

**Important
Announcements
In this Issue**

February is Grand
Jury Awareness
Month



**CHAPTERS PLEASE
NOTE: New IRS
requirements for
chapters**



**Excellence in
Reporting call for
nominations**



**Annual
Conference
Location
announced**

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Grand Jurors' Journal

President's Message

Judi Lazenby

I want to thank all of you who have been very active in the Grand Jury Awareness campaign. I hope you have enjoyed this as much as I, and have learned from this.

While our efforts increase the number of citizens aware of grand juries and who appreciate the powerful role grand juries serve, there is no guarantee this increased awareness translates into actual grand jury service.

Those enlightened and enthusiastic citizens who do not serve on grand juries can nonetheless contribute to strengthening and preserving the grand jury system as associate members of CGJA.

In addition to financial support for this organization, these individuals, familiar with local issues affecting their jury and with their jury's achievements, can be rich resources.

We have made a successful and concerted effort to raise awareness during this month – but our obligation to continued increased awareness for this valuable system of citizen democracy is ongoing even after February 29th 2008.



FEBRUARY IS GRAND JURY AWARENESS MONTH

BY JERRY LEWI

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and our collective efforts are designed to make all Californians aware of the value of grand juries and, in turn, encourage many qualified persons to apply for the valuable and rewarding service.

It is CGJA's position and a key in our mission statement that we first make citizens aware of the importance of grand juries so they may rely on that work and then to encourage more volunteers.

President Judi Lazenby's message echoes this theme and reminds us all, we should be aware of and appreciate the efforts of grand juries through out the year. But emphasizing this in February we hope to aid recruiting efforts.

If, as a grand jury or a CGJA member or chapter you would like to increase your efforts, here is a summary of activities you can engage in.

- Persuade the County Board of Supervisors and any cities in you county to proclaim Grand

Traditionally, February is a kick-off month in most counties for recruiting volunteers for the next grand jury. You will find in this issue several articles about how this is being supported by several of our chapters and other CGJA activities.

By the time you receive this issue, we anticipate Governor Schwarzenegger will have issued a proclamation declaring February as Grand Jury Awareness month throughout the state. This proclamation

MEET DIRECTOR

Catherine McKown

Recently appointed 2008 Nominations & Election Committee Chair



A native Californian and Marin County resident for over forty years, she and

her husband live in Mill Valley in a grove of beautiful redwood trees; they have two daughters.

Catherine served on two Marin County Grand Juries (2004-06) and was foreperson of the 05-06 jury. She is Vice President of the Marin Chapter of CGJA.

A recently retired special educator. A union activist/leader (local and state levels). Currently serves as a Personnel Commissioner and also on a panel that evaluates sexual harassment cases, statewide. Catherine has developed training programs and given presentations on a variety of subjects, locally and nationally.

A member of CGJA's Training Committee for two years. As a trainer on the subject of report writing, she looks forward to meeting and working with new jurors in other counties.

Interests: she enjoys learning, traveling, nature photography, writing/editing, taking on new challenges, and working collaboratively towards a common goal.

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Jury Awareness Month in the county.

- Speak to the Board of Supervisors and City Council during public comments at their regular meeting to publicize this activity.
- Issue press releases on the value of grand jury efforts in your county to (a) make the public more aware of grand juries and (b) help interest citizens to volunteer for this service. Incorporate successful reports – perhaps we can help you find examples in your county.
- Visit any local civic organization to make short presentations. We have available several versions in Power Point that can be helpful. Create a speakers' bureau to carry this out.
- Encourage people to visit their own county grand jury website as well as the CGJA website, www.cgja.org, to learn more about grand juries.

We look forward to hearing from anyone other efforts and ideas.

Correction to December's President's Message

In my last letter I inadvertently stated that "California's grand jury system . . . by 1940 had been abolished in all but two states: Nevada and California."

No other state has ever had a grand jury system exactly like California's, although Nevada's is similar in many respects. At present "every state uses the grand jury for at least some purpose, with many using grand juries both to bring criminal charges and to investigate civil and/or criminal matters.

