California Grand Jurors' Association Board of Directors Meeting
May 26, 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, Larry Herbst, Karen Jahr, Lori Macdonald, Karen Michael, Lou Panetta, Richard Rogers, Barbara Sommer, and Jon Tonsing.

Absent: Shirley Boracci and Jim Glover,

Quorum is present.

Others present: Lloyd Bell (ACC), John Bradley (PRC), Marsha Caranci (TC), Michael Hofman (MCRC), Nancy Baumann, Vice-chair (MCRC), Martha Saldaña-Wolf (AC), and Loydyne Lane, Asst. Treasurer.

B. Agenda and Comments

B-1 Approved Agenda, 05-26-26.

B-2 CGJA Member Comments – none.

C. Consent Items

C-1 Approved Regular Board Meeting Minutes, 04-28-26.

D. Officer and Committee Chair Reports

D-1 President's Report (Cooper) – Hats off to the training committee for finishing up the year and doing a fine job.

D-2 Officer Reports

Vice President (Herbst) – no report.

Treasurer (Rogers) – no report.

Secretary (Sommer) – no report.

D-3 **Legal and Legislative Resources Committee (LLRC)** – Tonsing said the committee had fielded a few queries from legal advisers. The committee has revised and simplified the subpoena forms. See **Sample Documents** under "Interviews and Exit Interviews."

D-4 **Public Relations Committee (PRC)** – Bradley reported that Constant Contact has increased its monthly rate by $13 resulting in a $924 cost per year. We will need to renew a month earlier to cover the increase. The PRC will become the repository for "Success Stories" being gathered by the MCRC (along with the PRC) from the chapters. A webpage is needed for this effort. Hofman asked how many Eblasts were sent last year. Bradley replied that there were 37.

D-5 **Membership Relations Committee (MCRC) –** Hofman said the **Chapter Officers' Meeting** will be on **June 10 at 3 p.m.** He encouraged directors and committee chairs to participate. If you wish to attend, contact him and he will send you the link. To clarify, the meeting is intended for chapter presidents. Chapters are permitted to send no more than two people.

D-6 **Training Committee (TC)** – Caranci said the Train The Trainers workshop was highly successful and that 36 of our 38 trainers were present. The session is very important for team building as well as education. Rogers said the new training season kicks off on June 9 in Orange County. He added that the Train The Trainers workshop came in on budget.

D-7 **Finance Committee (FC)** – Freeman said the committee is working on speeding up payments from the counties. He briefly described the Investment sub-committee's "Investment Strategy & Guidelines" and the Minimum Operating Cash Balance (MOCB) to be maintained in the bank account.

D-8 **Nominations and Elections (NEC)** – Tonsing stated the nomination deadline is close that that there are now eligible candidates for all the director positions. There were some premature nominations of Introductory Members who had no experience with CGJA. He sent them letters pointing out volunteer opportunities and the possibility of future service.

D-9 **Awards Committee (AC)** – Saldaña-Wolf said the committee has struggled to ensure that the above and beyond awards maintain a position of honor that neither eclipses nor dilutes the Angelo Rolando award. It would be up to the standing committees (as the most knowledgeable) to select an awardee, limited to one per year (and not required). She described the suggested criteria.

Freeman expressed concern that a single award was not sufficient recognition for the trainers. He also asked whether there would be collaboration between committees with possible overlapping awardees. Saldaña-Wolf pointed out the individuals nominated by more than one committee might be ideal candidates for the Rolando Award. There also is a concern of too many awards being given. Bradley pointed out that the award is intended for truly "Above and Beyond," not simply who performed the best during the year. Herbst expressed concern about the flip side of being in "second place" engendering hard feelings. He also worries that the selection system does not provide an equivalent standard across awardees. Caranci pointed out that the Training Committee and the trainers constitute a large majority of CGJA volunteers. In a sense, they are being shorted by being restricted to a single nominee. Hofman said any announcement in the *Journal* should not contain specifics; that these should be limited to committee chairs. The committee will continue to work on the issue.

D-10 **Annual Conference Committee (ACC)** – Bell said plans are moving on and Juliana Jones is working on topics for the breakout sessions. Dinner will be at 6:30 rather than 6:00 as the room needs to be converted from meeting to dining. Regarding Saturday night rooms (for those arriving for the Sunday morning meeting), he has reserved 25 rooms. It is important that reservations be made as soon as possible as the price will rise considerably once the 25 reservations are taken. He asked that the NEC be sure to convey this information to the likely new directors. Bell will notify directors, officers, and committee chairs when registration is available online.

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

D-13 **Technology Committee (Tech)** – no report. Herbst thanked members of the training team for working with him to minimize the number of changes needed on the website.

D-14 **Grand Jury Effectiveness Committee (GJE) –** Finlayson said the committee has been very active. Herbst has joined the committee. Sean McDemott's website and summary data of published civil grand jury reports continues to be a focus. McDermott will demonstrate it to members of the Training Committee on May 27. At some point an MOU will be developed for a collaborative relationship. The cost arises in doing the analyses. Finlayson will provide a brief description at the Chapter Officers' Meeting in June. Members of the committee will meet with the State Archivist in June.

E. Action Agenda

E-1 Approved Yolo County Chapter's application for affiliation.

The chapter will serve as host for the annual conference.

[Motion made by Hofman, seconded by Finlayson.]
The motion passed, 11-0-0, by hand vote.

E-2 Approved financial policy changes to Improve short-term liquidity while preserving financial safety.

Freeman outlined the proposal which involves reducing the $50,000 in checking and savings to $20,000. In response to a question from Herbst, Rogers explained that $60,000 would be available to cover those months with higher costs (due to training expenses) with the system using 30-day treasury bonds that will mature every week. Panetta commended the treasurer, assistant treasurer and the FC and chair on their hard work and competence.

[Motion made by Freeman, seconded by Panetta.]
The motion passed, 11-0-0, by hand vote.

E-3 Approved AC donations to offset fixed expenses, and the 2026 AC registration fee of $128.

Bell pointed out that it has been traditional to use the donations in this manner. He expects ninety attendees. The hotel will be able to accommodate more, if necessary.

[Motion made by Bell, seconded by Rogers.]
The motion passed, 11-0-0, by hand vote.

E-4 Approved revocation of the Alameda County Civil Grand Jury Association chapter status.

There was an extensive discussion of the extensive history, circumstances, and consequences of the Alameda Chapter's actions.

[Motion made by Hofman, seconded by Panetta.]
The motion passed, 10-1-0, by roll call vote.

F. Director Comments – none.

G. Adjournment (4:53 p.m.)

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara Sommer, Secretary