

California Grand Jurors' Association Board of Directors Meeting
March 26, 2024
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, Gary Cooper, Bob Finlayson, Travis Gibbons, Jim Glover, Larry Herbst, Karen Jahr, Juliana Olinka Jones, Diane Lloyd, Richard Rogers, Barbara Sommer.

Absent: Karen Deeming (excused).

Quorum is present.

Others present: Committee Chairs: Lloyd Bell, ACC; Lou Panetta, Tech; Asst. Treasurer: Loydyne Lane.

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, 02-27-24: Cooper.

C-2 Acknowledged Committee Minutes and other documents in 03-26-24 meeting packet: Cooper.
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** (Cooper) – commented on the positive nature of rapid and recent changes in the organization. We have accomplished a lot in the last few months.

D-2 Officer Reports

Vice President (Herbst) – supported the Cooper's comment and emphasized importance of forward movement.

Treasurer (Gibbons) – a 7-month CD matured this month at 4% yielding \$578 in interest. Total interest for 2024 is \$2,696, which is higher than last year. Federal and State taxes have been accepted. Our small fee (accompanying form RRF-1) to the CA AG Registry of Charities and Fundraisers Registration Renewal increased as our income increased.

Secretary (Sommer) – – no report.

D-10 **Annual Conference Committee (ACC)** – Bell reported that Dr. Michael Karch, Orthopedic Surgeon, and author of *Artificial Intelligence for the Everyday Person: Demystifying A.I.* has agreed to speak at our annual conference. His book is available on Amazon. There was a discussion about the propriety of his bringing books to sign and sell. As a general practice, we do not reimburse speaker expenses. We invite them to the conference banquet. Jahr will check out policy to see if there is any prohibition to his selling his books at our conference.

Panetta asked about a second speaker. He has a possible inspirational speaker in mind. Herbst asked about remaining holes in the program. Bell said there were some but not many. Finlayson

mentioned a possibility, although yet unknown. Bell said best to place that individual in the cue for next year.

D-3 **Legal and Legislative Resources Committee (LLRC)** – no report.

D-4 **Public Relations Committee (PRC)** – Jones reported on the spread of the recent press release regarding the name change. She said that Spencer Sias (chair pro tem) conducted the last PRC meeting and is in line to become committee chair.

Herbst asked about the sending of the press release to chapters. Jones said the release would be sent to members and court personnel. After discussion, the consensus was that notification to the chapters should include guidelines about the implications of the change for their chapter, particularly the use of the logo. Herbst summarized his findings on current logo use, based internet content. It appears to be limited to one or two chapters.

D-5 **Membership Relations Committee (MCRC)** – Herbst referred to the action item ratifying the appointment of the new co-chairs. He said the membership database is in good shape. He and Cooper are **interim** chairs and emphasized the need to find a more permanent chair. The April meeting will be cancelled to provide time for he and Cooper to come up to speed. They will be contacting current members of the MCRC.

Lloyd asked about the projected membership meeting for April. She will discuss that further with them.

Herbst pointed out that the membership report, included in the packet, has a new format.

Glover reported that there were six new CGJA voting members, a result of an effort to reach back several years to lapsed memberships.

Caranci reported that there was a new chapter in the works – Solano. The court is very supportive of it and the judge authorized funds for recruiting and provided them with chapter meeting space.

D-6 **Training Committee (TC)** – Rogers said committee members have been polishing the training materials which are being printed. There are fifteen new trainers, added to the twelve from last year. Several are lawyers. Herbst asked whether the additional effort would result in less work next year. Rogers said it probably would although the case example is alternated every year. Caranci said there was new material whose effectiveness would need to be evaluated.

D-7 **Finance Committee (FC)** – Rogers reported that committee matters are in good shape for now.

D-9 **Nominations and Elections Committee (NEC)** – no report.

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

D-11 **Bylaws & Policy Review Committee (BPRC)** – Herbst said the committee had met to review and produce the policy manual changes that are contained in the action item (E-1).

D-13 **Technology Committee (Tech)** – Panetta said the Training Committee would be using Microsoft Outlook 365 software to provide a collaborative workspace. Kendall Tieck is looking into setting it up and will probably install it on the training laptops. The fee is to be determined. The committee is waiting for confirmation of the name change before signing a contract with Microsoft.

The Tech committee is taking over the maintenance of the training laptops, relieving the Training Committee of that task.

- D-14 **Grand Jury Effectiveness Workgroup (GJE)** – Finlayson said he is in touch with a PhD student at UC Riverside who is studying civil grand jury jail reports.

He said the workgroup has developed a list of seven deliverables by the end of the year.

E. Action Agenda

- E-1 **Adopt amendments to the CGJA Policy Manual sections 1.40 A, 2.20 B, 2.30 C, D, &E, 12.30, 12.50 A&B, and 12.60**

Herbst provided a detailed review of the proposed changes.

[Motion made by Herbst, seconded by Glover.]

Gibson pointed out ambiguity regarding the classes of membership section pertaining to voting members and introductory members. Jahr provided clarifying language to be incorporated in the pertinent section.

The motion passed, 11-0-0, by hand vote.

- E-2 **Ratify President Cooper's appointment of Herbst and Cooper as co-chairs of MCRC.**

[Motion made by Cooper, seconded by Jahr.]

Gibbons stated the board should work to see that a more permanent successor is found as soon as possible. Caranci mentioned that we would be contacting individual chapters to try to recruit strong committee members who can be readied for leadership.

The motion passed, 11-0-0, by hand vote.

- F. **Director Comments** – Caranci said she had been contacted by an individual from Alaska who has spent considerable time studying our website and materials. He and some other people are very interested in establishing the civil grand jury model in Alaska. They seem particularly concerned with getting corrupt officials out of office. In response to a suggestion from Panetta, if Caranci has further contact, she will invite them to attend our annual conference. Herbst is intrigued and will spend some time following up on the internet.

- G. **Adjournment (4:19 p.m.)**

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara Sommer, Secretary