



Grand Jurors' Journal

www.cgja.org

This somewhat different look is designed to call your attention to the idea that each of these front-page stories requires action on your part! Please feel free to comment on this approach by writing me at :

editor@cgja.org

Jerry Lewi
Editor



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Annual Conference Update

By Lloyd Bell, Host Committee Chair

Registration is now open for the conference and the hotel. Registration forms and information are posted on the website and in the Journal see page 11 Don't wait until the last minute, register NOW!

Keynote Speaker: The format for the keynote address, which will be given by Chief Justice Tani G. Cantil-Sakauye, will be a fifteen-minute presentation followed by a question and answer period. To insure that the Chief Justice can be fully responsive to the questions posed to her, the Host Committee has been asked to provide her a list of our questions in advance. In this regard, the Host Committee extends an invitation to any CGJA member or chapter to submit a

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Excellence in Reporting Nominees Due June 30

By Barbara Sommer, Chair, Awards Committee

It is time to finalize your nominations of the Best Grand Jury reports and/or Best Media Coverage. This year's presentations promise to be great! We are hoping to highlight them along with our keynote speaker, the Chief Justice of the California Superior Court.

To justify the award, you'll need to compete with other nominations on the following criteria:

Report quality -- legible, documented, succinct, complete, and understandable
Citizen Impact: Importance or severity of problem

Duration/persistence of the problem
Difficulty of the investigation - many

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Update from Bylaws and Policy Review Committee

Proposed Bylaws Amendments

By Gary Spaugh and Karen Jahr, Co-Chairs

The Bylaws and Policy Review Committee (BPRC) has been very busy this year!

In January, BPRC's membership was expanded to allow member representation from each of CGJA's three regions: Karen Jahr (Co-Chair) and Larry Johnson from the northern region; Gary Spaugh (Co-Chair), Karin Hern, Rich Knowles, Joann Landi, and Todd Lloyd, central region; and Lynn Runyan and Jeannie Turpenen, southern region.

Our primary focus to date has been our review of proposed bylaws amendments that would require a vote of our membership. These proposals came out of the

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Angelo Rolando Memorial Award

By Joann Landi, Sub-committee Chair

Each year the CGJA honors a member for outstanding service to our organization. The award is presented at the CGJA 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 Memorial Award Committee until August 31, 2015. The preferred form for submitting nominations is via the website form, accessible through the Awards tab on top of the home page. However, nominations may be submitted via postal mail or email, as long as all the information on the website form is provided.

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question they would like to ask the Chief Justice to Lloyd.Bell@Comcast.net. Questions need to arrive by July 31, 2015. All submissions will be immediately acknowledged. The committee will prioritize the questions before sending the list to the Chief Justice. Due to time constraints, it is anticipated that not all questions will be answered.

Topics for the 2015 Annual Conference are in the development stage, but two are in the final stages of completion. They are:



Beate Boultinghouse

Bringing the Civil Grand Jury to Schools. The national and statewide effort to bring civics back to the schools, spearheaded by Sandra Day O'Connor, is supported by many in the education and legal communities, including our own Chief Justice Tani G. Cantil-Sakauye. This year's high school graduates, many of whom are old enough to vote, know little about how the government works on the local, state, and federal levels.

What can we do to let students know they, too, can have a voice in government? Several chapters are sponsoring mock grand jury programs in their counties. What are they doing? How can you, too, take knowledge about the civil grand jury to our students? This panel discussion, led by Beate Boultinghouse, should spark some ideas to help you develop a program appropriate for your community and school system.

Human Trafficking. It is estimated that human trafficking activity is a \$32 billion annual global industry, making it the world's second most profitable criminal enterprise after drug trafficking. The United States is one of the top destination countries for trafficking purposes, and within the U.S., California is one of the top four destinations. What makes this criminal activity so insidious is not only that it involves forced labor, sexual slavery, and human organ harvesting – all of which occurs undetected in

most instances -- but that it also involves children. It IS happening in your town, and you CAN do something about it. Learn to recognize the signs of trafficking so that you can educate others and ask the right questions of those within your county charged with eliminating this crime in your neighborhood. This discussion will be led by Paula Kamena, retired District Attorney, and Linda Witong, retired Deputy District Attorney, both from Marin County.

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November, 2014 Annual Conference. Since then, CGJA members and chapters have provided additional comments and suggestions.

Our enthusiastic committee met several times to analyze the proposals. We recommended that the Board approve, in concept, placing three measures on the ballot. We also recommended that further input be solicited from members and chapters before the ballot is finalized in late June.

At its May 26 meeting, the Board unanimously approved the three measures, in concept, subject to any further member input. This was shared with the members by an email on May 29 -- and we have already received a number of comments -- but we repeat our recommendations and analysis here in order to solicit additional input.

Reduce the term limits for directors from five consecutive two-year terms to three consecutive two-year terms.

