

Civil Grand Jurors' Association of California Board of Directors Meeting

April 23, 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, and Richard Rogers.

Absent: Barbara Sommer (excused), Juliana Olinka Jones (excused), Karen Deeming (excused), Diane Lloyd (car trouble)

Quorum is present.

Others present: Committee Chairs: Lloyd Bell, ACC; Joann Landi, AC; Lou Panetta, Tech; Asst.

Treasurer: Loydyne Lane and member Kendall Tieck.

B. Agenda and Comments

B-1 Agenda Approval: Board members unanimously approved the agenda by voice vote; motion by Gibbons with second by Rogers.

B-2 CGJA Member Comments – none.

C. Consent Items

C-1 Approved Regular Board Meeting Minutes, 03-26-24: Cooper.

C-2 Acknowledged Committee Minutes and other documents in 04-23-24 meeting packet: Cooper. Board unanimously approved the consent items and the minutes by voice vote; motion by Rogers, second by Gibbons.

D. Officer and Committee Chair Reports – see committee minutes in packet for details on current activities.

D-1 **President's Report** (Cooper) – Recognized the training work going on and also mentioned reports being released around the state on various topics. We still need successors for various positions. In response to a question from Richard, Gary said he is working on scheduling the retreat for some time in May.

D-2 **Officer Reports**

Vice President (Herbst) – No report

Treasurer (Gibbons) – One of the five CDs matured this month and was reinvested in a 2 month CD which was the highest rate. We are in sound financial condition.

Secretary (Sommer) – No report

At this time items were taken out of agenda order.

D-10 **Annual Conference Committee (ACC)** – Visited the Monterey venue this month. Meeting room space and dinner space were both increased at no cost, though two entrees were reduced in price. Sleeping room rates remain high.

E. Action Agenda

E-1 Request for Subsidy to reduce ACC registration fee

The ACC is asking for additional funds to keep the member cost down. The prior cost was based on best estimates; however, costs have risen. The 2023 AC resulted in a surplus of \$1,600. The ACC would like to apply that surplus to this year's AC to keep the registration fee down for members. There has been a significant increase in meal costs. The ACC would also like CGJA to provide wine on the tables at a cost of \$1,100. With regard to sleeping room rates the last few years the rates were favorable as we rallied back from COVID—those days are over. As an example the 2022 AC rates were negotiated in 2019 and the Embassy Suites held the 2019 rates. Applying the 2023 surplus will result in a registration fee of \$103. Based on a calculation made by Larry in 2018 registration with a two night stay was \$500 vs. the 2024 when it will be about \$750.

Richard thanked Lloyd for his hard work and said he was in favor of applying the \$1,600 surplus. ACs are important as they provide an opportunity to be more visible.

Marsha commiserated with Lloyd with regard to costs as she too tries to keep costs down for the Train the Trainer retreat. She added that at the October retreat there was consensus that we try to keep the AC cost as affordable as possible.

Gary asked if we can negotiate rates for the next 2-3 years. Lloyd said that the ACC can narrow down the proposed locations and work from there. He also mentioned that the Embassy Suites offer amenities that other hotels do not.

For the Board retreat there will be a working buffet lunch. Lloyd has reserved space for a group dinner for those who arrive early the evening before.

Larry mentioned that the banner displayed at the conferences will need to be replaced due to the name change. Lloyd will look into finding a source.

A motion was made by Bell seconded by Caranci and unanimously passed by voice vote to use the 2023 surplus to reduce the member cost.

D-14 **Grand Jury Effectiveness Workgroup (GJE)** – The GJE met yesterday but the minutes are not ready. Professor Franco's new class called "Grand Jury Lab" has begun. Each student gets to choose a county. Jerry Lewi, Kati Martin and Robert are going to make a presentation to the class via zoom. Alexis Rowland, PhD candidate, has compiled a years' worth of grand jury reports on jails. She has a wealth of material and is going to be asked to join the GJE. Jerry Lewi is updating his continuity worksheet. Also the GJE has been in touch with the State Archivist about having a mechanism to have electronic and written reports submitted by counties.

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

D-4 **Public Relations Committee (PRC)** – Lou reported for Juliana. We have applied for approval of our service mark with the Secretary of State. We should hear back in a couple weeks. During their recent meeting there was discussion about the logo and who should be allowed to use it.

D-5 **Membership Relations Committee (MCRC)** – Larry: There was no meeting in April. As stated at the March meeting the plan for April was for Gary and Larry to use the month to come up to speed. They have also focused on and made progress with regard to recruiting. There is no membership log but the March report for February noted 277 members. Larry checked online registration and found only 4 additions for a total of 281 members. We are in a transition period

but the near term tasks are being accomplished. Gary: With regard to recruiting, as the jury term winds down it is time to reach out. MCRC will meet next week.

Larry is bullish about looking for talent among CGJA members who are not yet on committees. Expectations for MCRC are high and he believes this is the most challenging committee. Other committees have a short active period while MCRC's goal is to always get more—more members, more chapters, etc. Under Jim Glover's leadership we increased membership. There are new chapters in the wings but there are also some chapters struggling. He assured the Board that MCRC is making progress with the goal of having a new chair in place in the not so distant future.

- D-6 **Training Committee (TC)** – Richard reported that Train the Trainer is in Sacramento March 26-28. There will be 36 attendees. Marsha is working on the summer schedule. She also said that this year we are training San Diego County for the first time since about 2010.
- D-7 **Finance Committee (FC)** – Richard said that complete information can be found in the FC minutes. He said that the FC keeps track of CD maturity and renewals and added that interest rates are coming down. We are in great financial condition with no clouds on the horizon. There was brief discussion about interest rates and terms.
- D-9 **Nominations and Elections Committee (NEC)** – Lou said there was an article in the Journal calling for nominations. The directors whose terms expire this year are willing to stand for reelection. So far there are no other nominations. Lou advised the Board that Henry Ribble has resigned leaving an open seat in the south. Otherwise the NEC is on schedule with their tasks
- D-10 **Awards Committee (AC)** – There was no meeting in March. The AC was expecting, but did not receive, a recommendation for a Certificate of Special Recognition. The Rolando work has not yet begun. Joann mentioned that she will need to work with the printer to have the logo on the Rolando plaque changed. Larry said that the website AC information has been updated. Barbara has received one EIR submission and another from last year will be reconsidered.
- D-11 **Bylaws & Policy Review Committee (BPRC)** – Nothing pending at this time.
- D-13 **Technology Committee (Tech)** – Lou said the system which would allow the treasurer and assistant treasurer to work collaboratively has been delayed waiting to set up a new Microsoft account. The association name change request to the Secretary of State has not been acknowledged.

Larry reviewed the March website stats. The visits were down compared to February but not significantly. The Google stats are not as accurate vs. Go Daddy since they are rounded to the nearest 100. The usual pages were viewed and during February and March IRS filing information was downloaded. That is a good thing since it probably means that chapters are visiting and downloading the filing documents.

F. Director Comments

Gary thanked directors and members who give so much time to the association.

G. Adjournment (3:54 p.m.)

Respectfully submitted,
Joann Landi, Acting Secretary