Judi Lazenby

Grand Jury Awareness Month in San Luis Obispo County

By Sandra Parker



For the 7th year, the San Luis Obispo Chapter is hosting Grand Jury Awareness Month in order to attract applicants for Grand Jury service. We contact all seven city councils, as well as the County Board of Supervisors in January, asking them to proclaim February

as Grand Jury Awareness Month at one of their February meetings. All have continually accepted and so announce to the public. At each council or board meeting, one of our members, as well as a representative from the current sitting Grand Jury, give a one minute public 'thank you' and acknowledgement of the purpose of the Grand Jury, and invite citizens to participate in the process. We usually have some applications and a brief outline of the duties of a Grand Juror to hand out at the meetings. We have several versions of a 'Proclamation' for the cities' use, and they generally copy it word for word and use it every year, save for the date change. Along with the acceptance of the proclamation, we contact the press and get some PR from them to help kick off the recruitment advertising issued by the Superior Court during this same time period. Contact Sandra Parker for more information (805)438-3737 or fly-cow4@peoplepc.com

Grand Jury Achievements

By Jerry Lewi

Members, Chapters, Independent Associations, Grand Juries and anyone interested in the grand jury system are reminded that we are seeking as many examples as possible of grand jury achievements for our database. A grand jury achievement is defined as a grand jury report recommendation that resulted in an agency concurrence and an actual implementation. More details may be found on our website cgja.org then clicking on the tab marked **Grand Jury Achievements**.

To assist anyone with a candidate report, an example of a case meeting these criteria can be found on page 10.

Letters to the Editor

Subject: Geiss Article in Grand Jurors Journal

Thank you for sharing the important information gleaned from the AG's office on personnel records, however, please correct the following misstatement in Bob Geiss's article in the December 2007 issue.

The articles states: "In an important opinion dated October 4th, 2007, the State..."

The AG did not issue an opinion but issued advice. This is an

CGJA Chapter News

Humboldt Chapter

By Keath North, President



I was installed on January 9th as the President of our Chapter of the CGJA. It's going to be an exciting year for us. We have three major goals for the coming year:

1. Develop a "quick response" speaker group to recruit for the Grand Jury at the petit jury assemblies. This requires being ready to go to the courthouse on a moments notice. So far, we have had two opportunities to speak to those groups and the reception has been very encouraging.
2. Develop and produce a promotional DVD for recruitment purposes.
3. Develop an "immediate" training curriculum for incoming jurors.

The Humboldt County Board of Supervisors has agreed to proclaim February as Grand Jury Awareness Month at our prompting. We're going to have a productive and FUN year.

San Mateo County Chapter

Ed: the following is reprinted from the San Mateo Chapter Newsletter, The Clarion, with the Chapter's permission

San Mateo Chapter Outgoing President's Letter

-By George Habeeb

Our Association faces new challenges, in 2008, and we're ready for them. We've positioned ourselves with new leaders on the SMCAGJ Board who are prepared to act dy-

namically next year.

First of all, we will strengthen our partnership role with the California Grand Juror's Association (CGJA) by building a solid path of communication for the sole purpose of working jointly for the good of the California System. This guiding principle will bring together the talents and experience of both organizations to accomplish the planned goals and objectives in a more harmonious way for those impending projects in 2008.

Once we have established that position, we will doggedly work on our local issues to serve San Mateo County citizenry with all the enthusiasm we can muster, with vital information about the grand jury system by employing educational techniques on our website www.co.sanmateo.ca.us/smcagi.

In addition, it will be our intent to continue to expose our organization to the San Mateo populous more aggressively in the year 2008. We will use the media as a platform to tell them what we do, when we will be doing things, and what we've accomplished for our County. Our website will be our main publication media, more appropriately, our information center.

Another outreach approach will be to use our *Clarion* Newsletter, published semi-annually, and designed to publish monthly activities carried out by our Association.

I feel very good about the new 2008 team we put together and confident in their abilities and dedication to continue our success as an Association for the good of San Mateo County.

I wish all the success to the new President and his 2008 Team.

Incoming President's Letter

-By Mike Miller

What can I say but **AMEN!**

San Luis Obispo Chapter

By Jim Ragan, President

In 2007, applications for 2007-08 grand jury service were sparse despite many and varied promotional and educational efforts by the court and the CGJA chapter in San Luis Obispo County. We ultimately got our grand jurors and alternates, but just barely.

