

## **California Grand Jurors' Association Board of Directors Meeting—January 26, 2016**

### **MINUTES**

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#### **A. Call to Order and Roll Call**

The roll was taken, and the meeting began at 7:01 PM.

Present: Directors Karen Jahr (President), Lloyd Bell (joined at 7:44 PM), Medsie Bolin, Marsha Caranci, Rich Knowles, Joann Landi, Jerry Lewi, Jim Ragan, Mac Small, Barbara Sommer, Andi Winters

Absent: Director Jerry Kunkle

#### **B. Agenda and Comments**

B-1 Agenda Approval: Jahr

The Board unanimously approved the agenda.

B-2 Member Comments

None

#### **C. Consent Items**

C-1 Approve Regular Board Meeting Minutes, 11/24/15: Ragan

C-2 Acknowledge Committee Minutes in 01/26/16 meeting packet: Jahr/Ragan

The Board unanimously approved the consent items.

#### **D. Officer and Committee Chair Reports**

##### **D-1 President's Report (Jahr)**

Jahr announced that Leslie Lea has resigned as chair of the ACC for personal reasons. Jahr said she has appointed Lloyd Bell as interim chair of the ACC and will present this to the board for ratification in February.

She said that the next board retreat will be in-person in Sacramento on Sunday, April 10, 8:30 AM to 2:30 PM. She will send the draft agenda and hotel accommodations information to board members. Currently, the budget does not authorize spending for hotel accommodations on Saturday, April 9. She said that we'll discuss the travel reimbursement issue when we get to action on the 2016 CGJA budget later in the meeting.

Jahr said that we recently sent an eBlast attaching a document on what chapters can do to help the courts recruit applicants to the grand jury. This will also be posted on the CGJA website along with examples that chapters are

currently using. Knowles said that we have sent the document to chapter presidents. Jahr said that she and Caranci are going to the Bay Area regional meeting on February 6 and will take copies. She suggested that if board members are going to any regional meeting, they might want to take copies, as well. Lewi said that it will be posted on the website as an attachment, allowing people to download it.

Caranci suggested setting up a "Chapter Resources" page where we can post more documents like the current "Jury Resources" page. Caranci said that there are a few other documents now that she will send to Lewi for posting. Ragan agreed that it would be a good idea to set up the page now. Mac Small said that he has already received good feedback from the Monterey chapter on the information sent in the eBlast.

Jahr said that she received an email from Beckie Jennings saying that the State Assembly proclamation declaring February as Grand Jury Awareness Month will be read on the Assembly floor at 9:00 AM on Thursday, February 4. Lloyd Bell, Andi Winters, and Rich Knowles may be able to attend. Lewi and Ragan asked for information and pictures for the Journal and the website.

Jahr provided an update on the proposed legislation by the California Special Districts Association (CSDA). She referred to an email received from CGJA (previously sent to board members) saying that it had already submitted the rough bill to the Office of Legislative Counsel before receiving CGJA's comments and suggested language. This is the first step in the process. CGJA's representative had not previously mentioned the timeline and this step to Jahr. CGJA's lobbyist told Jahr that it is still best to try to get acceptable compromise language into the bill. The sponsor (currently unlisted) of the bill is Senator Jeff Stone of Riverside, who was previously chair of the Riverside County Board of Supervisors when the board appointed Gregory Priamos to be county counsel. Relations between Priamos and Riverside County grand juries have been adversarial. Jahr asked for board consensus to authorize her, with the Executive Committee, to develop another draft of our proposed language, taking into account the most recent comments from CSDA. We need to work quickly. It's important for us to get our language into the bill now rather than later. Ragan said board action at the special meeting on January 15 gives Jahr all the authority she needs to move ahead.

**D-2 Officer Reports**

**Secretary Ragan.** No report.

**Treasurer Bolin.** Bolin said that we will discuss the proposed 2016 budget as an action item. She noted that the year-end financials were included in the board meeting packet.

**D-3 Legal and Legislative Resources Committee (LLRC)**

Jahr noted the LLRC meeting minutes in the board meeting packet. In addition, Larry Johnson, LLRC chair, is preparing an article for the Journal on committee efforts in 2015.

**D-4 Public Relations Committee (PRC)**

No report. Chair Ragan referred members to the PRC minutes in the board meeting packet.

**D-5 Membership Relations Committee (MRC)**

Chair Knowles said that the noted rapid reduction of Introductory Members in the database was a result of database maintenance in Infusionsoft. Jahr said that, in communicating with IMs, we shouldn't go overboard with too many messages. Ragan asked where by county or region the non-renewals are coming from. Are there any patterns? Knowles said he would look into it.

**D-6 Training Committee (TC)**

Chair Caranci said that the TC minutes reflect the considerable activity in preparing for the training seminars and training the new trainers.

**D-7 Finance Committee (FC)**

Postponed until Chair Bell arrives.

