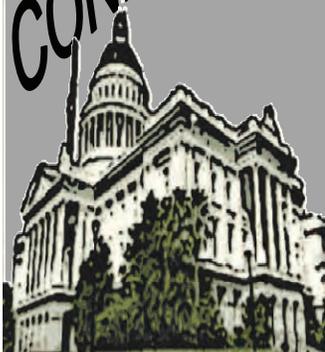


2009
annual
CONFERENCE



Grand Jurors' Journal



Sacramento, CA
late October
or
Early November

Watch our website
and
future
Grand Jurors' Journals
for more
information
regarding Meeting
Location, Schedule,
Speakers, Panels
and Panelists,
and Registration
Forms

If you have any
questions or suggestions
contact

Catherine McKown
(Marin),
cdmac1@aol.com

or

Jerry Lewi
(Ventura),

cgjaprguy@Roadrunner.com

President's Message

By Tony Noce

It is indeed a pleasure to report to you what we as a board, supported by our standing committees, have accomplished these past two months.

I am very pleased to announce that the 27th CGJA Annual Conference is now available for your viewing on the CGJA website. This is an opportunity for those who were not able to attend in person to view the conference. I know you will find it a very rewarding and informative experience. I want to express my personal thanks to the many individuals whose efforts made this dream a reality of bringing the conference to the whole membership.



CGJA has officially designated the month of February as Grand Jury Awareness Month. In support of this I have asked the Governor to once again proclaim February as "California Grand Jury Awareness Month". I urge all members to move forward in pursuing the support of their local governments in seeking public proclamations in acknowledging the work their county grand jury does for their citizens. This can be accomplished by simply asking your Board of Supervisors and/or City Council to issue a proclamation. Samples and support information can be found by going to the CGJA website and clicking on "Wall of Fame."

It is with great pleasure that I officially announce the formation of a new CGJA Chapter in Sacramento. With this year's annual conference being held in Sacramento we look forward to the support of the new chapter members in producing another rewarding and meaningful conference.

As a kick off for the annual statewide training program, CGJA's Training Committee presented its first training session in January for the Monterey County grand jurors.

CGJA's board has voted to replace its regular February board meeting with a face-to-face board retreat followed by a Regularly Scheduled Board Meeting on February 22, 2009, in Sacramento, California. We are anxious to meet both informally and formally to review the organization in a more productive atmosphere.

My sincere appreciation goes out to all the directors and committee chairs that are willing to make personal sacrifices in both their time and money to work towards improving the CGJA organization.

I am pleased to announce we have made great progress in implementing our successorship program by involving more members as committee chairs and vice chairs. Over forty members have volunteered to work on committees. A special thanks goes to our standing committee chairs: Bob Geiss of Legislative Affairs, John Mainland of Membership Relations, Jerry Lewi of Public Relations and Lew Avera, Jr. of Training.

MEET DIRECTOR Marsha Caranci



Marsha grew up in Colorado, graduated from Colorado State University, and moved to California with her husband in 1976. They owned and operated a veterinary hospital in the bay area for 25 years, then retired and moved to Redding in 2000. Marsha and her husband, Bary, are avid fly fishers, and are active in the fly fishing community. Marsha has served in various board positions for local community groups in Redding and has been involved in planning fundraisers, festivals, outings, and educational programs for several volunteer organizations.

Marsha served on the Shasta County Grand Jury as Pro-Tem in 2001-2002 and as Foreperson in 2002-2003. She served on the Editorial, Audit and Finance, Local Government, Public Safety, Continuity, Health and Human Services and Ad-Hoc Committees. She was instrumental in rewriting

continued on page 10

Presidents' Message continued from page 1

Addressing how to do more with fewer directors, we have reduced our standing committees to four. The responsibilities of those committees that have been dissolved will be reassigned to other standing committees or work groups. The board feels by following this course of action CGJA can involve more members in activities they will enjoy doing throughout the year.

In conclusion, I once again ask that you never forget this is your organization and I extend an invitation to you to become more active in CGJA. We have lots going on as the above message exemplifies and lots more we believe needs to be done. So drop me a line and together we will find an interesting project you can exercise your talents and skills towards the betterment of the grand jury system in the State of California.