Then Deputy Jury Commissioner Cathi Vest, a strong supporter of the grand jury, came up with a new approach to increase applications. The San Luis Obispo County jury pool is over 100,000. Cathi reasoned that since grand jury service would be in lieu of regular jury service, some citizens might want to consider applying. In June 2007, she started inserting notices about grand jury service in the 5,000 jury summons that the court mails each month.

To date, inquiries and requests for applications have been less than 50, but even this low number gives us hope of significantly increasing the number of yearly applications in addition to our other publicity efforts. And, since we are piggybacking on the court's postage, the cost (paid by the court) is minimal.

The grand jury system needs more Cathi Vests.



CGJA Chapter News

Continued from page 3

Marin County Chapter

By Betty Matea

The Marin Chapter of CGJA is embarking on a new (to us) method of attainment of jurors for the 2008-2009 year. The Presiding Judge has asked for our help in the orientation of potential jurors

by a pre-orientation/interview system. We have enlisted the help of 24 former jurors to assist in interviewing/



orienting applicants. We will have two persons interview each applicant and upon completion, our notes on those interactions will be forwarded to the Presiding Judge.

It is hoped that this method will give potential jurors sufficient information to make a reasoned acceptance of this assignment and that there will be fewer resignations from the jury during their year.

We plan to do a thorough evaluation of our new method, including an exit interview of any persons who resign from the jury after having been sworn and seated on the 2008-2009 Grand Jury. That should give us the final piece of information needed to evaluate the success of our method. We will submit a report of our activity to *The Grand Jurors' Journal* at a later date.

We have also participated in a grand jury recruitment effort on the *Sounding Board* program on local public access television. The discussion was moderated by host Madalienne Peters. Ken Howard, pro tem of the current 2007-08 Marin County Grand Jury (he also served

Marin County Continued page 4

CHAPTERS OF THE CALIFORNIA GRAND JURORS' ASSOCIATION

Kern County Chapter

Ed. Note: Here is another in our series of featured CGJA Chapters, this month's choice being Kern County. The answers below were submitted by Trudy Slater on behalf of Chapter President Leone Harrison.

Q. How did your association come into existence, and in particular what made you decide to apply for chapter status?

A. The Kern County Grand Jurors' Association has been in existence since the early 1970s. It was quite a loose knit organization in the beginning, with meetings moving from place to place and member attendance somewhat sporadic. As leadership changed and time passed, members began to feel that a closer relationship with the State organization which was formed in the 1980s would provide a more structured chapter organization. Additionally, it would help the local chapter expand its own efforts as well as take advantage of the opportunities provided by the State association. These included but were not limited to the very important education and training aspects. Belonging to the State Association has, in turn, validated the local chapter's activities. The affiliation of the chapter with the State association strengthens both through the sharing of information and activities.

Q. What is your Chapters current membership?

A. We are proud to announce we have 45 Kern County members, 27 of whom are also CGJA

members. We are quite pleased with this and have several active members as well as others who participate on an intermittent basis. Our active members keep busy with a number of projects ranging from training to making oral presentations to interested community groups. We are always glad to see new members join the chapter and become involved in its activities.

Q. We are very pleased your chapter will be hosting next year's annual conference. What are some of your other projects, both current and future?

A. Our members were very happy to know the Kern County chapter had been chosen to host the 2008 annual conference. We already have plans afoot to make it interesting, informative, and fun. The dates and location of the conference will hopefully be able to accommodate many of the schedules of CGJA members who may not have been able to attend in the past due to time or travel limitations. (Ed: See announcement on page 6).

The conference, of course, is the big push for this year. But, as you are aware, we have been active in attempting to encourage/organize/create a statewide annual Grand Jury Awareness day or week to enhance recruitment efforts and inform the community on what the Grand Jury system is all about. It is also an attempt to show community members how they can become a member of the Grand Jury. Many people who have not participated really do not

Kern County continued on page 5

understand that serving on a Grand Jury is quite different from serving as a regular (petite) jury for a short time period.

Kern County has for several years had its own Grand Jury Awareness. This year will be no different with a press conference on February 21. Local media, government and court officials, former Grand jurors, youth organizations, community members, and others will gather to recognize the importance of the Grand Jury system in Kern County which will be highlighted with a County proclamation for "Grand Jury Awareness."

