sacramento), for her extensive, unbiased, and continuing coverage of the grand jury's investigative report [Sacramento County Board of Supervisors Abandons Responsibility for COVID-19 CARES Act Spending](#). This scathing report details the apparent misappropriation of \$181 million dollars in COVID-19 CARES Act funds and examines the questionable actions of the supervisors during the worldwide pandemic.

The journalist conducted herself with integrity and provided the community with access to critical information during a worldwide pandemic. Without this journalistic candor and honesty, the story might have devolved into a "he said" "she said" quagmire with resulting dissipation of public interest. The misuse of public funds might not have come to light.

Note: *The nomination materials are retained by the subcommittee chair. A nomination may be resubmitted in 2023 for reports and/or coverage dated 2018 or later (5-year window).*

Recent Board Actions

By unanimous email vote, June 6, 2021

Approved letter that we will be sending to various legislators regarding Assembly Bill 1972.

Board Meeting, June 28, 2022

Approved 2022 Director Election Ballots.

Adopted amendments to Policies 2.20, 4.60, 5.20, 6.40, 11.10, 11.30, 14.10, and 21.00.

Adopted amendments to Policies 10.10, 10.20, 10.30, and 10.40. Added Policy 10.50, Memorial Funds.

Adopted amendments to Policies 16.30, 16.50, and 16.60.

All approved board meeting minutes are available on the CGJA [website](#).

NOTE: We encourage members to attend meetings of the board of directors. They are held on the fourth Tuesday of the month via Zoom (no meetings in July and rarely in December). The agenda along with Zoom information is available a week before the meeting. [Read more](#).

Keep us Posted

Send us your chapter or association news and accomplishments. Format articles in Word and send as email attachments to Barbara Sommer editor@cgja.org. For more details see [How to submit an article](#).

DEADLINE for submitting articles for publication in the next issue

September 26, 2022

Change of address - Please notify the editor@cgja.org of any email address changes.

Editor: [Barbara Sommer](#). Publications support: CGJA Public Relations Committee. The views expressed in the *Grand Jurors' Journal* are those of the writers unless otherwise stated. The CGJA Board of Directors disclaims any liability arising from errors or omissions. The Editor has the right to accept, edit, or reject submitted articles. ©2022 All rights reserved.

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The mission of the CGJA is to promote, preserve, and support the grand jury system through training, education, and outreach.

Contacts: [Officers and directors](#), chapter and association [presidents](#).