2008 Conference Follow-up

We are excited to announce that the complete video of the recent Annual Conference is now online and may be accessed at:

http://kern.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?view_id=&clip_id=752&publish_id=74&event_id=

Or, you use the link on our website. We are grateful to station KGOV, Kern County Television channel for the effort to not only record the entire conference but for editing and putting it on their website. If you want to review a particular subject use the "Jump to" command below the video screen.

Photos

In the last Journal featuring the conference we were remiss in not giving photo credits. The photos were taken by a team from Kern County consisting of Donna Noce, members of the Kern County Grand Jury and Marsha Zepeda of *The Photoge*.



Grand Jury Decision Regarding Disclosure of Grand Jury materials

By Dick Nichols

Ed. Note: *Dick is a former member and Director of CGJA. He referred this case me to and accepted my invitation to write a brief summary for the Journal. I thank him for this effort.*

On November 17, 2008, the California Supreme Court issued a decision dealing with the subject of disclosure of grand jury materials. The case is *Goldstein v. Superior Court (Los Angeles County)*. The specific holding was that "California courts do not have a broad inherent power to order disclosure of grand jury materials to private litigants."

The Goldstein case built upon two prior Supreme Court decisions: *Daily Journal Corp. v. Superior Court (1999)* and *McClatchy Newspapers v. Superior Court (1988)*. Daily Journal involved a newspaper request for disclosure to the public. McClatchy involved a proposed disclosure initiated by the Grand Jury itself, in support of its Report. In both cases the proposed disclosures were quashed.

Goldstein involved a request by a convicted felon whose conviction had subsequently been vacated, after 24 years imprisonment, because of prosecutorial misconduct in the handling of jailhouse informants. The Los Angeles County Grand Jury, in 1989, had determined in its Report that the Los Angeles District Attorney, in the 1980s, had had a conscious and deliberate policy of ignoring such misconduct. Based on that Report, Goldstein's conviction was set aside.

Whereupon Goldstein filed a civil rights action for damages, against the City of Long Beach, four Long Beach detectives, the County of Los Angeles, and two members of the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office. While he knew the general outline of the misconduct from the Grand Jury's report, he wanted specific evidence as it pertained to his particular case. He therefore sought to obtain that evidence. The Grand Jury resisted, relying on concepts of grand jury secrecy. The Superior Court

Continued on page 3

Continued from page 2

upheld the position of the Grand Jury; the State Court of Appeal reversed, holding that under these particular circumstances, the “interests of justice” required that the evidence be disclosed. Finally, the Supreme Court reversed the Court of Appeal, holding that the courts, in general, have no “inherent authority” to breach grand jury secrecy.

The Supreme Court noted that the California system differs from the federal system, in which there is express provision for disclosure of federal grand jury materials “when so directed by a court.” California has no similar provision.

The Supreme Court left open, however, the question of whether that secrecy was “absolute,” of whether upon a showing “absolute necessity” the secrecy could be breached. It simply held that Goldstein’s was not such a case.

Two concurring justices dealt with the question that the majority of the Court left open. One of them, who concurred in the majority opinion as well, noted that “the Legislature cannot preclude such [grand jury] disclosure when preclusion would deny the requesting party the right to due process guaranteed under the state and federal Constitutions.” The other one opined that a civil plaintiff could obtain transcripts of grand jury proceedings if he/she could “show (1) that the information sought is necessary to prosecute his or her claim; (2) that the information cannot reasonably be obtained through the usual means of civil discovery short of resorting to grand jury materials – ‘mere inconvenience or difficulty of proving the fact’ is not sufficient; (3) that granting the request will not undermine

the essential functions of grand jury secrecy, including that of ensuring that the disclosures will not chill the testimony of future grand jury witnesses; [and] (4) that the request is narrowly tailored to accomplish those ends.” *It should be remembered, however, that the views of the concurring justices are not, or at least not necessarily, the views of the majority of the Court.*

Goldstein is not necessarily completely out of luck, however. The Court also noted the existence of Penal Code § 924.2, which permits disclosure “only for purposes of impeachment,” but does not authorize unlimited disclosure in advance of a witness’s testimony. The Court stated: “To preserve the narrow scope of the statute, the appropriate procedure is for the witness to testify first. Counsel may then request the court to examine the transcript of that witness’s grand jury testimony in camera [in chambers], to determine if it provides potentially relevant impeachment material. If it does, the court may release the relevant pages to counsel, with a protective order restricting the use of the material to impeachment.” The Supreme Court left it to the parties and to the lower courts to work that process out.

