

California Grand Jurors' Association Board of Directors Meeting February 23, 2021

MINUTES

A. Call to Order and Roll Call

The roll was taken, and the meeting began at 3:00 PM.

Directors present: Shirley Boracci, Marsha Caranci, Janet Clark, Bob Finlayson, Travis Gibbons, Tim Hafner, Joann Landi, Lou Panetta, Barbara Sommer.

Absent: Bernadette Cheyne (excused), Jim Ragan (excused).

Quorum is present.

Others present: Karen Jahr, Chair BPRC and LLRC; Lloyd Bell, Chair ACC; Jerry Lewi, Interim chair, PRC; Diane Lloyd, Interim chair, MCRC; Larry Herbst.

B. Agenda and Comments

B-1 Agenda Approval: Panetta

Board members unanimously approved the agenda.

B-2 CGJA Member Comments - none

C. Consent Items

C-1 Approve Regular Board Meeting Minutes, 01/26/21: Panetta

C-2 Acknowledge Committee Minutes and other documents in 02/23/21 meeting packet: Panetta
Board unanimously approved the consent items, including corrected minutes.

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

D-1 **President's Report** (Ragan) – not applicable.

D-2 **Officer Reports**

Vice President (Panetta) – filling in for the president, Panetta announced that Diane Lloyd agreed to be the MCRC interim chair until June. Then Kathy Mastako will take it on. Lloyd Bell will serve as interim chair of FC until the appointment of a new chair, probably in June.

Treasurer (Gibbons) – transferred \$30,000 from the general fund to the rainy day fund. Changed title “asset account number 1056” to “Ron Miguel & Audrey Lynberg Training Scholarship.”

Secretary (Sommer) – no report.

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

D-4 **Public Relations Committee (PRC)** – Lewi said that the committee is updating the grand jury system book with Jahr reviewing the law section. Goal is for it to be available by July. For the judge's introductory letter, he is thinking of Quentin Kopp. Landi volunteered to locate Kopp.

D-5 **Membership Relations Committee (MCRC)** – no report. Panetta asked Lloyd about the email to former IMs. She said that work continues on the list. It is not ready to send.

D-6 **Training Committee (TC)** – Caranci said that in the immediate future at least two counties remain to be trained. Moving into spring, report writing workshops will be offered. Summer training will be busy and may involve up to 35 counties. Butte County has been the latest to impanel a jury and has contacted her for training in March.

The legal advisor workshop season was extremely successful. The remote format helped in attracting the 42 participants this year. One applicant was turned down due to lack of space. Three more legal advisor workshops are scheduled beginning in May.

Boracci commented that there were three holdovers on her grand jury who said they enjoyed the zoom training as they felt more included. Caranci said that many say they are more engaged in Zoom. The TC is moving forward with all-Zoom training this summer. They may have to do some in-person training if counties are unable to deal with the remote logistics. The Zoom presentations are evolving as tools in the training kit. It works well.

Hafner asked about covid-19 precautions for live sessions. Caranci explained that strict protocols had been in place during those sessions, the last one being in Shasta in a huge room. Gibbons added that he had done in-person training in Kern and Kings counties in July and August. The facilities permitted distancing and everyone wore masks. Training is doable for those without the technology for Zoom.

D-7 **Finance Committee (FC)** – see minutes.

D-8 **Nominations-Elections Committee (NEC)** – no report. See action item.

D-9 **Awards Committee (AC)** – Landi said that two possible new members will sit in on the March meeting.

D-10 **Annual Conference Committee (ACC)** – Bell confirmed that Neil McCormick, CEO, California Special Districts Association (CSDA), will be speaking at the conference. He asked for topics that we would like to have addressed. Please send your suggestions to Bell.

D-11 **Bylaws & Policy Review Committee (BPRC)** – no report.

D-13 **Technology Committee (Tech)** – Panetta said that everything is working. Current project is to work with the prior developer of the website to fix the double -entry issue.

Reporting on the website, Herbst said the January visits were the second highest since the launch. Not typical for January, but instead like July and August in the past, reflecting the change in the training cycle.

Caranci pointed out that there are now live website demos at every training session and workshop. Trainers point out relevant information. The website has been incorporated into the legal advisor workshops where Teri Goldner assigns homework involving the FAQs page.

Herbst updated the board on banning access. No California IPS will be immediately banned. He is keeping a watch list, looking for IPS that repeat. He will consult with the Tech committee on those instances before taking action.

E. Action Agenda

E-1 **Appoint Larry Herbst Director for Southern Region, replacing Ron Zurek**

[Motion made by Panetta, seconded by Gibbons]
The motion passed, 9-0-0, by voice vote.

E-2 Approve 2021 Nominations and Elections Committee

[Motion made by Panetta, seconded by Landi]
The motion passed, 10-0-0, by voice vote.

E-3 Appoint Diane Lloyd to the Finance Committee

[Motion made by Panetta, seconded by Gibbons]
The motion passed, 10-0-0, by voice vote.

E-4 CGJA Tax Preparer Change.

[Motion made by Bell, seconded by Clark]

Discussion: Gibbons pointed out that the previous preparer did a good job, but that the rates increased every year and went beyond what we could afford.

The motion passed, 10-0-0, by voice vote.

F. Director Comments – Panetta asked the board as to whether we should have a retreat.

Herbst pointed out that it had been a long time since our last retreat and that there are new people on the board and as committee chairs, so that it would be good to review issues such as succession planning. Caranci said she had sent Ragan a list of topics and will review them and that we should have a retreat by Zoom. Finlayson suggested adding coping with Covid-19 as an organization, and how we grow our membership. Herbst said that we need more topics. The consensus was that we should have a 3-hour session with a break. Finlayson suggested having breakout groups. Clark said we should address possible scenarios for the next annual conference. Send Panetta additional suggestions. He will schedule the retreat for a weekday afternoon from 1 to 4 PM.

G. Adjournment (3:50 PM)

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara Sommer, Secretary