

California Grand Jurors' Association Board of Directors Meeting
April 28, 2026
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, Jim Glover, Larry Herbst, Karen Jahr, Lori Macdonald, Karen Michael, Lou Panetta, Richard Rogers, Barbara Sommer, and Jon Tonsing.

Absent: None.

Quorum is present.

Others present: Lloyd Bell (ACC), John Bradley (PRC), Marsha Caranci (TC), Michael Hofman (MCRC) and Nancy Baumann, Vice-chair (MCRC).

B. Agenda and Comments

B-1 Approved Agenda, 04-28-26.

B-2 CGJA Member Comments – none.

C. Consent Items

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

D. Officer and Committee Chair Reports

D-1 President's Report (Cooper) – noted the training season kickoff and the very generous \$10,000 gift from Jaclyn Hill. He will invite her to attend the annual conference as out guest.

D-2 Officer Reports

Vice President (Herbst) – no report.

Treasurer (Rogers) – our tax return has been filed. The accountant charged less than last year. Our insurance agent says we have adequate coverage. We will discuss waivers at a future meeting. He invested \$25,000 in a four-week treasury bill and we have \$60,000 in our checking and savings account. The treasury bill will mature in time to be available for training expenses. He will redeem credit card points at the end of each quarter, earning about \$1,300 soon, and a second check for about \$400 at the end of the year.

Secretary (Sommer) – no report.

D-3 **Legal and Legislative Resources Committee (LLRC)** – Jahr said the committee continues to answer queries at an informal level. She is still seeking an attorney to solicit an opinion from the State Attorney General regarding the definition of “prison” with respect to civil grand jury oversight.

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

D-5 **Membership Relations Committee (MCRC)** – Hofman introduced Nancy Baumann (in attendance) as the new MCRC vice-chair. The committee is building collegial relationships through its new chapter relations liaison program. On May 18, an eBlast

will be sent to sitting jurors asking that they become regular members. A second request will be sent towards the end of the year. He is working with the PRC chair, John Bradley, to develop a library of case studies of grand jury successes, collected by reaching out to individual chapters for examples. Freeman asked about retention efforts. Hofman said we consistently lose about 20% of our membership each year and that we could improve our messaging by addressing the question “What’s in it for me?” There was some general discussion about factors that keep people involved, e.g., committee membership and interpersonal relationships. There was general agreement that chapter members should be CGJA members. MacDonald suggested more formal means of reaching out to potential members at the conference. Hofman felt that the new volunteer recognition program will help, along with the chapter liaison project.

- D-6 **Training Committee (TC)** – Rogers said a lot was going on. The training materials are nearly ready. He pointed out the invaluable assistance of behind-the-scenes volunteers. Caranci pointed out the year’s delay in the required online reports’ compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Herbst said we now train in 55 of 57 counties (all but Los Angeles and Riverside). The recent addition of Alameda was a very positive development for both CGJA and the chapter.
- D-7 **Finance Committee (FC)** – Freeman reported on a “paradigm shift” that soon will be coming from the investment subcommittee in the form of action items. Our policy has been to set aside \$30,000 for training and \$50,000 minimum available cash monthly. Most of these amounts have been earning virtually no interest. The plan is to invest a larger sum in 30-day treasuries, with one maturing every week and deposited into the savings account. If there are no expenses to be paid, a new 30-day treasury bill will be purchased every week, and so on over time. This will be referred to as “operating cash.”
- D-8 **Nominations and Elections (NEC)** – Tonsing said we have enough candidates for the director positions.
- D-9 **Awards Committee (AC)** – Bradley said only a few more steps are needed to finalize the volunteer awards program. He also has nearly all the volunteer dates data requested from committee chairs.
- D-10 **Annual Conference Committee (ACC)** – Bell stated that the 2026 program is nearly set. He will send out the proposed program when it is ready. He will be working with the hotel in May on meal-pricing and will report on the registration fee and costs at the May board meeting.
- D-11 **Bylaws & Policy Review Committee (BPRC)** – no report.
- D-13 **Technology Committee (Tech)** – no report.
- D-14 **Grand Jury Effectiveness Committee (GJE)** – Finlayson said the committee is working on its by-laws (now a standing committee). They continue to pursue the potential of Sean McDermott’s online database with a demonstration planned for selected board members and committee chairs soon.

E. Action Agenda

- E-1 Ratify CGJA President Gary Cooper’s appointment of Jon Tonsing as chair of the Legal and Legislative Resources Committee (LLRC).

[Motion made by Jahr, seconded by Herbst.]
The motion passed, 13-0-0, by hand vote.

F. Director Comments – Cooper welcomed Nancy Baumann, Vice-chair, MCRC, who said she is having a good time on the MCRC and wishes the best to her training friends (she is a former trainer).

G. Adjournment (3:52 p.m.)

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara Sommer, Secretary