



# Grand Jurors' Journal

## Volume 21, No. 3

### June 2019

[cgja.org](http://cgja.org)

In this issue: Training | Awards | Annual conference | President's report | Election news | Ask the trainer | from Around the state | Letters

## 2019 CGJA Training Season Begins

*by Marsha Caranci, Training Chair*

The 25 members of CGJA's training team are busy preparing for this year's training season and will be hitting the road soon to present training seminars and workshops to incoming jurors and alternates, legal advisors, and forepersons and pro-tems throughout the state. The training venues for the summer of 2019 are shown below. In addition, there will be at least seven Report Writing Workshops held in the fall.

On March 28, our six new trainers participated in the annual New Trainer Orientation, followed by a full Train-the-Trainer Workshop for all trainers on March 29 and 30. Though we meet frequently by video conference throughout the year, this is the only time that the entire training team is together for a face-to-face meeting. These intensive educational sessions were both productive and enjoyable.

Our many subcommittees have been busy reviewing, editing, and producing this year's training manual and presentations; communicating with all 58 counties to ensure we can offer a training program that works best for them; getting all our supplies and equipment ready and distributed; and assigning training teams to each of our 33 venues. Several non-trainer volunteers provide vital support by handling registrations, invoicing, and hotel-room reservations.

The CGJA website now offers new methods of registering on-line for some of our seminars and workshops, plus a growing number of new resources for the grand juries to use throughout their term.

For more information on the CGJA Training program, go to our [website](http://cgja.org) and click on "Training" or contact us at [cgjatraining@cgja.org](mailto:cgjatraining@cgja.org).

## CGJA Training Schedule 2019

### Dates and locations of CGJA Training Seminars, Foreperson and Pro Tem Workshops, and Legal Advisor Workshops

<b>Date</b>	<b>Venue</b>	<b>Location</b>
June 19-20	Contra Costa County onsite seminar	Martinez
June 25-26	Sonoma County onsite seminar	Santa Rosa
June 27-28	El Dorado County onsite seminar	Shingle Springs
July 1-2	Modoc County onsite seminar	Alturas
July 1-2	Plumas County onsite seminar	Quincy
July 8-9	Mendocino County onsite seminar	Ukiah
July 8-9	Monterey County onsite seminar	Marina
July 8-9	Santa Barbara County onsite seminar	Santa Barbara
July 9-10	Stanislaus County onsite seminar	Modesto
July 10-11	Santa Cruz County onsite seminar	Santa Cruz
July 11-12	San Joaquin County onsite seminar	Stockton
July 11-12	Santa Clara/San Mateo onsite seminar	San Mateo
July 11-12	San Bernardino County onsite seminar	Rancho Cucamonga
July 13	Foreperson Workshop	San Mateo/Foster City
July 15	Foreperson Workshop	Sacramento

Continued on next page

<b>Date</b>	<b>Venue</b>	<b>Location</b>
July 16-17	Sacramento Regional Seminar and Legal Advisor Workshop	Sacramento
July 18	Sierra County onsite seminar	Downieville
July 18-19	San Luis Obispo County onsite seminar	San Luis Obispo
July 20	Foreperson Workshop	Redding
July 22-23	Redding Regional Seminar	Redding
July 22-23	Napa County onsite seminar	Napa
July 22-23	Imperial County onsite seminar	El Centro
July 24-25	Gold Country onsite seminar (Nevada, Sutter, and Yuba Counties)	Marysville
July 25-26	Siskiyou County onsite seminar	Yreka
July 25-26	Merced/Mariposa onsite seminar	Merced
July 29-30	Lake County onsite seminar	Lakeport
July 29	Foreperson Workshop	Visalia
July 30-31	Visalia Regional Seminar and Legal Advisor Workshop	Visalia
August 1-2	Humboldt/Del Norte onsite seminar	Orick
August 1-2	San Benito county onsite seminar	Hollister
August 5-6	Tri-Counties onsite seminar (Amador, Calaveras, and Tuolumne Counties)	San Andreas
August 8-9	Inyo/Mono Counties onsite seminar	Bishop
August 8-9	Lassen County onsite seminar	Susanville

See [website](#) Report Writing Workshops in various locations

## Angelo Rolando Service Award

by Joann Landi, Awards Committee Chair

Each year, the CGJA honors a member for outstanding service to our organization. We present the award at the annual CGJA conference.

