



Grand Jurors' Journal

Vol. 7 No 5 • Newsletter of the California Grand Jurors' Association October, 2006

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Stop the Press

On the eve of going to press with this issue, our long time Editor, Ourania Riddle, resigned her position citing policy disagreements with the Board. This is the aftermath of the decision made by the Board at its meeting of September 25th to transfer responsibility of the Journal from the Operations Committee to the Public Relations Committee. The majority of board supported the argument that the Journal is an important Public Relations tool because the membership and others who receive our Journal are our public and we need to focus on promoting the association and the California Grand Jury system as dictated by our mission statement.

As Acting Chair of Public Relations, the task of producing this issue was, therefore, placed in my lap. This is the product. I hope you will forgive any short-comings. Di Masini, who has been of enormous help, and I will do our best to improve future issues.

Ourania has worked long and hard as Journal Editor. On behalf of the Board of Directors, I thank her for her diligence and dedication to this difficult task that I am now even more keenly aware of having just experienced the effort required first hand.

Jerry Lewi

President's Message

Jerry Lewi, President

This is my last President's message as I wind down my two-year term concluding with the Annual Conference in Redding. It will include much of what I will say at the conference but is printed here for those who cannot attend.

My two-year term has been a mixture of achievements and disappointments. Fortunately, the former outweighed the latter. The more noteworthy achievements are as follows:

Our training program continues to grow and be strong and has gained the respect of many counties throughout the state.

We have two new chapters and several more in the pipeline. On a personal level, I met my goal of visiting every chapter including the new ones in Kern and Kings Counties. This has been a source of gratification for me.

We have started two new initiatives: (1) Working with the Osher Lifelong Learning Institutes to spread the word about the California Grand Jury system. See elsewhere in this issue for more detail and (2) Starting an effort to document and catalog good grand jury work throughout the state. This will be reported in more detail at the conference and future Journals.

It is my personal goal for the next two years (assuming I am reelected to the Board) to take on fully the Chairmanship of the Public Relations Committee. It is my belief that the goal of your Association to inform the public about California Grand Juries rests primarily with this committee and that is what I will concentrate on.

Disappointments include failure to pass new bylaws because a small minority of the board blocked passage despite the entire board having reached consensus on the content that also had outside counsel approval as a document consistent with California corporate law. This same minority also blocked passage of two amendments to the bylaws that would have corrected inconsistencies with the law in the current bylaws.

Another disappointment has been the frequent attack on my actions and the actions of the board in general from some Directors and members. These attacks have been totally without merit and always failed when voted upon by the entire board. While these few dissidents think public embarrassment is helpful, it is not. Fortunately the majority of the board and, I believe, members have supported me, for which I am grateful.

Thanks to all Board members and members who have supported me and the Association during the past two years. Despite the disappointments described above, it has been a rewarding experience. I pledge to support the new Officers and Board in anyway that I can.

Board Actions

Regular Meeting July 19, 2006

Approved Financial Review report with concerns about the scope of the review

Accepted Director Andrew Bliss's resignation

Reinstated Celebration Fund

Deferred decision on Chapter voting rights to special meeting (see below)

Deferred decision on transferring responsibility for Journal to Public Relations Committee

Special Meeting of August 21, 2006

Approved language of ballot measure to be submitted to membership regarding granting Chapters right to vote on measures submitted to the membership.

Directed Finance Committee to publish 2005 Financial Report to next Journal and placed on website with no comment regarding the lateness of this report.

Membership Chapter Relations

Owen Haxton, Chair

Wow! How quickly time passes when you are having the time of your life. This is my sixth column which means that I have been on the Board almost one year. So, what do I think? Well! It is an experience. But like everything else in life it can be only what you make of it.

At the cut off date in August, to be eligible to vote in the election of members to the BOD this fall, CGJA stood 390 ± members strong with 267 ± dues paying members eligible to vote. Is that good? Yes and no. My goal was and remains – 400 CGJA members eligible to vote in an election of members to the BOD. We will see what number next year brings. With regard to chapters, there were 10 at the beginning of the year. The goal was to have 15 by December 31, 2006. We have 12 now and maybe 2 more before the year ends.

Another benchmark was to have at least one CGJA member in all 58 counties. That should be a piece of cake. Every grand juror will want to join CGJA after their term of service is completed. This years experience puts the lie to that assumption. In November of 2005 there were 15 counties without even one CGJA member. Now there are still 15, but not the same counties. Improvement? hardly. Success? Absolutely not. Based upon experience at the county level the expectation of four/five new members from each of the 58 county grand juries each year was way, way, way over the top.

