

# California Grand Jurors' Association Board of Directors Meeting September 28, 2021

## MINUTES

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### A. Call to Order and Roll Call

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

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

Absent: Tim Hafner.

Quorum is present.

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

### B. Agenda and Comments

B-1 Agenda Approval: Board members unanimously approved the agenda (corrected for D-1, President's report).

B-2 CGJA Member Comments - none

### C. Consent Items

C-1 Approve Regular Board Meeting Minutes, 08/27/21: Panetta

C-2 Acknowledge Committee Minutes and other documents in 09/28/21 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 welcomed Diane Lloyd to the board (her election as Director will be made official at the October membership meeting). He commended her work as chair of the MCRC.

He continues to seek suggestions for his 20-minute presentation at the membership conference. Let him know if there are chapters or members that he should mention or recognize.

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

Vice President (Herbst) – Herbst noted that Joann Landi would be leaving the board (termining out) and that she has been a stalwart and wished to recognize that CGJA could always count on her support

Treasurer (Gibbons) – no report. Panetta pointed out that Gibbons had accomplished the difficult and important task of moving our accounts to generic titles (rather than specific named officers).

Secretary (Sommer) – no report.

- D-7 **Finance Committee (FC)** – Bell said that the committee is working to assimilate two new members There have been lots of questions and the queries will continue into the next meeting. Necessary tax forms and a list of affiliates have been sent to the appropriate agencies.
- D-10 **Annual Conference Committee (ACC)** – Bell said the committee, at its next meeting, will address whether to schedule an in-person conference for 2022. Panetta asked about a deadline. Bell responded that there was not a formal deadline. Clark asked about the option for a small meeting, noting that the hotel might be interested. Bell pointed out that the hotel is fully booked.
- D-3 **Legal and Legislative Resources Committee (LLRC)** – no report.
- D-4 **Public Relations Committee (PRC)** – Lewi commented regarding the previous board discussion of posting grand jury achievements. A decision was not reached by the PRC. The committee considered the possibility of creating CGJA t-shirts and decided that the costs did not outweigh the benefits and did not pursue the idea further.

The committee has considered the issue of diversity on grand juries and decided that it had a role. Finlayson is exploring strategies used by other organizations. Lewi suggested that a survey question might be helpful in gaining ideas. Panetta asked the question as to whether the PRC had an appropriate role to play on the issue. There was considerable discussion with arguments made on both sides – that this was a local issue (and a difficult one) best dealt with at the chapter level versus the notion that we might uncover some best practices that could be implemented or passed on to chapters. There seemed a consensus that a working group rather than the PRC might be a better approach. Panetta will draft an action item for the next meeting

- D-5 **Membership Relations Committee (MCRC)** – Lloyd reported that we now have 324 members and thanked supporting board members and committee chairs for their assistance. She now manages (wrangles?) the database. She needs a co-chair for the MCRC. Carolyn Stinemates has expressed interest in the chapter relations role of the committee. She would provide a good balance. There is the possibility of a new volunteer committee member at the next meeting. More members would be very welcome.

Panetta asked about developments regarding Monterey forming a chapter. Lloyd said the paperwork has been submitted and is under consideration by the BPRC. Panetta attended a meeting of the Monterey group and said they were very enthusiastic. Jahr (BPRC) said the committee will get to it. Then the BOD can vote by email. If the vote is unanimous, it can be announced at the October membership meeting. Panetta asked if other chapters were in the making. Lloyd said Sonoma is being revitalized.

Lloyd brought up the issue of chapter questions regarding the need to obtain an organization number – necessary for opening a bank account. It is not in the chapter guide and should be. Herbst described the resources available on the webpage. The MCRC will follow-up.

- D-6 **Training Committee (TC)** – Jahr said it was “it is going swimmingly.” Caranci said the summer training is nearly finished and the fall writing workshop series begin this week. They are finally having an in-person gathering of new and very new trainers, hopefully in early December.
- D-8 **Nominations-Elections Committee (NEC)** – Boracci described the tellers committee and the vote count process and reported the following results (a more comprehensive article will appear in the October *Journal*).

<b>North</b>		<b>Central</b>		<b>South</b>	
Marsha Caranci	21	Janet Clark	43	Travis Gibbons	23
Tim Hafner	21	Diane Lloyd	37	Lou Panetta	26
		Carolyn Stinemates	24	Write-in:	
				Dianne Hoffman	1
				Jerry Lewi	1

- D-10 **Awards Committee (AC)** – Landi stated that three awards will be presented at the annual meeting. Asked if she was willing to continue as chair of the AC, she replied affirmatively.
- D-11 **Bylaws & Policy Review Committee (BPRC)** – Jahr said that the committee will get to the Monterey chapter approval.
- D-13 **Technology Committee (Tech)** – Herbst reviewed the website statistics pointing out that 897 visit was double the rolling average. Also, usage is starting to resemble the pre-covid pattern. He has had two background activities going. One had to do with improving the report search function. Upon working with an individual knowledgeable about Google search capabilities, they learned that the current system appears to be the best possible. The other activity has to do with lessening the database workload. The main need is for a program that transfers information from the membership application to an Excel file for database use.

E. **Action Agenda** – the action item was continued to the October meeting.

F. **Director Comments**

Herbst suggested that we have a board retreat before our usual spring one. Panetta agreed and suggested that we meet from 9-12 AM on October 25 before the annual meeting later in the day. The board agreed. Panetta will put the MCRC incentive proposal (see action item) and diversity discussion on the agenda. We will use the training zoom account to avoid overlap with the annual meeting login.

Lewi inquired about the talk that Panetta gave at the CSDA meeting. Panetta said he gave a mini training program and showed the Exit Interview video. He said the huge (two hotels) 1-1/4 hour session went well. Jahr mentioned past concerns that CSDA expressed (in the form of restrictive legislation) toward the grand jury. Panetta said that the matter seems over.

G. **Adjournment (4:17 PM)**

Respectfully submitted,  
Barbara Sommer, Secretary