

**California Grand Jurors' Association Board of Directors Meeting**  
**March 24, 2020**  
**MINUTES**

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

The roll was taken, and the meeting began at 3:04 PM.

Present: Directors Larry Herbst, Lloyd Bell, Marsha Caranci, Janet Clark, Travis Gibbons, Tim Hafner, Jerry Kunkle, Joann Landi, Chuck MacLean, Lou Panetta, Barbara Sommer.

Absent: Ron Zurek.

Quorum is present.

Other present: Jim Ragan, Parliamentarian; Karen Jahr, Chair BPRC and LLRC.

**B. Agenda and Comments**

B-1 Agenda Approval: Herbst

Board members unanimously approved the agenda.

B-2 CGJA Member Comments - none

**C. Consent Items**

C-1 Approve Regular Board Meeting Minutes, 02/25/20: Sommer

C-2 Acknowledge Committee Minutes and other documents in 03/24/20 meeting packets: Herbst  
Board unanimously approved the consent items.

**D. Officer and Committee Chair Reports – see committee minutes in packet for details on current activities**

D-1 **President's Report** (Herbst)

Commented briefly on the implications of COVID-19.

D-2 **Officer Reports**

Vice President (Panetta) – no report.

Treasurer (Gibbons) – no report.

Secretary (Sommer) – no report.

D-3 **Legal and Legislative Resources Committee (LLRC)** – Jahr reported that the committee has updated the FAQs and reviewed the Mendocino Chapter documents.

D-4 **Public Relations Committee (PRC)** – Ragan stated that the Osher initiative was on hold.

D-5 **Membership Relations Committee (MCRC)** – Ragan said that the committee will contact chapter presidents with regard to teleconferencing. Each committee member has been assigned chapter contacts in order to maintain communication. The Mendocino submission for chapter formation was withdrawn due to their inability to meet.

Herbst pointed out modification on the website making it easier to find information about the chapter tax filing guidelines. There have been some problems with the IRS. Ragan added that this was one of the reasons for increased contact with chapters.

- D-6 **Training Committee (TC)** – Caranci stated that things are up in the air given the necessary postponements. With regard to the new trainer orientation, there are ten new trainers. The training needs to be in person so that the individuals can become acquainted, something that is not possible starting out with virtual contact. She hopes that will happen at the end of May. With regard to the Train-the-Trainer session, The veteran group and the new group know one another within each group, but not across groups. They may meet in May or fall back on WebEx.

The committee has been working on the summer curriculum. There are 188 trainer assignments. Hotel reservations have not been finalized but are in place. The 2-day program curriculum is ready to go. The print order is on hold. The Foreperson Workshop is still being worked on. The Legal Advisors workshop is ready to go with a full day program.

Two Eblast have been sent out making it clear that we understand concerns and provide guidelines with regard to methods for impaneled grand juries to meet via teleconferencing and videoconferencing and guidance for completing the 2019/20 term. There was a good open rate of over 60%. Some counties are better off than others with regard to current circumstances and finishing their reports. Their situations are fluid and can change from day to day.

The California Special Districts Association invited us to make a presentation at their conference.

There is concern about the degree to which grand juries will be able to complete their reports, and the courts ability to recruit and orient jurors for next year. Jahr described a request to the Attorney General with regard to enforcing the courts' constitutional responsibility for the grand jury but is not sure it will work.

Caranci is concerned about the likelihood of juries taking shortcuts and producing reports of lesser quality which then become embedded in the record. She hopes that they will not accept "good enough."

Herbst thanked Jahr and Caranci for their work on the Eblasts which demonstrated our value as an organization.

- D-7 **Finance Committee (FC)** – Bell stated that it is a slow period. The 2019 financial statements will be published in the *Journal*.
- D-8 **Nominations-Elections Committee (NEC)** – Panetta said there was nothing to report now, but that the committee was meeting tomorrow with lots on the agenda. The committee is complete. They need candidates, particularly from the north. They will be sending letters to chapter president soliciting candidates.
- D-9 **Awards Committee (AC)** – no report.
- D-10 **Annual Conference Committee (ACC)** – Bell stated that the committee continues to develop the program along the lines of our theme "Celebrating Grand Jury Successes at the Local Level." See minutes for details.

Hotel sleeping room reservations have been reduced slightly due to the hotel's mishandling of the Training Committee's request for Report Writing Workshop space resulting in the need to reschedule training to the following week.

So far, there has been no discernable fallout from the Covid issue, but with our demographic, this bears watching.

Finally, if anyone has a contact with the Fair Political Practices Commission (FPPC), please provide the contact information to Lloyd.

D-11 **Bylaws & Policy Review Committee (BPRC)** – see the action items.

D-13 **Technology Committee** – Herbst described the webpage update making the current Eblast information more accessible. The website analytics showed that people were accessing a wider range of information.

Panetta describe the hashtag (#cgjagrandjurors) developed for conversations about the current status of the grand juries across the state. Access via Facebook, Twitter or Instagram. Herbst asked whether there was any monitoring of responses or whether it was a free for all. Panetta said it was the latter. Caranci asked if there were links to the Eblast (as posted on the website). Ragan said he had made a post with the link.

Panetta is experimenting with Zoom as a possible replacement for WebEx. He suggested that we try it out individually.

#### E. Action Agenda

E-1 **Ratify the appointment of Carolyn Stinemates (Central region member) to NEC.** [Motion made by Herbst, seconded by Hafner]

The motion passed, 11-0-0, by voice vote.

E-2 **Motion withdrawn** [Ragan]

E-3 **(1) Change beginning of term of office for elected directors - Bylaws Article 6, section 5(a).  
(2) Clarify "director's partial term - Bylaws Article 6, section 5(c ).**

[Motion made by Jahr, seconded by Gibbons]

The motion passed, 11-0-0, by roll call vote.

E-4 **Adopt proposed amendments to Policies 5.10, 7.30, 8.30, 10.40, 12.10, 13.50, 16.60, and 17.10.** [Motion made by Jahr, seconded by Bell]

The motion passed, 11-0-0, by voice vote.

F. **Director Comments** – none.

G. **Adjournment** (4:18 PM).

Respectfully submitted,  
Barbara Sommer, Secretary