



Grand Jurors' Journal

Vol. 24, No. 6, December 2023

NOTE: We thank Lew Jones for the conference photographs

CONFERENCE OPENER

President Travis Gibbons, in his welcoming comments, summarized our very successful year with regard to training, updated website, new chapters, and increasing media outreach.

Travis (on the right) is shown here with speaker, **Daniel Borenstein** Editorial page editor of the *East Bay Times* (see below).



The “Hey, Mabel” Test

by Juliana Olike Jones, Chair, Public Relations Committee

The main speaker for the opening day of the annual conference was **Daniel Borenstein** (pictured above), Editorial Page Editor of the *East Bay Times*. His excellent presentation, a lively one hour including questions and answers, focused on “**Civil Grand Juries and the Media – Emerging Trends.**”

Dan started off with a focus on how the media’s business model has been affected by sites such as Craig’s List, Google, and others. As a result ad revenues are down, and local journalism is in trouble. There are fewer watchdogs in the media, making the work of civil grand juries even more important.

The questions facing efforts to expand awareness of the good work of civil grand juries are how to stand out and how to break through, as civil grand jury reports can only make their intended impact if the public is aware of them. Reports need to reach news reporters. To get to the point,

- Avoid reports that are slow explaining why particular investigations matter.
- Use concise writing.
- Place a brief synopsis at the top to get the attention of the reporter and the public. Borenstein referred to it as the “Hey, Mabel” test – the elevator pitch, or the tweet that grabs the reader’s attention. [Read more.](#)

New Board Sworn In



Pictured from the left: Karin Hern (inaugural official). Board members: Juliana Jones, Henry Rible, Marsha Caranci, Richard Rogers, Gary Cooper, Bob Finlayson, Travis Gibbons, Karen Jahr, Jim Glover, Karen Deeming, Larry Herbst, and Shirley Boracci.



San Bernardino Wins Best Report Award



The CGJA annual award recognizes a civil grand jury report that is of high quality, has a positive impact on the community and increases awareness of the California grand jury system.

Bob Finlayson, of the Excellence in Reporting subcommittee (Awards Committee), presented the award to John Bradley who accepted it on behalf of the 2019-20 San Bernardino County Civil Grand Jury. [Read more.](#)



The Breakout Sessions Were Highly Rated

This year's Annual Conference included five break-out sessions on a myriad of subjects. Attendees had the opportunity to choose which topic they were most interested in but were free to move to a second session during the allotted 45 minutes. After a short break, each group reported out the information gained, to share with the attendees at large. See details below.



Kendall Tieck (profile on left), Nevada County and CGJA Technology Committee member, led the breakout session titled **Building Bridges with Technology** – best practices for leveraging technology for effectiveness and efficiency. *Handouts.*



Paul Sullivan and **Mike Henn** (second and third from the left), Alameda County, led **The Need for Accuracy and Fairness in Local Ballot Language** session. *Handouts.*



Your Association – Attracting, Motivating, and Recruiting Members was led by **Anne Granlund**, Contra Costa County (far right).



Laura Griffin, Contra Costa County (far right), led the **Recruiting Jurors Through Filming** breakout session. *Handouts.*



Loydyne Lane (facing camera), Nevada County, led the fifth breakout group on **Organizing a Grand Jury Education Program** using the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute. *Handouts.*

Lou Panetta Earns Rolando Service Award by Joann Landi, Chair, Awards Committee



The Angelo Rolando Service Award is given in recognition of outstanding, long-time service to the association in support of its goals and objectives at both the state and local level.

Caranci presented this year's award to **Lou Panetta**.

Lou first served on the Monterey County Grand Jury in 2015 as *pro tem* and continues to be active in both his local chapter and at all levels of CGJA. He became a trainer in 2016, currently training jurors in five of the eight core topics, and serves as a team leader.

He is on several training committees, chairs the Technology Committee and has served on various other CGJA committees. Lou is a past president and vice president of the association and recently completed serving his third term as a director. Over the last eight years, his commitment has been unwavering, fully embodying its mission to promote, preserve and support the California grand jury system.



Past Rolando Award recipients (pictured from left to right): Larry Herbst; Karen Jahr;;Lloyd Bell; Marsha Caranci; Jerry Lewi; Karin Hern; current awardee, Lou Panetta and his spouse, Kathy.

Keynote: Creating Awareness Through Action Ethan Rarick, Executive Director, Little Hoover Commission by Jerry Lewi



Ethan Rarick pointed out that the Little Hoover Commission is the only independent, *permanent* citizens' commission in the country working to improve state government.

Its thirteen members are appointed by the governor and the legislative leadership. It makes recommendations to the governor and the legislature for "promoting economy, efficiency, and improved service" in state government.

He compared the commission structure and operation with that of the grand jury.