We look to the members of CGJA to nominate members they consider worthy of receiving this prestigious award. Nominations will be accepted for consideration by the Angelo Rolando Service Award Committee until August 24, 2019.



Ray Frisbie, 2018 recipient

In deciding to nominate someone you believe deserving, note that this award is for past service and not for anticipated service in future years. Consider the following factors:

- The nominee has had substantial, substantive participation at both the state and county level in support of CGJA goals and objectives.
- The nominee has demonstrated exceptional leadership skills and is unusually effective in accomplishing projects.
- The nominee must be a current member of CGJA.
- Nominations are made by CGJA members in good standing.
- There will be no multiple awards.
- The CGJA president is not eligible to receive this award during the year of service.
- Past recipients are not eligible for renomination.

The preferred method for submitting nominations is via the [website form](#). However, nominations may be submitted via postal mail or [email](#) (providing all the information requested on the website form) to [Joann Landi](#), 178 South Palomar Drive, Palomar Park, CA 94062. If you have any questions regarding the nomination process, contact [joannelandi@aol.com](mailto:joannelandi@aol.com) or phone 650-365-4184.

## LAST CHANCE

Nominations for CGJA's **Best Grand Jury Report** and **Best Media Coverage** awards are due by **June 30** – see [details](#).

### Annual Conference Program is Shaping Up

by Lloyd Bell, Annual Conference Chair

We are pleased to announce that State Controller Betty Yee will be our keynote speaker, kicking off the conference shortly after the opening at 1:00 pm on Sunday, November 3. CGJA members have learned that this office has a wealth of information on its website that is useful to grand juries. Controller Yee will describe the functions (and probably the challenges) of her office.



On tap is an informative session by the CGJA Awards Committee about the *Excellence in Reporting* award evaluation process. This session will describe the rating procedure and provide tips on identifying and submitting competitive reports. CGJA's Public Relations Committee will sponsor a panel discussion highlighting statewide and local efforts supporting our Annual Conference theme **Increasing Grand Jury Awareness Throughout California**. Regular items are the CGJA President's report on the activities and state of the association, greeting our current and newly elected directors, presenting the *Excellence in Reporting* awards and honoring the next *Angelo Rolando Award* recipient at our gala Sunday evening banquet (price included in your conference registration).

We are excited about our event venue – the **Embassy Suites Sacramento Riverfront Promenade**. Located in the heart of Old Town Sacramento, it offers many attractions for those who wish to come in early or stay a little after the conference to experience all the city has to offer. Look for information about local attractions and hotel and conference registration on our [website](#).

Finally, just a reminder that again this year CGJA will conduct a silent auction during the gala dinner on Sunday evening – the proceeds to benefit CGJA projects and mission. Chapters and Associations are encouraged to begin planning their donation of a basket or item that reflects products from their county so that they can be included in the auction.

The Annual Conference Committee is looking forward to another informative event for this year. We look forward to seeing you all there.

For any questions, contact [Lloyd Bell](#).

[View list and contact information for chapters and associations.](#)

## Message from the President

by Larry Herbst



On behalf our CGJA board, I thank our Introductory Members and the other county grand jurors currently serving throughout the state in this very important endeavor as watchdogs of civil government. As you well know by now, you have made a very significant personal commitment in terms of your time and your efforts to look into the local government entities you have selected to investigate and report on. The impact that grand juries can have on improving local government is substantial, and one of the methods we are fortunate to have to ensure that the entities are operating at their highest level. Where possible, we encourage impaneled jurors at the end of their term to volunteer as holdovers for the subsequent jury. We anxiously await your reports, issued or pending, and we hope that CGJA has benefited you in conducting your grand jury year.

