



CGJA News

March 2015

"Communication" is the watchword for any productive organization. With that in mind, CGJA's Board of Directors met last week in Sacramento - our third face-to-face gathering in four months - to continue working together on the action plan we began developing at our January 9-10 retreat.

That action plan identified two primary goals for this year: the improvement of communications between the Board and all of its constituencies - committees, individual members, chapters, courts and counties; and the growth of CGJA membership and volunteerism.

During our March 5 gathering, we spent several hours evaluating our progress in addressing the various elements of the plan. Here are some highlights we want to share with you.

We have continued to expand our committee membership, drawing in new members to help revitalize the committees and provide a bigger "workforce" to tackle the many tasks identified in our action plan. Of particular note is the growth of our Membership Relations Committee, which has recently added several new members. The expanded MRC has scheduled its own "mini-retreat" to restructure the committee by adding a number of subcommittees to focus on specific targeted activities and develop a plan to increase membership, encourage volunteerism, and enhance support of CGJA's chapters.

The nine members of the reconstituted Bylaws and Policies Review Committee have met three times since late January to analyze the recommendations from members and chapters for amendments to CGJA's Bylaws. After the Board approves the amendments

in concept, your input will be sought at regional and chapter meetings and directly by way of email. The amendments will then be formally approved by the Board and submitted by ballot for the members' approval.

CGJA has retained a public accounting firm, Goranson and Associates, to conduct an independent review of CGJA's financial records. We anticipate receiving the firm's findings in the next month or so and will share the final report with you.

The Annual Conference Committee is hard at work on putting together CGJA's November 2-3 conference, which will be held at the renowned Lafayette Park Hotel & Spa near Walnut Creek. Stay tuned for more information on the program - and the announcement of our noteworthy keynote speaker. You won't want to miss this conference!

We also want to update you on our training program. On March 6, the 18-member training team met for its annual Train the Trainer workshop. This intense two-day "boot camp" readies CGJA's trainers for the upcoming summer training season.

The training team reviewed the revised curriculum for the seminar's seven core topics and evaluated the interactive exercises that have been added to the program this year. The trainers also analyzed relevant case law and Attorney General opinions, discussed challenges that can arise during training seminars, and practiced their teaching skills using the updated PowerPoint slide sets. They left the workshop ready and eager to fan out across the state this summer to present our program to over 1000 grand jurors and alternates in 34 different venues from Orick in Humboldt County to El Centro in Imperial County and almost everywhere in between.

We will include updates on our action plan, the annual conference, and our training program in next month's Journal. In the meantime, we welcome your feedback to: president@cgja.org.

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