[Read more.](#)

Keys to Successful Juror Recruitment



The panel discussion on the "**Role of chapters in juror recruitment and selection**," led by **Spencer Sias** (shown on right), was one of the highest rated portions of the program. Panelists are **Jeanne Jelke** (Shasta), **Lou Panetta** (Monterey), **Anne Granlund** (Contra Costa), and **Mauro Lara** (Sacramento).

When it comes to recruiting new jurors, CGJA members have a lot of ideas and techniques that have helped to increase the number and diversity of civil grand applicants in many counties. The panelists described multi-faceted programs that included advertising, social media programs, speakers' bureaus, radio interviews, lawn signs, Op Eds, and personal invitations. Also contributing to the discussion were **Karen Kindschi** of Orange County and **Tom Mastre** of Monterey County

"The aim was to get a cross-conference exchange of ideas that could help all county chapters to strengthen their recruiting programs," said panel moderator Spencer Sias of Marin County. [Read more.](#)



New Chapters - Nevada County and Los Angeles

Shirley Boracci of the Membership and Chapter Relations Committee, presented *Certificates of Affiliation* to **Loydyne Lane** for Nevada County and to **Carina Lister** for Los Angeles County.

Good Times



CGJA Trainers having fun together at dinner. Standing, left to right: Bob Finlayson, Gary Hoffmann, Marsha Caranci, Richard Rogers, Karen Jahr, Karen Michael, and Lou Panetta. Seated, left to right: Ron Chestnut, Spencer Sias, Juliana Jones, and Bob Phibbs.



Candid photos (Thank you, Lew Jones)



The silent auction brought in \$2,205.

See Last Year's *List of Volunteers*.
Access the *Standing Committee Reports*.

Ask the Trainers by the Training Committee Co-chairs



Marsha Caranci

This regular column allows the CGJA training team to share with Journal readers our responses to questions we receive from grand jurors. Please remember: Do not take any responses as legal advice and contact your local legal advisors to answer any question that might divulge confidential information.

Please submit your questions to us at cgjatraining@cgja.org. Our response to your edited or redacted question might appear in a future edition of the Journal.



Richard Rogers

Q. What's the difference between an inquiry and an investigation? Must an investigative committee first seek a supermajority vote for a limited investigation and then get a second vote for a full investigation?

A. An inquiry is the first stage of any investigation, when the investigating committee gathers sufficient evidence to decide whether a full-scale investigation is worthwhile. An internal inquiry that is limited to research of publicly available documents or websites does not require a supermajority vote. However, any inquiry or investigation that involves external jury contacts or activities such as interviews or site visits requires supermajority approval. [Read more.](#)

Q. For follow-up reports, what role does a previous report play in a new investigation? Should the previous report drive the new investigation if an entity has failed to respond properly or follow through with a previous commitment to implement a recommendation?

A. Under Penal Code Section 939.9, follow-up reports on topics covered in previous jury reports require a full re-investigation that enables the current jury to gather and verify its own information. [Read more.](#)

Q. We would like to release our first individual report early this year. Can our presiding judge require our jury to delay releasing any of our reports until the end of our term? The custom within our county is for the civil grand jury to release all our reports only within the final consolidated report for our term.

A. Penal Code section 933(a) states that the jury can submit its reports to the judge at any time during its term but does not require the judge to release them to the public within any particular time frame. [Read more.](#)

LAST CHANCE – Registration is still open for one more CGJA Report Writing Workshop

[See details.](#)

News from Around the State

from San Joaquin County

NAACP honors CGJA Director, Gary Cooper

On November 18, the NAACP Stockton Branch held their Freedom Fund Gala and award ceremony in Stockton. Tracy native, Gary Cooper, was honored for his work with the community, volunteer organizations, and the San Joaquin County Civil Grand Jury.

Cooper holds a master’s degree in organizational management, leading to a career in the transportation industry in a management position, where he trains colleagues in compliance with government regulations. [Read more.](#)





from Orange County

by Doug Gillen, Chair, BOD, Grand Jurors' Association of Orange County

At the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at UC Irvine. **John Siragusa**, chair of the 2022-23 Grand Jury, and **Doug Gillen**, chair of the association, described reports and covered the basics of grand jury service.

Held for several years, the presentations provide an excellent opportunity for residents to become familiar with what the grand jury can do for Orange County. There were many questions and attendees left with a much greater understanding of how our reports can impact county, city, and other agencies.



Bernadette Cheyne, 1949-2023

by Marsha Caranci



Bernadette Cheyne, 74, passed away on October 30th after a battle with brain cancer. Bernadette was a valued member of CGJA, having served as a trainer since 2017. She also served on the board of directors for two terms, on the Training Committee for five years, and as a member of the Trainer Subcommittee, helping to mentor new trainers.

Bernadette was also active in the Humboldt County Chapter, having served on the Humboldt County Civil Grand Jury for two terms and as foreperson during the 2017-18 term.