Our annual training efforts will continue this year as we participate in "pre-training" training (orientation) which gives prospective Grand Jurors a real-life idea of the commitment needed to be a Grand Juror and some of the issues they may encounter. This can include such simple things as needing to work well with other Grand Jury members and realizing that the panel operates as a group, not as individual members. Later, we also will be providing local Grand Jury training for the jurors selected for the upcoming year. Several chapter members participate in these training sessions which keeps them up to date on current issues and provides incoming jury members with perspectives of former grand jurors who have "been there, done that."

As the Court system is extremely busy, the chapter (with the existing Jury Foreperson) has approached the presiding judge regarding the possibility of chapter members taking over the initial screening of prospective Grand Jurors. This is another example of how local chapters

can expedite the process of Grand Jury selection. Our chapter is awaiting an opportunity to further discuss the proposal with the presiding judge.

Of course, we cannot forget the active duties taking place during Board meetings. Additionally, at our six annual general membership meetings we host community members who speak on issues of local interest. For instance, the January general membership meeting hosted Dennis L. Thompson, Fire Chief and Director of Emergency Services, Kern County Fire Department. Chief Thompson gave an interesting and informative presentation on the Isabella Dams and their impacts upon the Kern County community.

Other projects we are either currently working on or have "in the works" include developing a Kern County Chapter website and providing volunteers and committee members for state association efforts as well as the local chapter. What with the activities of the annual conference and our other projects we should have a very active and productive year!

Q. Can you point to some recent Grand Jury reports in your county that would meet the standard of an effective grand jury achievement?

A. Several Kern County Grand Jury's reports have been identified as excellent examples of what can be done to increase the County's effectiveness or efficiency. First and foremost is 2007's CGJA Excellence in Reporting winning report on mandatory recycling. Additionally, due in large part to

Grand Jury final reports, the dangers of steroid use are now being taught in local high schools, and the County has one of the most updated law libraries in the state, a separate, secure, and health hazard free property room, and a fully qualified emergency medical services director.

Q. Do you have any recommendations of how to enhance association-chapter relations?

A. Enhancing association-chapter relations essentially comes down to sharing of thoughts and ideas about what is important to both. Attending meetings, conferences, and training sessions all open the lines of communication which allow the state and local chapters to understand what is important to both and why. Sharing what you are doing with others and learning what others are doing keeps everyone current and avoids the pitfall of "recreating the wheel." Having participants see the "big picture" benefits the State association, the local chapter, and the Grand Jury system as a whole as members stay informed and interested.



Marin County Continued from page 4

ton the 2006-07 jury), and Catherine McKown, (2-term juror, 2004-2006 and foreperson of 05-06 jury), were the guests. Howard and McKown gave an overview of the grand jury process and encouraged Marin residents to apply. The 30-minute show was sponsored by the Soroptimists International of Novato and will be repeated many times throughout February, up until the application deadline of March 17.

2008 CGJA ANNUAL CONFERENCE OCTOBER 23 & 24, 2008

HOLIDAY INN SELECT BAKERSFIELD, CALIFORNIA

Announcing the 2008 27th CGJA Annual Conference Thursday October 23 & Friday October 24 (Saturday October 25 Retreat for Directors)

**at the
HOLIDAY INN SELECT
“In the Heart of Downtown Bakersfield”**

**Hosted by the
Kern County Chapter of the California Grand Jurors’ Association**

Hotel Highlights

- CGJA room rates good from Oct. 21-Oct. 26, only \$89.00 per night
- Easily accessible from Highway 99
- Minutes from airport with free hotel shuttle service
- One block from Amtrak railroad/bus depot
- Two blocks from County Offices and Court House
- Two blocks from Ice Skating and Swimming facilities
- Next to the Rabobank Theater
- Free full service corporate business center, complete with computers, fax machines, copier, work stations and high speed internet access
- All rooms include free high-speed internet access, voice mail, data ports, hairdryers, coffeemakers, cable television, irons and ironing boards.
- Indoor-outdoor environment of the Lobby Lounge is the ideal place to unwind with friends and your favorite beverage
- Other amenities include a fitness center, a beautiful outdoor pool, a spacious sun deck, and an on-site dry sauna, spa and wireless internet access throughout the main floor.

