



Grand Jurors' Journal

cgja.org

Volume 23, No. 3

June 2022

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A Mostly "Normal" Training Season

The CGJA Training Committee is pleased to report that we are returning to a mostly "normal" training season this year. While there are still five counties on a calendar-year term, the rest are planning to impanel a grand jury around the normal fiscal-year time frame in 2022. Therefore, our training program is getting geared up for a busy summer season.

We are welcoming eight new trainers to our team this year: Linda Bradshaw (San Joaquin), Rick Crane and Mike Hofman (San Francisco), Susanne Lewald (Sonoma), Bob Phibbs (Humboldt), Sharon Shou (Ventura), Spencer Sias (Marin), and Jason Wacha (San Mateo).

The following table summarizes the 2022 training schedule, as of May 25 (full schedule appended at end of this newsletter):

Regular training seminar in person	31
Regular training seminar on Zoom	12
Foreperson and Pro Tem on Zoom	5
Legal Advisor Workshops on Zoom	3
Report Writing Workshops	30-35
Total number of counties expected to take part in one of the above	56



Nominations-Elections Committee Update

by Lou Panetta, Chair, Nominations-Elections Committee

Don't forget these important dates regarding the upcoming elections for the board of directors.

June 2022 – Committee finishes vetting board candidates and submits names for board approval. Candidates submit "Candidate Statement" by June 15th.

August 2022 – Candidate Statements appear in the August *Grand Jurors' Journal*. Voting begins August 15th and continues for 30 days.

October 2022 – New board members announced in the October *Journal*, and sworn in on October 23rd at the Annual Conference in San Rafael, CA. **We hope to see you there.**

April Chapter Presidents' Meeting

Although CGJA chapter presidents meeting online April 20 agreed that regional meetings probably are a thing of the past, thanks to widespread online meeting options, CGJA Director and Alameda Chapter President, Janet Clark, disagreed.

She has found in-person meetings with adjacent county chapter members (and a good speaker) to be very productive. Clark added, in-person meetings are easy enough to do on the chapter level.

CGJA President Lou Panetta updated the chapter presidents on the Grand Jury Awareness Committee, which he chairs. He said several media interviews have generated attention.

The committee is developing and vetting an extensive list of media contacts. When complete, it will be shared with chapters. Panetta asked that chapters send him ideas and information about chapter activities so the committee can get the word out.

CGJA needs help with social media and membership, Panetta added. He welcomes [email](#).

Chapter presidents updated the group on their activities:

- San Joaquin sent letters via snail mail to a list of community and service organizations provided by the court. The letter included an offer to provide a speaker for a meeting. Panetta said that PowerPoint slide decks are available on the CGJA website under [Chapter Resources](#).
- Contra Costa and Marin are showing grand juror recruitment videos in the waiting room for those called to jury duty.
- Mother Lode completely revamped the court's recruitment brochure. Grand jury applicants increased from 38 to 90.
- Santa Cruz sent out 12,000 recruitment postcards with a QR code that led directly to an application.
- Orange County provided a novel recruitment suggestion – diversifying through contacting ethnic Facebook groups. Some other chapters have hosted information tables at the local Farmers' Market. Santa Cruz makes a point of contacting the sellers, as well as the customers (another way of tapping into a more diverse population).
- Several counties are utilizing volunteer clerks – Santa Cruz, Marin, San Luis Obispo, and Contra Costa is working on it. These are former grand jurors who are sworn and admonished. They provide technical and clerical assistance.

The next meeting will be on **July 20 at 4 p.m.** While directed to chapter and association presidents, all chapter officers and members are invited to attend. We are renaming it "Chapter Officers' Meeting."

Letters

Send your thoughts or opinions on CGJA or grand jury matters to editor@cgja.org.

Nominate Now - *Angelo Rolando Service Award* by Joann Landi, Chair, Awards Committee

Each year CGJA honors a member for outstanding service to our organization. The award is presented at the Annual 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 26, 2022**. Nominations may be submitted online (see below) or via postal mail or email.

In arriving at a decision to nominate someone you believe deserving, please consider that this award is for past service and not for anticipated service in future years. Some factors you may wish to consider:

1. Substantive participation at both the state and county level in support of CGJA goals and objectives.
2. Has demonstrated exceptional leadership skills and is unusually effective in accomplishing projects.
3. A nominee must be a current member of CGJA and there will be no multiple awards.
4. The currently serving CGJA president is not eligible to receive this award in that year.
5. Past recipients are not eligible for re-nomination.

