

California Grand Jurors' Association Board of Directors Meeting

January 27, 2026

MINUTES

A. Call to Order and Roll Call

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

Directors present: Gary Cooper, Dan Freeman, Robert Finlayson, Jim Glover, Larry Herbst, Karen Jahr, Lori Macdonald, Lou Panetta, Richard Rogers, Barbara Sommer, and Jon Tonsing.

Absent: Shirley Boracci, Karen Michael (excused).

Quorum is present.

Others present: John Bradley (PRC), Marsha Caranci (TC), Michael Hofman (MCRC), Loydyne Lane (Asst. Treasurer) and Martha Saldaña-Wolf.

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, 11-25-25: Cooper.

C-2 Acknowledged other documents in 01-27-26 meeting packet: Cooper.

D. Officer and Committee Chair Reports

D-1 President's Report (Cooper) – Trish Goodman has become a lifetime member. Cooper visited the Fresno chapter and said it was a great meeting with a very involved and engaged group of people.

D-2 Officer Reports

Vice President (Herbst) – no report.

Treasurer (Rogers) – things are going smoothly. The 1099s will go out in the next couple of days. We have a new credit card.

Secretary (Sommer) – Hofman, the database manager, inquired about sending the board and committee chairs copies of the roster. An informal survey suggested that there was interest in having that done.

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

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

D-5 **Membership Relations Committee (MCRC)** – Caranci reported that a subcommittee reviewed statistics and that last week 78% of the members renewed by the end of 2025 and a few are dribbling in. Last year it was 72%. Hofman's personal follow-up was effective. The combination dues program appears successful with 29 people signing up for it and four others who would like to but their chapters do not participate.

The Chapter Officers' meeting is scheduled for Feb. 11. The topic is chapter involvement in civil grand jury recruitment. The MCRC is working with the Awards Committee on a volunteer recognition program. The MCRC is seeking a vice-chair.

Herbst asked about struggling chapters. Caranci said there are two and the Chapter Relations Subcommittee is reaching out to them.

D-6 **Training Committee (TC)** – Rogers said they are finalizing the report writing workshops. The committee is looking into the role of AI in investigations. Caranci said that at the request of Plumas County, the committee is doing a survey of low population counties (fifteen with populations of less than 50,000, 3 of whom have no grand jury) regarding grand jury recruitment. Plumas had requested contact information for civil grand jury forepersons in those counties. As we do not provide that information, the Training Committee was willing to do a survey for Plumas.

D-7 **Finance Committee (FC)** – D-7 **Finance Committee (FC)** – Freeman explained that our former cash accounting system resulted in 2024 October and November bills being paid in 2025. In our new accrual system, the invoiced amounts are accrued when invoiced. Hence, the 2025 October and November classes were invoiced and posted in 2025, The change means that the revenue in 2025 is overstated for recording both the cash collection in early 2025 and the accrued income in late 2025. 2026 will show less income as we are now fully on the accrual system.

He announced the formation of a six-member investment subcommittee. It will consider options for the \$70,000 that we have in checking/savings which yields virtually no interest.

D-9 **Awards Committee (AC)** – no report.

D-10 **Annual Conference Committee (ACC)** – no report.

D-11 **Bylaws & Policy Review Committee (BPRC)** – Herbst said the committee has been focusing on a recent chapter issue and the need to clarify the do's and don'ts for chapters, which is what one of the action items will address.

D-13 **Technology Committee (Tech)** – Herbst described the situation with the CGJA's failing website. As of today, Elevation has found problems of unavailability and/or sluggishness. They are working on eliminating them. He will email the board and committee chairs when the site is fully operational. The initial problem occurred in early December. Numerous corrective steps were taken but did not fully restore function to all pages. The suspect is the "WPDataTables" module which involves about twenty forms we use to process membership payments, conference registration, workshop enrollments, etc.

He emphasized the great extent of our dependence on the technology and how that has increased over the years (we used to use paper). Committee chairs should consider their reliance on the website and consider ways of backing up information. Caranci pointed out the helpfulness of eBlasts promoting workshops being accompanied by contact information so that other means of communication were available.

D-14 **Grand Jury Effectiveness Workgroup (GJE)** – Finlayson said that the committee continues to work with the State Archivist. That office produced the notes that were included in the packet.

E. Action Agenda

E-1 Adopt amendments to the CGJA Policy Manual sections 12.50 and 12.60.

Herbst provided a rationale for the changes.

[Motion made by Herbst, seconded by Panetta.]

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

- E-2 Ratify NEC Appointments - Northern Region: Jon Tonsing, Chair (director) and Marsha Caranci (member), Central Region: Karen Michael (director) and Bruce Frank (member), Southern Region: Lori Macdonald (director) and Gary Hoffmann (member).

[Motion made by Cooper, seconded by Panetta.]

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

- E-3 Ratify appointment of Martha Saldaña-Wolf as chair of the Awards Committee.

[Motion made by Cooper, seconded by Herbst.]

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

F. Director Comments – none.

G. Adjournment (5:10 p.m.)

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara Sommer, Secretary