Mark your calendar and plan to attend!

Watch for more information in your forthcoming *Grand Jurors’ Journals* regarding Meeting Schedule, Speakers, Panels and Panelists, and Registration Forms

If you have any questions or suggestions please contact: Tony Noce

By Mail: 2808 Houchin Rd., Bakersfield, CA 93304-5629

By Phone: (661) 835-7591, By Email: anthonyskids@yahoo.com

New IRS Requirements for CGJA Chapters and 501(c)(3) Organizations

By Ivor Thomas, Treasurer

In 2006, Congress passed the Pension Protection Act which significantly restructured requirements for charitable organizations that will be phased in between 2007 and 2008. In 2009, organizations with gross receipts of \$25,000 or more will file a brand new form 990 for 2008. On or before May 15, 2008, all CGJA chapters must file, as must all 501(c)(3) groups that have gross receipts less than \$25,000, the new electronic only form 990N. The IRS maintains rules and guidelines for the new requirements on their website at www.irs.gov/eo/.



Going forward, failure for a 501(c)(3) organization to file the form 990, 990EZ, or 990N for three consecutive years will be automatic grounds for revocation of a 501(c)(3) status. On May 15th of the third year, an organization with that status that has not filed in the two previous years is not entitled to an extension of time to file—failure

to have filed by that date will require filing for reinstatement as an exempt organization. In the case of CGJA chapters, CGJA will receive a letter from the IRS that a chapter has failed to file with instructions to remove the chapter from our group exemption number.

There are several other reasons a chapter or other non-profits can lose its exempt status: Political activity endorsed by such a group has many regulations and tests to determine if that activity is a tax deductible public benefit, but endorsement of a political candidate or party is expressly forbidden. Officers and directors especially should not wear political shirts or buttons to meetings nor should there be any signage on the property endorsing a political candidate or party. When a legislative change is proposed that coincides with the mission of the non-profit, the organizations must proceed carefully to stay within expenditure tests established by the IRS to ensure the public benefit status of the organization does not morph into a political action type of organization. If a member or Director of an organization speaks publicly for the organization without the authority of the organization, appropriate steps should be taken immediately to retract/clarify the actions of that individual.

Inurement (transfer of funds to the benefit of a director or committee member) can be immediate grounds for revocation of 501(c)(3) status. The IRS advises every 501(c)(3) to have a conflict of interest policy, to segregate financial duties, require second signatures on large checks, track inventory, and to conduct internal audits.

The other three problem areas are failure to report UBI (unrelated business income), failure to comply with regulations related to reporting of gaming (any game of chance), and failure to record and pay backup withholdings for contracts with individuals that do not have a corporate EIN recorded and signed on a W9. The information provided here is intended to provide awareness of the legislative changes, not to provide definitive guidance. For additional guidance, you may refer to www.stayexempt.org or contact the EO division of the IRS at (877)829-5500.

Public Relations Committee Report

By Jerry Lewi, Chair

cgjaprguy@roadrunner.com



We welcome Tony Noce (Kern) to our committee. This will provide us with an excellent connection to this year's Annual Conference, as Tony

is the chair. Bill Rose (San Diego) has resigned since his other commitments do not allow him to participate to the extent he would like.

Committee Reports Continued on page 9

Excellence in Reporting

By Orley Ryals

Recognition for a "job well done" is good business. The **Excellence in Reporting** program of the **California Grand Jurors' Association** does just that - recognizing quality in the categories of Grand Jury and News Media. At the annual conference exceptional work in these categories is announced and recognized. Now is the time to submit nominations for outstanding accomplishments to the **Excellence in Reporting Subcommittee**.

The **Grand Jury Award** is presented to a current or past Grand Jury and is judged according to citizen impact, duration of the problem, difficulty of investigation, quality of the written report, public and media support gained, and actual change implemented.

The **News Media Award** is presented to the print or electronic media and is judged on either of two elements: an increased public awareness of the grand jury institution or an increased awareness in the community of a grand jury investigation so that the community benefited in the investigation. Submissions may be independent of grand jury participation or in conjunction with specific grand jury investigative reports.

