

California Grand Jurors' Association Board of Directors Meeting
April 25, 2023
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, Diane Lloyd, Lou Panetta.

Excused: Barbara Sommer, Henry Rible

Absent: Janet Clark

Quorum is present.

Others present: Committee Chair: Joann Landi, AC; and Roxy Montana, San Benito.

B. Agenda and Comments

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

B-2 CGJA Member Comments – Jim welcomed Roxy Montana as the newest lifetime CGJA member.

C. Consent Items

C-1 Approved Regular Board Meeting Minutes, 03/28/23: Gibbons. Glover second

C-2 Acknowledged Committee Minutes and other documents in 04/25/23 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): Travis said he will be issuing the agenda for the May 5 retreat which will be via zoom from 9 A.M. to Noon. Topics are ready but if anyone would like to something please submit to Travis.

D-2 Officer Reports

Vice President (Herbst) – no report

Treasurer (Gibbons) – Our first CD is maturing on May 5. We currently have 4 CDs at two different institutions. In 3 weeks we have earned more at Chase Bank than we had received annually. We are on our way to achieving our goal.

Secretary (Sommer) – no report

D-10 **Annual Conference Committee (ACC)** – In Lloyd Bell's absence Travis reported that the ACC is moving along well with the agenda for the meeting and believes the keynote speaker is confirmed. They are looking at potential sites for 2024 – suggestions welcome.

- D-3 **Legal and Legislative Resources Committee (LLRC)** – Karen said that following the reintroduced or AB 78 for per diems for grand jurors she has been working with lobbyists to put together a conference call which would include a consultant for the Assembly Appropriations Committee where the bill is now. In the near future, possibly in June, there will be a hearing before the Appropriations Committee. Karen has not heard if there is an amendment in the works but will continue to monitor and promote the CGJA position.

In response to a question Karen said she had a casual conversation with the sponsor of the bill and he indicated that he wanted to work with us. Karen is working with the other opponents of the bill.

Bob reported that Josh Franco's connection to the sponsor is that he spoke to Josh's students as their legislative representative about overall government topics not specifically about the bill.

- D-4 **Public Relations Committee (PRC)** – In Juliana's absence Lou told the Board that in the first week of May a CGJA news is going out to the members. It will acknowledge additional counties where the Board of Supervisors recognized grand jury awareness. There will also be information on how to use the Nextdoor app, how to set up an account or post information about the grand jury. Larry asked if PRC is promoting Nextdoor for grassroots activity. Polling after the 2022 AC indicated that 70% of respondents use Nextdoor but hadn't considered using it for grand jury notices. PRC drafted a sample document on how to use and post on Nextdoor. Larry suggested that individuals be made aware of helpful documents on the website.

- D-5 **Membership Relations Committee (MCRC)** – Jim thanked Diane for her assistance in his transition as chair of MCRC. He issued a membership report but mentioned that it is not complete. The May version will look considerably more complete. The active member goal for 2023 is 350. We currently have 217 active members, 25 lifetime members and 2 associate members for a total of 244. The next update will be May 25. MCRC will be reaching out to lapsing members this weekend. Larry Herbst said that with regard to ballot eligibility, we need to be mindful that members in good standing are those whose dues are paid up. Lou volunteered to develop a template for tracking active members and suggested that directors let Jim know what they would like to see in the report. Marsha is concerned that if people are dropped immediately when their dues lapse they are losing all other benefits of being a CGJA member, i.e. the *Journal*. Jim clarified that members aren't dropped immediately upon expiration of their dues. He added that members aren't being dropped without some effort to cause renewal. Larry said renewals via the website have picked up this month due to MCRC's efforts. Travis said one retreat topic is asking everyone to be able to convey to Jim what they are looking for in the member database.

Bob wondered if we know how many people are chapter members but not members of CGJA. Jim said it would be good information to have. Travis said he believes that chapters are to report their membership information to CGJA annually. Shirley mentioned that each chapter is required to maintain 3 CGJA members.

By the end of May there will be new guidelines and task schedules for MCRC.