Bernadette spent more than 20 years as a professor in the Theatre, Film, and Dance Department at Humboldt State University. After retirement, she acted in and directed plays at the Redwood Curtain Theatre, in addition to training grand jurors across the state. She also dedicated many hours as a Court Appointed Special Advocate, mentoring children in need.

I will always remember Bernadette as a smart, kind, and hardworking woman who was willing to do anything for a cause she believed in. She was a wonderful trainer for CGJA. She brought her theatrical skills to the podium, engaging her students. She will be missed by all of us who had the pleasure of working with her.

Bernadette's family and friends will gather to celebrate Bernadette's life at the Moonstone Beach House on December 2 from 12-4 p.m. Read the full [**obituary**](#).

new MEMBERS

County	Name
Marin	Jenna Brady
Santa Barbara	Darren Brown
San Bernardino	Joanna Hamilton
Stanislaus	Jeffrey Olson
Yolo	Richard Warg

Recent Board Actions – Click [here](#).



IT'S THE GIVING SEASON

Please include **CGJA** in your year-end charitable giving. Our mission to promote, preserve, and support the grand jury system through training, education, and outreach, is made possible by your continuing support.

You can donate by clicking here: [Support Us - California Grand Jurors' Association \(cgja.org\)](#)

Or send a check to: CGJA Treasurer, 1017 L St, #320, Sacramento, CA 95814

Keep us Posted

Format articles in Word and send as email attachments to Barbara Sommer, editor@cgja.org. For more details see [How to submit an article](#).

**DEADLINE for submitting articles for publication in the next issue.
January 22, 2024**

Change of address – Please notify the editor@cgja.org of any email address changes.

Join/Renew your membership

Serve on a committee - see the [committee descriptions](#).

The mission of the CGJA is to promote, preserve, and support the grand jury system through training, education, and outreach.

Contacts: [Officers and directors](#), chapter and association [presidents](#).

STAY CONNECTED



Visit our website

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Borenstein talk

He also suggested not dumping all the jury's reports the last two weeks of June - the same strategy CGJA teaches in its training. "Let them breathe."

He recommended issuing press releases and having a local press list of the people who matter. Pique their interest. If you have a local grand jury website, make it sing, improve your SEO (search engine optimization), be compelling.

Invite the media to an orientation – get people to come to you. Use social media, call a press conference about important reports.

"Civil grand jury work is important – let people know what you do."

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Best Grand Jury Report Award – San Bernardino County

In its report titled “[City of Upland Investigation](#)” (a follow-up investigation of a report by the 2018-19 San Bernardino County Civil Grand Jury), the 2019-20 Grand Jury provided evidence of deceptive practices and a lack of transparency on the part of Upland city management. In 2019, on no fewer than five (5) city treasury reports, staff were found to have removed a handwritten notation of \$112,039,675 pertinent to the city’s unfunded pension liabilities made by the elected city treasurer. Management personnel then forwarded the treasury reports as unaltered to unaware city council members.

The removal of the hand-written notations served to prevent both the council and the citizens of Upland from becoming informed of and asking questions about the status of the city’s unfunded pension liabilities. The cover-up of the notation was discovered, but the city failed to take any disciplinary action. Instead, management decided to permanently remove the elected city treasurer’s approval signature from all future treasury reports.

The 2019-2020 Grand Jury’s report also noted additional instances of Upland’s failure to follow its own documented processes and procedures. When the city treasurer later submitted a state law-authorized appointment request for a deputy treasurer, Upland management personnel denied the request without statutory authority. Members of the City of Upland Finance Committee were found to be confused about their responsibilities, and committee member opinions differed from procedures as to who did and who did not have voting rights.

The Grand Jury’s report provided the City of Upland with sixteen (16) recommendations on how to correct the identified discrepancies and to improve internal city processes and visibility in the future. Multiple recommendations have already been implemented by the city.

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Rarick Keynote Address

Rarick took the time to point out several similarities shared by the commission and grand juries. Both

- operate with substantial independence in choosing their own topics and deliberating on their own recommendations.
- operate with substantial freedom regarding how investigations are to be conducted and how reports are to be compiled.
- address topics that are wide-ranging.
- ultimately lack power to enforce their recommendations.

However, according to Rarick, both retain other features which make them unique:

- Whereas most of a grand jury's work occurs in private, the Bagley-Keene, Public Records Act requires the commission's work to occur almost entirely in public.
- Unlike a grand jury, the commission utilizes a professional staff of seven to conduct research and write reports.
- The commissioners are appointed by the governor and legislative leadership, using whatever criteria they think best. Recognizing the often highly charged, partisan environment in which commissions operate, no more than five of the nine public members may be members of the same political party.

Rarick praised the theme chosen for this year's CGJA Conference, "Building Bridges" as being particularly apt for both entities. As neither the commission nor the grand jury has the power to legally enforce the recommendations they make, both are dependent upon persuading and convincing all parties (and the public) to accept and adopt changes through successful dissemination of their message.

