

# California Grand Jurors' Association Board of Directors Meeting August 24, 2021

## MINUTES

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### A. Call to Order and Roll Call

The roll was taken, and the meeting began at 3:00 PM.

Directors present: Shirley Boracci, Marsha Caranci, Janet Clark, Bob Finlayson, Travis Gibbons, Tim Hafner, Larry Herbst, Joann Landi, Lou Panetta, Barbara Sommer.

Absent (excused): Bernadette Cheyne.

Quorum is present.

Others present: Committee Chairs: Lloyd Bell, ACC; Jerry Lewi, PRC and FC; Diane Lloyd, MCRC.

### B. Agenda and Comments

B-1 Agenda Approval: Board members unanimously approved the agenda.

B-2 CGJA Member Comments - none

### C. Consent Items

C-1 Approve Regular Board Meeting Minutes, 07/27/21: Panetta

C-2 Acknowledge Committee Minutes and other documents in 08/24/21 meeting packet: Panetta Board unanimously approved the consent items and the minutes.

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

D-1 **President's Report** – Panetta – the training season has been chaotic and Caranci has been holding it together. Counties have been scheduling then rescheduling thereby requiring much coordination. He commended Caranci and the training team for doing an amazing job.

The election is going smoothly, and the NEC has done a great job.

Panetta is looking for suggestions for his 20-minute presentation at the membership conference. They would be very helpful.

#### D-2 **Officer Reports**

Vice President (Herbst) – no report.

Treasurer (Gibbons) – no report.

Secretary (Sommer) – note list in packet containing links to relevant CGJA documents, e.g., roster and committee meeting schedule.

Committee chairs, please check roster to see that it is up to date.

For the yearly volunteer list for the membership meeting and the Journal, let me know if there are people no longer shown on the roster who should be listed among the past year's volunteers. Herbst requested that committee chairs be sent the final version to check.

- D-7 **Finance Committee (FC)** – Bell said that CGJAs continue to make money as there are reduced expenditures for training. The committee acquired two new members and said goodbye to long-time member, Dianne Hoffman. Hafner asked who would replace her. Lloyd said the new members are promising.
- D-10 **Annual Conference Committee (ACC)** – Bell said the committee has been busy formalizing the agenda for the annual meeting. The webpage is being recalibrated and we are on track for a good meeting. Panetta commended the board for not scheduling an in-person meeting this year.
- D-3 **Legal and Legislative Resources Committee (LLRC)** – no report.
- D-4 **Public Relations Committee (PRC)** – Lewi reported that the committee is moving forward on increasing public awareness of the grand jury by moving the book forward and expanding the media contact list. He will be working with Lloyd (MCRC) to get chapters involved.

Gibbons referred to the book section of things done by grand juries to improve local government operations. He wondered if such a description might be put on the website? What good are grand juries? Or perhaps a survey of counties? He said the question often comes up in training. Lewi added that maybe we should redo the 2017 county survey.

- D-5 **Membership Relations Committee (MCRC)** – Clark said the committee is working on a concept where CGJA might sponsor newly finished jurors with a year of free membership. There was some discussion about the pros and cons of the proposal. Panetta said increasing membership incentives was a good idea. The matter was sent back to the MCRC for further development regarding implementation and financing.
- D-6 **Training Committee (TC)** – Caranci said Panetta summed up the training situation. It has been a crazy training season, as was the last one. It has been highly successful. They have trained a lot of grand jurors. They have lost a few new trainers but some of those remaining are outstanding. The summer season is wrapping up but will run into September. Four counties are having trouble getting their acts together. She expects they will train three. Writing workshops are scheduled for October. There will be three training seminars in January. Laura Griffin has been very helpful filling in when Caranci is away, and the team leaders are doing a good job.
- D-8 **Nominations-Elections Committee (NEC)** – Boracci stated there were a few election glitches but that they were able to handle them working with Herbst (website) and Lloyd (MCRC). So far, 95 electronic ballots and 6 paper ballots have been received. A final reminder goes out on Aug. 25. There was one email request for a ballot, but no name was included. She emailed back but has not received a response.

Once again, she brought up the membership due date and eligibility issue. The committee will be discussing solutions.

Herbst pointed out the Lloyd (MCRC) did great work using Constant Contact. There were zero issues on day one.

- D-9 **Awards Committee (AC)** – no report. Sommer said there were four nominations for best report and one for best media coverage. Herbst asked whether there had been any nominations for the Angelo Rolando Service Award (ARSA). Landi said there are nominations.
- D-11 **Bylaws & Policy Review Committee (BPRC)** – no report.

D-13 **Technology Committee (Tech)** – Herbst said this was an active month for the website. At Caranci’s request, he is developing a consistent registration process through the store using a website form. That form is ready to go later this year.

The webpage is working well for the election. Boracci said the tellers are Ruth Henderson, Margaret Ansel and Cindra Wilfong. After Aug. 31, Herbst will download the Excel spreadsheet from the website and Boracci will combine the data with the paper ballots for the Tellers Committee. They will meet on September 10.

He is currently working on the search function. People try to find grand jury reports using the website search feature which is not designed for the purpose. Despite emphasis from the trainers, the problem continues. He is in touch with a knowledgeable former Google employee who may be able to offer suggestions for improvement.

E. **Action Agenda** - no actions

F. **Director Comments**

Panetta remarked on the effectiveness of the committees and characterized them as having good attitudes and work ethics.

Clark brought up the multiple possibilities of our having CGJA t-shirts – as awards, thank-you to speaker gifts and to sell. They can be used to spread the word. There was discussion and the consensus was the it falls to the PRC for follow-up.

Finlayson said that his Contra Costa chapter meeting involved an extensive discussion on how to get greater diversity among grand jurors. This is becoming a hot topic and hopefully we can develop strategies for addressing it. One action item for his chapter is to look at boards of directors that have a more diverse composition and find out what steps they had taken. Gibbons suggested he contact the King’s County grand jury as they have a reasonably diverse group, including younger members. Finlayson mentioned the positive impact of Zoom meetings providing increased accessibility. Hafner wrote a recent article for the paper mentioning the Zoom meetings and as a result four people applied to the grand jury. Lewi underlined the value of having evening meetings.

G. **Adjournment (3:55PM)**

Respectfully submitted,  
Barbara Sommer, Secretary