This year, the CGJA Board of Directors has adopted a set of strategic and tactical goals for the organization. The top overarching strategic goals are:

- Increase public awareness of the grand jury system with the intent of strengthening the state's civil grand jury applicant pools.
- Establish and maintain a succession planning process for directors and committee chairs, ensuring a continuing talent pool for ongoing governance.
- Develop and implement membership-recruiting programs in order to increase the number of members while delivering increasing membership value.

We invite you to become a part of bringing these goals to fruition by volunteering to serve on one of our committees through which initiatives and activities lead to actions supporting our goals. If interested, please complete our [volunteer form](#) to match your skills to our many needs.

The tactical and operational goals have been adopted by our various committees and will be managed and discussed in committee meetings with periodic reports to the Board of Directors. Since the strategic goals are long term in nature, the Board of Directors will review progress periodically and report on them in future issues of the *Journal* as well as at our annual conference in November.

**We Invite all 2018-19 Grand Jury Members to Become CGJA Voting Members Starting in July 2019**

Now that your year as a member of the grand jury is coming to an end, we congratulate and thank you for your commitment. We hope you enjoyed being on the grand jury and that your efforts contributed to the effectiveness and efficiency of local government.

We also hope you have enjoyed your Introductory Membership in CGJA and found the *Journal* and other communications informative and that you used our website to enhance your grand jury experience.

This is our invitation for you to join us as a voting member and help us continue our support of the unique California civil grand jury system. Plus, you may continue friendships made during your year on the grand jury and make new ones with others throughout the state.

We use membership dues to help support training new jurors and alternates, respond to questions submitted by grand jurors, maintain our website to provide resources for sitting grand juries and promote grand jury awareness, and keep former jurors current on the happenings throughout the state. We are on top of challenges to our unique grand jury system and stand ready to address them as they occur.

We also support our county chapters in their roles of helping the courts recruit and select jurors, conduct local orientation for new jurors and help with an implementation review of recommendations submitted to local government agencies.

Please join us as a voting member and keep in touch with other like-minded people. We encourage you to volunteer on one of our committees. Click [here](#) to join.

*CGJA is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization with no paid officers or directors.*



## Ask the Trainer

by Marsha Caranci, CGJA Training Chair

This regular column allows the CGJA Training Team to share with Journal readers our responses to some of the questions we receive from grand jurors.

Please remember the following: our trainers are happy to answer questions in their areas of expertise and may be contacted by using the information in Tab 8 of our training manual; you may not take any response as legal advice; and you should contact your local legal advisors to answer any question that might divulge confidential information.

Please submit your questions to me at [cgjatraining@cgja.org](mailto:cgjatraining@cgja.org). The Training Team's response to your question might appear in a future edition of the Journal.

**Q. Does a juror have to be physically present to vote on a supermajority agenda item (e.g., to approve a report) or can they vote remotely by phone or email? Similarly, can a vote take place in advance of the meeting in writing or electronically?**

**A.** We believe that no one should ever vote by proxy, by email, or in advance of the meeting where the matter is being discussed because the grand jury is a collegial body, and each member is expected to take part in deliberations during its meetings.

The traditional definition of a meeting is "a gathering of people" (*Webster's Dictionary*), but today many meetings, including grand jury meetings, are conducted virtually. Although a meeting in person is better, there can be situations that would prevent a juror from attending. There is nothing in the Penal Code that would prohibit a juror from being "present" at a meeting using a speaker phone or electronically via video conferencing (e.g., Skype or GoToMeeting). However, all of the jurors must be able to hear the other participants and have the ability to contribute to the discussion. This might require an amendment to the jury's procedures manual to include rules for conducting virtual meetings, including methods for preserving confidentiality.