BPRC believes that: 1) more frequent turnover on the Board would enable more members to serve in a leadership capacity and result in an infusion of fresh ideas, and 2) imposing a limit on service of less than six years would unnecessarily preclude the valuable input of experienced members. Service of up to six years will provide sufficient Board stability and historical perspective.

Elect directors by region, rather than statewide.

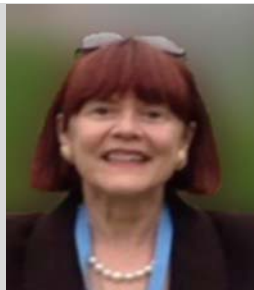
BPRC believes that with regional elections, members would be more likely to know the candidates running for the director positions and have better ongoing interaction with "their" directors. This could enhance director responsiveness and communications between the membership and the Board.

Add regional residency as a qualification for directors and allow the Board to remove a director who does not maintain residency within the region in which he or she is nominated and elected.

A nonprofit corporation may adopt director qualifica-



Paula Kamena, retired District Attorney



Linda Witong, retired Deputy District Attorney

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tions and provide for the board's removal of any director who fails to maintain those qualifications. Currently, the only qualification for a CGJA director is that the director be a voting member of the corporation. Assuming regional voting is adopted, this measure would add regional residency as a director qualification and authorize the Board to declare a vacancy in the position of a director who fails to maintain his or her regional residency.

Note: Our research indicated that the removal of members of the board of a California public benefit corporation is restricted in order to protect members' voting rights. The only grounds for director removal by the board itself which do not require court action are (1) a director's absence exceeding the number specified in the bylaws, and (2) the director's failure to maintain his or her qualifications. However, removal by a corporation's members is protected by existing state law; for that reason no bylaw amendment is needed to allow director removal by CGJA's membership.

The Board and BPRC want to hear from you about these suggested bylaws changes before the ballot goes to the printer. Please send us any questions or comments you have about them.

And if you have ideas for any additional bylaws amendments, send those along as well, and we will start the review process for them for later consideration by the Board and the membership.

In order to meet our ballot deadline on the three measures, we need your input by Saturday, June 20. You can contact us at president@cgja.org.

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agencies, bureaucratic interference (e.g., denials, subpoenas), etc.

Substantiated findings and recommendations within the report

Exposure of the report by the media, or response from the public

Documented success of the investigation
The online submission process is easy once you have written an explanation and collected the documentation supporting the above criteria. See <http://cgja.org/eir>. One nomination per county is permitted.

The Best Grand Jury Report nomination can be combined with that for a Best News Media coverage award, or the news media nomination can stand alone. Aside from assembling the supporting documentation (news reports, etc.), the only part requiring real effort is to explain why

the media outlet should receive the award. You'll need to describe and document that they have increased public awareness and understanding of the grand jury system and/or increased public awareness of a specific grand jury investigation. As above, see <http://cgja.org/eir>; one nomination per county for each award (i.e., one Best Report and one separate News Media nomination is fine).

For more information, please feel free to contact the Subcommittee Chair, Barbara Sommer, at basommer@ucdavis.edu or phone 530-756-7553.

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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:

Substantive participation at both the state and county level in support of CGJA goals and objectives.

Has demonstrated exceptional leadership skills and is unusually effective in accomplishing projects.

A nominee must be a current member of CGJA, and there will be no multiple awards.

The currently serving CGJA president is not eligible to receive this award in that year.

Past recipients are not eligible for re-nomination

If you have any questions regarding the nomination process, feel free to call or email me:

Joannelandi@aol.com and/or 650-365-4184. Mail form should be sent to Joann Landi, 178 South Palomar Drive, Palomar Park 94062.

Awards Committee Change in Command

At the May 26 Board of Directors' Meeting, President Karen Jahr announced that Betty Mattea of Marin County, the long-time chair of the Awards Committee, has retired from that position and that Barbara Sommer (Yolo) has been appointed to succeed her.

Betty has been the only chair of the Awards Committee since it was created in 2010 and has served the association well in that capacity. She brought all of the awards under one management, which created consistency and stability in the awards process.

Betty has served CGJA in many capacities over many years, including President of the Marin Chapter, member of the Board of Directors, and service on the Public Relations Committee. She is a winner of both the Angelo Rolando Award and the Jack Zepp Lifetime Achievement

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Award. The good news is that Betty plans to continue to support the committee in any way that she can. Her wisdom and experience will be as valuable to the committee in the future as it has been over the past five years.

Barbara Sommer has been a member of the Awards Committee since 2012. She is the Chair of the Excellence in Reporting Award Subcommittee, which has flourished under her leadership. She fostered the on-line process that has made submissions easier for both nominators and the committee. Barbara also serves as the President of the Yolo County Chapter.