Action. It is recognized grand juries are approaching their peak workload in report preparations. Each grand jury and former grand juror, however, are encouraged to identify and submit the best of their county's grand jury investigative work and news media articles for consideration by the **Excellence in Reporting Subcommittee**. The application form, **California Grand Jurors' Association Annual Excellence in Reporting Awards Nomination Form**, is posted on the CGJA website and in this **Journal**.

Criteria:

- Nomination input letter
- Citizen impact – severity and number of citizens affected
- Duration of problem – recent, 2-4 years, greater than 4 years
- Difficulty of investigation – few or many agencies
- Bureaucracy interference – denials, subpoenas, etc.
- Written report
 - Documented
 - Succinct
 - Complete
 - Readable

- Substantiated findings and recommendations
- Public support gained
- Media support gained
- Success verified

Submission:

1. Submit all applications in four copies
2. With a nomination letter stating the achievement,
3. With appropriate documentation and

4. final report or media reports, With name, address, county and phone number of contact person,
5. Not later than July 15, 2008, to:

Orley G. Ryals EIR Subcommittee Chair,
 24220 South Fork Road, Twain Harte, CA 95383. Phone: (209) 586-3497 Email: ogryals@mlode.com

Excellence in Reporting Award Application

**California Grand Jurors' Association
 Excellence in Reporting Award
 Success Story Recognition 2008
 Nomination Form**

Submitted for: _____ Grand Jury EIR _____ News Media EIR

Name of nominee: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____ Email: _____

Name of nominator: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____ Email: _____

For grand jury award, attach to this form four copies of:

- A nomination letter introducing the investigative report.
- The investigative report.
- Documentation indicating public and media support gained.
- Documentation verifying success of the investigation.

For news media award, attach to this form four copies of:

- A nomination letter explaining news media actions.
- Published reports supporting the nomination.

Submit application no later than July 15, 2008 to:

**Orley G. Ryals
 24220 South Fork Road
 Twain Harte, CA 95383**

Tel: 209.586.3497 Email: ogryals@mlode.com

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We thank Bill for his service and hope he may find a way to rejoin us in the future.

Our committee continues to work on its major goals that include (1) producing a generic video promoting the California Grand Jury system for distribution via websites and DVDs and (2) finding ways for state-wide outreach for the same purpose but by any other means available. We also believe that documenting grand jury achievements that have been reported previously and elsewhere in this issue, we are achieving a part of that goal. Assisting Osher Lifelong Learning Institutes throughout the state in creating courses about grand juries will also help.

With respect to videos, I remind you of some excellent examples available on the Internet. Sacramento, San Francisco and Orange County Grand Juries each have a video available on their websites. While specific to their county, there is enough general information about grand juries to make them of interest to anyone. If you know of any other videos on any county or grand jury website, please let me know.

Please submit any comments and ideas to assist us with these goals.

Training Committee

By Lew Avera Committee Chair

TRAINING COMMITTEE 2008 GOALS

The Training Committee is off to a strong start in 2008. On January 9th and 10th, the Training Committee completed a training program for the Monterey County Grand Jury. Given that Monterey is the only county in the State that empanels its jury in January, it has been unable to

participate in CGJA’s regular regional training seminars provided in July and early August each year.

This is just one more example of the Training Committee’s continuing efforts to provide professional, current, and consistent training programs for county grand juries in the most timely, yet cost-effective manner. Other examples of this committee’s goal oriented efforts to deliver its professional training programs tailored to specific audiences in 2008 are

- Offering an additional Forepersons’ Workshop to the regular Seminar held in Redding for the northern region;
- Adding an additional one-day Report Writing Workshop for the Southern California counties;
- Develop a new brochure to advertise our five 2008 Regional Training Seminars, our three Forepersons’ Workshops; and our two Report Writing Workshops;
- Refining methods of delivering programs targeting specific issues as well as expectations of audiences by determining these through brief assessments at the beginning of each training session.



Legal Affairs Committee Report *By Kathy Wylie Committee Chair*

Goals of the Legal Affairs committee for this new year include updating the CGJA Legal Compendium and adding a ‘most-asked’ question section for the CGJA website.



