California Grand Jurors' Association Board of Directors Meeting
June 23, 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, Jim Glover, Larry Herbst, Karen Jahr, Lori Macdonald, Karen Michael, Lou Panetta, Richard Rogers, Barbara Sommer, and Jon Tonsing.

Absent: Robert Finlayson (excused)

Quorum is present.

Others present: Nancy Baumann (MCRC), Lloyd Bell (ACC), John Bradley (PRC), Marsha Caranci (TC), and Martha Saldaña-Wolf (AC).

B. Agenda and Comments

B-1 Approved Agenda, 06-23-26.

B-2 CGJA Member Comments – none.

C. Consent Items

C-1 Approved Regular Board Meeting Minutes, 05-26-26.

D. Officer and Committee Chair Reports

D-1 President's Report (Cooper) – Thanks for a good fiscal year and it is good to hear of the increasing chapter involvement.

D-2 Officer Reports

Vice President (Herbst) – no report.

Treasurer (Rogers) – It will take a few months (probably August or September) to get the investment strategy described at the last meeting into full play as there are considerable training expenses right now.

Secretary (Sommer) – no report.

D-3 **Legal and Legislative Resources Committee (LLRC)** – Tonsing said the committee informally handled a few inquiries and has been working on internal matters.

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

D-5 **Membership Relations Committee (MCRC) –** Nancy Baumann (vice-chair) reported that former grand jurors in Modoc County have expressed interest in forming a chapter. The committee is working on "messaging" focusing on "Why be a CGJA member." The thrust will be "What can you do for your county" with an eye to giving back and public service and providing support for volunteers. They will host a breakout session on the topic at the annual conference.

D-6 **Training Committee (TC)** – Rogers announced that three training sessions have been completed and they are working well. It is a very busy time of year for the committee.

Caranci said they have been having to make changes on the fly and that Barbara Ferguson has been communicating with the counties.

Several counties are struggling with obtaining an adequate pool for grand jury selection. Madera cancelled its empanelment. The court sent out 5,000 letters to potential applicants two months ago and received only a handful of responses. The county will switch to a calendar year (along with two other counties) in hopes of being able to find more applicants. Herbst said SLO, which has not had a problem in the past, was challenged this year. Rogers said Santa Barbara also had a recruitment problem.

Rogers proposed establishing an ad hoc committee comprised of representatives from various CGJA committees to address the problem at the state level. Macdonald mentioned that perhaps something could be done at the county level, for example, increasing the per diem or providing better facilities. Caranci said that Sierra County was without a sitting grand jury for two years. The county increased the per diem to $50 a day and no longer has a problem. Panetta raised the issue of citizens' morale being eroded. Glover asked about consequences of there not being the requisite nineteen jurors. Caranci said it happens and counties function with a smaller number (twelve is the minimum required by law).

Prompted by Freeman, Saldaña-Wolf described sending letters to city council members and supervisors – *a copy of the letter is attached.* Herbst said perhaps we should foster a more direct CGJA-Court relationship. Macdonald, living in a county with no chapter (Ventura), said she gives presentations on her own. Rogers suggested creating a video. We have one titled *Agents of Change*. However, it is outdated. The "success stories" project of the MCRC and PRC could provide subjects for brief videos for social media. Tonsing pointed out that if an ad hoc committee is formed, it should include a member from LLRC.gg

D-7 **Finance Committee (FC)** – Freeman described the improved income statement – the *Statement of Activities* (see the meeting packet). It provides monthly and year to date information which can be compared with the budgeted amounts.

D-8 **Nominations and Elections (NEC)** – Tonsing said the committee was on top of things.

D-9 **Awards Committee (AC)** – Saldaña-Wolf said the committee has deferred consideration of the Volunteer of the Year to next year. They will reconstitute the subcommittee and include more input from across CGJA. Volunteers will be recognized at this year's conference based on five-year intervals of service.

She asked that board members and committee chairs encourage chapters and members to submit nominations for the Excellence in Reporting Awards by June 30. She reminded the board that nominations for the Angelo Rolando Service Award are due to Joan Landi by late August.

D-10 **Annual Conference Committee (ACC)** – Bell reported that the Annual Conference is on track and that the program is set. Conference registration is now open on the website. If you want a Saturday night reservation, please make it soon. The hotel said there would be room in their dining room for Saturday night dinner.

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

D-13 **Technology Committee (Tech)** – no report. Panetta said that there were lots of little pieces and glitches on the website that needed attention as there are many moving parts. Herbst pointed out that twenty-five documents have been updated for the training sessions. Piecemeal updates are fine. He added that he has resurrected website use statistics.

D-14 **Grand Jury Effectiveness Committee (GJE) –** Herbst provided the following summary of his comments:

1. MOU with UnGovr is on hold. No further work at this time.
2. There will be no general roll-out of the Report Library in 2026.
3. The civilgranjury.org website will remain the intellectual property of UnGovr.
4. UnGovr will create a CGJA portal co-owned by CGJA and UnGovr as the Report repository for use by CGJA.
5. Gavelly and the report Analysis tool will not be part of the CGJA portal until they are proven to be of high enough quality.
6. We must have higher confidence in the quality and accuracy of the CGJA portal and the method to do so would be a beta test.
7. The beta test would establish a small number of counties' empaneled grand juries with local CGJA technical support available.
8. The timeframe would be late August through December 2026.
9. Empaneled grand juries in the selected counties would be invited to participate with education and local support from CGJA providing first level support. UnGovr would be approached to establish agreement for their support of the beta test. UnGovr would provide bug fixes (second level support).
10. GJE will forward the Beta Test Plan to the board in July.
11. No activity outside GJE until agreement within CGJA to move forward with beta testing.
12. GJE will submit a mission statement to the board in July.
13. GJE is working on the Policy Manual section for this new committee and will forward to BPRC when approved by the committee.

There was a discussion of a straw vote as to how the committee should proceed. The consensus was that more information to the board was needed before such a vote could take place, and that perhaps an action item would be more appropriate.

E. Action Agenda

E-1 Ratified appointment of Lori Macdonald as co-chair of the Annual Conference Committee.

[Motion made by Bell, seconded by Rogers.]

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

E-2 Approved 2026 Director Election Ballots.

[Motion made by Tonsing, seconded by Glover.]

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

F. Director Comments – Sommer reminded those present of the call for nominations for the Angelo Rolando Service Award. Board members are in a particularly good position to know of qualified nominees. Send those to Joann Landi by the end of August.

G. Adjournment (4:30 p.m.)

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara Sommer, Secretary