Barbara Sommer

At the same meeting, the Board approved the appointment of Todd Lloyd (San Francisco) as a member of the Awards Committee. Todd will chair the Local Achievement Award Sub-committee.

The committee calls attention to the completely revised [webpage](#) that more fully describes all the awards for which the committee is responsible.

Meredith Avery



Meredith Avery, a long-time member of CGJA and the Past Grand Jurors' Association of San Diego County, passed away unexpectedly on May 22 at her home in Fallbrook, CA, according to Jim Lewis, President of the county association.

Meredith served on the San Diego

County Grand Jury in 2006-2007 and was the Chair of the Health and Human Services Committee. She was President of the San Diego Association from 2008 to 2011 and served on several committees. Her passion was for the San Diego County Implementation Review Committee, a unique feature of grand jury service that serves as a model for the state. The IRC is a group of past grand jurors

appointed by the county annually to review the status of recommendations the county agreed to from the prior year's grand jury report. She was appointed and served on this committee from 2008-2012 and served as the Chair from 2009-2011 She spoke about the value of this process at several CGJA annual conferences.

Meredith served on the 2009 Annual Conference Committee where her primary contribution was putting together the conference book with several San Diego Association members. The conference was in Sacramento that year and the conference committee was comprised of members from throughout the state. She was asked to participate in order to gain experience in hosting a conference, as it was known that the 2010 would be hosted by the San Diego Association. Meredith chaired that very successful conference with hard work and imagination. It is well documented in the [December 2010 Grand Jurors' Journal](#).

Meredith served on the CGJA Board of Directors in 2011. She will be remembered for her dedication and strong opinions. The Board observed a moment of silence in her honor at its May 26 meeting.

Our thanks to Laura Nicks, San Diego County Grand Jury Coordinator for many of the details of Meredith's grand jury service and to Meredith's husband, Don, for providing the photo. For a full obituary please go to http://www.berry-bellandhall.com/fh/obituaries/obituary.cfm?o_id=3125505&fh_id=14397 Thanks to Bonnie Kenk for providing this link.

Our condolences to Don and the rest of the family.

Board Opposes SB 227

Earlier this month, CGJA members were sent an email alert about Senate Bill 227.

That bill, as it read at the time this article was written, would amend PC §917 to prohibit a grand jury from inquiring into "an offense that involves the shooting or use of excessive force by a peace officer ... that led to the death of a person being detained or arrested by the peace officer" except as provided by PC §918. The latter section allows the grand jury to inquire into any matter brought to the attention of the grand jury by a grand juror who "knows, or has reason to believe, that a public offence, triable within the county, has been committed."

This means that if this bill were signed into law, a district attorney would no longer be able to ask the regular grand jury (or convene a separate criminal grand jury) to consider an indictment of a peace officer in connection

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with the death of a person in custody. However, under PC §918, the regular grand jury, *on its own initiative*, would still be able to conduct an indictment proceeding, bring an accusation, and/or conduct a civil investigation into the incident.

The Assembly Committee on Public Safety is expected to hold a hearing on SB 227 some time this month.

The Board of Directors sent a letter to that committee and to the bill's author, Senator Holly Mitchell, opposing SB 227 on the ground that any limitation on the power of a district attorney to use the grand jury indictment process unnecessarily curtails the grand jury's jurisdiction and could lead to attempts to further erode its powers.

We will continue to monitor this legislation and will keep you informed of developments.

Financial Review Committee

By Rich Knowles, Chair

A financial review of the CGJA has been completed by Goranson & Associates. Their report is available on the CGJA website. It is normal for a small non-profit to have an outside accountant look at their finances every so often. A financial review is the least extensive type of engagement accountants do, and is common for non-profits with simple finances and small size like the CGJA. The bottom

line in the report is that Goranson & Associates found nothing to concern them in our books.

Goranson & Associates process was to interview the key financial people in the CGJA, obtain a copy of our data, and produce several reports from that data which allowed them to determine they were seeing what they expected to see. Interviews included the Treasurers (past and present as it turns out).

Goranson & Associates was selected from a number of firms because they focus on small non-profits, had a long and positive track record, and were priced lower than the other acceptable alternatives we found.

Nominations for Director Closed

By Jerry Lewi, Nominations-Elections Chair

The nominations for director were closed on May 31. The next milestone on the election timetable is the Nominations-Elections Committee's report to the Board of Directors at its June 23 meeting, during which the board will approve the ballot. Candidate statements will be due on July 15 and the ballots will be mailed to CGJA members on or about August 15th. To be eligible to vote, your dues must be paid up as of the date you cast your vote. So be sure your dues are up to date! Also be sure that we have your current mailing address.