Make the nomination **online**. You will need to have the following information available:

Name of Nominee

Nominee's County

Nominated by

Nominator's Phone

Nominator's email

Supporting Information

Or send me the above information by **email** or mail (178 South Palomar Drive, Palomar Park 94062). If you have any questions regarding the nomination process, please contact me by **email** or phone 650-365-4184.



Submit your nominations for **Best Grand Jury Report** or **Best Media Coverage** ASAP. Click [here](#) for details.

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 questions we receive from grand jurors. Please remember: Do not take any response as legal advice, and contact your local legal advisors to answer any question that might divulge confidential information.

Please submit your questions to me at cgjatraining@cgja.org. Our response to your edited or redacted question might appear in a future edition of the Journal.

Q. We are nearing the end of our term and are scrambling to get our reports reviewed and approved. Can the jurors review the final version of a report independently and send their comments (or their affirmative vote) by email?

A. Various provisions of the law, when read together, indicate that the grand jury is a deliberative body that conducts its business by holding “meetings” in “a private room.” (PC Section 915)

Consider the common meaning of the word “meeting”— an event by which a group of persons come together to discuss things or make decisions. There is nothing in the code that indicates such a meeting cannot be held remotely using a secure teleconference or videoconference platform, if necessary; so we think holding such a meeting on Zoom or Teams is fine, as long as everyone is in a secure location.

Any email communication or a “serial meeting” held through email without the benefit of a full group discussion, does not seem to reflect the spirit of the law. If you have to resort to this type of “meeting by email,” make sure the email accounts being used are all secure, that everyone is copied, and that everyone participates in the discussion before voting.

Penal Code sections 891, 939.1, and 939.11, among others that relate to the civil actions of the grand jury, refer to “deliberations,” which have been defined as “a long and careful consideration or discussion” of a matter, or the “process of thoughtfully weighing options, usually prior to voting.”

We believe that a candid and thorough review of each report, with input from all members of the grand jury during an open and spontaneous discussion, will result in a better end product. Yes, it is time-consuming. But the work you have put into these reports took a lot of time, too, so there is value in making sure everyone is in general agreement about the finished product.



In case you haven’t noticed, we have blog –cgja.blogspot.com

Read about Grand Jury happenings throughout the state.

Also accessible using the Blog Archive button on our home page cgjg.org

Blog Archive

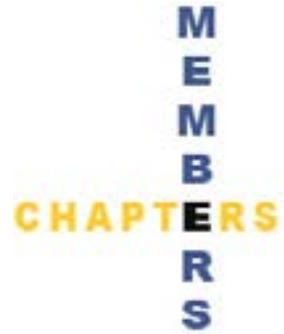
MCRC Recruitment Ideals

by Diane Lloyd, Chair, Membership and Chapter Relations Committee

Membership and Chapter Relations Committee (MCRC) needs volunteers to help with a wide variety of tasks. If you are familiar with or are skilled at any of the following tasks, we'd love to have you join us at our monthly meetings, currently being held via Zoom on the 1st Thursday of every month at 4:30 p.m. Meetings usually last about an hour.

Membership-focused:

- Working with Microsoft Excel spreadsheets with the specific ability to sort data in various ways (i.e., last name, county, CGJA region, and so on).
- Knowledgeable in using Microsoft Word and its mail merge function.
- Familiarity with Constant Contact or a desire to learn how to use it.
- Creative thinking! Bring ideas for gaining new members, retaining current members, and reaching out to former members to strengthen CGJA's ranks.



Chapter Relations-focused:

- Ability to represent MCRC at an occasional meeting of other chapters, one meeting per month (or more?) – this broadens CGJA's knowledge of what chapters are doing, learning their best practices, and being available to direct chapters to the various resources of CGJA. Relationship building!
- Help new chapters work through the CGJA Chapter Formation Guide, basically being their assigned mentor during the process – a background or knowledge of what's needed to form a nonprofit would be ideal.
- Gathering and organizing data from the chapters, preferably in an Excel format.



General Information:

- Meetings are held on the first Thursday of every month at 4:30 via Zoom.
- We use email communications a LOT.
- A positive "customer service" attitude means an enjoyable experience for both members and chapters.
- If you like engaging with people and seeing direct results of your efforts, then Membership and Chapter Relations Committee is for you!

Interested? Please contact [Diane Lloyd](#), Chair, Membership and Chapter Relations Committee, to learn more.



Register for the 2022 Annual Conference

from the Annual Conference Committee

Registration for the 2022 Annual Conference is now available!

