



Grand Jurors' Journal

Vol. 25, No. 1, February 2024



GRAND JURY AWARENESS MONTH 2024

During his term as Governor of California, Arnold Schwarzenegger proclaimed each February as Grand Jury Awareness Month. Some California counties regularly recognize grand jury service in February, and some choose to do this in March.

As many counties have not been recognizing this honorable and voluntary service, this year the CGJA Public Relations committee reached out to each county – through the chapters or by directly contacting court executive offices where there are no CGJA chapters. They were offered a template proclamation to share with their Board of Supervisors.

If your county makes a proclamation – please send us ([Juliana Jones](#)) pictures and any press coverage.

Multichapter Meeting highlights

The January multichapter meeting held on zoom was lively and informative. Thirty-nine people representing twenty-four counties and CGJA officers participated.



Following brief introductory comments from Jim Glover (Membership and Chapter Relations Committee) and Gary Cooper, newly appointed CGJA President, Juliana Jones (Public Relations Committee) described the current media situation and requested that chapters participate in actively keeping up media contacts in their areas. [Meeting highlights here.](#)

Serving the Civil Grand Jury

by Joann Landi, Chair, Awards Committee

In addition to civil grand jury service, CGJA chapter or independent association involvement, there are many people who do a lot for the grand jury who are not members of the CGJA. Examples are civic minded city council members, county officials, legislators, judges, and others.

Their value should be recognized and rewarded. You can do so by nominating them for a **Certificate of Special Recognition** from the CGJA. [Nomination details](#).



As you're receiving the *Journal*, you get to know about all that's happening in our world. However, friends or colleagues who are members or serving jurors who may have received the *Journal* in the past might have mistakenly unsubscribed.

If they'd like to resubscribe, please direct them to this [form](#), and we'll be able to send it out!

Thanks!

Mark Your Calendars!

by Lloyd Bell, Chair, Annual Conference Committee

Planning has begun for the **CGJA Annual Conference and Membership Meeting**, to be held **October 20-21, 2024**, at the **Embassy Suites in Monterey, California**. This is the premier event at CGJA where we reconnect with old friends and acquaintances over dinner, cocktail time, and during breaks, while gathering new ideas and new friends along the way.

[Read more](#).

Ask the Trainers by the Training Committee Co-chairs



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 cajatraining@cjja.org. Our response to your edited or redacted question might appear in a future edition of the Journal.



Marsha Caranci

Richard Rogers

- We're running short on time. What are CGJA's best practice recommendations regarding remote interviews on Zoom or Google Meet?
- We have a quick follow-up question for an interviewee we met several weeks ago. Can a single juror take the initiative or be assigned to get the answer on their own? Does the admonition the interviewee signed earlier still apply?
- Can a single juror contact outsiders to get general information about an entity under investigation if they don't reveal they are a juror?

Read the answers here.

Foreperson Roundtable Discussion February 15

CGJA's inaugural foreperson roundtable sessions held in 2023 were very popular so we are holding them again in 2024. The first one took place on January 22 and was well attended.

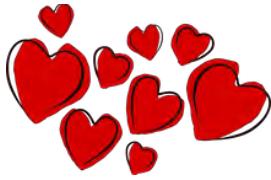
The next session will be on **Thursday, February 15, from 1:00 until 3:00 pm.** ***Read more.***



Did you know that CGJA's members come from 49 of the 58 counties in California! That's quite an impressive spread of members throughout the state.*

This issue's question is: **Which county has the most members?** Let the **editor** know and you'll be recognized in the next issue!

* Courtesy of Michael Hofman, CGJA Database Manager



THANK YOU!

We received \$867 from the following individuals who donated to CGJA at the time they registered for the 2023 Annual Conference.



Lloyd Bell
Janecko Bower
Marsha Caranci
Charles Cerjan

Travis Gibbons
Karen Jahr
Joann Landi
Jerry Lewi

Carina Lister
Diane Lloyd
Dr. Parveen Sharma
Nancy Welts

We also thank those individuals and chapters who contributed silent auction items.

Alameda County Chapter
Lloyd Bell
Janet Clark
Contra Costa Chapter

Anne Granlund
Roxy Montana
Lou Panetta

Monterey County Chapter
Juliana Olinka-Jones
Dave Singh

and our generous members who bid on them. This fun event raised an amazing \$2,205 – to be used to offset registration fees for our 2024 Annual Conference in Monterey.

News from Around the State

from Marin County **Civil Grand Jury** **Selection** **by Janecko Bower**

Superior Court Judge Chou drew names for the 2023-24 Marin County Civil Grand Jury on the Civic Center Patio in June 2023. All were congratulated by Judge Talamantes and the upcoming foreperson. Both jurors and alternates were immediately sworn in by Judge Chou. This jury has three juror holdovers for their second term.



new MEMBERS

County	Name
Marin	Patrice Shepherd – Lifetime member
Calaveras	Victoria Plaugher
Madera	Mark Swan
Napa	Timothy Wilkins
Solano	Sandra Stevens
Ventura	Barbara Rush

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

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.

March 25, 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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January Multichapter Meeting Highlights

Chapter member recruitment and retention

Hold joint events between chapter and sitting grand jury members (key source for new members as they finish their term). Food and socializing were key themes.

Quarterly luncheon with a keynote speaker

Informal lunches

Pizza party

Cocktail/happy hour

At these events, circulate a signup sheet obtaining contact information for later use.

The local Elks Lodge, Veteran's Hall or restaurant meeting rooms serve as venues.

Set out a contribution jar and recover much of the expense. Those that have charged said in posting it ahead of time, they have had no problem.

Marsha Caranci (Training Committee) invited chapter members to bring coffee and/or snacks to the CGJA training sessions held in their county. If interested, contact the [Training Committee](#).