Grand Jury Achievement Report

By Jerry Lewi

We were pleased to note that several new entries to this report were submitted recently. Please log on to [Grand Jury Achievement Report](#) under **Member Business** on our website and note the following new items:

Date of Report	County	Subject	Category	Submitted by
6/25/2014	Sonoma	Sherriff-Coroner's Office and Morgue Inspection	County Government	Jim Weathers
6/25/2013	Amador	Financial Road to Recovery	Water Districts	Marianne Bourgeois
6/25/2013	Amador	Fiscal Integrity and Amador County	County Government	Marianne Bourgeois
6/4/2012	Nevada	Grass Valley School District	School Districts	Diane Masini

Thanks to these folks for these submissions. Do you have an outstanding report that achieved a beneficial result for your county? Submit it on-line under the [Grand Jury Achievement Report/GJAR Form](#).

Letter to the Editor

As the Inyo County Clerk, I am charged with filing and making copies of all Grand Jury reports filed in Inyo County. The search functions on the California Grand Juror's Association website are a wonderful added benefit for government officials as well as the public looking for information on Grand Jury reports outside of regular business hours. Kammi Foote, Inyo County Clerk



TO THE NEW
MONTEREY
CHAPTER OF
CGJA



Sherry Rufini Contra Costa
Gary Breschini Monterey
Sol Gonzalvo Monterey
Louise Goetzelt Monterey
Vicki Nohrden Monterey
Louis Panetta Monterey
Kathleen Wall Monterey

David Renison San Joaquin
Nancy Welts San Luis Obispo
Michelle Dusel Shasta
Joy O. Oconnell Shasta
Diana L. Sturges Shasta
Thomas S. Vlahos Shasta

Ask the Trainer

This is another in a series of articles aimed at current jurors, especially those who have taken advantage of our Introductory Membership (IM). We try to remind you of key issues on a timely basis throughout the year. Please remember the following: Any trainer is happy to try to answer specific questions in their area 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 frequently to answer questions. Please submit questions to me or the Journal Editor for future responses.

Marsha Caranci, CGJA Training Chair

cgjatraining@cgja.org

Retention of Grand Jury Files

By Larry Johnson, Chair, Legal and Legislative Resources (LLRC) and CGJA Trainer

During our past training sessions, we have taught that grand jury civil investigation files should be retained, rather than destroyed, at the end of a grand jury's term. In those instances where a grand jury has voted to "pass on" a file to a succeeding grand jury, as allowed by Penal Code section 924.4, the LLRC believes that this remains a sound recommendation. We have further suggested, as a "best practice," that the "passed on" file be clearly identified as such and that it remain in the grand jury office for the succeeding grand jury to review.

Up to this point, we have also recommended that all other civil investigation files be retained for three to five years, after consultation with the grand jury's legal advisor and in accordance with any records retention policy that might be contained in the grand jury's rules of procedure. This recommendation has been based upon the premise that the file may contain evidence that could aid in the defense of a later defamation claim. On further reflection, the LLRC believes that this recommendation is too broad and should be revised.

LLRC's recent review of the statutes and case law now leads us to conclude that a grand jury may not transfer files containing evidence and other confidential information to a succeeding jury except as specifically authorized by statute. Penal Code Section §924.4 is the only such authority, and it allows the succeeding jury to have possession of only those civil investigation files specifically passed forward by the outgoing grand jury or the judge. We could locate no statutory authority for a broader forwarding of confidential materials to a succeeding grand jury.

Rather than retain all files for a given period of time, the LLRC believes that a grand jury's retention policy should take into consideration the likelihood of a defamation claim being filed. If that likelihood exists, we recommend that the file be sealed and retained in a secure location

as directed by the grand jury's legal advisor. We do not believe investigative files should be routinely retained where there is not a realistic likelihood of a later defamation claim being filed.

We recommend that consultation with the grand jury's legal advisor take place before any investigative file that is not being passed forward per PC §924.4 is considered for retention beyond the grand jury's term. Finally, in order to avoid any confusion over how it will be determined which files are to be retained and where such retained files are to be stored, we suggest that the practice, as approved by your jury's legal advisor, be incorporated into the grand jury's rules of procedure.

Naming Names and Penal Code Section 929

By Larry Johnson, Chair, Legal and Legislative Resources

Penal Code section 929 (PC 929) provides that with the approval of a grand jury's supervising judge, "a grand jury may make available to the public part or all of the evidentiary material, findings, and other information relied upon by, or presented to, a grand jury for its final report in any civil grand jury investigation *provided that the name of any person, or facts that lead to the identity of any person who provided information to the grand jury, shall not be released*" (emphasis added). In its training of grand jurors, CGJA refers to unverified evidentiary material as "raw evidence."

It is therefore certain that with the supervising judge's approval, "raw evidence" may be included within a grand jury's report. The degree and circumstance under which an individual who appears before a grand jury may be properly identified within a grand jury report remains the subject of ongoing concern.

