

# California Grand Jurors' Association Board of Directors Meeting October 26, 2021

## MINUTES

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### A. Call to Order and Roll Call

The roll was taken, and the meeting began at 3:02 PM.

Directors present: Shirley Boracci, Marsha Caranci, Bernadette Cheyne, Janet Clark, Bob Finlayson, Tim Hafner, Larry Herbst, Dianne Lloyd, Lou Panetta, Barbara Sommer.

Absent: Travis Gibbons.

Quorum is present.

Others present: Committee Chairs: Lloyd Bell, ACC and FC; Karen Jahr, LLRC and BPRC and Joann Landi, AC.

### 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, 09/28/21: Panetta

C-2 Acknowledge Committee Minutes and other documents in 10/26/21 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 commented on the excellent membership meeting yesterday and expressed hope that next year's meeting will be in-person.

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

Vice President (Herbst) – Herbst said yesterday's speakers did an excellent job and their material connected with what we are doing.

Treasurer (Gibbons) – absent.

Secretary (Sommer) – Sommer reported that the action item to approve the Monterey Chapter of CGJA passed by a unanimous email vote on October 17, 2021.

D-7 **Finance Committee (FC)** – Bell said that the committee has collected nearly all of the budget information from committees and that the full budget information should be available to the board at the November meeting.

D-10 **Annual Conference Committee (ACC)** – Bell reported that the committee is moving ahead on planning an in-person conference in 2022. They already have one suggestion for a keynote speaker. Herbst asked about covid-related requirements. Bell said there was no way of knowing for sure, but the committee is assuming the situation will be more relaxed by next year. Panetta praised the committee for its work on this year's membership meeting – that it reflected good planning and organization and was professionally done. He thanked the committee.

- D-3 **Legal and Legislative Resources Committee (LLRC)** – no report.
- D-4 **Public Relations Committee (PRC)** – Finlayson said the committee is updating its procedures, adding in Constant Contact, and is moving along on the system book.
- D-5 **Membership Relations Committee (MCRC)** – Lloyd said the committee is working on its goal of 350 members, having a current count of 331. They are focusing on recent members who have not renewed. Regarding chapters, Carolyn Stinematos is taking that on but has not been able to attend the most recent meetings.

There was an extensive discussion about the database renewal dates for IMs. The current plan is to keep the IMs (not the new ones) to June 2022. Caranci said grand jury calendar terms should become more settled after January.

Panetta asked about the content of the welcome letter. Lloyd described it. Finlayson suggested that the MCRC copy the area director and the relevant chapter president so that they could contact the new member of CGJA.

Caranci asked about scheduling a meeting between the CGJA president and chapter officers. The date of Tuesday, January 11, 2022, at 3 PM was selected.

Additional MCRC news is that Boracci will serve as vice-chair and that Maria Garcia (Monterey) has become a lifetime member.

- D-6 **Training Committee (TC)** –Caranci said they are in the middle of fall writing workshops with an average attendance of thirty. They had to add another workshop.

They plan in-person train-the-trainer sessions at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Walnut Creek in December. Cheyne and Jahr are co-chairs of the subcommittee in charge. The freshman and sophomore classes will have the opportunity to meet in person for the first time.

- D-8 **Nominations-Elections Committee (NEC)** – no report. Boracci said the tellers committee was delighted to have been asked to participate. Herbst said the committee could be taken off of the agenda until next year's election cycle.

- D-10 **Awards Committee (AC)** – Landi said there have been no nominations for the Certificate of Special Recognition Award and that the committee will send letters to chapter chairs alerting them to the possibility.

- D-11 **Bylaws & Policy Review Committee (BPRC)** – no report. Jahr said there needs to be some clean up in the policies and procedures manual. However, she waits until there are a few items before scheduling a committee meeting.

- D-13 **Technology Committee (Tech)** – Herbst reminded that board that there are numerous changes that need to be made to the website following the annual meeting and the swearing in of new officers. He posted a link to the video of the membership meeting. The chapter page has been updated. Website hits are down a bit, but still show a healthy visitorship. Videos are being downloaded.

## **E. Action Agenda**

- E-1 **Approve MCRC Membership Incentive**  
[Motion made by Lloyd, seconded by Boracci]

Lloyd described the benefits to chapters and CGJA of growing membership and fostering engagement. The downside would be dues not collected and the need to sell the idea to chapter presidents.

Herbst raised the possibility of chapters misconstruing directions or suggestions from the state association. It was suggested that the MCRC reach out to chapter presidents regarding the plan and get feedback and buy-in from them.

Panetta said the incentive needed to have an ending date.

The motion was modified to read, **To extend from January 1, 2022, to April 30, 2022.**

The motion passed, 9-0-1, by hand vote.

**E-2 Create Grand Jury Effectiveness Workgroup**

[Motion made by Panetta, seconded by Herbst

The motion passed, 10-0-0, by hand vote.

**E-3 Appoint Robert Finlayson, Chair, Grand Jury Effectiveness Workgroup**

[Motion made by Panetta seconded by Lloyd]

The motion passed, 9-0-1, by hand vote.

**E-4 Create Diversity Study Workgroup**

[Motion made by Panetta, seconded by Finlayson]

The motion passed, 10-0-0, by hand vote.

**E-5 Appoint Barbara Sommer, Chair, Diversity Study Workgroup**

[Motion made by Panetta seconded by Finlayson]

The motion passed, 10-0-0, by hand vote.

**F. Director Comments**

Finlayson is seeking input for the Grand Jury Effectiveness work group. He described the direction suggested by Professor Franco's research.

Herbst expressed concern about a couple people at yesterday's membership meeting indicating that they had attempted to volunteer but received no response. The MCRC is responsible for managing volunteer applications. Herbst and Panetta will look at technical side and see if it needs to be modified.

**G. Adjournment (4:16 PM)**

Respectfully submitted,  
Barbara Sommer, Secretary