**Q. We know we are required to provide a copy of each report to the affected agency two working days prior to its public release. Is it OK to send it by email? If not, what is the best method for delivery – registered mail? hand delivery?**

**A.** Hand delivery with a signed receipt is probably best. Certified mail is better than registered mail, since you will automatically receive proof of delivery, but it could take several days.

An email with the report attached is also possible, but only if the recipient agrees to using this method and to responding "report received" to your email. You would password-protect the attached report and then telephone the recipient to give them the password.

## HEADS UP! *from the Nominations-Elections Committee*

by Lloyd Bell, Chair

The Nominations-Elections Committee has been working to finalize the slate of candidates for director and will be gathering their candidate statements for publication to CGJA members ahead of the elections.

One change to the election process this year is our ability to conduct the vote electronically via our CGJA website. This option provides a more efficient means to deliver an electronic link to your region's ballot and reduce mail and postage expense – while continuing to ensure ballot integrity and anonymity. Of course, members desiring to vote via a traditional paper ballot may do so.

Look for a July e-blast notification from CGJA with more information about the director's election process and the upcoming vote.

## NEWS FROM AROUND THE STATE

from Contra Costa County by Rich Knowles



### Cultivate your local media!

The Contra Costa County chapter has developed an ongoing relationship with Daniel Borenstein, editorial page editor of the *East Bay Times* (he has been a speaker at their chapter meetings). Readers might recall his being mentioned in the piece in the April *Journal* about Contra Costa and Alameda counties' joint authorship of a jury recruitment article. Borenstein has supported the publication of both the article this year and a similar article last year.

With the court's support, the chapter does pre-selection orientations for prospective jurors each year. For the last couple of years, nearly all the applicants to the civil grand jury attended the chapter's orientations. Asked what motivated them to apply for the jury, over half the applicants, both this year and last year, said their biggest motivator was the article they read on the editorial page.

**Journal Comment:** *Very impressive! Note also the article in the April Journal about the Humboldt chapter's monthly column about the grand jury in the county's major newspaper, the Eureka Times-Standard. Chapters can make a big difference in increasing grand jury awareness.*

### from Sonoma County by Peter Andrews

Last fall, Sonoma County embarked on a groundbreaking initiative to deal with the all too common situation of dwindling numbers of grand jury applicants. Sonoma County may be the first to formally stage a midterm recruitment campaign to attract juror applicants.

In June 2018, we experienced a disappointing pool on empanelment day, filling the jury of nineteen but with only one alternate. The early resignation of four jury members left only sixteen. Things worsened with two more resignations. Therefore, in September we begin planning for a midterm recruitment campaign.

In mid-October, the court announced a five-week effort proclaimed through a flyer on the court's website and to the sitting jury. In late October, the sitting jury asked the local CGJA chapter to do what they could to make this campaign successful.

We assessed the situation and decided that no amount of public appearances at Rotaries or any other venue would have a significant impact at this late date. We decided on a full assault on the local media. Newspapers – daily, weekly, and monthly – all acquiesced, printing plaintive letters to the editor or the flyer. We missed a lot of media cutoff dates, but the media often remised and gave us space the next few months. The campaign continued through February.

By the Thanksgiving cutoff date, there were 47 applications. By the orientation in January 2019, the court took 15 of the 63 applications in process. They held the remaining applications for the 2019-20 candidate pool.

Those midterm candidates chosen to serve on the jury have worked out exceedingly well. One individual may become next year's foreperson. The midterm recruitment served its purpose and bolstered the sitting jury. It was an innovative and successful idea.

The follow-on effect, with 45 applications in hand and numbers growing, was that this year's pool of candidates over 50 at May's orientation was a blessing for the court. It augured well for next year's jury.

I interviewed half the 54 at May's orientation – an equal number from Oct-Nov versus Jan-Feb, but no one from March-April, when the court's efforts kicked in. The attendees liked the plaintive cry for help in righting county government. Unfortunately, but as always, no one really knew what the civil grand jury did, how it worked, or what the commitment really entailed; sigh.