The LLRC has become aware of differing interpretations of PC 929. The various interpretations cover the full range of possibilities. At one end there is an absolute prohibition from including in a report any name or facts that could lead to the identity of an individual appearing before a grand jury. At the other end, the release of an individual's name connected with specific "raw evidence" may be permitted, depending upon the nature of the grand jury investigation. We believe that the correct interpretation of PC 929 lies somewhere between these two extremes.

PC 929 is clear in prohibiting the release of "raw evidence" coupled with information leading to the identity of the individual who provided that information to the grand jury. However, a listing, perhaps in the "methodology" section of a report, of the names and/or the job titles of individuals who were interviewed by the

Naming continued from page 6

grand jury is permissible, provided that there is no connection made between a specific individual and the information provided the grand jury by that specific individual.

As a “best practice” however, the LLRC continues to suggest that the names or titles of individuals appearing before the grand jury should not be included unless the inclusion enhances the credibility of the report’s findings and/or recommendations. To avoid unintentionally revealing the identity of a whistleblower, we suggest that the name or job title of a whistleblower should never be revealed. Therefore, in most cases, the report should simply refer to the grand jury having interviewed “several administrators and staff members.” This “best practice” suggestion is based on the concern that the listing of names or titles in a final report may have a “chilling effect” upon whistleblowers, who might be reluctant to provide information to a grand jury if they risk having their identities revealed.

The LLRC does not provide legal advice but rather “best practice” suggestions. It is the responsibility of each grand jury, in consultation with its legal advisor, to determine under what circumstance and to what extent the identity of those appearing before it will be included within a final report.

Board Approves Monterey County Chapter

In another important action at its May 26 meeting, the Board of Directors approved the application of a group from Monterey County as the association’s 28th chapter (one more and there will be chapters in half of California’s counties). This effort was led by Francis “Mac” Small, grand jury foreman for 2013-14 and 2014-15 until an injury forced him to step down as foreman. Small is no stranger to CGJA, having been a member for many years. He has also served on the Board of Directors from both Nevada and Monterey Counties and is one of very few people to have served on grand juries in two different counties. He will serve as Chapter President.

Small said that the chapter grew out of the efforts of the 2014-15 Grand Jury’s Public Awareness Committee’s efforts to make the public more aware of what grand juries do and the realization that newly sworn grand juries waste a lot of time getting started. So the idea of a chapter that could help in both areas took root. Their initial project will be to develop a strong local orientation program to assist the 2015-16 jury to get off to a good start.

Other charter members of the chapter are: Gary S. Breschini (Vice-president), Jeane Errea (Secretary), Peter

Hiller, Louise Goetzelt, Vicki Nohrden, Lou Panetta, Patrick Healy, Sol Gonzalvo, Kathleen M. Wall, and Brandon Hill.

It is hard to think of this as a “new” chapter because there is a rich history of Monterey being a very active chapter for many years with such distinguished members as Phil Nash, a long-time president of the chapter, Janet Praria, who was a Director and Treasurer of CGJA for several years, and Roger Loper, who also served on the board and as Vice-president. Untimely deaths and illnesses robbed the chapter of its vitality, so its activities were curtailed and its charter formally revoked in January 2013. Ray Wuco, recently deceased, did his best to serve as acting President up to that time.

So we are very excited to welcome the chapter back into the fold and look for significant contributions from them at both the chapter and state level.

Board Actions, April & May 2015 *By Jim Ragan*

April 28, 2015

Approved the categories of charitable giving [to CGJA] to include: annual giving (friend, donor, sponsor, benefactor, patron); pledges; recurring pledges; restricted gifts; in memory of; matching employer; planned giving (bequests); and gifts of stocks, bonds, or mutual funds.

Approved the proposed budget for the 2015 CGJA Annual Conference as presented.

May 26, 2015

Confirmed the appointment of Todd Lloyd to the Awards Committee, per Policy 10.002A.

Approved the California Grand Jurors’ Association Financial Statements for the Year Ended December 31, 2014 prepared and submitted by the firm of Goranson and Associates as the result of the firm’s independent financial review of CGJA finances.

Approved in concept three Bylaws amendments. Authorized the Ad Hoc Bylaws and Policy Review Committee to seek member input on these three amendments and other possible changes to CGJA’s Bylaws.

Approved the petition from CGJA members residing in Monterey County to become a chapter of the CGJA. Approved the recommendations of the Membership Relations Committee that (1) the CGJA subscribe to Infusionsoft’s [database, interface, marketing] services and (2) that an Implementation Task Force be formed, which would include a representative from each committee that would benefit from using the Infusionsoft tool.

CGJA Chapter News from Around the State News for You and by You

By Mike Chernock MRC Chair and Chapter Presidents

The Membership Relations Committee has been working with an ad hoc database committee to research a software package that will allow us to do a better job of communicating with our membership. After extensive research and due diligence, the software package from Infusionsoft was chosen as the best technology for our present needs at the most reasonable subscription costs. An outside consultant, James Corey, graciously volunteered his professional expertise in helping the committee find the product and then helped negotiate the terms of the contract. On May 26th the product was presented and approved by the CGJA Board of Directors. The software has already been purchased and teams are forming to learn to use it. Expect to hear much more about this tool in the next few months.

