California Grand Jurors' Association Board of Directors Meeting
September 22, 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, Robert Finlayson, Dan Freeman, Jim Glover, Karen Michael, Lou Panetta, Richard Rogers, Barbara Sommer, and Jon Tonsing.

Absent (excused): Larry Herbst, Karen Jahr, Lori Macdonald.

Absent: Shirley Boracci

Quorum is present.

Others present: Nancy Baumann (MCRC), John Bradley (PRC), Marsha Caranci (TC), Mike Hofman (MCRC), Loydyne Lane (Asst. Treas.) and Martha Saldaña-Wolf (AC).

B. Agenda and Comments

B-1 Approved Agenda, 09-22-26.

B-2 CGJA Member Comments – none.

C. Consent Items

C-1 Approved Regular Board Meeting Minutes, 08-25-26

D. Officer and Committee Chair Reports

D-1 President's Report (Cooper) – the board, officers (including electees) and committee chairs will meet in a special session in conjunction with the annual conference on Nov. 1 at 9 am at the Embassy Suites in Sacramento, to be followed by a board retreat. This meeting will substitute for our monthly October meeting. We will meet at our regular time in November.

D-2 Officer Reports

Vice President (Herbst) – absent.

Treasurer (Rogers) – our receivables are good with $48,000 remaining to be collected. Cash is good.

Secretary (Sommer) – no report.

D-3 **Legal and Legislative Resources Committee (LLRC)** – Tonsing reported that the State Attorney General accepted the request for an opinion on the definition of "prison" with respect to civil grand jury oversight. Any additional responses must be submitted by Oct. 9.

D-4 **Public Relations Committee (PRC)** – Bradley reminded the board about the inclusion of the Eblast submission guidelines that were included in the packet. Michael expressed concern about the publication editor making changes without notifying the author(s). Sommer (current publication editor) stated that the role of the editor was only to make grammatical or stylistic corrections: that content would not be changed without notification. She added that the role of the publication editor

(and of the guidelines) was to ease the burden of the PRC chair who currently is responsible for emailing the announcements.

D-5 **Membership Relations Committee (MCRC) –** Hofman described steps the committee is working on to make volunteers feel welcome and appreciated, for example, becoming better acquainted and developing a PowerPoint presentation about the organization. Sharon DiBennedetti, chair of the Chapter Relations Subcommittee, has been actively recruiting chapter liaisons to further the bonds of the association with the chapters.

The committee is starting to actively work on membership renewals and encouraging introductory members to become regular members.

He has been recruiting backup for his role as database manager. Jim Ferguson has come forth, as has Robert O'Neill (Napa).

D-6 **Training Committee (TC)** – Rogers said the Report Writing Workshop (RWW) materials have been sent to the printer. The curriculum is looking very good. Mike Hofman has stepped in to fill the training gap left by Bob Phibbs as Trainer Subcommittee Chair.

Caranci reported that RWWs have been scheduled in 25-26 counties for in-person or Zoom workshops. There are five additional multi-county workshops scheduled.

Cooper asked about county juries operating on a calendar year. Caranci said there were three: San Bernardino, Trinity and Madera – the latter because they had an insufficient number and are hoping to have enough jurors to seat in December. All three counties are scheduled for training in January. Los Angeles and Riverside do not use our training.

D-7 **Finance Committee (FC)** – Freeman lauded Caranci and Rogers for providing creative solutions to billing, which sped up collections from counties.

The materials for the 2027 budget have been customized for each committee and sent to committee chairs. Rogers added that it is important the committee chairs provide sufficient details so that the amounts requested can be verified.

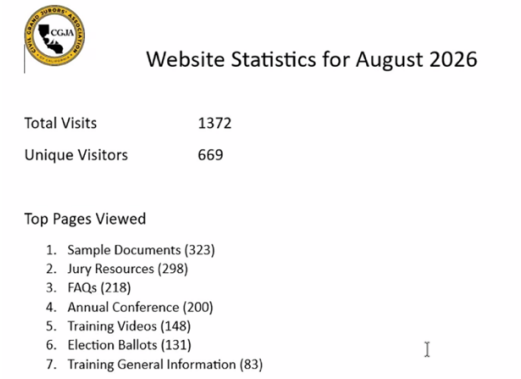
D-8 **Nominations and Elections (NEC)** – Tonsing said there were some problems, e.g., South and Central voters got the wrong ballots in the follow up eblast sent by Constant Contact, but these were overcome by sending corrections. Because of this, five people had voted in the wrong region. Lori Macdonald contacted all of them and corrections were made. We will discuss improving the process at the board retreat.

D-9 **Awards Committee (AC)** – Saldaña-Wolf said about thirteen people would be eligible for 5-, 10- and 20-year recognition this year (no one at the 15-year level). Funding for the awards is requested in Action Item #1.

D-10 **Annual Conference Committee (ACC)** – Bell said the committee expanded its search this year to include Doubletree, in addition to Embassy Suites. The committee decided that given the latter provided neither complimentary breakfast nor happy hour, that overall that Embassy Suites was a better choice.

D-11 **Bylaws & Policy Review Committee (BPRC) –** in the absence of interim committee chair, Karen Jahr, Tonsing is scheduling a meeting so that the committee can review the GJE procedures document.

D-13 **Technology Committee (Tech)** – Panetta shared the latest websites stats.



Website Statistics for August 2026

Total Visits	1372
Unique Visitors	669

Top Pages Viewed

1. Sample Documents (323)
2. Jury Resources (298)
3. FAQs (218)
4. Annual Conference (200)
5. Training Videos (148)
6. Election Ballots (131)
7. Training General Information (83)

He added that Facebook visits are up and that Bruce Frank is doing a good job managing that page.

D-14 **Grand Jury Effectiveness Committee (GJE) –** Finlayson said the committee did not have a regular meeting but did have an ad hoc meeting to prepare the proposal in Action Item #3.

He said that the senate bill from the State Archivist (regarding requirements for county submissions of civil grand jury reports) passed. In response to a query, he stated that he did not know whether the governor has signed it.

E. Action Agenda

E-1 Approved $500 for Volunteer Awards for ten or more years of service.

[Motion made by Saldaña-Wolf, seconded by Glover.]
The motion passed, 9-0-0, by hand vote.

E-2 Approved the budget, location, and dates for the 2027 Annual Conference, and authorized the CGJA President to sign the contract with the Embassy Suites, San Francisco Airport - Waterfront hotel

[Motion made by Bell, seconded by Rogers.]
The motion passed, 9-0-0, by hand vote.

E-3 Report Library Beta Test Plan – after extensive discussion and the withdrawal of the second, the motion was pulled by author.

E-4 Accepted and approved all electees to the CGJA Board

[Motion made by Tonsing, seconded by Rogers.]
The motion passed, 9-0-0, by hand vote.

F. Director Comments – Don Freeman has a hotel reservation for Saturday night preceding the conference. If you would like it, contact him ASAP.

G. Adjournment (4:27 p.m.) Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Sommer, Secretary