Having to achieve compliance goals by convincing, rather than by compelling, is a continually challenging effort. Unlike legislative bodies, neither commissions nor grand juries can change laws; unlike an executive branch, neither can remove or replace administrative officials; unlike the judiciary, neither can issue court-ordered compliance.

What can be done, is continuing to publicize what changes should be made. He feels that both entities already possess several built-in advantages for this, including a well-developed culture, as well public reputations for seriousness of purpose and fact-based findings. These are critical elements to be capitalized upon in all future outreach efforts.

He concluded by encouraging conference attendees to redouble their efforts to reach the public in new and effective ways, including utilizing public meetings and the media. Rarick emphasized that any increase in the number of people who learn what the commission and grand juries do, about how they do it, and about the seriousness with which they approach their respective tasks will serve to benefit both entities.

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CGJA Chapter Panelists Outline Keys to Successful Juror Recruitment

Social Media

Panetta, past CGJA board president and the 2023 winner of CGJA's Angelo Rolando Service Award, concentrated on the use of social media outlets, including Facebook, X (formerly known as Twitter), and Nextdoor. These platforms enable chapters to target people by where they live, their age, education level and their interests. He suggested focusing on people interested in public service, government, law, social justice. Participants in civic organizations, such as the League of Women Voters, often make good jury candidates, he said. Speaking from the audience, Kindschi also presented ideas on the use of social media in Orange County.

The Contra Costa chapter used a broad array of recruiting tools to successfully attract 70 applicants, "a significant increase over last year," Granlund said. The recruiting program included an Op Ed in the local newspapers, ads in Next Door and local newspapers, an information packet for members of the League of Women Voters, and a speaker's bureau.

Diversity

Sacramento County courts developed an annual "Communications Plan" for recruiting civil grand jurors, according to Lara who helped to execute the plan while serving as a member of the county's 2022-23 jury. He intends to continue this work with county's local chapter. Recruiting for the 2023-24 jury got off to a slow start until kicking into high gear with a media outreach program that included radio and television interviews in both English and Spanish. The campaign also included email outreach to local civic organizations, service clubs and businesses. As a result, the county received 127 applications and ultimately seated a jury that matched the demographics of the county. "Nine of the 19 jury members were non-white and/or female," Lara said.

Word of Mouth, Yard Signs, and More

The most effective recruiting tool in Shasta County was "word of mouth" advertising from chapter members and current jurors who called on family and friends to serve. More than half the Shasta's 39 applicants received personal invitations, Jelke said.

"APPLY NOW Shasta County Grand Jury" This yard sign, which included a phone number and website, helped to attract a third of applicants for Shasta's civil grand jury. Jelke reported that signs and banners were placed around the county and then collected for reuse in coming years. The chapter will annually add to the number of signs they are posting, she said. The Shasta chapter, also worked with the presiding judge to create a 30-second public service announcement for television and radio and television. Half of the applicants mentioned hearing or seeing the PSA, Jelke said. Shasta also advertised on social media, held information sessions, launched programs on Facebook and Nextdoor and held informational meetings.

Most counties carry out multi-faceted recruitment programs and several audience members shared their experiences during the session. Materials and notes from the panel discussion have been posted on the CGJA website under [chapter resource documents](#).

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Volunteer Roster

Fulfilling CGJA's many purposes and functions requires the commitment of many people.

Annual Conference

Lloyd Bell, chair
Janet Clark, vice-chair
Tom Borden
Travis Gibbons
Anne Granlund
Juliana Jones
Colleen Leahy
Jerry Lewi
Gwen Usher

Standing Committees

Finance

Richard Rogers, chair
Marsha Caranci, vice-chair
Travis Gibbons, treasurer
Lloyd Bell
Dan "Don" Freeman
Steve Rubin

Legal and Legislative Resources

Karen Jahr, chair
Teri Goldner, vice-chair
Karin Hern
Bob Phibbs
Arthur Rolston
Jon Tonsing
Jason Wacha

Awards

Joann Landi, chair
Trudy Craig
Barbara Sommer
Terrie Stevens

Subcommittees

Angelo Rolando Service

Joann Landi, chair
Ray Frisbie
Leslie Lea
Jerry Lewi
Barbara Sommer

Certificate of Special Recognition

Trudy Craig, chair

Excellence in Reporting

Barbara Sommer, chair
Richard Faenzi
Bob Finlayson
Lanny Larson
Mary Lou Oliver

Membership and Chapter Relations

Jim Glover, chair
Shirley Boracci, vice-chair
Michael Hofman
Diane Lloyd
Henry Rible
Barbara Sommer
Carolyn Stinemates

Subcommittees

Recruitment and Retention

Diane Lloyd, chair
Carolyn Stinemates

Chapter/Association Relations

Shirley Boracci, chair
Jim Glover
Henry Rible

Technology

Michael Hofman
Jim Glover

Bylaws and Policy Review

Karen Jahr, co-chair
Larry Herbst, co-chair
Marsha Caranci
Karin Hern
Joann Landi