The lesson of Goldstein is that unless there is a statutory or constitutional basis for disclosure of grand jury materials, courts cannot on their own decide that the “interests of justice” demand disclosure.



Check out our new Blog

By Kathy Wylie, Webmaster

The California Grand Jury Association is pleased to announce another resource at: <http://cgja.blogspot.com/> Or see the link on our website, www.cgja.org.

This website is an assembly of recent news articles and postings pertaining to the 58 California (regular) Grand Juries seated in each county. It is meant to serve as a reference to sitting Grand Jurors, and grand jury advisors such as the District Attorney, County Counsel and Presiding Judges.

The site is updated frequently as news articles appear in local papers, and contains interesting information about the various grand jury reports making news throughout the State of California. Check it out!

Only CGJA can add items to this Blog, but anyone finding another article of interest may submit it to workshop@mcn.org, Attn: Kathy Wylie.

CHAPTERS OF THE CALIFORNIA GRAND JURORS' ASSOCIATION Humboldt County Chapter

Ed. Note: Here is another in our series of featured CGJA Chapters, this month's choice being Humboldt County, one of our newest. The answers below were submitted by Chapter President Keath North.

Q. How did your association come into existence, and in particular, what made you decide to apply for chapter status this past year?

R. Since October of 2003, we have

Continued from page 3

met regularly as a group interested in grand jury matters. The decision to apply for chapter status was made to “legitimize” our standing in the community and to become more closely associated with like-minded individuals and groups throughout the state. In addition, the ability to raise funds, should the need arise, we felt would be enhanced by the 501(c)(3) structure the state organization offered.

Q. What is your current membership?

R. We have yet to adopt a formal dues structure, so I consider our “membership” to be those people who’ve expressed an interest to continue to receive email updates and meeting notices. They number about 80 at this point and the list grows with each year’s new jury members. Our average attendance at the regular monthly luncheon meeting is 12 – 15.

Q. What are some of your other projects, both current and future?

R. I began my term with the stated goals of (1) establishing a timely, local training for incoming jurors, (2) organize a speaker’s bureau to address petit jury assemblies as a recruitment effort, and (3) produce a DVD for recruitment and public awareness purposes. We achieved the first two, but are still working toward realizing the third goal. I’m hoping to be involved in efforts to produce a “generic” DVD that could be used by any chapter or local association in the state.

Q. You recently submitted some recent Grand Jury reports in your county that would meet the standard of an effective grand jury achievement. Can you summarize these briefly with emphasis on the improvement in government services?

R. Sure, #2004-AF-01 resulted in most city councils adopting formal ethics Codes of Conduct. #2006-HS-03 resulted in increase mental health services to persons incarcerated in the Humboldt County Correctional Facility. #2007-LJ-03 prompted the beginning of increased courthouse security. #2007-LJ-02 caused police departments in the county to equip officers with tasers. #2008-AF-02 resulted in the Board of Supervisors scheduling regular performance evaluations of appointed department heads for the first time.

Q. Do you have any recommendations of how to enhance association-chapter relations?

R. Utilize email contact as much as possible. Establish a “message board” on the CGJA website to facilitate inter-chapter communications.



PUBLICIZE THE ROLE OF GRAND JURIES

Ed Note: this letter to the editor by Walter Hofmann, a CGJA Director was published in the La Jolla Light. We include it in the Journal as an example of what CGJA members can do to publicize the role of Grand Juries throughout the state. With Grand Jury Awareness month upon us, this would be a particularly good time for such action.

Thanks to the GRAND JURY SYSTEM in California, democracy is alive and well in San Diego.

To be on the Grand Jury is quite a commitment. I did it for a year from 2004 through 2005. Every day, at least 6 hours each day. Yep! For a whole year! A valuable, eye-opening experience.

By state law we were required to

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CGJA Chapters in the News

San Mateo County Chapter

By Mike Miller, Chapter President

The San Mateo County Chapter wants your input as to how best to check on the implementation of grand jury recommendations.