But the good news is that the MRC is getting organized on a team basis, in the North there is Ray Hoffman, Paul Libeu, Tim Colbie and Ivor Thomas, in the South there is Lew Avera and Walter Hofmann and in the central region there is Mike Miller, Serena Bardell and myself all of whom are just waiting to hear that you want to start a chapter. And in the support area there is Tom Hansen maintaining the database with help from Tim Colbie. The goal is five committee members active in each of the three regions.

All this help makes my task too easy.

That is the current team and we are accepting applicants.

Contact: hornet5@pacbell.net or (415) 883 3275.

See you at the CGJA conference in Redding.

Operations

Les Daye, Chair

The CGJA Operations Committee congratulates the Former Grand Jurors of Shasta County, 25th Annual Conference Chair Harry Tully and all volunteers for their efforts in planning and bringing a fine program to the North State. Announcement of the site for the 26th Annual Conference awaits those attending the "25th" in Redding on October 19.

A reminder letter will arrive during October, 2006 in the counties of Alpine, Imperial, Modoc

and Mono alerting them to the requirements of Penal Code Section 933(b). Final Reports and Responses are to be forwarded to the Secretary of State, California State Archives. The central repository serves as a research base, in perpetuity, for scholars, legislators, grand juries and the public.

This column is my finale as Chair of the CGJA Operations Committee. I would truly like to thank the dedicated volunteers who have consistently advanced the mission of CGJA. GRIP will remain my portfolio and to the three counties which are filling up their field workbooks, I pledge support and good wishes in your search for the 19th and 20th Century Final Reports/Responses you seek. THANKS!!!

Public Relations

Jerry Lewi, Acting Chair

We welcome new Director Ivor Thomas to our committee. Currently other members include Diane Masini, Bill Burnett, Lowell Smith and yours truly as acting chair.

We are still actively looking at new way to produce a video for state-wide distribution that will help educate the public about grand juries. However we have learned that the Orange County Grand Jury has released a new video aimed to recruit citizens to volunteer for Grand Jury service.

While this excellent video is addressed to the citizens of Orange County, it has enough general information about California Grand Juries that will prove useful to anyone who would like to know more. The video provides a quick overview in 8 minutes. We encourage you to become familiar with the presentation which may be found by going to www.ocgrandjury.org/video/gj.wmv

We will be reprinting the tri-fold brochure about CGJA for use by any group or member who needs more copies. Please contact Diane Masini.

Our committee is available to any other committee, chapter, or member to assist in the preparation of press releases for any purpose.

Training

Sherry Chesny, Chair

The CGJA Training Committee is proud to report that we had another successful year of providing training for new jurors throughout the state. Here are some of the highlights for 2006:

This year the Training Committee and the team of CGJA trainers did five 2-day seminars (Sacramento, Concord, Redding, Visalia and Fullerton); two 1-day Foreperson Workshops (Sacramento and Concord) plus three on site trainings. A total of 17 days of training was completed within a 27 day period in July-Aug.

Our growth continues. We trained . 646 new jurors in 2006 up from 590 in 2005. From 2000-2006 we have trained an overall total of 3,368 jurors.

We added a new seminar in Fullerton, (Orange Co.). Jurors from Imperial, Inyo, Orange, San Bernardino, San Diego and Santa Barbara counties attended. The Orange Co. Grand Jurors' Association of past grand jurors came up with a new idea and offered "scholarships" to pay the seminar fees for five of the 16 new Orange Co. jurors who attended. The Orange Co. Association and the Los Angeles Chapter of CGJA provided the volunteer staff which was well organized by

Rose Moreno (Orange) and Audrey Lynberg (LA).

We added a second Foreperson Workshop in Concord as the Sacramento workshop became too large to do small group instruction. Both of these 1-day workshops were taught by Lew Avera, a past foreman and one of our trainers for the “Grand Juries and the Law” presentation at our 2-day seminars.

We did our first “Tri-County” training. Three neighboring counties in the foothills of the Sierras (Amador, Calaveras and Tuolumne) joined together at one site and had CGJA provide three trainers to conduct training for their new jurors and alternates. Orley Ryals, Foreman for Tuolumne is working to have two additional counties join next year, so CGJA can provide a full regional seminar.

The Redding Seminar, started in 2004 with 69 jurors (a good attendance for the first year) grew to 111 jurors in 2006.