Grand Juries in the News



Humboldt County Grand Jury on a recent tour of local PGE plant
Photograph submitted by Irene Stidston

Summary of Board Actions

By Joann Landi

Summary of December 18, 2007

Board action

Ratified appointment of Audrey Lynberg as Parliamentarian.

Ratified Membership Relations Committee decisions re chapter, affiliate, and non-profit dues that vacates chapter fees.

Approved change to Bylaws Article 6, Section 5 – Terms of Office to permit Directors to serve up to five consecutive terms as an officer

Approved 2008 budget.

Approved change to Policy & Procedure Section 3.001 re subcommittee membership to require subcommittee members to be members of the parent standing committee.

Summary of January 22, 2008

Board action

Approved amending bylaw Article 5(c) to reflect change in vote tally procedure based on 2007 results

Approved changing name of Nominations Committee to Nominations-Election Committee

Ratified appointees to Nominations-Elections committee

Approved Annual Conference committee members and Annual Conference budget

Updated CGJA Quick Guide for Calendar Year

Approved one month extension to Ad Hoc Publications Committee re recommendations to the Board of Directors

HELP WANTED

Don't just be a member of CGJA, become a participating member.

All committees will welcome your involvement as new people and their ideas is what will keep our organization moving ahead in both educating the public and training grand jurors.

Continued from page 2

Grand Jury Achievements example of a case meeting criteria :

Grand Jury Achievement

Date of Report	Apr 01, 05	County	Nevada	Title of Report	Franchise Operations, Nevada County General Code
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Key Recommendations	Agency(s)	Responses	Date of Response	Date of Implementation
1. The Grand Jury urges the Board of Supervisors to instruct the County Executive Officer, County Counsel, and the Auditor-Controller to finally complete the update to Nevada County General Code Chapter II: Franchises.	Board of Supervisors	The recommendation has not yet been implemented but will be by September 30, 2004.	Jun 29, '04	Sep 30, '04
	Auditor-Controller	This recommendation has not been implemented, but will be implemented some time in the future. County Counsel will provide the exact time line for completion	Aug 30, '04	To be determined.
2. The Auditor-Controller should develop a plan that will ensure that staff is provided with appropriate training to establish written procedures for regular internal audits of monies received from all franchises.	Auditor-Controller	Internal controls have been put in place to insure franchise fees are received in a timely manner. The procedure requires all departments to send their deposits to the Auditor-Controller's office. The Auditor-Controller's office has set up a tickler file to help us alert departments if their franchise fee posits are overdue. Before the Auditor-Controller's office deposits the franchise fees they are reviewed for reasonableness and consistency with the documentation supplied by the franchisee, and prior payment history. The Auditor-Controller's office will return to the contracting department a copy of the deposit along with all supporting documentation so they can ascertain, validate, and demonstrate contract compliance. These documents will remain on file with the contracting department for five years. Please be advised that the above internal control procedure is NOT an audit. It is simply a review. The Contracting department and the Auditor-Controller's office do not have the technical expertise, or staff, to audit large state wide firms like Pacific Gas & Electric, Waste Management Inc, USA Media, and Comcast Inc. Such audits would have to be contracted out, and may best be accomplished in collaboration with other counties. The proposed revised ordinance does not address auditing methods and procedures. It is of paramount importance that all franchise contract agreements clearly specify the type of fee documentation required from the franchisee.	Jun 29, '04	Jul 01, '04

Letters to the editor continued from page 2

important distinction as an opinion does not carry the legal weight of an opinion. I believe this should be clarified in the next issue of the journal.

If you would like to discuss why I sought advice versus an opinion I will be happy to explain.

Sincerely,
Rosemary Mulligan, Foreperson
2007/2008 El Dorado County Grand Jury

CGJA Officers

President
Judi Lazenby
 1961 Main Street #198
 Watsonville, CA 95076
 831-724-0790
judilazenby@aol.com

Vice President
Kathy Wylie
 P.O. Box 309
 Mendocino, CA 95460
 707-937-4228
kathy@mcn.org

Secretary
Joann Landi
 178 South Palomar Drive
 Redwood City, CA 94062
 650-365-4184
joannelandi@aol.com

Treasurer
Ivor Thomas
 6078 Maxwell Drive
 Paradise, CA 95969
 530-872-4127
ithomas@cgja.org