Thanks to the great CGJA Bakersfield Conference, the San Mateo Sitting Foreperson Virginia Chang Kiraly made contact with us, the San Mateo County Association of Grand Jurors (SMCAGJ). She asked our Organization to assist in assuring that past Grand Jury recommendations were implemented. Virginia feels the two people she assigned to her current Continuity Committee could use some extra help.

A letter outlining this plan was sent to our active members, and although they thought the idea was outstanding, either because of family conditions or because of health problems, they were not prepared physically to help in this undertaking.

San Mateo County has many Cities and Districts and to actually read all the former GJ Reports, then go to and inspect each Department would be a major undertaking for anyone, even in the prime of his or her life.

San Mateo’s current Presiding Judge looks favorably on this plan, and hopefully he will permit our group to contact the authors of the former reports, include them in our SMCAGJ as Concerned citizens, and have them check on the Departments they reported on.

Our Vice-president Angelo Carmassi feels this continuity could be easily performed by mail and has created a generic form to accomplish this. All of you Counties that are currently involved in this type of project, please feel free to contact us and share your ideas. The beauty of this program is

Continued page 5

CGJA Chapters in the NewsContinued

Continued from page 4

that if there is a Department reluctant to answer any of our concerned citizens inquires, SMCAGJ can draw on the power of the impaneled Grand Jury to open any closed doors.

The purpose of this article is to see if, beside San Diego which has a very sophisticated program, somewhere in the other California's fifty-seven counties this work is currently being done. Please let us know if there is an existing simple procedure or form, and to we fervently ask

that this information be sent to us, namely:

**San Mateo County Association of Grand Jurors
39 De Sabla Road, San Mateo, CA. 94402**

Now that we have the ear of the current Grand Jury, we want to show them that together, we can make the Grand Jury even greater. Our resources are limited so we would start this project on a small scale. And we want to do it in a manor that doesn't impair our health. Thanks in advance for your input.

SMCAGJ. 650/344-1074

Kern County Chapter Members Elect New Board

By Chapter President, Trudy Slater

On January 15, new board members to the Kern County Chapter of the California Grand Jurors' Association were elected to serve their incoming terms. Judge Jerold L. Turner swore in the new Board Members at a brief ceremony in the County Counsel's Conference Room. .

President Trudy Slater indicated her excitement at serving in her new position. "I know I have big shoes to fill following Leone Harrison as outgoing president. The 2008 year was very busy with the Chapter hosting the statewide conference as well as continuing its normal business as usual. I hope to continue with the momentum and excitement generated by last year's activities and keeps our members interested and active."

The new directors and officers are Trudy Slater, Presi-

dent; Larry Walker, 1st Vice President; Richard Williams, 2nd Vice President; Richard Macy, Secretary; Margaret Mooney, Treasurer; and Directors Leone Harrison, Patricia Duffel, Patrice Kline, Gerald Alderete, John Mainland, Lee Koehn, Bonnie Ramsdell, and Ray Mortimer.

The Kern County Chapter of the California Grand Jurors' Association is organized exclusively for charitable and education purposes under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Review Code. Members work to preserve, enhance, and increase the public's knowledge about the grand jury system in California. Those qualifying for membership in the local chapter must have served, or are serving, on the Kern County Grand Jury. For more information, go to www.kern.cgja.org or call (661) 587-4896.



(left to right): Judge Jerold L. Turner; Board Members Richard Macy, Patrice Kline, Margaret Mooney, John Mainland, Larry Walker, Richard Williams, Trudy Slater, Patricia Duffel, and Leone Harrison

Marin County Chapter

By Catherine McKown, Chapter President



On February 21, we are celebrating the 10th Anniversary of the formation of our chapter. Our revitalization plan and goals for the coming year include the following:

- Increase opportunities for members

to participate in all activities

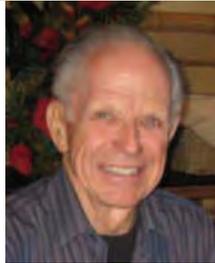
- Increase support to the sitting jury
- Increase efforts to publicize the work and accomplishments of the grand jury
- Increase efforts to attract new grand jury applicants

Continued on page 10

**Public Relations
Committee Report**

By Jerry Lewi, Chair

Our committee continues to work on several of its initiatives, inspired by much of the discussion at last October's Annual Conference



We have two Osher Lifelong Institute Learning presentations scheduled at Cal State Bakersfield on March 13-14 and UCLA on April 20-May 4 In both locations much of the effort is being handled by the local chapters, Kern and Los Angeles respectively Several other locations have shown interest.