In planning the 2006 seminarsites, the Training Committee had some concern that the addition of the new seminar in Orange Co. would decrease the attendance at the Visalia Seminar. Instead, we are very happy to report that Visalia had 94 new jurors, their highest to date.

We trained jurors for the first time from four new counties this year (San Bernardino, Orange, Amador and San Joaquin). This makes a total of 43 counties that received our CGJA training in 2006. The 2006 CGJA Training Program was only possible because of the combined efforts of **many** volunteers. This includes the members of the Training Committee; the team of CGJA trainers; Sandy Rendell (LA Co.) who served as Editor for the training manual; the Nevada Co Chapter of CGJA, the Placer Co Grand Jurors Assoc., the Shasta Co. Grand Jurors, Mike Miller (San Mateo Co.) and my poor husband, Dick Chesny, who collectively assembled over 600 training manuals; plus the many local volunteers who staffed each of our five seminars; Diane Masini, who did all the name tags and helped with registration; and CGJATreasurer, Bill Burnett, who transported our A/V equipment and supplies and worked as a volunteer both days at four seminars.

I am always awed by the dedication of all these volunteers who work very hard to provide our training program to new jurors throughout California.

Nominations Committee Report

Diane Masini, Nominations Committee Chair

First, I would like to thank our committee for the countless hours of work many of them put into this project that takes several steps to complete.

Second, the process: Reviewing membership interest forms to identify members who indicated an interest in serving on our board of directors, then making contact with these members to discuss their willingness to be a candidate. After establishing a candidate list, the committee obtained information from all candidates. Gathering that information, formatting the data as well as the official ballot for printing was the next step. On to creating the mailing labels to get the ballot to the members and then the return mailing labels and applying them to envelopes. This year there was also a ballot measure that had to be included in the packet for members to vote on. Finally, all is ready to fold and insert into envelopes and mail all within the 30--45 day period specified in P&P 6.001b.

Some confusion arose when in error I reported to the board that our committee mailed 270 ballots (a count that included our associate members who do not have voting privileges. They had not actually been sent ballots, just included in the total count), and Owen Haxton, MRC Chair reported in his "First Final" Membership Roster that there were 265 members in good standing on August 31. In actuality, two members claimed they had paid their dues. We confirmed they were correct bringing the voting membership to 267.

Two extra ballots had been mailed to me (the chair); I in turn mailed these ballots to those two members who had paid their dues. One additional error occurred when a director (who is also on the grand jury with me this year) mentioned that he had received 2 letters from me one with a computer generated label and the other hand written. I asked him to bring them both to me and we opened them together. He had indeed received two ballots one of which I took back.

Oh yes, there was some confusion and minimal discrepancies that concerned us all. We will be making recommendations to the board on how to maintain better control over the entire process and writing additional procedures.

Again, the committee will review interest forms, candidate qualifications and develop a slate of officers we will recommend to the board and a list of committee chairs we will suggest the President appoint. The President's appointments eventually are presented to the BOD for ratification.

And, finally, the hard working committee members are NORTH: Tim Colbie CENTRAL: Bill Bowen, Owen Haxton, SOUTH: Lew Avera, Jeanne Forbes.

CGJA Educates Through Osher

By Barbara Dabul

In April, 2006 a CGJA Task Force was formed to cooperate with San Jose State University in developing a course about the California Grand Jury System. The course is to be sponsored by the *Osher Lifelong Learning Institute*. Osher is an adult learning program, usually affiliated with a local college or university, but one in which the participating adults decide what they want to study, then find an instructor who will teach that subject to them. The program is low-cost and does not involve grades, tests, etc. Classes usually meet off-campus, and dates and length of the course are again usually decided by the participants. There are 40 such institutes throughout California, basically at most, if not all, of the University of California and California State University campuses.

Our CGJA Task Force consists of Barbara Dabul, Betty Mattea, Richard Ruth, Jack Zepp and Jerry Lewi. Marianne Jameson and Earl Heal were added when they agreed to be speakers for the course. We quickly became known as the OLLIWOGS (Osher Lifelong Learning Institute Work Group).

Over the Spring and Summer of 2006, we planned the course outline, utilizing as models some previously used examples and suggestions by Susan McGough, Osher Coordinator at SJSU. The resultant outline was then submitted to the University, and the dates for the course have been set as Friday, November 3, 10 and 17, 2006. The subject matter will be presented by six CGJA members with Richard Ruth acting as moderator and contact person for Santa Clara County Grand Jurors' Association. In addition, two speakers will be provided from Santa Clara County from the court executive office and the judiciary.

