

California Grand Jurors' Association Board of Directors Meeting
March 22, 2022
MINUTES

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, Larry Herbst, Diane Lloyd, Lou Panetta, Henry Rible, Barbara Sommer.

Absent: None,

Quorum is present.

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

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 Approved Regular Board Meeting Minutes, 02/22/22: Panetta

C-2 Acknowledged Committee Minutes and other documents in 03/22/22 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 said the meeting with chapter presidents was interesting and there was enthusiastic participation. He has received positive feedback. At the participants' request, there will be another meeting on April 20. Herbst asked if there was sufficient content, warning that if not, there might be a loss of interest. Panetta agreed that monthly meetings would be too frequent, with quarterly ones being preferred. However, participants wanted to meet next month and there are topics of interest to discuss. MCRC will also query chapter presidents for topic suggestions.

D-2 **Officer Reports**

Vice President (Herbst) – no report.

Treasurer (Gibbons) – no report.

Secretary (Sommer) – Sommer said that were two packet emails (initial and supplemental) sent per month. Documents not received in time will be sent in the subsequent mailing. Due date reminders are sent to board members and committee chairs monthly.

She also asked that if committee chairs have notes from which they make their report to the board, to please send them to her (rough draft is fine). That will help to ensure more accurate minutes.

- D-10 **Annual Conference Committee (ACC)** – Bell said the committee is actively engaged in reconciling the hotel’s pricing given two years ago with current costs. They are also finalizing content with presenters to determine media costs. These both need to be settled before they can calculate the conference fee.
- D-3 **Legal and Legislative Resources Committee (LLRC)** – Jahr said the committee updated the FAQ regarding the grand jury’s role related to the recent California Attorney General’s ruling stating that the term “public prisons” in Penal Code section 919(b) includes “local detention facilities,” defined as facilities that confine prisoners for more than 24 hours.”

There are over 200 such facilities in the state. Herbst has updated the information on the website and posted it on the bulletin board. The Training Committee sent out an eBlast about it to just about everyone. Fortunately, the information arrived in time for incorporation into the about-to-published curriculum update for the training manual. Rogers asked if the ruling pertained to juvenile halls. Jahr said they were not mentioned. Caranci pointed out that the word “prisoners” was used throughout the opinion and the term is not generally used to refer to juveniles. Herbst said that SLO reviewed the juvenile hall as a matter of public service. They ask about programming and how the juveniles are housed.

The *Center for Judicial Education and Research Advisory Committee* has asked for Jahr’s assistance in creating a video for judges overseeing grand juries. The request is for a brief interview. She was pleased that they have come to us for assistance, and it will provide an opportunity for promoting our revised grand jury book.

- D-4 **Public Relations Committee (PRC)** – Lewi said the grand jury book would probably be revised no more than annually. The main change is likely to be the per diem table. He reported the book’s mention by Green and Barrett. This information has been posted on Facebook, the website, and the blog.
- D-5 **Membership Relations Committee (MCRC)** – Lloyd said we have 316 members. Chapter relations are going very well and received a boost from the presidents’ meeting and information about chapter and jury resources on the web. The chapters appreciate CGJA’s current awareness efforts. The committee is in the process of finalizing its October conference panel to address best practices.
- D-6 **Training Committee (TC)** – Caranci said the committee has a new member – Gary Cooper from San Joaquin County. Report writing workshops have been scheduled in April and May for all five calendar-year grand juries. Booking is ongoing for the summer. About ninety percent of the remaining counties plan to go back to in-person training.

The committee approved two new legal trainers and is interviewing one more. There are additional possibilities. That training will start in May.

They are past the middle of their curriculum review for the year. The copy will go to the printer next week.

Herbst asked about the timing of registration for the report writing workshops. Caranci said to hold off on multi-county registration. Counties are seeing the value of that training for all members of the grand jury. It is easier to deal with one county at a time. Multi-county workshops for those not opting to train their full jury will be left to the last minute. The

committee with work out the wording (for the website) for those. They will not do it in-person at a hotel due to cost. The foreperson workshops will be on Zoom. Those dates are set.

Clark mentioned that her chapter (Alameda) has been sponsoring (i.e., paying the fee) for people to attend the writing workshops. She wasn't sure there would be the financial support for the full jury. There was some discussion about contact with the new liaison in Alameda. He has not responded to contact efforts by Clark, Caranci and Jahr.

- D-7 **Finance Committee (FC)** – Rogers said the committee is reviewing our insurance policy. There are no problems so far and we are covered.

We have a new tax accountant – Stoltey and Associates in Santa Maria.

The committee will update its procedures manual at its April meeting.

- D-8 **Nominations and Elections (NEC)** – Panetta said the first meeting is tomorrow. The committee is filled out and been sent a list of election needs.

Clark asked about the Tellers Committee. Panetta briefly described their responsibilities, i.e., primarily to check eligibility.

Herbst expressed appreciation to Boracci for the feedback she provided about the format of the voting report that goes to the teller's committee. He will revise the spreadsheet by September 1.

- D-10 **Awards Committee (AC)** – no report.

- D-11 **Bylaws & Policy Review Committee (BPRC)** – Jahr said the committee has not met. If there is something urgent, let her know.

- D-13 **Technology Committee (Tech)** – Herbst reviewed the web statistics (see packet). He explained the occurrence of an inordinate number of hits for the old version of the grand jury book as being the result of friendly search bots keeping track of current addresses. Rogers asked if there was a change in the number of malicious attacks. Herbst said those remain relatively consistent. It is an ongoing battle.

- D-14 **Grand Jury Effectiveness Workgroup (GJE)** – Finlayson suggested that board members read the paper he has sent them, written by Josh Franco. It is an excellent overview of the civil grand jury and describes what the workgroup is trying to achieve and the issues to be addressed. Herbst asked if there was anything for public education? Finlayson said we can use it as we see fit.

- D-15 **Diversity Study Workgroup** – Sommer said an article describing the workgroup's conclusions would appear in the *April Journal*. It covers issues already reported to the board in two previous packets.

- D-15 **Grand Jury Awareness Workgroup** – Panetta reported that the relationship with Wendy Brickman was not likely to continue. They have achieved good publicity so far, but it is difficult to continue to work with her.

He has talked about the revised grand jury book in two radio interviews and one TV interview. There will be one more interview this Sunday on local radio. There have been 8-10 publication placements covering both the book and February as Grand Jury Recognition Month.

The committee needs to rethink is operational aspects. He hopes to make it efficient and move it back into the PRC where it belongs.

E. Action Agenda - none

F. Director Comments

Finlayson said he likes the forthcoming diversity article (see D-15), particularly its nuts-and-bolts approach.

He said Contra Costa County continues to work on the grand jury clerk position. They like it and will get it into place. Panetta asked if there was anything written? Finlayson said he would put together an information package. Panetta would like the information for his next meeting (April 20) with chapter presidents.

Lloyd describing setting up her chapter's Facebook page and will contact Panetta about connecting it with the CGJA Facebook page.

G. Adjournment (4:01 PM)

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara Sommer, Secretary