We have had some encouraging words about the possibility of producing a generic video explaining the California Grand Jury system to the average citizen.

We are working with the GRIP working group to incorporate the GRIP index data into the Grand Jury Achievement Report database Elsewhere in this issue you will find two tables of interesting statistics that are a by-product of this effort, being led by Linda Baker.

One disappointment is that we have received almost no new items for the achievement report As an association we need to keep expanding this effort to inspire all in the grand jury community that we are a vital force in this state and intend to communicate this to the public at large Please see page 10 under Reminders for information how to submit new items for this project.

Training Committee

By Bette Flick

Since completing the summer grand jurors' training seminars, the Training Committee provided additional

instruction in Report Writing workshops to jury members in Bakersfield in October and Roseville in November 2008. A total of 88 jurors from 20 counties attended these workshops. Additionally, the incoming grand jury of Monterey County received on-site training in Grand Jury procedures on January 14 and 15, 2009.

A gathering of all the trainers will take place in Sacramento on Feb 20 and 21. At this time they will fine-tune and polish the seminar content and as well as hone their presentation skills in preparation for this year's schedule of state-wide training of newly appointed grand jurors.

2009 Training Committee Goals

1. Provide useful training for county grand juries in a timely, cost-effective manner.

- Provide at least five training venues for regional training throughout California, divided among the northern, central, and southern areas, and three venues for Foreperson Workshops.
- Provide training programs in a specific topic, such as a one-day workshop on conducting investigations, with a group of grand jurors from several counties.
- Provide two special one-day Report Writing Workshops: one each in southern and northern areas.

2. Update the seminar training manual and the training curriculum.

- Update the manual to ensure that presentations are current in accordance with current laws and government policies.
- Assure that all trainer handouts and outlines are consistent with the adopted manual outline.

3. Improve and professionalize presentations, training, and trainer capabilities.

- Assure that trainer deliveries are consistent with approved manual sections, outlines, and handouts.

- Develop a plan to cross-train trainers to be conversant with training areas other than their own with the possibility of being able to deliver more than a single program.

- Reevaluate and adopt an enhanced process for screening prospective trainers to ensure they possess the requisite speaking and delivery skills to be effective presenters.

4. Improve and enhance operations and activities which directly support the success of the Training Committee and its training programs.

- Review and update the Regional Training Seminars brochure in accordance with changes to the training curriculum and dates as identified by the Training Committee.

- Reassess pricing policies for all training programs to ensure that CGJA is realizing a proper return on investment and recovery of costs, consistent with its mission, with particular emphasis on the variable and non-scheduled special non-regional programs.



In the past many Grand Juries have been thoughtful enough to send us copies of their final consolidated report each year. With the advent of most juries putting their reports on their websites, this practice can be discontinued. If your jury does not use a website and you would like to send us a report, contact us for a proper mailing address.

We thank all grand juries who strive to keep us informed about their reports.

Letter to the Governor sent January 6, 2009 from President Tony Noce

Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger
Office of the Governor of the State of California
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Request for New Proclamation Designating
February 2009, California Grand Jury Awareness Month

Governor Schwarzenegger:

The California Grand Jurors' Association (CGJA) respectfully requests your help by issuing a follow up proclamation designating the entire month of February 2009, California Grand Jury Awareness Month.

We appreciate and thank you once again, for issuing such a Proclamation designating February 2008 California Grand Jury Awareness Month. That action signaled your interest in raising public awareness for this great institution. Understandably, raising awareness is not a one-time thing. I do not fully understand the protocol for seeking another such proclamation for this current year, this current February, so I am submitting a request similar to the one my predecessor sent last year.. If this office requires additional information, or has questions, please contact me as soon as possible.

California Grand Jurors' Association (CGJA), is a statewide public benefit organization that serves as an umbrella organization for former as well as sitting grand jurors. Our mission is to raise public awareness of California's unique grand jury system and its role as watchdog of local governments.

CGJA's principal activities include state-wide training programs for new grand jurors, as well as educating the public about the substantial government oversight and reporting powers of California's grand juries. In brief, CGJA functions to preserve protect and promote California's grand jury system.