Training

Marsha Caranci, chair
 Karen Jahr, vice-chair
 Richard Rogers, secretary
 Gary Cooper
 Karen Deeming
 Bob Finlayson
 Travis Gibbons
 Teri Goldner
 Lou Panetta
 Bob Phibbs
 Spencer Sias

Nominations-Elections

Gary Cooper, chair
 Ray Frisbie
 Jim Glover
 Teri Goldner
 Larry Herbst
 Joann Landi
 Tellers
 Judith Prima
 Gene Shibata
 Bonnie Vistica

Public Relations

Juliana Olinka Jones, chair
 Joann Landi, secretary
 Barbara Arietta
 Bob Finlayson
 Michael Hofman
 Lanny Larson
 Lou Panetta
 Henry Rible
 Spencer Sias
 Barbara Sommer

Technology

Lou Panetta, chair
 Webmaster, Larry Herbst
 Asst. Webmaster, Kendall Tieck

Training Subcommittees

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 Marsha Caranci
 Bob Finlayson
 Teri Goldner
 Richard Rogers
 Arthur Rolston
 Spencer Sias
 Jon Tonsing

Program Administration

Marsha Caranci, chair
 Laura Griffin
 Shirley Boracci
 Michael Bryant
 Gary Cooper
 Karen Deeming
 Karen Jahr
 Joann Landi
 Leslie Lea
 Cheryl Nelson

Finance

Travis Gibbons, chair
 Marsha Caranci
 Joann Landi

Public Relations

Spencer Sias, chair
 Marsha Caranci
 Travis Gibbons
 Jerry Lewi
 Karen Jahr

Technology

Lou Panetta, chair

Trainer

Karen Jahr, chair
 Marsha Caranci
 Karen Deeming
 Gary Cooper
 Travis Gibbons
 Lou Panetta
 Bob Phibbs
 Richard Rogers

Active Trainers

Nancy Baumann
 Marsha Caranci
 Ron Chestnut
 Gary Cooper
 Karen Deeming
 Heather Esemann
 Bob Finlayson
 Bruce Frank
 Travis Gibbons
 Teri Goldner
 Gary Hoffmann
 Michael Hofman
 Karen Jahr
 Juliana Jones
 Mauro Lara
 Scott McDonald
 Karen Michael
 Lou Panetta
 Bob Phibbs
 Richard Rogers
 Arthur Rolston
 Martha Saldana-Wolf
 Dee Schweitzer
 Pat Shepherd
 Spencer Sias
 Mark Swan
 Jon Tonsing
 Jason Wacha
 Norv Wellsfry

Ad hoc

Grand Jury Effectiveness Workgroup

Bob Finlayson, chair
 Marilyn Acree
 Josh Franco
 Rich Knowles
 Jerry Lewi
 Kati Martin
 Roxy Montana
 Steven Soto

2023 CGJA Annual Standing Committee Reports

ANNUAL CONFERENCE (ACC) - strives to present a challenging, inspiring, and informative program each year in a convenient yet popular location that will entice attendees to come early or stay after our meetings to enjoy the locale. **Chair, Lloyd Bell**



With key learnings fresh in our minds from the 2022 conference in San Rafael, planning began early this year, culminating in the selection of the Embassy Suites in Walnut Creek as the 2023 CGJA Annual Conference site. We look forward once again to gathering to celebrate local successes and renew acquaintances, with a full complement of award presentations, informative panel discussions, renowned speakers, an update from the CGJA President, and a gala dinner and silent auction on the evening of October 22.

Our committee is always seeking new members who wish to volunteer their time and talents in planning and executing our annual conference. If you would find it interesting to work on such an event, or know of someone who would, please let us know by sending a note to annualconference@cgja.org.



AWARDS (AC) - establishes and administers all CGJA awards and recognition, with the exception of the Lifetime Achievement Award that falls within the purview of the Board of Directors. **Chair, Joann Landi**

This year the CGJA will present the Best Grand Jury Report and the Angelo Rolando Service Award.

While certain awards must be presented at the Annual Conference, i.e., the Excellence in Reporting and Rolando awards, Certificates of Special Recognition can be presented at a chapter or regional meeting. This may permit more local people to be present to enjoy the proceedings and congratulate the honoree(s).

In April a Certificate of Special Recognition was issued acknowledging Anatolia “Toli” Lubos, Administrative Analyst for the San Francisco Civil Grand Jury. Toli manages many aspects of the jury including recruitment, interviewing prospective jurors, arranging training, and updating the juror handbook. In May a Certificate of Special Recognition was presented to Tom Horsley for his contributions to the success of the 2019-2021 San Joaquin County Grand Jury. Tom revived and maintains the Chapter’s website which has led to renewed awareness and interest in the grand jury.



