

California Grand Jurors' Association Board of Directors Meeting
March 28, 2023
MINUTES

A. Call to Order and Roll Call

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

Directors present: Shirley Boracci, Marsha Caranci, Janet Clark, Gary Cooper, Bob Finlayson, Travis Gibbons, Jim Glover, Larry Herbst, Diane Lloyd, Lou Panetta, Henry Rible, and Barbara Sommer.

Excused: Karen Jahr.

Quorum is present.

Others present: Committee Chairs: Juliana Jones, PRC; 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 Approved Regular Board Meeting Minutes, 02/28/23: Gibbons.

C-2 Acknowledged Committee Minutes and other documents in 03/28/23 meeting packet: Gibbons.

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** – no report.

D-2 Officer Reports

Vice President (Herbst) – no report.

Treasurer (Gibbons) – tax forms were reviewed and submitted by Gibbons and Rogers (FC) and have been accepted. The necessary reports have been filed with the State Attorney General. The annual financial report will be published in the April *Journal*.

Secretary (Sommer) – no report.

D-10 **Annual Conference Committee (ACC)** – Clark said the committee is working on breakout sessions for the conference and have three or four ideas already. They are contacting speakers and hope to have multiple overlapping sessions with a brief presentation and then active group participation.

D-3 **Legal and Legislative Resources Committee (LLRC)** – Caranci reported that Jahr participated in the Judiciary Committee hearing on AB78. She presented the CGJA position paper. The representative from the California State Association of Counties (CSAC) spoke in opposition to the measure. The measure was sent on to the Appropriations Committee, with two votes in opposition. Jahr met with the bill's sponsor, Assemblyman Ward, and his policy advisor. They

seemed to want CGJA input. The Appropriations Committee met last Wednesday. They are looking at the fiscal impact. If Ward does not move on it, the bill will probably go no further.

D-4 **Public Relations Committee (PRC)** – Panetta reported that Jones has been connecting the PRC and the MCRC regarding the Constant Contact lists. She is also working on a marketing plan for CGJA. Jones (arriving later) said that at least twelve counties issued Grand Jury Month proclamations.

D-5 **Membership Relations Committee (MCRC)** – Glover and Lloyd have been working on the Constant Contact list. There will be a multichapter meeting on April 26 at 4 p.m. via Zoom.

The committee could use a couple of additional members. Please let him know of any possible candidates.

There was a discussion about the use of the email address, *membership@cgja.org*. The issue of incoming and outgoing mail will be resolved. The only other dual-function email address is the training one. Caranci (TC) is responsible for that one. Gibbons asked about *treasurer@cgja.org*. That one is incoming, but not outgoing.

Herbst asked about membership numbers. Lloyd has a reporting template that she will give to Glover who will submit the data for inclusion in the monthly packet mailing.

D-6 **Training Committee (TC)** – Caranci reported that signups for the Legal Advisors Workshops are rolling in. They are well-attended. The committee is gearing up for spring writing workshops and summer training.

D-7 **Finance Committee (FC)** – see Action Item E-2 below.

D-8 **Nominations & Elections Committee (NEC)** – Cooper said the committee had its inaugural meeting and they are contacting potential nominees. The Tellers Committee is in place. The committee is developing a vetting process for candidates and will advise the board when that is drafted. Herbst added that “vetting” means anything documented and that they will work on what should be included in the vetting process.

D-10 **Awards Committee (AC)** – Landi reported there have been two requests for Certificates of Recognition. Gibbons asked if there was some way to get members in non-chapter counties involved. Caranci suggested that an announcement at the forthcoming Forepersons’ Workshop might be helpful.

Based on his service last year, Herbst expressed concern about ARSA award committee members not being sufficiently aware of the contributions of nominees. He wondered if this should be a topic of discussion at the board retreat. Landi pointed out that last year was something of an anomaly. Although background knowledge is valuable, there is the danger of the committee’s being perceived as run by or dominated by an in-group.

D-11 **Bylaws & Policy Review Committee (BPRC)** – no report

D-13 **Technology Committee (Tech)** – Herbst said there was a drop in this year’s February usage, but that last year’s was particularly high, and that this year’s was more typical of past usage.

The new website is progressing, although he feels it is not likely to be operative until after this year’s annual conference.

Sommer said that with Herbst’s assistance, the Excellence in Reporting award links have been updated. There are now two separate nominating paths for the annual Best Grand Jury Report and the Best Media Coverage report.

- D-14 **Grand Jury Effectiveness Workgroup (GJE)** – Finlayson is waiting for an Executive Committee decision regarding the state archivist. He and Jerry Lewi met with Josh Franco’s students. The students will be writing their reflections on their review of grand jury reports.

Gibbons asked about where the students got their data and expressed concern about possible interactions with the courts. Finlayson said the students used only publicly accessible information and had no direct contact with the counties or the courts.

E. Action Agenda

- E-1 **Ratify the appointment of Lou Panetta as Chair of the Technology Committee**
[Motion made by Gibbons, seconded by Glover.]

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

- E-2 **Authorize the Treasurer to move \$30K from account 1055 Rainy Day Fund (a restricted fund)**
[Motion made by Gibbons, seconded by Panetta]

Gibbons explained that the \$30K would be combined with an existing \$20K to purchase a \$50K CD with Chase Bank at a 3.5% annual yield.

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

- F. **Director Comments** – Boracci said that a new chapter in Los Angeles was being formed. The El Dorado Chapter is up and running.

- G. **Adjournment (4:01 p.m.)**

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara Sommer, Secretary