

**California Grand Jurors' Association Board of Directors Meeting**  
**May 23, 2023**  
**MINUTES**

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**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, Henry Rible, Barbara Sommer.

Excused: Karen Jahr, Lou Panetta.

Quorum is present.

Others present: Committee Chairs: Lloyd Bell, ACC; Juliana Jones, PRC; Joann Landi, AC; Richard Rogers, FC. Members: Roxy Montana, San Benito; Jim Bukowski, Norm Green, Carina List, and Leroy Titus, Los Angeles County.

**B. Agenda and Comments**

B-1 Agenda Approval: Board members unanimously approved the agenda.

B-2 CGJA Member Comments

**C. Consent Items**

C-1 Approved Regular Board Meeting Minutes, 04/25/23: Gibbons. Glover second

C-2 Acknowledged Committee Minutes and other documents in 05/23/23 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** – (Gibbons): – congratulated the MCRC on the new chapters and thanked the Training Committee for its extensive preparation for the coming summer training season.

**D-2 Officer Reports**

Vice President (Herbst) – no report

Treasurer (Gibbons) – we received \$2,000 from the Robert R. and Jaclyn Tilley Hill Family Charitable Fund, in recognition of Jerry Lewi's and the late Audrey Lynberg's contributions to the CGJA.

Secretary (Sommer) – no report

D-10 **Annual Conference Committee (ACC)** – Bell reported that the committee has been busy. The Annual Conference webpage has been updated with current information, and our program has been posted as well. We are still looking for a topic/panel discussion/speaker for a one-hour block on Monday morning. If you have any ideas, please send them to him.

The committee is working on the registration document and anticipates completion in mid-June. Working with Herbst to coordinate timing with the website revision.

- D-3 **Legal and Legislative Resources Committee (LLRC)** – Caranci said that AB 78 is “Held until submission” which means that it is not moving forward. The sponsor (Assemblyman Ward) could ask for a hearing, but that is not likely. It was never amended. Hopefully, that will occur if he brings it up again next year. For now, it is dead.
- D-4 **Public Relations Committee (PRC)** – Jones issued a press release on training and as a result received a contact from a Santa Cruz editor requesting information. Court executive officers and chapters were sent techniques for support of grand juries.
- D-5 **Membership Relations Committee (MCRC)** – Glover said the MCRC procedures update is nearly complete. He will begin sending routine monthly membership reports beginning with May 1-31 (to be sent next month).

He brought up a question from Norm Green – “Is it common for grand juries to be restricted from using email and long-distance fax.”. The issue will be directed to the Training Committee for an answer. Caranci offered the short answers of “no” and “no.”

There was an extended discussion of CGJA volunteers. In short, volunteers need not be members nor need they be past grand jurors. They may be an “advisory” or “associate” member. They are not allowed a vote. When volunteer applications are received, the MCRC chair will distribute them to committee chairs for consideration.

Caranci asked whether the Introductory Member (IM) conversion notices had gone out. Glover said yes. One has already become a full member.

Herbst pointed out that there were 244 members last month and asked for the current figure. Glover said currently there were 233 plus 25 life members (total = 258). There was a discussion clarifying “unsubscribed” versus “suspended” status on the membership roll. The former are those removed from the Constant Contact list by their own request. The latter are those removed for other reasons.

- D-6 **Training Committee (TC)** – Caranci said the committee has been busy. They held the Train the Trainer 3-day workshop in Sacramento (see forthcoming *Journal* article). There are twelve new trainers, with a grand total of 31. The last report writing workshop of the season occurs today in Trinity County. The summer training season begins on June 14 in Orange County.

Alameda, the one county that has not received our training in the past, will be on board this year. She did not hear from Los Angeles this year.

- D-7 **Finance Committee (FC)** – Rogers said the committee continues to look at the CD renewal schedule with an eye to the flow of expenses and maximizing revenue.

Herbst asked about the status of CDs with New Republic Bank. Rogers said they were safe. Gibbons said he spoke with Chase bank and that as they are renewed, the CDs can be moved nearby to the Chase bank in Goleta.

Jones asked when committee budgets would be needed. Rogers replied, “in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter.”

- D-8 **Nominations & Elections Committee (NEC)** – Cooper said there was an excellent slate of candidates. The committee’s work is proceeding on schedule. Cooper wanted to be certain

that all eligible members had an opportunity to vote. He was assured that postal mail ballots could be sent where email contact was not available.

- D-10 **Awards Committee (AC)** – Landi said the citation requested by Cooper has been received and will be presented tomorrow. The committee received input of criteria for a chapter award category. The criteria for the Certificate of Special Recognition were altered to exclude current sitting grand jurors.
- D-11 **Bylaws & Policy Review Committee (BPRC)** – no report.
- D-13 **Technology Committee (Tech)** – Herbst said the website statistics were down a bit for April but it was not remarkable.

He gave an extensive preview of the beta version of the revamped website. Although the basic structure will remain in place, there are a number of changes. The log-in button is gone. There is a new “get involved” dropdown menu which will subset “membership” and other categories. He will add “How to Become a Grand Juror” and “Join a Chapter” links. He is ready for the related page from the Membership and Chapter Relations Committee (MCRC).

There will be heavier use of personal pronouns, e.g., “What We Do.” “What are you looking for?” “We can help you become a more effective grand juror.”

The new blog will be the *Grand Jury News* and the blog archive will be preserved online. Past issues of the *Grand Jurors’ Journal* are archived in Dropbox. The years of past issues to be accessible online remains to be determined.

The website will have more graphics. Elevation has done a good job. Herbst is reviewing the needed changes.

Rogers asked about anticipated changes in cost. Herbst said the 50% down has been paid. The remaining 50% is expected now, with an additional \$1,000 when complete. There have been some “puts” and “takes” to be accounted for, but he doesn’t anticipate any huge surprises.

- D-14 **Grand Jury Effectiveness Workgroup (GJE)** – Finlayson said the committee reviewed the feedback from the board retreat. They will produce the requested report. The committee is awaiting a reply from the state archivist. They have learned that the archivist produces a delinquency report about grand jury reports.

Member Franco is reaching out to other community colleges regarding a similar project (collecting grand jury data). Herbst referred to our earlier public education committee and described the problem of incorporating grand jury information into the curriculum (a different issue).

## **E. Action Agenda**

- E-1 [Motion made by Boracci, seconded by Caranci]  
**Approve formation of the Nevada County chapter**  
The motion passed, 10-0-0, by hand vote.
- E-2 [Motion made by Boracci, seconded by Lloyd]  
**Approve formation of the Los Angeles County chapter**  
The motion passed, 10-0-0, by hand vote.

Carina List (Los Angeles) thanked those who had helped in the chapter formation. They are having a meeting tomorrow and will announce the formation. Current members are also members of the sitting jury. They will be reaching out to past jurors.

**F. Director Comments** – Diane Lloyd said the MCRC would be sending chapters an information sheet requesting chapter demographics. It is important for CGJA to have that information.

**G. Adjournment (4:21 p.m.)**

Respectfully submitted,  
Barbara Sommer, Secretary