**D-8 Nominations-Elections Committee (NEC)**

2015 NEC Chair Lewi said that ratification of the president's appointment of members to the committee is an action item this evening.

**D-9 Awards Committee (AC)**

No report.

**D-10 Annual Conference Committee (ACC)**

No report.

**D-11 Ad Hoc Committees**

No reports.

**E. Action Agenda**

Action items E-1 through E-3 were put on hold until arrival of FC Chair Bell.

**E-4 Terminate the Fund Development Committee (an ad hoc committee).**

Jahr stated that we discussed at the January 15 retreat that if an ad hoc committee is inactive, we should terminate it. We can always bring it back. The chair of this committee resigned in November 2015. Even before that, it was a defunct committee.

**The motion passed unanimously, 10-0-0, by voice vote.**

**E-5 Terminate the Education Committee (an ad hoc committee).**

Jahr said that this committee has not met for well over a year. At its retreat, the Board agreed that the Public Relations Committee can facilitate CGJA's direct education efforts, oversee the restricted Education Fund, and assist chapters in local education initiatives.

**The motion passed unanimously, 10-0-0, by voice vote.**

**E-6 Terminate the History and Archives Committee (an ad hoc committee).**

The committee was established in December 2012 for the purpose of compiling, reviewing, and organizing CGJA's older (non-current) files and materials. Due to the press of other business, the committee has been unable to undertake these tasks. An officer can undertake them. All documents are being protected now. The committee can be reestablished if and when necessary.

**The motion passed unanimously, 10-0-0, by voice vote.**

**E-7 Ratify the appointments of Jerry Lewi as Chair of the Nominations and Elections Committee, and Jerry Lewi and Jeannie Turpenen (Southern Region), Joann Landi and Karin Hern (Central Region), and Marsha Caranci and Ray Frisbie (Northern Region) as committee members.**

Jahr said that one director member and one non-director member are required for each region. For the Southern Region, Lewi is the director, Turpenen the non-director; for the Central Region, Landi is the director, Hern the non-director; and for the Northern Region, Caranci is the director, Frisbie the non-director.

**The motion passed unanimously, 10-0-0, by voice vote.**

**E-8 Adopt two or three of the following as the Board of Directors' goals for 2016:**

1. Increase the number of CGJA chapters and the number of CGJA members in each chapter.
2. Enhance the resources and support CGJA provides to chapters.
3. Retain current CGJA members and increase the number of introductory members who convert to voting members.

Jahr reported that, in surveying board members after the January 15 retreat, there were nine votes for goal 1 and 7 votes each for goals 2 and 3. **Therefore, the amended motion is to adopt all three.**

Lewi said he supported adopting all three, recognizing that they support our overall goal to increase membership. He added that each committee should then set sub-goals consistent with the board goals. This should be a retreat topic.

**The motion passed unanimously, 11-0-0, by voice vote.** Note: Director Bell joined the meeting prior to the discussion of this action item and voted YES.

With Bell having joined the meeting, the agenda shifted to reports (D-2 vice president and D-7 Finance Committee) and E-1 through E-3 Action Items.

**D-2 Officer Reports: Vice President** (no report)

**D-7 Finance Committee (FC)**

Chair Bell reported that the budget loss in 2015 was \$4,500—less than in 2014. Journal Editor Lewi said that the April Journal will, as required, publish the CGJA financial statements for 2015. Knowles asked whether the Financial Review Committee should become active again. Bell responded that FRC will discuss this at its next meeting.

### **Action Items Resumed**

**E-1 Approve attached proposed CGJA 2016 Budget.**

Bell noted that this year carried over assets will not be used to present a balanced budget.

The main discussion focused on whether CGJA should amend the budget to reimburse board members for travel and lodging expenses connected with the April 10 board retreat. **Caranci moved, and Lewi seconded, an amendment to the budget to add \$2,000 to budget item #4010 to fund travel and lodging expenses connected with the April 10 board retreat.**

**The amendment passed unanimously, 11-0-0, by voice vote.**

**The amended motion passed unanimously, 11-0-0, by voice vote.**

**E-2 Approve Finance Committee expense item that exceeds Board-approved budget.**

Bell said that this item of \$252.34 results from four instances where CGJA corporate credit cards were paid late.

**The amended motion passed unanimously, 11-0-0, by voice vote.**

**E-3 Approve the internal transfer of \$10,000 from the General Fund to the Rainy Day Fund.**

Bell said that this just gives us a little more interest income.

**The amended motion passed unanimously, 11-0-0, by voice vote.**

### **F. Director Comments**

Dealt with the Journal deadline for submission of articles, 2016 mileage reimbursement rates, chapter communication, and CGJA donation-timing issues.

### **G. Adjournment (8:30 PM).**

Respectfully submitted,  
Jim Ragan, Secretary