Every effort was made to plan a well-balanced program that will be educational for the participants and that may also serve recruiting ends. Our intent is also to develop a model that can be utilized throughout the State by CGJA members who wish to work with the Osher Institute to inform adult learners about the California Grand Jury System.

The task force welcomes input re: the current effort

as well as future courses at other locations, and will act as a clearinghouse and resource for this purpose. Contact the Chair, Barbara Dabul at (805) 237-1456 or email bdabul@tcsn.net with your comments or questions.

County Grand Jury Associations vs. California Grand Jury Association

By I. (Bud) Alne, Santa Clara County

A local Grand Jury is one of the most powerful tools available to the citizens of a California County; a tool that permits the public to ensure that local governments operate with efficiency and honesty. It is a window through which the public can observe the operations and activities of the public officials and their organizations as they really are. The distortions of the spinmeisters and the selected views generally created for public consumption are no longer the only information available to those who are curious about how the public's business is being conducted.

Unfortunately, the power and influence of a Grand Jury is limited to the County that chartered it. Local officials not only face the embarrassment of public disclosure of their misbehavior, they may also be subject to removal from office or even indictment if a Grand Jury finds these actions appropriate. While legislators from that County may be influenced by a jury's findings, the other legislators and public officials, however, can perceive the probings of a Grand Jury as potential threats to all legislators and collectively take statutory action to limit the basic powers of California Grand Juries.

A single County Grand Jury perceived in Sacramento as a local phenomenon can do little to influence potential legislative action. The possibility of County Grand Juries joining forces, while permitted in some instances, is unlikely because of the lack of structure for such joint activities. A California Grand Jury Association, however, does provide such a structure as well as the spokesmen to publish the collective message from the Grand Juries that make up the CGJA membership. Even Grand Juries from Counties without a local CGJA chapter are empowered by the presence of a state-wide CGJA that would be attentive to any local Jury's concern.

While a local chapter of the CGJA may have a profound effect on its County's government and its activities there is little it can do to oppose actions at the state level that could severely curtail Jury activities throughout the state. This potential problem has to be recognized by even the most successful local chapter as a far greater threat than anything that could arise locally.

The state-wide CGJA gets some income from the services it provides to those Grand Juries who send members to the CGJA's training programs, but it cannot survive without the dues from each of the chapters. If California is to retain the support of a CGJA, the dues are essential. To be reluctant to acknowledge (and to pay for) the clout of the state organization in the absence of an immediate threat is tantamount to objecting to the cost of a fire department because there is no fire at the moment.

Those who believe that the life of an independent Chapter is not much different from the life of a Chapter attached to the state organization except for the absence of the dues paid to the state organization are probably right. What they are missing is an appreciation for the horsepower that can be generated at the state level. This horsepower, far more than any that could be generated locally, is what will keep the California Grand Jury System strong and allow it to continue to provide us with a clear window through which we can monitor the doings of our public officials.

The State organization provides another service that has a more direct effect on local chapters. Without such an organization there is little opportunity for the local chapters to compare notes with one another. Lesson learned are not distributed and dangers encountered are not publicized. The CGJA Journal could not be published without the support, both financial and informational, from the local chapters and the annual conference would be of little benefit to anyone. To withhold such support would be fatal to the state organization and harmful to the local chapters.

The chapters that believe that the state organization operates too independently have only themselves to blame. The state organization is subject to the guidance and direction of the collective chapters. The chapters have an obligation, however, to keep the state organization informed about the issues they want the state to address, which assumes that the chapters have defined the goals for the state. In the absence of such definition one can only applaud the state's willingness to move forward along a path the directors have chosen.

The well-being of the California Grand Jury System is the keystone of our mission. To focus on Chapter activities at the expense of broader responsibilities dilutes our mission and reduces the contribution we might make to our fellow citizens.