Prior to the 19th Century every state had its own independent regular grand jury system. However, as a result of a movement to abolish this grand old system, by 1940, this system was abolished in all but two states, Nevada and California.

California's unique independent grand jury system is yet one more aspect of this great State that distinguishes it from all other states. Based upon inquiries that CGJA has received in recent years, there may be interest in other states in reviving such a system.

Although California's Constitution protects this grand jury system, there have been proposals in the legislature to greatly limit the powers of grand juries. These measures have failed, primarily because California grand juries have proven their worth in exposing local governmental corruption and wrongdoing.

One way in which CGJA promotes California's grand jury system, is by publicizing grand jury reports that have resulted in some measurable beneficial change in that county. Since it may take years before a jury's recommendations are implemented, proving this direct causal connection is imperative to perpetuating California's grand jury system. Credit where credit is due.

California's Grand Juries have no enforcement powers. The grand jury system relies solely on efforts of successor juries to monitor agencies' compliance with recommendations of the former juries. Continuity is key in the system. The County government departments and agencies that are investigated by the grand juries are perpetual. If the grand jury system were not also perpetual or perpetuated, these targeted departments and agencies would need only delay until that grand jury's term expires – and then go on – business as usual.

Well-trained jurors are also vital to perpetuating the grand jury system. In addition to its efforts to educate public officials and the general public about the contributions grand juries make to improving the effectiveness of local government agencies, CGJA provides training that is available to all new jurors. Annually CGJA provides two-day training seminars in five (5) locations statewide to provide new jurors the tools and techniques to make them effective and successful jurors.

Despite all of these efforts, the grand jury system is still endangered. Two of the greatest enemies of this system are those usual suspects: ignorance and apathy. CGJA believes that by designating the entire month of February each year as Grand Jury Awareness Month, we can successfully combat both ignorance and apathy. Further, this is the time every year (February) when the counties commence their recruitment campaigns to interest and attract new jurors.

CGJA has designated February every month as Grand Jury Awareness Month, and we are respectfully requesting that you issue a new Proclamation designating February 2009, as California Grand Jury Awareness Month. We acknowledge that the Office of Executive Writers asks that all requests be submitted thirty (30) days in advance of the date the proposed proclamation would be issued, and if the Proclamation is issued February 7th 2009, or even a few days thereafter, that will not be a problem.

Many thanks for your attention to granting this request. I am available to work with your staff on any details, or answer any questions.

Sincerely,
Tony Noce, President, CGJA

**The California Grand Jurors' Association
Annual Excellence in Reporting Awards 2009 Nomination Form**

Submitted for award to (select one):			<input type="checkbox"/> Grand Jury	<input type="checkbox"/> News Media
Name of nominee:				
Street address:				
City :		County:		ZIP:
Telephone:	Fax:	Email:		
Person submitting nomination				
Street address:				
City :		County:		ZIP:
Telephone:	Fax:	Email:		
Brief explanation why this nominee should receive the award				

Submit with this form the following information in electronic format (Rich Text Format preferred). If electronic format not available, please mail to the address below

News Media

- ✓ The nomination letter describing how the news media reporting increased awareness of the grand jury institution or increased awareness of the community of a grand jury investigation that benefited the community.
- ✓ Published reports supporting the nomination.

Grand Jury

- ✓ The nomination letter introducing the investigative report and explaining rationale for the award.
- ✓ The investigative report. *(The investigation will be judged on citizen impact, duration of the problem, agencies involved, difficulty of the investigation, and bureaucracy interference. The report will be judged on succinctness, completeness, readability, and substantiated findings and recommendations.)*
- ✓ Documentation indicating public and media support gained.
- ✓ Documentation verifying success of the investigation.

Submit application no later than July 15, 2009 to:
President Tony Noca, 2808 Houchin road, Bakersfield, CA 93304, (661) 835-7591, cjjaquy@yahoo.com

Excellence in Reporting

By Orley Ryals

Recognition for a “job well done” is good business. The **Excellence in Reporting** program of the **California Grand Jurors’ Association** does just that - recognizing quality in the categories of Grand Jury and News Media. At the annual conference exceptional work in these categories is announced and recognized. Now is the time to submit nominations for outstanding accomplishments to the **Excellence in Reporting Subcommittee**.