BYLAWS AND POLICY REVIEW COMMITTEE (BPRC) - works with other standing committees and the board of directors to ensure that the association’s governing documents are updated as needed, compliant with state law and internally consistent. **Co-chairs, Larry Herbst & Karen Jahr**

This committee reviews any proposed amendment to the CGJA Bylaws or Policy Manual and makes recommendations regarding the amendment’s content, format, and placement within the bylaws or manual. We also review newly adopted or revised committee procedures and conduct other reviews as requested.



Another BPRC responsibility is reviewing and commenting on documents related to CGJA chapters. This year, we reviewed amendments to the Chapter Formation Guide and the bylaws template, the proposed bylaws for four new CGJA chapters (San Benito, El Dorado, Nevada, and Los Angeles), and the amended bylaws of the Monterey and Shasta chapters.



FINANCE (FC) - works with the president, treasurer, and committee chairs to develop the annual budget and provide oversight of other finance-related information and activities of the association. The committee is actively looking for new members familiar with financial management principles, the nonprofit legal environment, accounting software, and administration. **Chair, Richard Rogers**

This year the Finance Committee

- conducted a monthly review of CGJA financial records and transactions, including adherence to budget.
- compiled and facilitated approval of the 2023 CGJA budget.
- reviewed and suggested updates to Financial Committee Procedures.
- filed IRS CP 119 Form to update subsidiary CGJA chapter nonprofit status.
- filed updated Entity Numbers for Subordinates to CGJA with the California Franchise Tax Board.
- successfully conducted an “End of Year” fundraising campaign.
- successfully managed finance-related issues with the assistance of the CGJA Treasurer.
- forwarded financial information for 2022 to the CPA for preparation of the federal and state tax returns.
- prepared and submitted the annual sales tax payment to the Board of Equalization.
- prepared and submitted the odd-year Corporate Statement of Information (S-100) to the Secretary of State.
- prepared and submitted an Annual Financial Report for the CGJA Board and membership.
- began a successful program to invest unallocated funds in CDs with various terms, maturities, and interest rates.
- reviewed and suggested updates to Financial Committee Procedures.

LEGAL AND LEGISLATIVE RESOURCES (LLRC) -comprised of active and retired members of the California State Bar and answers questions submitted by grand juries, individual grand jurors, CGJA chapter members, legal advisors to grand juries, and court personnel. **Chair, Karen Jahr**



The committee’s main responsibility is to answer questions submitted to us by grand juries, individual grand jurors, CGJA chapter members, legal advisors to grand juries, and court personnel. As the members of LLRC are not in an attorney/client relationship with any grand jury or juror, the committee does not provide legal advice in response to the questions we receive. Instead, we make “best practices” suggestions based on the information submitted to us and on the collective experience of the members of LLRC. We always inform grand juries and jurors that they should consult with their legal advisors when they need legal advice about the grand jury or local government entities.

Most of the questions posed to us can be answered informally by a committee member by reference to CGJA’s training materials or website. We have seen a steady decrease over time in the number of questions that require the consideration of the full committee.

LLRC annually updates CGJA’s Compendium of California Grand Jury Law, which reprints the annotated statutes related to the grand jury’s watchdog function. We also revise the Frequently Asked Questions page on CGJA’s website every year.

Another function of the committee is to monitor legislation that could affect the grand jury system and provide an analysis of the bills to the CGJA Board of Directors. This year, we provided the board our analysis of AB 78, a bill which was first introduced in 2022 as AB 1972. The bill would have increased grand jurors’ per diem. The board took an “oppose unless amended” position on the bill due to its lack of funding. Like AB 1972 last year, AB 78 died in committee.



MEMBERSHIP AND CHAPTER RELATIONS (MCRC) – responsible for recruitment and retention of CGJA members, manages the CGJA membership and introductory member database, provides guidance to grand jurors in each county who wish to form a chapter, supports ongoing chapters, and maintains a resource information database for both chapters and the general membership. **Chair, Jim Glover**

The committee has upgraded and updated to its processes. Despite a midyear change of chairs, our work has continued in the following areas:

- Supporting the establishment or revitalization of several chapters throughout the state.
- Developing a comprehensive procedures manual to guide committee chairs and participants in the myriad of issues that can and do occur.
- Redesigning of the working database. The goal here is to have an easy to navigate database that provides truly necessary information that assists all directors and committees of CGJA, in conducting their functions.
- Development of a Chapter Information Survey to semi-annually obtain contact information and the status of the many state chapters and associations.

Our goal for the future is to restructure our small committee to be more proactive in creating and promoting membership growth.

PUBLIC RELATIONS (PRC) – has taken an aggressive role at building awareness of the grand jury system through communications with our members, chapters, and the media. The use of social media to communicate grand jury work has increased substantially. **Chair, Juliana Olinka Jones**



The committee has also taken a position of identifying opportunities to issue press releases of importance regarding both the state's various grand juries, as well as the efforts of CGJA to educate the public. This will assist CGJA's efforts to build awareness of grand jury work and attract a more diverse and educated grand jury pool.