The Contra Costa chapter uses their report follow-up procedure as a hook for new members.

Give a year's free chapter membership as sitting grand jurors end their term.

Finding a location for chapter meetings

Many libraries have community meeting rooms available.

Contact county general services to book a county conference room.

Restaurant meeting rooms.

Chapter dues policies, of those reporting:

No dues - 3 chapters

\$10 or less – 3 chapters

\$20-\$30 – 6 chapters

Greater than \$30 – 3 chapters

Osher Lifelong Learning Institute Classes (related to outreach)

Loydyne Lane (Nevada) described the process and benefits of OLLI classes. Several counties have offered them. Resources can be found on the CGJA website [<https://cgja.org/osher-courses>]

In the next few months, the Membership and Chapter Relations (MCRC) will conduct a chapter survey on status and practices. If there are questions you would like added, please [let Jim know](#) by the end of February, and the committee will consider them.

Certificate of Special Recognition

To make a nomination, submit a paragraph or two that describe how an individual or entity is deserving of recognition to the CGJA Awards Committee chair, [Joann Landi](#).

Upon approval, a certificate will be prepared and submitted to the CGJA President for signature.

Examples of past recognition awards include

- recognition of organizers of regional meetings.
- acknowledgment of a grand jury for a significant report resulting in an accusation vs. a district attorney.
- a founding member of a CGJA chapter.
- a tribute to a grand jury legal advisor for support of the grand jury and successful encouragement for the formation of a CGJA chapter.
- a grand jury administrative analyst who went above and beyond managing all aspects of the jury
- a chapter member whose numerous contributions as a juror and chapter member led to renewed awareness and interest in the grand jury.

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2024 CGJA Annual Conference and Membership Meeting

Feedback from our 2023 conference indicates an overwhelming desire for another round of breakout sessions with varying topics from which to choose that will provide an opportunity to gather at four or five tables to explore topics of interest to you. If there is a topic you would like to see covered, please [let us know](#). Got other ideas that you would like to see presented at the conference? [Let us know](#) about those as well.

If you missed the 2023 conference, plan to join us this year in Monterey. The facility is excellent and conveniently located in the middle of some of the most scenic coastal areas of California. Join us and perhaps plan to extend your stay.

Registration information will be placed on the CGJA website toward the end of May, and we'll continue to update you via the *Journal* when it has been posted.

Please join us. We look forward to seeing you again.

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Ask the Trainer

Q. We're running short on time. What are CGJA's best practice recommendations regarding remote interviews on Zoom or Google Meet?

A. Ideally, interviews should be conducted in person and all members of the investigative committee should attend. Face-to-face interviews enable jurors to not only hear the answer but to see the body language of the interviewee. One or more entity interviews should be at the entity's facility, thus enabling jurors to get a sense of its staff, organization, and culture.

Unfortunately, face-to-face interviews are not always possible because of tight schedules or long driving distances. In these cases, remote interviews can work effectively if they are planned properly and conducted professionally with a lead interviewer, prepared questions, and a period for follow-up questions from the other jurors. Admonitions should be emailed, signed, and returned in advance of the interview. Both jurors and interviewee should be in a private and confidential setting. Using these precautions, remote interviews can be useful and efficient, but are never as good as meeting in person.

Q. We have a quick follow-up question for an interviewee we met several weeks ago. Can a single juror take the initiative or be assigned to get the answer on their own? Does the admonition the interviewee signed earlier still apply?

A. Under Penal Code section 916, interviews must be conducted with two or more grand jurors. CGJA believes this "Rule of Two" applies to all interactions outside the jury whether they involve interviews, document requests, or site visits. A juror can never independently communicate with a non-juror regarding an inquiry or investigation.

One way to get the answer to a quick question would be to conduct a short follow-up interview with at least two jurors, either in person, remotely by videoconference, or by teleconference. While the admonition from the earlier interview remains in force, the interviewee should be reminded of it.

Q. Can a single juror contact outsiders to get general information about an entity under investigation if they don't reveal they are a juror?

A. Jurors may only work alone when gathering information off the internet, and all that information must be verified by additional sources. They cannot interact with anyone outside of the jury or ask anyone questions regarding the topic of the jury's investigation without another juror present.

Jurors can anonymously attend public meetings to see boards and staff in action. However, they should not interact or question the public officials at the meeting and their attendance should be done jointly with at least one other juror. Any information collected by a single juror must be verified.

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Foreperson Roundtable Discussion
Thursday, February 15, 1-3 pm

Current grand jury forepersons (or their pro tem) are invited to attend this Foreperson Roundtable Discussion being hosted on Zoom by members of our Foreperson and Pro Tem Workshop training team.

This is an opportunity to network with other forepersons, share experiences, and ask questions.

We encourage you to submit topic ideas or questions in advance by sending them to cjgatraining@cgja.org.

Pre-registration is required no later than **Friday, February 9**, so we can send you the Zoom meeting information. There is no fee to attend this program.

To register, please send an email to: cjgatraining@cgja.org.

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Recent Board Actions

- 01/23/24 Ratified President's appointment of Loydyne Lane, CGJA Assistant Treasurer.
- 01/23/24 Ratified Nominations-Elections Committee (NEC) appointments: South: Karen Deeming (chair), Lou Panetta; Central: Juliana Jones, Jason Wacha; North: Karen Jahr, Ray Frisbee
- 01/23/24 Approved association name change from "California Grand Jurors' Association" to "Civil Grand Jurors' Association of California."
- 01/26/24 Ratified Executive Committee's appointment of Gary Cooper as CGJA President (unanimous email vote).
- 01/29/24 Ratified President Cooper's appointment of Larry Herbst as CGJA Vice-president (unanimous email vote).

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