Another wonderful event in May was the creation of a new CGJA Chapter in Monterey County. There is a more detailed article in this journal but the MRC wanted to be among the many voices to welcome President Mac Small, his officers and the membership. We expect big things from that chapter.

Please save August 22 as the date for the next Bay Area Regional Meeting and plan to join us for our fifth anniversary. We plan to invite candidates for election to the Board of Directors to this meeting as well as the North San Joaquin Valley Meeting on September 19th and described under the San Joaquin Chapter report below.

Kern County – Lynn Runyan

Editor note: This article was submitted on March 30 and should have been included in the April Journal, but somehow it got lost in cyberspace and did not reach your editor in time. Thanks to Lynn for being patient about it. CGJA wants to thank the 35 attendees of the San Joaquin Valley Regional Meeting on March 28th who came from far and wide throughout California to join us for a most enlightening and informative day. We had participants from as far north as Butte and Sutter counties and as far south as San Bernardino County including five CGJA Directors, the Membership Relations Committee (MRC) and Public Relations Committee (PRC) Chairs, several Chapter Presidents and sitting Grand Jury Foremen as well as a considerable number of sitting jurors.

Guest speakers included CGJA MRC Chair Michael Chernock and CGJA Directors Gary Spaugh, Medsie Bolin and Jim Ragan with additional insights provided by Directors Beckie Jennings and Jerry Kunkle. Between the presentations by the speakers, the questions from the attendees and answers received, everyone in the room came away

with a bigger and better understand of the “new and improving” CGJA.

As was mentioned by a number of participants, the greatest advantage of attending the Regional Meetings is to be able to meet and interact face-to-face with persons you may otherwise have never had the opportunity to meet and to be able to put faces together with names you may have only previously have had contact with via phone or email. Other than attending an Annual Conference the Regionals are the best manner in which to network, literally make new friends from all over the state and rejuvenate your dedication to keeping the Grand Jury System strong in California.

Thank you again to all who attended – we look forward to seeing you again next spring in Kern County!

Napa County - Diane Shepp

The end of the year is always a busy time for the Napa Chapter. April was gGrand jJury recruitment month and the chapter conducted several Informational Workshops to educate potential candidates about service on the Napa County Grand Jury. Members of the chapter as well as the sitting rand jury led the workshop. During the last two weeks in May, the chapter participated in court interviews of candidates for next year’s grand jury. The Nomination Committee has been busy creating a new slate of officers for election at the end of June. Plans are also underway for a new division of duties to be spread throughout the chapter’s board members, thus sharing the burden of responsibilities of the president. Always up for a party, the chapter will host an ‘End of the Year Social’ for the outgoing Napa County Grand Jury, thank-

ing them for their year of service. Court officials are also invited to attend. This year the Napa Valley Vintner’s donated a case of wine



Judge Mark Boessenecker, Diane Shepp and Judge Diane Price at the Napa luncheon

for the evening Social to be held at the Napa Yacht Club.

San Bernardino County - Margaret Furman.

The San Bernardino County Chapter will be discussing SB227 Mitchell at its next meeting on June 1st. Our attention is drawn to language that already exists in the law that authorizes a member of a grand jury, if he or she

knows or has reason to believe that a public offense has been committed, to declare it to his or her fellow jurors, who are then authorized by existing law to investigate it. If that wording is changed as the bill goes through the Assembly, "civil" grand juries will also be prohibited from investigating officer-involved shootings. We may wish to add this concern to our Meet and Greet Your Legislators Project.

San Francisco County – Linda Clardy

For the second year, members of the San Francisco chapter served as volunteer mentors in the Law Academy Program at Balboa High School. Six former jurors (Ron Miguel, Claudia O'Callaghan, Elena Schmid, Paul Cheng, Mark Busse, and Linda Clardy) guided approximately 50 junior level students through a mock grand jury exercise. After an introductory lecture on the civil grand jury system by Beate Boultinghouse and Linda Clardy, the students selected a foreperson and a secretary and chose a topic of interest to them. The topics included the condition of their local parks, the school's dress code, gentrification of the Mission district of San Francisco, homelessness, and lowering the voting age to 16 for local elections. Working with their mentors over the course of an eight-week period, the students researched their topics, conducted interviews, questioned their district supervisor, and finally prepared a power point presentation on their facts, findings and recommendations. Initially, the students presented the reports to their Law Academy classmates and received feedback from their mentors. After incorporating the feedback, the student jurors presented their final reports to other classes at Balboa High School. In addition to their oral presentations, students prepared a three-page written summary of their investigations.

