

California Grand Jurors' Association Board of Directors Meeting

November 25, 2025

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, Gary Cooper, Dan Freeman, Robert Finlayson, Larry Herbst, Karen Jahr, Karen Michael, Lou Panetta, Richard Rogers, Barbara Sommer, and Jon Tonsing.

Absent: Jim Glover, Lori Macdonald (excused).

Quorum is present.

Others present: Lloyd Bell (ACC), John Bradley (PRC), Marsha Caranci (TC), Michael Hofman (MCRC), Loydyne Lane (Asst. Treasurer).

B. Agenda and Comments

B-1 Agenda Approval: By acclamation.

B-2 CGJA Member Comments – none.

C. Consent Items

C-1 Approved Regular Board Meeting Minutes, 10-26-25: Cooper.

C-2 Acknowledged other documents in 11-25-25 meeting packet: Cooper.

D. Officer and Committee Chair Reports – postponed to November meeting.

D-1 President's Report (Cooper) – no report.

D-2 Officer Reports

Vice President (Herbst) – no report.

Treasurer (Rogers) – we are waiting to get a credit card with 1-1/2% cash back. Rogers is also trying to become the manager of the Treasury holdings. He needs to sign Form 5446. However, a notary authorization is not sufficient. The banks won't do it for transactions that are not directly theirs. He is searching for a solution.

We are switching from cash to accrual accounting limits the ability to make budget comparisons across time at present.

Secretary (Sommer) – no report.

D-3 **Legal and Legislative Resources Committee (LLRC)** – Jahr said the committee was busy in October with issues around AI and ADA. Herbst inquired about the committee minutes and Jahr illuminated them, e.g., about our seeking a sponsor to define "prison" with respect to grand jury oversight, and about board notification of questions asked of the LLRC. Jahr said the latter were numerous. Caranci pointed out that LLRC responses are being archived in our Dropbox account.

D-4 **Public Relations Committee (PRC)** – no report.

D-5 **Membership Relations Committee (MCRC)** – Hofman reported that the November officers' meeting (the third one of the year) was successful. Seventeen plus one to-be chapters participated. There was lots of back-and-forth. The meetings add stability to the relationship between CGJA and the chapters.

The Los Angeles chapter has joined the combined-membership group, and two other chapters are considering it. So far, eleven chapters have taken advantage of the offer.

We have 363 members, the same number as at the end of December 2024. Dar Swenson has become a lifetime member. More people are volunteering, with a current number of 84.

The committee has updated the chapter-focused webpages and will continue to do so. Panetta asked about orientation for new chapters. Hofman sends out an email with notification and dues information. Considerable time was spent on the web resources at the chapter officers' meeting. A reminder of these resources will be included in future eBlasts to chapters.

Rogers inquired about the situation with the Alameda chapter. There was an extensive discussion. As the issue has been pending for nearly a year, the Alameda Chapter had been given a deadline of Nov. 24 to respond to the letter sent by President Cooper outlining the points that needed to be addressed. The chapter requested a postponement to Dec. 15. The consensus of the board was that if the December deadline is not met, steps toward revocation should be taken. The Executive Committee will meet on Dec. 2 to consider additions to the policy and procedures manual regarding chapter responsibilities and grounds for chapter revocation.

D-6 **Training Committee (TC)** – no report.

D-7 **Finance Committee (FC)** – Freeman reiterated key points regarding the budget, primarily addressing the distinction between cash and accrual accounting. The budget is positive, with \$1,160 in the black. Rogers added that the budget estimate was zero-based in that committees were asked for full descriptions of their needs and this was reviewed by the Financial Committee.

D-8 **Awards Committee (AC)** – Cooper is continuing the search for a chair.

D-9 **Annual Conference Committee (ACC)** – Bell said the annual conference has been profitable (though not intended to be so) and is now \$2,900 ahead. Those funds will be used to defray next year's expenses.

D-10 **Bylaws & Policy Review Committee (BPRC)** – no report.

D-13 **Technology Committee (Tech)** – Panetta said the committee is working on password security with Team Password.

D-14 **Grand Jury Effectiveness Workgroup (GJE)** – Finlayson said the State Archives office is moving forward with a change in the penal code which would lead to digital copies of grand jury reports. The committee will meet with archivist staff in December.

E. Action Agenda

E-2 **Approve the 2026 budget.**

[Motion made by Freeman, seconded by Panetta.]

The motion passed, 11-0-0, by hand vote.

F. Director Comments – none.

G. Adjournment (4:39 p.m.)

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara Sommer, Secretary