What does this mean, if anything? Statistically – nothing. A single county's result. But to my knowledge, the only thing 80 percent of these people saw was my plaintive letter to the editor. It might be worth a try at a cry for help, rather than appealing to people's moral duty to serve. That's the conclusion that I'm left with after a year. It wasn't political, wasn't gender, wasn't racial, wasn't issues – seems more shame and obligation than duty (if I can draw such a distinction) to one's role in society and community. It sure made a numbers difference.



## Letters

Dear Editor,

It was nice to see the published annual balance sheet, budget, and P&L. Our Sonoma County chapter discussed this at our April meeting. Questions arising were: Who was Bill Trautman? What is the mission of this fund? When was this fund endowed? Why is CGJA sitting on so much cash?

Peter Andrews  
President, Sonoma County GJA

Dear Peter,

Bill Trautman, who died in late 2013, was one of the giants in the California civil grand jury system. He was foreperson of two successive Napa County grand juries. A highly successful and respected attorney, Bill was an authoritative grand juror trainer in the law subjects. CGJA members elected him as a CGJA director in 2011, and our board chose him as our president in 2012.

After Bill died, we established and invited contributions to the *Bill Trautman Memorial Fund* to be used for grand jury education in his memory. Many CGJA members donated.

CGJA needs enough cash reserves at the end of every year to support training, our main activity. Training, which occurs from mid-June through October, accounts for over 80 percent of our income and expenses. Our annual year-end balance sheet always shows that we have the necessary reserves to publish training materials and reimburse our trainers for travel and lodging before recouping those expenses from the counties from two to six months after the training ends.

Jim Ragan, Public Relations Committee

*Send your thoughts or opinions on CGJA or grand jury matters to [editor@cgja.org](mailto:editor@cgja.org).*

## Recent board actions

### **Board Meeting, May 28, 2019**

Adopted strategic goals.

Approved the San Bernardino County Chapter as a CGJA Chapter.

Ratified the appointments of Chuck MacLean (Northern Region Member) to the Nominations-Elections Committee (NEC).

All approved board meeting minutes are available on the CGJA [website](#).

**Barbara Sommer**, Secretary

**NOTE:** We encourage members to attend meetings of the board of directors. They are held on the fourth Tuesday of the month via teleconferencing (no meetings in July and December). Read [more](#).

## Keep us posted

**Send us your chapter or association news and accomplishments.** Format articles in Word and send as email attachments to Barbara Sommer [editor@cgja.org](mailto:editor@cgja.org). For more details see [How to submit an article](#).

**DEADLINE for submitting articles for publication in the next issue  
July 22, 2019**

**Change of address** - Please notify the [editor@cgja.org](mailto:editor@cgja.org) of any email address changes.

### *Join/Renew your membership*

**Serve on a committee - fill out our [Volunteer Interest form](#).**

The mission of the CGJA is to promote, preserve, and support the grand jury system through training, education, and outreach.

Contacts: [Officers and directors](#), chapter and associations [presidents](#)

**STAY CONNECTED**



*Visit our website*





# California Grand Jurors' Association Voting Member Application

To promote, preserve, and support the grand jury system through training, education, and outreach

Check all that apply:  New member\*  Renewal

Check one:  1 yr. membership, \$30  2-yrs or more (specify if more) \$25 per yr.  Lifetime \$500

Please type or print legibly

Email address \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ County \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip+4 \_\_\_\_\_

California county of service \_\_\_\_\_ Year(s) served on Grand Jury (e.g., 2000/01) \_\_\_\_\_

Are you a member of a local chapter or association?  No  Yes (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

Please consider adding a donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Do you wish your donation to remain unpublished?  Yes  No

Make check payable to California Grand Jurors' Association or enter credit card information below.