CGJA Directors

North

Sherry Chesny, Placer
sherry.c@cebridge.net

Tim Colbie, Butte
tcolbie@vacation.com

Ray Hoffman, Nevada
nrhoffman@comcast.net

Diane Masini, Nevada
domasini@sbcglobal.net

Ivor Thomas, Butte
ithomas@cgja.org

Kathy Wylie, Mendocino
kathy@mcn.org

Central

Serena Bardell,
 San Francisco
sbardell@aol.com

Earl Heal, Solano
helearlniki@earthlink.net

Karin Hern, Marin
Karin.hern@sbcglobal.net

Joann Landi San Mateo
Joannelandi@aol.com

Judi Lazenby, Santa Cruz
judilazenby@aol.com

Katherine McKown, Marin
cdmac1@aol.com

South

Lew Avera Jr., Orange
lewavera@cox.net

Dianne Hoffman, Orange
cgjaimailbox@yahoo.com

Walter D. Hofmann MD,
 San Diego
wdh438@gmail.com

Mary Johnston, Kings
grammiemj@comcast.net

Jerry Lewi, Ventura
cgjaprguy@roadrunner.com

Anthony Noce, Kern
anthonyskids@yahoo.com

John Sitton, San Benito
sitton_john@yahoo.com

CGJA Chapters

Fresno County Chapter
Joan Niboli Gray, President
joanegrays@comcast.net
 Website: fresno.cgja.org

Humboldt County Chapter
Keath North, President
Krn48@aol.com

Kern County Chapter
Leone Harrison, President
gjainis@earthlink.net

Kings County Chapter
Mary Johnston, President
grammiemj@comcast.net

Los Angeles County Chapter
Bill Turner, President
billturner26.2@att.net

Madera County Chapter
Debbie R. Smith, President
drdebief@aol.com

Marin County Chapter
Betty J. Mattea, President
bjmattea@sonic.net
 Website: www.mgja.org

Monterey County Chapter
Ray Wuco, President
carmelwuco@redshift.com

Napa County Chapter
Sue Branson, President
suebtax@aol.com

Nevada County Chapter
Ray Hoffman, President
nrhoffman@comcast.net

San Benito County Chapter
John Sitton, President
sitton_john@yahoo.com

San Francisco County Chapter
Jack McNulty, President
jlmn413@hotmail.com

San Luis Obispo County Chapter
Jim Ragan, President
jimragan@charter.net

San Mateo County Chapter
Mike Miller, President
okmiller@pacbell.net
 Website:
www.co.sanmateo.ca.us/smcagi/

Santa Clara County Chapter
Richard Ruth, President
rruth8592@aol.com

Solano County Chapter
Wanda Kiger-Tucker,
 President
kigertucker@juno.com

Standing Committee Chairs

Finance Committee
 Ivor Thomas
 530-872-4127
ithomas@cgja.org

Legal Affairs
 Kathy Wylie
 707-937-4228
kathy@mcn.org

**Membership &
 Chapter Relations**
 Tim Colbie
 530-624-4656
tcolbie@vacation.com

Operations
 Serena Bardell
 415-931-7249
sbardell@aol.com

Public Relations
 Jerry Lewi
 805-492-0122
cgjaprguy@roadrunner.com

Training
 Lew Avera Jr.
 949-388-8910
lewavera@cox.net

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Celebrating

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**The Mission
of the
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is

**To promote government
accountability by
improving the training
and
resources available to
California's
58 regular grand juries
and
educating the public about
the substantial local
government oversight
and
reporting powers
these grand juries have**

**Format for submitting
letters and articles to the
Grand Jurors' Journal**

Articles should be e-mailed to
Jerry Lewi, Editor
cgjaprguy@roadrunner.com

Articles submitted by e-mail should be saved in Rich Text Format and transmitted as an attachment to the e-mail message.

If e-mail is not available, articles should be faxed to Jerry at 805-241-7912

Letters to the editor are limited to 200 words. (One hundred words for "Kudos" thank-you letters).

The Journal will highlight opinion articles written by readers, experts, and issues advocates. They may be 500 to 600 words in length.

We are especially interested in articles on Grand Jury issues or solutions to improving public education of the grand jury system in California.

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