The moment we've anticipated for the last two years is now here. Registration for the **CGJA 2022 Annual Conference and Membership Meeting** is underway. Click [here](#) for the complete program and registration information.

The meeting is at the **Embassy Suites by Hilton – San Rafael**, Marin County on **October 23-24, 2022**. The theme is ***Celebrating Grand Jury Successes at the Local Level***.

The conference opens Sunday afternoon at 1 p.m. with a keynote address "Effective Grand Jury Reports" given by **Ethan Rarick, Executive Director** of the **Little Hoover Commission**.

Subsequent activities are

- CGJA President Lou Panetta's report on the state of the association.
- Swearing-in of the newly elected CGJA officers and directors.
- Excellence in Reporting Award presentations.
- Public Relations Chair Juliana Jones' report on the committee's statewide grand jury awareness initiative.
- Angelo Rolando Service Award presentation at the gala Sunday evening banquet (cost included in your conference registration).

The conference reconvenes at 9 a.m. on October 24, featuring

- Panel discussion on the utilization of former grand jurors as assistants to seated grand juries.
- Panel discussing best practice ideas that can make our local chapters and associations more effective.
- Updates from the Grand Jury Effectiveness Workgroup and the Diversity Study Workgroup.

There will be time for member comments, a Q&A session, and closing remarks from our incoming president.

Chapters and associations, please plan on donating a basket or item that reflects products from your county – for the silent auction during the Sunday banquet. Auction proceeds will be used to mitigate next year's conference expenses, to keep registration fees as low as possible.

The **Embassy Suites, San Rafael**, is a newly renovated facility minutes from Northgate Mall and the Marin County Civic Center. It is located between the wine country and San Francisco putting the Golden Gate Bridge, Bay Area attractions, and Sonoma wineries within a 30-minute drive.

A two-room suite, free made-to-order breakfast, and complimentary evening receptions add to your enjoyment of this fine conference venue.



Take time today to mark your calendars and **register** for the conference.

We're looking forward to meeting in person and renewing old acquaintances!

Using Social Media

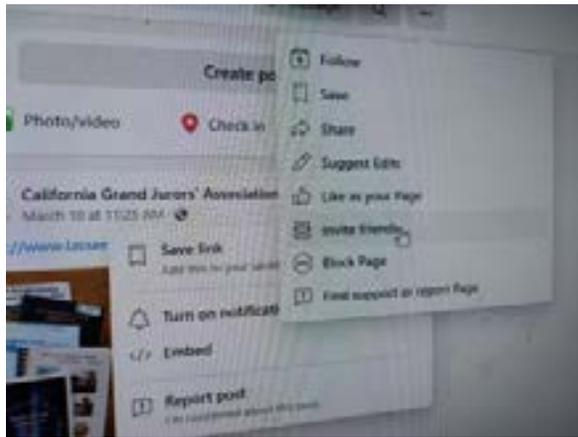
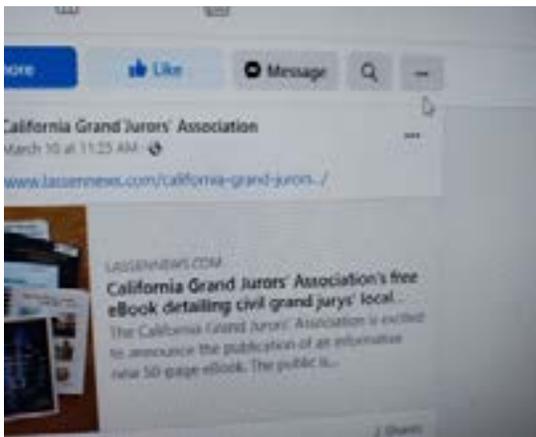
by Lou Panetta, President CGJA

Join us on Facebook!

Go to your Facebook app (phone, tablet, laptop, or desktop) and type **cgja1** in the search box. This will take you to our Facebook page. You are welcome (encouraged) to post any local or chapter news, report releases, etc.

Please click on "Like" and "Follow."

Then click on the three dots in the upper right, and select "Invite Friends," as shown in the two pictures below. You will get a list of your Facebook "friends" from which you can select any of whom you believe to have an interest. Bring them on board.