***The California Grand Jurors' Association will not knowingly provide, sell, trade, transfer or in any other way deliberately reveal any such private member information to any party outside of the California Grand Jurors' Association***

***Applicable fees will be charged on returned checks***

Amount enclosed \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_

Credit card amount \_\_\_\_\_ (MC, Visa, AMEX, Discover – fill in the information below)

Card number \_\_\_\_\_ – – – Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ Security code (on back of card) \_\_\_\_\_

Billing name (if different from above) \_\_\_\_\_

Billing address (if different from above) \_\_\_\_\_

Signature (OK to type) \_\_\_\_\_

***CGJA is a California Nonprofit Public Benefit Corporation and designated an IRS Section 501(c)3 Tax Exempt Corporation. CGJA annual membership dues of \$75 or less are of token value, not substantial, and fully deductible. Contributions to the association are deductible to the extent permitted by law.***

**\*Individual (voting) membership** is open to any person who is serving or has served as a member in good standing on a county grand jury in California. Members elect a Board of Directors to conduct association business. Members are eligible to serve on association committees, attend the association's annual conference at locations throughout California and receive the CGJA Journal, containing periodic updates of association and grand jury developments.

**Please continue to page 2 to indicate or update your volunteer choices and information.  
Support our important work with your time!**

After you have completed this form, either

- 1) scan and email to the CGJA Treasurer at [treasurer@cgja.org](mailto:treasurer@cgja.org) or
- 2) print and mail to **California Grand Jurors' Association, Attn: Treasurer. 1017 L St, #320, Sacramento, CA 95814.**

## CGJA Volunteer Interest Form

CGJA is an all-volunteer membership organization. We succeed mainly because our members **volunteer** to serve on our committees and/or train grand jurors. Serving on committees almost never requires travel. We communicate via email and computer video and telephone teleconferencing. Trainers travel throughout the state. We reimburse them for lodging and pay the government rate for mileage and a modest per diem for other expenses.

Contact Information			
Name		Phone	
Street		Email	
City, ZIP		County	

CGJA volunteers work mainly in committees and/or as grand juror trainers. In which areas are you **interested** in volunteering? Please check (with an x) each box as applicable.

**Annual Conference Committee** - oversees the preparation and conduct of the CGJA annual conference.

**Awards Committee** - administers the selection of winners of the awards given throughout the year.

**Bylaws & Policies Review Committee** - reviews proposed amendments to CGJA Bylaws and Policies, committee procedures, and chapter bylaws.

**Finance Committee** - oversees CGJA's financial management.

**Legal & Legislative Resources Committee** - formally responds to legal and "best practices" questions; monitors legislative activity affecting the grand jury system.

**Membership Relations Committee** - encourages membership and chapter formation and communication; supports regional activities.

**Public Relations Committee** - manages the website; publishes the *Journal*; educates the public in support of California's regular grand juries.

**Technology Committee** (new) - oversees and supports CGJA's technical, data, storage, and communications resources.

**Training Committee** - develops and conducts annual training programs for grand jurors, alternates, forepersons, and grand jury legal advisors throughout the state.

**Trainer** - train grand jurors under direction of the Training Committee.

**Special Skills/Qualifications.** We frequently seek volunteers with special skills and qualifications to carry out specific tasks. Please check each box as applicable.

Microsoft products: mainly Word, Excel, PowerPoint

Database management

Quickbooks Online

Bookkeeping or accounting

Video production

Education program development or management

Sales and marketing

Web page design, management, and optimization

Social media development and operation

Information technology management

Public speaking or lecturing

Publication writing, editing, or production

Legal expertise in nonprofit, corporate, or grand jury law

Teaching

Go to next page

## CGJA Volunteer Interest Form

Please summarize your grand jury, other volunteer, and work experiences as related to the interests, skills, and qualifications that you checked on page 1.

Signature (okay to type)

Date

After you have completed this form, either

- 1) scan and email to the CGJA Treasurer at [treasurer@cgja.org](mailto:treasurer@cgja.org) or
- 2) print and mail to **California Grand Jurors' Association, Attn: Treasurer. 1017 L St, #320, Sacramento, CA 95814.**

Thank you for your interest in volunteering with us.

Revised 11/27/18