PRC created a master template for press releases that can be adapted by juries and chapters to use to issue their announcements and had it placed on the website. In addition, an aggressive effort was made to increase acknowledgment of Grand Jury Awareness Month throughout the state. Based on contacts with Chapters and Court CEOs there was a significant increase in the number of counties acknowledging Grand Juries in the spring of 2023.

PRC is in the process of developing an updated Marketing Strategy Plan for CGJA.

CGJA Blog

PRC continues to be responsible for the news blog postings on the website. The committee streamlined the process for posting blog stories related to California grand juries with links to the sources of the original articles.

Grand Jurors' Journal and News

The bimonthly *Grand Jurors' Journal* continues to be an information vehicle to reach our members, current grand jurors, and court and county staffs. Barbara Sommer continues as its outstanding editor. Each journal contains announcements, chapter news, training information and other topics of interest to our audience. In addition, PRC issues periodic "News" emails in months the *Journal* does not appear.

Looking for additional committee members

PRC is looking for marketing and media savvy CGJA members to join the committee. If interested contact Juliana Olinka Jones at jolinka.pgi@gmail.com.



TECHNOLOGY (Tech) – oversees and supports the technical, data, and communications resources of the association. It deploys a cohesive technology strategy across the association ensuring the security and privacy of its financial, legal, and membership information. **Chair, Lou Panetta**

The committee manages the website, www.cgja.org. All transactions made with CGJA are conducted through the website, including conference and class registrations, board elections, and blog posts.

During this past year, the committee supported and maintained DropBox, the cloud storage application that securely stores the Association's records; three Zoom accounts used for training, committee, and board meetings; and the CGJA website, www.cgja.org.

The major project for the year was the work of Larry Herbst to convert the web site to a new underlying architecture – one more supportable and manageable. The effort consumed many hours of conferencing, data migration, and testing. Our appreciation goes out to him for his hard work and dedication.

TRAINING (TC) – develops and conducts annual training programs presented at statewide locations for new grand jurors. **Chair, Marsha Caranci**

The committee recently completed a very successful regular summer training season, and we are now starting our Report Writing Workshop season, which will run from October through January this year.

Last January, we trained four counties who remained on a calendar-year schedule in 2023, and we provided report writing to them in the spring, prior to the start of our regular two-day training seminars for the counties on a fiscal-year term.

In 2023, we have already trained over 1100 grand jurors and alternates during our two-day seminars, over 100 forepersons and pro tems at our FP and PT Workshops, and about 50 legal advisors at our Legal Advisor Workshops. We anticipate training around 600 or more jurors at our Report Writing Workshops this year.


The Program and Administration Subcommittee does all the work to set up and support these seminars and workshops – scheduling the venues, making hotel reservations for the training teams, arranging for the delivery of materials and equipment, etc.

The Curriculum Subcommittee reviews and revises the training materials for all the seminars and workshops every year and is in charge of getting all materials printed. We have two scenarios that we use as an example of various investigative procedures and we have two videos for each scenario that we show – one of a regular interview of a department head at the beginning of an investigation, and one of an exit interview that we show during our Report Writing Workshop, with the same department head being interviewed again before the report is released. We alternate the scenarios each year so that holdover jurors get something new their second term.

Our Trainer Subcommittee identifies grand jurors during our training seminars and workshops that would make good CGJA Trainers. The process of inviting them to apply, reviewing their applications, and conducting interviews takes place over the fall and winter months. In 2023, we successfully recruited twelve new trainers who were approved by the Training Committee and participated in our 2023 summer training season. Our full roster of CGJA trainers is included as part of the volunteer list produced in the Annual Conference Program.

The Trainer Subcommittee also conducts our New Trainer Orientation and Train-the-Trainer programs, which were held in Sacramento over three days in April of 2023. It's the only time our full training staff is together in one place and provides a great opportunity to share ideas and learn the materials and processes needed to be a CGJA Trainer.

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BUILDING BRIDGES  *with Outreach and Awareness*
continued – Training (TC)

Our Finance Subcommittee monitors our income and expenses. Our Technology Subcommittee maintains our computers and audio and video equipment, as well as our Zoom accounts. And our Public Relations Subcommittee keeps the jurors and CGJA members informed by assisting with the monthly communications that go out from the training team, either through Eblasts or the *Journal*.

A big thanks to all our talented and hard-working trainers and support volunteers for their dedication to CGJA's important mission of providing training to California's civil grand juries, and to the CGJA members and chapters who support our efforts.

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Ask the Trainers

Q. What's the difference between an inquiry and an investigation? Must an investigative committee first seek a supermajority vote for a limited investigation and then get a second vote for a full investigation?