Help us get the word out for stronger grand juries, better governance, and an increase in CGJA membership.

new
MEMBERS

County	Name
Contra Costa	Cynthia Roberts
Monterey	Carol Greenwald
Nevada	Kendall Tieck
San Bernardino	Donna Kenney-Cash
San Diego	Josh Franco ¹
San Francisco	Michael Hofman
Shasta	Darell Stockton-Lewis
Sonoma	Nancy Dougherty
Tehama	Jessie Shields
Trinity	Victoria Williams

¹ Associate Member

Longtime member

Continuing our series on longtime members, we recognize **Jerry Lewi of Ventura County**

by *Barbara Sommer, Editor*

[Jerry Lewi](#) has been extremely active in CGJA, having chaired the Public Relations Committee for a total of sixteen years and being a trainer for twenty. He was CGJA president from 2004-06.

He edited this *Journal* from 2006 through 2016. He served as webmaster from 2002 through 2016. With just one exception, Jerry has attended every annual conference since his first in 1998. He chaired the 2003 and 2009 events and was heavily involved in the two Burbank ones in 2005 and 2014.

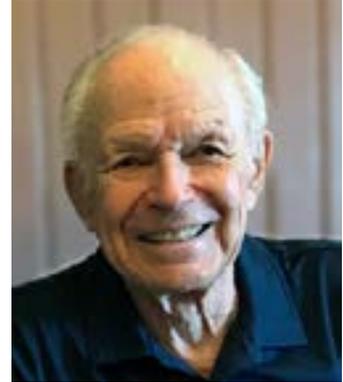


Photo credit: Marsha Caranci

In recognition of his extensive service, CGJA honored him with the Angelo Rolando Service Award in 2009, the Lifetime Achievement Award in 2012, and a special award in 2016 acknowledging his service as webmaster and journal editor.

As Lou Panetta has pointed out, "Jerry never refused to do anything he was asked to do."

I asked him several questions about his service, personal background, and vision for CGJA.

What do you consider to be your major achievements regarding CGJA?

The top one would probably be the grand jury book, through all four editions. The continuous improvement of the Public Relations Committee is important, along with my many contributions to the training program.

What brought you to CGJA and when did that happen?

I was motivated by the desire to be involved in the California Grand Jury system without serving another term as a Ventura County juror. At the end of my term in 1999, I joined CGJA. The late, great Jack Zepp got me involved in board activities.

You have given an inordinate amount of time and effort to the association. What has been your primary motivation for doing so?

A belief in the grand jury system and the camaraderie of many members with a shared perspective.

Tell me about yourself.

Grew up in the New York City area, graduated from M.I.T., and served in the Army for two years. I started my work career in engineering but soon gravitated to program management and marketing where I think my skill set was best suited. I worked at Litton Industries for over thirty years.

I continue to be an avid tennis player and am enjoying my new skill in Pickleball. I have done volunteer work in addition to CGJA. We now live in a beautiful retirement community where my volunteer habit continues to get me into trouble.

continued on next page

continued from preceding page – Jerry Lewi

We enjoyed a lot of travel which, sadly, was curtailed due to COVID and health. As a CGJA trainer I traveled all over California with my wife, Marion. That was very rewarding and enjoyable.

Having raised four successful children, I now have three adult grandchildren. Including Marion's kin, we have a total of seven and eight respectively.

I am very proud of my mother, **Charlotte Armstrong**, a very successful mystery writer. I continue to promote her books.

Where do you see CGJA headed?

It is going in the right direction. The growth of training, that I have observed in over twenty years as a trainer, has been truly amazing in both size and quality. I am proud to be part of it.

I hope that the effectiveness and awareness initiatives will be productive. The early signs are good but there is a lot more work to do.

What suggestions would you offer for CGJA to be an effective force?

Continue to strive for ways to improve awareness and effectiveness. Expand the training program by looking for other opportunities, such as additional workshops on interviewing and continuity. Despite our training efforts, there are still juries with inadequately developed skills, resulting in less-than-effective reports.

How do you plan to continue in this effort?

Will stay on the Training and Annual Conference Committees where I am the public relations guy and stay active as a trainer to the extent I'm needed.

I might write an article for the *Journal* from time to time. Without any restrictions by my position, I can say anything I like!



Recent Board Actions

Board Meeting, April 26, 2022

Ratified the appointment of Karen Jahr as director for the North area.

Ratified the appointment of Juliana Olinka Jones as chair of the Public Relations Committee.

Ratified dissolution of the Grand Jury Awareness Workgroup and merged its responsibilities into the Public Relations Committee.

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

NOTE: We encourage members to attend meetings of the board of directors. They are held on the fourth Tuesday of the month via Zoom (no meetings in July and rarely in December). The agenda along with Zoom information is available a week before the meeting. [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. For more details see [How to submit an article](#).