California Grand Jurors' Association - Annual Report

Balance Sheet - Previous Year Comparison As of December 31, 2005

	31-Dec-05	31-Dec-04	\$ Change
ASSETS			
Current Assets			
Checking/Savings			
Cash in Bank - Checking	1,728.91	15,582.28	-13,853.37
Cash in Bank - Restricted			
Cavey Fund	1,107.13	1,107.13	0
Price Fund	4,838.08	4,951.71	-113.63
Cash in Bank - Restricted - Other	-2,592.36	1.24	-2,593.60
Total Cash in Bank - Restricted	3,352.85	6,060.08	-2,707.23
Cash in Bank - Unrestricted CD	12,414.01	20,520.34	-8,106.33
Total Checking/Savings	17,495.77	42,162.70	-24,666.93
Total Current Assets	17,495.77	42,162.70	-24,666.93
Fixed Assets			
Property and Equipment			
Accumulated Depreciation	-3,400.00	-3,400.00	0
Equipment	6,660.11	6,660.11	0
Total Property and Equipment	3,260.11	3,260.11	0
Total Fixed Assets	3,260.11	3,260.11	0
TOTAL ASSETS	20,755.88	45,422.81	-24,666.93
LIABILITIES & EQUITY			
Equity			
Retained Earnings-Restricted	6,058.24	6,058.24	0
Retained Earnings-Unrestricted	35,766.59	35,767.87	-1.28
Retained Earnings - Unrestricted	3,596.70	0	3,596.70
Net Income	-24,665.65	3,596.70	-28,262.35
Total Equity	20,755.88	45,422.81	-24,666.93
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	20,755.88	45,422.81	-24,666.93

**Profit & Loss - Previous Year Comparison
January through December 2005**

	31-Dec-05	31-Dec-04	\$ Change
Income			
Administration Income	449.65	437.71	11.94
Finance Committee Income	987.02	5,284.40	(4,297.38)
Membership Committee Income	8,308.07	10,200.00	(1,891.93)
Miscellaneous	0.00	(53.70)	53.70
Operations Committee Income	7,777.22	8,110.00	(332.78)
Training Committee Income	43,312.90	35,732.11	7,580.79
Total Income	60,834.86	59,710.52	1,124.34
Expense			
Administration	25,778.25	10,199.35	15,578.90
Finance Committee Expenses	2,236.69	2,690.70	(454.01)
Legal Committee Expenses	0.00	157.79	(157.79)
Membership Committee Expenses	1,725.22	713.04	1,012.18
Operations Committee Expense	15,520.71	12,822.17	2,698.54
Public Relations Committee	1,155.24	121.38	1,033.86
Suspense	37.68	0.00	37.68
Training Committee Expenses	39,046.72	29,409.39	9,637.33
Total Expense	85,500.51	56,113.82	29,386.69
Net Income	(24,665.65)	3,596.70	(28,262.35)

President Acknowledges Outgoing Board Members

By Jerry Lewi

Several Directors from the 2006 Board either have resigned or are not running for reelection. I would like to take this opportunity to recognize them and their accomplishments.

Andy Bliss (Los Angeles): Elected in 2004 and served as Chair of the 2005 Conference in Burbank. This conference was noteworthy for its outstanding array of guest speakers.

Sherry Chesny (Placer): Stepping down as Training Chair for the past seven years, Sherry has been the guiding force behind the phenomenal growth of this program. Sherry has served on the Board for 12 years.

Les Daye (Trinity): Has served on the Board for ten years and has filled several Chairs: Legal, Operations, and as President. Les's passion is GRIP to which he lends great energy.

Duane Mason (Shasta): Elected in 2004 and has been active on the Training Committee, including a major role with the local Shasta County association in support of training seminars and this conference. Duane also moderated some contentious discussions amongst the Board with distinction.

Mike Miller (San Mateo): Mike rejoined the Board in 2005 after having served from 1997 to 2003. In his earlier term, he was Membership Chair and then accepted the same position on an acting basis in 2005. He has been a constant presence lending his support to the training seminars.

Elwood Moger (El Dorado): Has served on the Board since 1998; Vice-President, Chair of Operations; President 2002-2004. Also chaired the Public Relations Committee and has served on the Finance Committee. El has been a source of wise advice to me this past year, especially and I appreciate his support to the Finance Committee, lending the benefit of his experience as President.

Yes,

I want to help the California Grand Jurors' Association promote government accountability by improving the training and resources available to California's 58 regular grand juries and educating the public about the substantial local government oversight and reporting powers those grand juries have.

NAME: _____
ADDRESS: _____
CITY _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____
Phone: _____ EMAIL: _____

Platinum: \$100 & above _____ Gold: \$51-100: _____ Silver \$26-50 _____ Bronze \$1-25 _____

Enclosed is my gift in the amount of \$ _____
Method of Payment:

Check Master Card Visa
Card Number: _____ Exp. _____
Name on Card: _____
Signature: _____

This gift to Celebrate:
Please mail acknowledgement to:
Name _____
Address _____
City _____
State _____ Zip _____

All contribution are tax deductible under Internal Revenue Section 501(c) (3)

**Thank
you!**