In June 2015, the mock grand jury program will again be offered during a special three-week summer session at June Jordan Charter High School in San Francisco. We anticipate that members of the San Francisco chapter will participate in this program.

The chapter's Implementation Review Committee continues to review past grand jury reports and responses from the agencies investigated. Currently, the group is reviewing an investigation into the Department of Real Estate and the use of surplus property in San Francisco issued by the 2012-13 jury. Additionally, members of the IRC have been working with the grand jury coordinator and the clerk of the San Francisco board of supervisors to regularize and standardize the format of the answers provided by the responding agencies.

San Joaquin County – Gary Spaug

Chapter Bylaws: The San Joaquin County Chapter recently completed and voted to affirm revisions to its bylaws. Most of the changes had to do with clarifying meeting quorums and voting requirements for the various meetings the Chapter holds.

Speakers Bureau: The Chapter's Speakers Bureau completed its 2015 efforts in community outreach to educate the public and also recruit for the grand jury. Don Romero, the chairperson for the Chapter's Community Outreach committee, organized 20 talks to various organizations within the county including Rotary Clubs, Lions Clubs, Soroptomists, Institute of Community Learning, Sons in Retirement, Veteran Groups, Retirement Communities, etc. The Chapter Speaker's Bureau consists of Gary Spaug, Lou Meyer, John Britto, Larry Graser, John Nowak, Ken Buck, and Neil Holets. Recent talks have also included the San Joaquin County Assistant District Attorney, Scott Fichtner (a grand jury advisor), and Caitlin Casey (Deputy District Attorney mainly responsible for gang related criminal grand juries), where they explained the difference between the civil and criminal grand juries, a question commonly asked by audience members. Mr. Romero already has plans in place for at least 16 speaking engagements to begin the 2016 community outreach and education efforts.

County Grand Jury Recognition Luncheon: The 2014-2015 San Joaquin County Grand Jury members attended a special luncheon hosted by the San Joaquin County Chapter of the CGJA. The lunch was held to thank the grand jury for its work this past year and to also welcome them as potential members of the Chapter. A majority of the Chapter members attended as well as the county grand jury administrator, Trisa Martinez, and county Assistant District Attorney Scott Fichtner.

Website Created: The Chapter's IT Committee has been busy constructing a website and Facebook page. The Facebook page is titled "San Joaquin County CGJA" and currently documents some of the recently completed speaking engagements as well as the luncheon held honoring the outgoing 2014-2015 Grand Jury. The website can be reached at <http://sanjoaquincountycgja.org> and is open for your surfing pleasure! The website consists of links to the San Joaquin County Grand Jury and contains many of the Chapter's documents as well as photos from Chapter speaking engagements and other events.

*Editor note: This link has been added to the chapter's listing on the **Chapters & Associations** page on the CGJA website.*

SAVE THE DATE for the North Central Valley Regional: A CGJA Regional Meeting will soon be held in Stockton and hosted by the San Joaquin County Chapter. The event is currently scheduled to be held on September 19, 2015, at the Brookside Golf and Country Club. The theme of this regional meeting "Do Grand Juries Make a Difference?" will begin at 9:00 in the morning and should end by 3:00 in the afternoon. The keynote speaker, San Joaquin County Board of Supervisors Chairwoman Kathy Miller, has been arranged. Ms. Miller recently served on the Stockton City Council where she was part of the city's efforts to exit from bankruptcy. An official announcement will be released soon.

San Mateo County - Barbara Arietta

With the goal of continually increasing public awareness of the valuable role that the grand jury plays in our democratic system of government, the San Mateo County Chapter has been awarding, for the past several years, college scholarships to deserving high school seniors.

The criteria for receiving the chapter's scholarship this year was not only based upon the student's academic achievements, but, also upon the contents of a personal essay describing the student's background, community service, personal interests, student offices held and educational plans after high school.

The most important requirement, however, was the submission of an additional essay discussing the purpose of the civil grand jury system in California, not to be confused with the criminal grand jury system, its historical origins, and why the student believed the civil grand jury system to be important.

In order to write the essay, students were directed to visit both the San Mateo Chapter's website and the California Grand Jurors' Association website. There applicants found extensive information in the Education Package located in the section entitled CGJA Publications and Merchandise. Students were also asked to read the entire booklet on the Grand Jury System located in that section.

The San Mateo Chapter received several scholarship applications this year and the decision to select the best candidate was exceedingly difficult.

On May 13th, Barbara Arietta, President of the Chapter, awarded a \$500 Scholarship to Stephanie Barrows, an Oceana High School Senior from Pacifica, California, whose application not only illustrated her excellent scholastic achievement, but also her excellent understanding of what a civil grand jury really does.

After graduation, Ms. Barrows will be attending a California State University. She plans on pursuing a double major in both political science and criminal justice. After that the goal is to attend law school so that one day she may be in a position to help individuals and further the public good.