DEADLINE for submitting articles for publication in the next issue

July 25, 2022

Change of address - Please notify the editor@cgja.org of any email address changes.

Editor: [Barbara Sommer](#). Publications support: CGJA Public Relations Committee. The views expressed in the *Grand Jurors' Journal* are those of the writers unless otherwise stated. The CGJA Board of Directors disclaims any liability arising from errors or omissions. The Editor has the right to accept, edit, or reject submitted articles. ©2022 All rights reserved.

CONNECT!

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Visit our website

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 association [presidents](#).

Our 2022 training schedule, as of May 25:

<u>Dates</u>	<u>County (or counties)</u>	<u>Training program</u>
January 10-12	Santa Clara	Regular seminar on Zoom
January 13-14	Shasta	Regular seminar in person
January 18	Multiple counties	Foreperson and Pro Tem Workshop on Zoom
January 19-20	Tehama	Regular seminar in person
January 19-21	San Bernardino	Regular seminar on Zoom
January 24-25	Trinity	Regular seminar in person
January 27-28	Multiple counties	Legal Advisor Workshop on Zoom
April 5-6	San Bernardino	Report Writing Workshop on Zoom
May 2	Shasta	Report Writing Workshop in person
May 5-6	Multiple counties	Legal Advisor Workshop on Zoom
May 10	Trinity	Report Writing Workshop in person
May 17	Tehama	Report Writing Workshop in person
May 19-20	Santa Clara	Report Writing Workshop in person
June 14-15	Contra Costa	Regular seminar on Zoom
June 20-21	San Francisco	Regular seminar on Zoom
June 21-22	Orange	Regular seminar in person
June 27-28	Monterey	Regular seminar in person (or on Zoom)
June 28-29	Plumas	Regular seminar in person
July 6	Multiple counties	Foreperson and Pro Tem Workshop on Zoom
July 7-8	Marin	Regular seminar in person
July 7-8	Sacramento and Solano	Regular seminar in person
July 7-8	San Joaquin	Regular seminar in person
July 11-12	Glenn and Colusa	Regular seminar in person
July 11-12	Stanislaus	Regular seminar in person
July 11-12	Santa Cruz	Regular seminar on Zoom
July 11-12	Los Angeles	Regular seminar on Zoom
July 13	Multiple counties	Foreperson and Pro Tem Workshop on Zoom
July 14-15	Placer	Regular seminar on Zoom
July 14-15	San Mateo	Regular seminar in person
July 14-15	San Luis Obispo	Regular seminar in person
July 18-19	Sutter and Yuba	Regular seminar in person
July 18-19	Napa	Regular seminar in person
July 18-19	Yolo	Regular seminar in person
July 18-19	Fresno	Regular seminar in person
July 20	Multiple counties	Foreperson and Pro Tem Workshop on Zoom
July 21-22	Merced and Mariposa	Regular seminar in person
July 21-22	Lake	Regular seminar in person
July 21-22	Santa Barbara	Regular seminar in person
July 25-26	Modoc	Regular seminar (probably on Zoom)
July 25-26	Mendocino	Regular seminar in person
July 25-26	Nevada	Regular seminar on Zoom
July 25-26	Kern	Regular seminar in person
July 27	Multiple counties	Foreperson and Pro Tem Workshop on Zoom

July 28-29	Butte	Regular seminar in person
July 28-29	Sonoma	Regular seminar on Zoom
July 28-29	Tulare	Regular seminar in person
August 1-2	Amador, Calaveras, Tuolumne	Regular seminar in person
August 1-2	Kings	Regular seminar in person
August 2-3	Humboldt and Del Norte	Regular seminar in person
August 4-5	Madera	Regular seminar in person
August 4-5	Inyo and Mono	Regular seminar on Zoom
August 8-9	Siskiyou	Regular seminar in person
August 8-9	Imperial (not yet confirmed)	Regular seminar on Zoom
August 11-12	Lassen	Regular seminar in person
August 25-26	Multiple counties	Legal Advisor Workshop on Zoom
TBD	El Dorado	Regular seminar in person
Dates to be determined	Multiple counties	Fall Report Writing Workshops
Totals	Regular training seminar in person	31
	Regular training seminar on Zoom	12
	Foreperson and Pro Tem on Zoom	5
	Legal Advisor Workshops on Zoom	3
	Report Writing Workshops	Expect 30-35 total workshops
	Total number of counties expected to take part in one of the above	56