The **Grand Jury Award** is presented to a current or past Grand Jury and is judged according to citizen impact, duration of the problem, difficulty of investigation, quality of the written report, public and media support gained, and actual change implemented.

The **News Media Award** is presented to the print or electronic media and is judged on either of two elements: an increased public awareness of the grand jury institution or an increased awareness in the community of a grand jury investigation so that the community benefited in the investigation. Submissions may be independent of grand jury participation or in conjunction with specific grand jury investigative reports.

Action. It is recognized grand juries are approaching their peak workload in report preparations. Each grand jury and former grand juror, however, are encouraged to identify and submit the best of their county’s grand jury investigative work and news media articles for consideration by the **Excellence in Reporting Subcommittee**. The application form, **California Grand Jurors’ Association Annual Excellence in Reporting Awards Nomination Form**, is posted on the CGJA website and in this **Journal**.

Board Actions

By Joann Landi



11/25/08 Board Action Summary

Approved January-September, 2009 meeting schedule

Approved application from Sacramento CGJA members to form Sacramento Chapter
Dissolved Finance Committee and established Finance Director position

Approved President's recommendations for Committee Chairs

12/16/08 Board Action Summary

Authorized 2009 Conference Co-Chairs to negotiate conference date(s)

Eliminated Parliamentarian position

Dissolved the Operations Committee effective 2/1/09

Approved changes to Board Meeting Rules

Approved formation of an Executive Committee

Approved additional funds for litigation and attorney fees

Established reserve fund for the Training Committee

1/27/09 Board Action Summary

Rescheduled February Board Meeting to meet face-to-face on 2/22/09 in Sacramento

Approved preliminary 2009 Conference budget

Acknowledged resignation of Director/Treasurer Thomas

Publize Continued from page 4

visit every jail in the County and to report on conditions we found there and make suggestions of any changes or improvements we felt were advisable and appropriate

Any citizen can file a "Complaint" with the Grand Jury of something they believe should be investigated. "Whistle-Blowing" at its best! Each of these requests is carefully evaluated for merit, value, and handled in a careful and serious way.

Now to talk of "democracy." This is individual rights at its best. Each of the 19 jurors has an equal voice and vote. No "boss" to look over your shoulder or "veto" your hard work. Long, thorough, intensive investigation is done through the work of various committees to look at all possible areas of concern. Then deliberation is undertaken. Sometimes heated. But always with the intent of reaching a fair, reasonable, equitable recommendation that will benefit the community.

Some reports are spectacular, others very ordinary. How about getting your County tax refund or rebate in 30 days instead of nine months? How about the Probation Department sending school reports in a timely manner to the new school? How about improving the staffing of the health inspections of your local restaurant? To find out how some of these reports have benefitted you, go to the web site listed above.

After one year you will be proud of your contribution to your community. You will know one heck-of-a-lot more about your City and County. For me, it did get a bit boring at times. Ya hafta tolerate listening to some folks who enjoy their soap-box, their day-of-fame as they grand-stand their trivia. But all of this down-side will be overshadowed

by an almost inspirational feeling that you were involved with "democracy at its best" as an individual citizen.

Here's how to go about becoming a good citizen to volunteer for this valuable service:

*** **Application from** ***

www.sdcounty.ca.gov/grandjury

Go to: "Forms" Application "

Look forward to an exciting, "Democratic" experience!

Marsha Caranci Continued from page 2

the Shasta County Grand Jury Procedures Manual, has presented workshops on Grand Jury Organization and Structure, Report Writing, and Interviewing in Shasta County. She is currently the President of the Shasta County Past Grand Juror's Association. Marsha has been a member of the CGJA Training Committee since 2006, and has been a CGJA Trainer since 2004, having presented Interviewing, Investigations, and Report Writing seminars to grand juries throughout the state.

When elected to CGJA Board of Directors in October of 2008, Marsha stated: "I believe in California's grand jury system and hope that I can make a further contribution to that system by giving of my time, energy and experience to further the goals and mission of the California Grand Jurors Association. I have enjoyed meeting and working with the members of the Training Committee and my fellow trainers as we work throughout the state to train new grand jurors every year. And I look forward to working with the Officers and Directors of CGJA over the next two years to promote the statewide grand jury system. Thank you for giving me this opportunity."