Shasta Chapter - Larry Johnson

It has been said that a busy chapter is likely to be a happy and

productive chapter. If that is true, then the Shasta Chapter is, indeed, both happy and productive. Having just completed an active grand juror recruitment campaign which resulted in 35 prime applicants for the 2015-2016 term, the Screening Committee, headed by Joyce Bianchini, reviewed the applications, called and spoke to more than a hundred references, and had two chapter members participating on the panel interviewing those applicants. Feedback from the Screening Committee and the Interview Panel has gone to the panel of judges who make the final decision as to which applicants are accepted into the pool of Grand Juror candidates.

The Support Committee, headed by Marsha Caranci, has made arrangements for the entire juror pool to attend a "Pre-Orientation" meeting, at which time specific information will be provided regarding the roles and duties of grand jurors with an emphasis on the time commitment required for a successful grand jury. A morning and an afternoon "Pre-Orientation" session will allow all prospective jurors to choose the time most convenient for each to ask whatever questions they may have regarding grand jury service. In the past, it has not been uncommon for one or two of the prospective jurors to request that their names be withdrawn from consideration after learning more about what the upcoming year will be like.

In addition to the above, the Membership Committee, headed by Phil Perry, is making plans for an after-hours social get-together that will involve current chapter members and members of the current Grand Jury. While still in the planning stages, possible venues include a historic home in downtown Redding or a local restaurant. This will be a great opportunity for the chapter members to get together and relax without the need to focus on chapter business.

The Nominating Committee has contacted interested individuals and has provided the membership with a proposed slate of Chapter officers and directors, to be voted on at our annual chapter meeting on June 10th.

At our General Membership meeting on May 13th, the Organizing Committee, headed by Harry Tully, introduced our guest speaker, former Supervisor Irwin Fust, who spoke on the timely subject of Water Rights in Northern California. We all came away from that meeting with a much better understanding of both the complexity and the history of the issue of water not only in Shasta County but also throughout California. Productively busy, chapter members are ready to close this year of support for the 2014-2015 Grand Jury and ready itself for the upcoming training period for Shasta County's newly empaneled 2015-2016 Grand Jury, beginning June 23.



California Grand Jurors' Association 34th Annual Statewide Conference

"Expanding Our Horizons"

November 2 & 3, 2015

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FORM

Lafayette Park Hotel & Spa, 3287 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette, CA 94549

Name: _____ Guest(s): _____

Address: _____ City: _____ ST: _____ ZIP: _____

County: _____ Phone: _____ Email: _____

Affiliation: (check all that apply) CGJA Member CGJA Associate Member Introductory Member Chapter Member

Association Member Sitting Grand Juror Court Representative Other-Specify: _____

REGISTRATION:	Conference Attendance	\$120.00*		
	*Included in Registration: Lunch on Nov. 2, 2015			
	Total per person	\$120.00 x _____	=	\$ _____
	Guest Lunch	\$ 47.00 x _____	=	\$ _____
DINNER on November 2, 2015		\$ 55.00 x _____	=	\$ _____
Dinner Choices**:	Guinness-Braised Beef Short Ribs, Shallot Jam			# _____
	Pan-Seared Atlantic Salmon with Pinot Noir Butter			# _____
	Eggplant & Ratatouille Lattice Tart (Roasted Eggplant, Tomatoes & Squash in a Puff Pastry Shell)			# _____
	<i>** Three course plated dinner, includes wine, gratuity and tax.</i>			
YES , I want to make an additional tax-deductible donation to help underwrite conference costs***				\$ _____
	***will be listed in conference program if received by September 27, 2015			
TOTAL PAYMENT (excluding hotel room, which attendees book directly with hotel)			=	\$ _____
	Deadline to Register for Conference: October 8, 2015			

____ Check enclosed payable to CGJA

____ Credit Card amount \$ _____ MC Visa AMEX Discover

Card Number: _____ - _____ - _____ - _____ Exp. Date _____ - _____ 3 digit code on back of card

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After you have completed this form, either:

- 1.) Save the form and email as an attachment to: Leslie Lea, Conference Registrar lgroarke@pacbell.net OR
- 2.) Print and mail to: Leslie Lea, Conference Registrar, California Grand Jurors' Association, 3414 Loreto Dr., San Ramon, CA 94583
Information: Leslie Lea, Conference Registrar 925-556-0353 lgroarke@pacbell.net

For Hotel Reservations: Lafayette Park Hotel & Spa <http://tinyurl.com/ouptwms> or call: 800-368-2468
Use the Special Group Convention Code CGJ1015 to receive our group rate of \$129



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and
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the
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through

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

Articles submitted by e-mail should be saved in Rich Text Format (.rtf) and transmitted as an attachment to Jerry Lewi, editor@cgja.org
See more detailed instructions on our website, <http://cgja.org/submit-article>

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