A. An inquiry is the first stage of any investigation, when the investigating committee gathers sufficient evidence to decide whether a full-scale investigation is worthwhile. An internal inquiry that is limited to research of publicly available documents or websites does not require a supermajority vote. However, any inquiry or investigation that involves external jury contacts or activities such as interviews or site visits requires supermajority approval.

The jury has the discretion to let the investigating committee decide what investigative techniques to use. Or it might choose to provide only limited approval, allowing the committee to gather just enough evidence for the plenary to decide if it's worth going forward. If the direction of an approved investigation changes along the way, the investigating committee must request supermajority approval to change the focus of its investigation.

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Ask the Trainers

Q. For follow-up reports, what role does a previous report play in a new investigation? Should the previous report drive the new investigation if an entity has failed to respond properly or follow through with a previous commitment to implement a recommendation?

A. Under Penal Code Section 939.9, follow-up reports on topics covered in previous jury reports require a full re-investigation that enables the current jury to gather and verify its own information. Juries must be aware that previous reports may not have been completely accurate or that circumstances or information may have changed since the first report was published. This means that the earlier report can be used as background information only; none of its contents can be considered valid without full verification.

A jury can release a follow-up report on the same topic or that focuses narrowly on whether an entity has actually followed through with the recommendations it agreed to implement. Either still requires all the elements of a full and fair investigation.

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Ask the Trainers

Q. We would like to release our first individual report early this year. Can our presiding judge require our jury to delay releasing any of our reports until the end of our term? The custom within our county is for the civil grand jury to release all our reports only within the final consolidated report for our term.

A. Penal Code section 933(a) states that the jury can submit its reports to the judge at any time during its term but does not require the judge to release them to the public within any particular time frame. Most judges review and approve a report's release soon after it is submitted to the court. On rare occasions, a judge can block a report's release, but only if it is outside the grand jury's jurisdiction. The judge's approval is required before public release of a civil grand jury report. CGJA recommends taking a diplomatic approach with the judge to explain why timely report releases are preferable to delayed releases at the end of the jury term.

CGJA recommends early release of individual reports for several reasons:

- Jury recommendations for improving the operation of local governments can be considered and implemented sooner.
- Reports released individually, rather than only within consolidated, end-of-term reports, are likely to get more of the public and media attention that every report deserves.
- Some individual reports released simultaneously with other reports are at an increased risk of being missed or ignored by the public and the media.
- Releasing reports individually will likely help with recruiting more applicants for future juries by increasing the frequency of civil grand jury news in the local media.
- Staggered releasing of reports will spread out the workload of the plenary, legal advisor, and judge.

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CGJA has one workshop left for this term – on **Wednesday, January 10**. The workshop will be conducted on Zoom from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm, with a lunch break.

You don't want to miss this opportunity to improve the quality, readability, and effectiveness of your grand jury's reports using hands-on practice in developing findings and recommendations. Conducting exit interviews and the procedures for reviewing, approving, and releasing reports will also be covered.

If you are a current juror and have not yet attended a workshop (or your county has not already scheduled a workshop for your full grand jury), register now. The fee is \$50 per juror and includes all the needed workshop materials.

Register at [Report Writing Workshops - California Grand Jurors' Association \(cgja.org\)](https://www.cgja.org/report-writing-workshops). Class size is limited.

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NAACP honors Gary Cooper

The following is excerpted from the [announcement](#) of the event, written by Raina Dent of the *Tracy Press*.

Cooper says that he believes his work with local government has been the most impactful to the community.

“I would have to go back to my work with [the] local government, getting involved ...specifically with the civil grand jury,” stated Cooper.

Cooper served 3 years on the San Joaquin County Civil Grand Jury. He now serves as Vice President of the California Grand Jurors Association and Central Region Director.

Additionally, Cooper has worked with multiple volunteer organizations, roles that he says “help fill the gaps that are not filled by either government or, sometimes, private interests.”

Locally Cooper has served as the President of the Kiwanis Club of Tracy from 2022 to 2023. In his tenure, he focused on creating more awareness of the club by hosting multiple mixers and events which were attended by business leaders and city officials. In his presidency, the club renewed its relationship with the Tracy Chamber of Commerce.

“I would like to think that I’ve done lots of important things in the community from that perspective,” he stated.

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Recent Board Actions

- 10/22/23 Approved President's appointment of Barbara Sommer as 13th CGJA Board Member.
- 10/22/23 Approved Vice-President's appointment of Travis Gibbons as 14th CGJA Board Member.
- 10/22/23 Approved Vice-president's appointment of Travis Gibbons as Treasurer
- 10/22/23 Elected President (Executive Committee vote)
- 10/22/23 Ratified President-elect
- 10/22/23 Approved Annual Conference Contract
- 11/29/23 Adopted bylaws and policies changes regarding officers and directors
- 11/29/23 Increased rainy day fund
- 11/29/23 Approved an annual dues renewal period for all CGJA paid memberships
- 11/29/23 Adopted Policy manual change for membership
- 11/29/23 Approve 2023 CGJA budget

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