



MESSAGE TO MEMBERS

The CGJA Board of Directors would like to open a dialogue with you, our chapters and our individual members, about the association, where the association should be headed, and how we should get there.

Last Tuesday, former CGJA President Beate Boultinghouse forwarded to the membership a copy of her letter of resignation. The Board will address Beate's concerns and her perceptions about CGJA's governance and leadership, and it will do so promptly and fully, first at its upcoming retreat on November 12, and then in more depth over the next several months.

Now is the time for self-assessment and reflection. The Board welcomes dialogue and we will address any issues brought to our attention openly, positively, and without defensiveness. We have already heard from several members and chapter leaders. But we need to develop a more complete picture if we are to find the best solutions.

We all know of CGJA's successes in fulfilling its mission of supporting California's grand jury system: CGJA provides excellent training for grand jurors across the state. Our Public Relations Committee educates the public about the grand jury system. We have established positive working relationships with the Superior Courts throughout the state as we support and assist them as they impanel and orient grand juries every year. Our Legal and Legislative Resources Committee responds to inquiries from all over the state, giving helpful information and guidance on best practices. Our Membership Relations Committee reaches out to individual members and to our chapters and associations to find ways to better support their efforts at the local level.

We can do more, and we can do better. But that takes all of us. Our members and member chapters and associations are the strength of our organization. It is important that we reach out to you AND that you reach out to us. We are listening. We want to know what you want of YOUR organization, given the constraints on nonprofit corporations in California and the constraints of our budget. We also want to know what we as an organization can do to help strengthen your chapters and to help support the grand juries in your counties.

To do that we need the active participation of all members, not just at the local level, but as part of the statewide organization. We need you to step forward. Volunteer to serve on our committees, where the work of the organization is conducted. We need you to share not only your ideas and your expertise, but also your time and energies.

So please join with us and support CGJA as we move forward. The association will be undergoing notable transitions in leadership roles as we begin a new term with new Directors and new officers, all of whom will be impaneled on November 13 at the Annual Conference. This new leadership team will welcome your help.

Please continue to check our web site and read the Journal for update information. And we look forward to seeing many of you next week in Burbank at the Chapter Officers' Meeting being held in conjunction with the Annual Conference. It's not too late to register for the conference.

Best Regards,

Karen Jahr, Vice President and Acting President

Jim Ragan, Secretary and Director

Dianne Hoffman, Treasurer and Director

Medsie Bolin, Director

Marsha Caranci, Director

Karin Hern, Director

Beckie Jennings, Director

Diane Shepp, Director

Audrey Lynburg, Outgoing Director

Dan Mufson, Outgoing Director

Lloyd Bell, Incoming Director

Jerry Lewi, Incoming Director

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