Marin Chapter Continued from page 5

- Increase social activities
The following are a few ways we are accomplishing these objectives:
- We are expanding our committee structure and increasing participation of our members
- We are updating our Grand Jury Manual and adding new material
- We are increasing our outreach program for recruiting Grand Jury applicants
- We are actively involved in the orientation/interviewing of jury applicants as well as providing orientation/training to the incoming jury
- We are providing communications technology (computer, etc.) support to the Grand Jury
- We are expanding our social calendar to nine events for the term year



Number of Grand Jury Reports for 2006-2007 By County

County	Reports	County	Reports
Alameda	8	Plumas	21
Amador	24	Riverside	7
Butte	16	Sacramento	22
Calaveras	17	San Benito	8
Colusa	7	San Bernardino	27
Contra Costa	8	San Diego	18
El Dorado	15	San Francisco	7
Fresno	5	San Joaquin	18
Glenn	17	San Luis Obispo	19
Humboldt	30	San Mateo	28
Imperial	26	Santa Barbara	14
Kern	83	Santa Clara	21
Kings	21	Santa Cruz	9
Lake	59	Shasta	17
Lassen	15	Sierra	5
Los Angeles	12	Siskiyou	13
Madera	16	Solano	14
Marin	10	Sonoma	8
Mariposa	7	Stanislaus	4
Mendocino	20	Sutter	27
Merced	31	Tehama	15
Modoc	16	Trinity	9
Mono	7	Tulare	31
Monterey	18	Tuolumne	11
Napa	10	Ventura	8
Nevada	8	Yolo	8
Orange	18	Yuba	9
Placer	14	Total Reports	912

Reminders

Grand Jury Achievements

Please check out the tab on our website, **Grand Jury Achievements**. We want many, many more entries for this important database. We now accept candidates before implementation can be demonstrated because we understand that there can be a significant time lag between acceptance of a grand jury recommendation and proof of implementation.

OLLI (Osher Lifelong Learning Institute)

We are willing and anxious to conduct courses at as many of these institutes as possible. If you believe a chapter in your area might be interested please contact Betty J. Mattea , bjmattea@sonic.net for Northern California or Jerry Lewi, cgjaprguy@roadrunner.com, for Southern California. See our website for a brochure on Osher courses.

Grand Jury Videos

Please visit the websites of the following counties to see their recruiting videos. Although each is tailored to the local county, they all contain excellent generic information that you could use to inform others about California grand juries.

Kern, Orange, Sacramento, San Francisco

Please let us know if there are others.



Frequency of Investigation 2006-2007

Number of Reports	Subject	Number of Reports	Subject
142	Law and Justice-Jails/Detention	16	Animal Control
84	Audit-Budget-Finance	14	Human Resources
73	Health and Human Services	14	Public Works
44	Other	10	Parks and Recreation
41	Law and Justice-Juvenile	9	Buildings and Facilities
38	Special Districts	9	Libraries
38	Education	8	Board of Supervisors
36	Emergency Services/Safety	8	Advisory Bodies-Boards-Commissions
35	Law and Justice-Adult	7	Assessor-Audit Controller
32	Decline to Investigate	7	Public Transportation Systems
31	Waste Management-Water Quality	6	District Attorney
24	City and County Government	6	Agriculture
22	Sheriff-Coroner	6	Environmental
21	Elections	6	Economic Development
21	Brown Act-Public Notices-Gov't Code	5	Airports
20	Fire Departments	5	Disaster Preparedness
18	Information Technology	39	All other less than 5
17	Planning and Engineering	912	Total Reports

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Our website is a great informational resource for grand juries to use. Our "links" and "local Grand Jury information" pages will take you to websites that can assist in research and information
 Visit us at www.cgja.org



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Address Service Requested

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 should be e-mailed to Jerry Lewi, Editor
cgjaprguy@roadrunner.com

Articles submitted by e-mail should be saved in Rich Text Format and transmitted as an attachment to the e-mail message.

If e-mail is not available, articles should be faxed to Jerry at 805-241-7912

Letters to the editor are limited to 200 words. (One hundred words for "Kudos" thank-you letters).

The Journal will highlight opinion articles written by readers, experts, and issues advocates. They may be 500 to 600 words in length.

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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