Shirley has been working with Los Angeles and they should be ready for approval in May. They have at least 13 members and 3 are CGJA members. Marsha believes that Nevada County is contemplating rejoining as a chapter; no one has seen any paperwork.

- D-6 **Training Committee (TC)** – There was a successful Foreperson roundtable yesterday. There were 28 attendees. This is a new offering in 2023 and is very popular and well received. Marsha and Karen are busy preparing for the April 28-30 new trainer orientation for 12 new trainers. This is the first in person training since 2019. Marsha recognized Karen for all the work she has done in putting the program together. The TC is gearing up for the summer training season. Today was the first of four report writing workshops for the calendar year grand juries thus finishing their training season.
- D-7 **Finance Committee (FC)** – Richard is training today so there is no report.
- D-8 **Nominations & Elections Committee (NEC)** – Gary reported that NEC has received candidate nominations in addition to the incumbents who are standing for reelection. Travis said he has an item on the retreat agenda with regard to vetting candidates. Larry told the Board that the NEC has a short document about vetting and interviewing potential candidates, i.e. background, qualifications, etc. This draft could be provided to the Board prior to the retreat; input/suggestions are welcome.
- D-10 **Awards Committee (AC)** – An email was sent to chapter and association presidents promoting Certificates of Special Recognition. AC received a request from a grand juror for a fellow grand juror. The nomination seemed a bit subjective so the AC asked the nominator to have one or two other jurors or the FP confirm the nomination. The nominator advised that the jurors are too busy and there would be no other nominations. It is likely that the request will not be honored. We may want to change the criteria to exclude sitting jurors. Joann will review the Policies and the Procedures and suggest change(s) as appropriate.
- Bob thinks the Santa Clara County report on the influence the 49er organization had on the city council is a candidate for the EIR media award. He asked if a nomination had to be made by the grand jury or can anyone make a nomination. Larry read the criteria posted on the website. “Nominations may be made only by a CGJA Chapter or Association for its county. Where there is no Chapter or Association, nominations may be made by a CGJA member who resides in the county.”
- D-11 **Bylaws & Policy Review Committee (BPRC)** – Karen said there is nothing pending.
- D-13 **Technology Committee (Tech)** – Lou is focused on migrating the existing website to the new website. He gave kudos to Larry for all the work he’s put in on this project. Larry said November-December was work on design concept. January-March was getting all the information from the website and uploaded to elevation. Elevation is heavily into the design portion and they project design to be complete by the last week in May. Larry’s first view of the beta site will be the last week in May. At that point testing will be conducted. Keeping in mind the needs of the Training Committee, the Board election and the Annual Conference we need to decide the optimum time to launch.
- D-14 **Grand Jury Effectiveness Workgroup (GJE)** – Bob thanked Roxy for her enthusiastic participation. Bob said the GJE is going to compile a list of measurements that can be used to evaluate the effectiveness of reports. Jerry Lewi and Bob had a zoom meeting with Josh Franco’s students and are expecting feedback from them. Bob feels that we should respond to the State Archivist with regard to guidelines and standardization. Travis mentioned that this will be a retreat topic.

E. Action Agenda

E-1 AB 78 Grand Jurors Per Diem Increase – CGJA Review Support: Karen was asked to communicate with the committee and the group working on AB 78; she did and presented the info to the Board. She was asked to be available to respond to anyone with regard to our input. Karen was to attend the Judicial Committee meeting but unfortunately in the process of doing that we had a heavy rain event. This required her to go early due to the early start time of the meeting the next day. This caused some unanticipated costs. Travis approved the expenditure of those costs and is asking for approval to exceed the budget which will take the funds out of the general fund. Travis' motion was seconded by Jim. Marsha thanked Karen for making the trip and for appearing at the hearing—it was a busy 2 days. She added that this action item isn't necessary but Travis said he is more comfortable handling it this way.
[The motion passed, 9 ayes by hand vote; Karen abstained.]

F. Director Comments – None

G. Adjournment (4:33 p.m.)

Respectfully submitted,
Joann Landi, Acting Secretary