

## California Grand Jurors' Association Board of Directors Meeting September 24, 2019

### MINUTES

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#### A. Call to Order and Roll Call

The roll was taken, and the meeting began at 7:01 PM.

Present: Directors Larry Herbst, Marsha Caranci, Rich Knowles, Jerry Kunkle, Joann Landi, Chuck MacLean, Barbara Sommer, , Ron Zurek; Parliamentarian Jim Ragan.

Absent: Travis Gibbons, Lloyd Bell, (excused), Lou Panetta (excused), Andi Winters (excused).

Quorum is present.

#### B. Agenda and Comments

B-1 Agenda Approval: Herbst

Board members unanimously approved the agenda.

B-2 CGJA Member Comments - none

#### C. Consent Items

C-1 Approve Regular Board Meeting Minutes, 8/27/19: Sommer

C-2 Acknowledge Committee Minutes and other documents in 9/24/19 meeting packets: Herbst  
Board unanimously approved the consent items.

#### D. Officer and Committee Chair Reports – see committee minutes in packet for details on current activities

D-1 **President's Report (Herbst)** – Asked directors to submit November retreat agenda items by Friday, Sept. 27, end of day.

Recapped the 3 strategic goals, #1 increasing public awareness of the civil grand jury, #2 succession planning, and #3 membership recruiting. Although these are long-term goals, he would like to report to the membership on their progress. He asks for input, particularly on goals #1 and #3. Any progress to report?

With regard to committee goals, he suggested that progress on those be included in the committee reports that are submitted for inclusion in the conference program.

#### D-2 Officer Reports

**Vice President (Panetta)** – in Panetta's absence, Herbst pointed out the vice president was focusing on goal #2 above – succession.

They have received some responses to the e-blast sent out soliciting committee volunteers (re goal #3).

**Treasurer (Gibbons)** – no report.

**Secretary (Sommer)** – no report.

D-3 **Legal and Legislative Resources Committee (LLRC)** – Caranci reporting for Jahr said the committee has some challenges. These have been dealt with. There was some discussion of the situation in Santa Clara involving a reporter, the city manager and the grand jury. There had been

an initial concern about procurement issues that morphed into a focus on difficulties in obtaining public records.

- D-4 **Public Relations Committee (PRC)** –Ragan stated the news blog exceeded 600 articles this year. There was some discussion about more timely blog postings.

Herbst reported on the website analytics (see packet). It appears that juries are using the website.

- D-5 **Membership Relations Committee (MRC)** – Ragan described the new Mother Lode chapter and how enthusiastic its members are. Glenn county is a potential chapter. There are a couple other potential chapters. Three chapters have been decertified: Solano, Monterey and Sutter.

The conference chapter officers' breakfast has been reinstated. Invitations have been sent for Monday, Nov. 4.

- D-6 **Training Committee (TC)** – This month's minutes will be in the next packet. Caranci mentioned that they have not yet completed summer training; a few counties remain. It is now report writing season. The committee is recruiting trainers for next year. The videos are in the final stage of production. John Heckel has done an excellent job as director and producer.

Continuity was discussed by the training committee. The committee feels that the topic merits a deeper investigation, either under the auspices of the PRC or by an ad hoc committee.

- D-7 **Finance Committee (FC)** – Zurek stated they are deep into budget season. He pointed out that it is very important to help chapters with their IRS filing.

- D-8 **Nominations-Elections Committee (NEC)** – Filling in for Bell, Zurek reported that the electronic voting was a success. Participation mirrored the trend over the past few years with a minority of our membership participating – 111 ballots received from a membership of 292 (as of July 31, 2019). There were 18 paper ballots sent out (3 - no email address on file, 8 - email issues with Constant Contact, and 7 - member request) for a participation rate of 38%. The results were tabulated by the Contra Costa county chapter and provided to President Herbst on September 18. The results will be announced at the Annual Conference and reported in the December *Grand Jurors' Journal*. Herbst noted that the candidates have been notified of the results.

The committee spent approximately \$18 to execute this year's director election against a budget of \$400. While there was some member angst with the electronic process, only 2% (7) couldn't figure things out and requested a paper ballot. The committee feels that with the lessons learned and adjustments made to the process, electronic voting utilizing the current website is the future of voting within the CGJA.

- D-9 **Awards Committee (AC)** – see minutes.

- D-10 **Annual Conference Committee (ACC)** – Filling in for Bell, McLean said that speakers, topics and programming are all set, and the latest version of the program has been posted on the website. As of this morning there are 34 registrations for the AC and our hotel block of sleeping rooms commitment is 70% booked. Hotel reservations must be made by October 19 to receive the CGJA rate after which their regular rate *may* apply.

We have received only a few silent auction donations. This event has been very popular over the past few years, so a lack of participation by chapters is somewhat puzzling. We expect more notifications will come in after the *Grand Jurors' Journal* appears in inboxes of our members. If

your chapter is planning to submit an item or two, please notify Lloyd so that he can prepare the proper display documentation.

The ACC is exploring event locations for our 2020 conference. We've noted quite an increase in sleeping room and food pricing and are zeroing in on Embassy Suite facilities in a central location to most of our members as those facilities offer complimentary breakfast and cocktail hour events which are viewed as value-added to our members. We hope to be able to make a recommendation for 2020 before the end of the 2019 conference in Sacramento

D-11 **Bylaws & Policy Review Committee (BPRC)** – no report.

D-12 **Finance Review Committee (FRC)** – See minutes. The committee's report is still pending. There are no serious financial problems. There are some detail issues with PayPal.

D-13 **Technology Committee** – no report.

E. **Action Agenda** - none

F. **Director Comments** – none

G. **Adjournment** (8:04 PM).

Respectfully submitted,  
Barbara Sommer, Secretary