

California Grand Jurors' Association Board of Directors Meeting
April 28, 2020
MINUTES

A. Call to Order and Roll Call

The roll was taken, and the meeting began at 3:08 PM.

Present: Directors Lloyd Bell, Marsha Caranci, Janet Clark, Travis Gibbons, Tim Hafner, Jerry Kunkle, Joann Landi, Lou Panetta, Barbara Sommer, Ron Zurek.

Absent: Larry Herbst (excused), Chuck MacLean (excused).

Quorum is present.

Other present: Jim Ragan, Parliamentarian; Karen Jahr, Chair BPRC and LLRC, Shirley Boracci, Member.

B. Agenda and Comments

B-1 Agenda Approval: Panetta

Board members unanimously approved the agenda.

B-2 CGJA Member Comments - none

C. Consent Items

C-1 Approve Regular Board Meeting Minutes, 03/24/20: Panetta

C-2 Acknowledge Committee Minutes and other documents in 04/28/20 meeting packets: Panetta
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)

No report.

D-2 **Officer Reports**

Vice President (Panetta) – no report.

Treasurer (Gibbons) – Federal and state forms have been submitted. Fees of \$10 and \$50 (Charitable Trust) paid.

Secretary (Sommer) – no report.

D-3 **Legal and Legislative Resources Committee (LLRC)** – no report.

D-4 **Public Relations Committee (PRC)** – Ragan stated that Jerry Lewi is doing the blog.

D-5 **Membership Relations Committee (MCRC)** – Ragan said that there was a good initial response to the membership solicitation letter sent to Introductory Members (IMs). He will send a follow-up letter. The result was approximately 9 new members. The committee has a new member, Leanne Thompson (Madera).

D-6 **Training Committee (TC)** – Caranci stated that committee is learning more about the counties' empanelment plans. There will probably be a 6-month long series of training sessions this year,

spread out from July through February. Early training will probably be done online. The Forepersons workshop also likely to be done online, although might be in-person in June if possible. Still deciding on a date for legal advisors. Writing workshops will probably be postponed until after the first of the year.

- D-7 **Finance Committee (FC)** – Zurek said we are in good shape financially, better than budget.
- D-8 **Nominations-Elections Committee (NEC)** – Panetta said progress is being made on candidate selection. Co-chair Hafner reported that the committee has updated its procedures.
- D-9 **Awards Committee (AC)** – EIR subcommittee chair, Sommer, reported that there have been no nominations so far. She will send out a reminder to chapter and associations presidents in May. Chair Landi is encouraging a submission from San Mateo.
- D-10 **Annual Conference Committee (ACC)** – Bell stated that the committee continues to develop the program along the lines of our theme *Celebrating Grand Jury Successes at the Local Level*. Details can be found in our minutes which are included in your packet.

Ideas to gain greater participation in the silent auction portion of the program are encouraged. Please send your suggestions to Janet Clark.

Annual Conference program cover has been approved and can be viewed on the website. The committee wishes to thank Barbara Sommer for her work on this – and past – graphics.

Finally, the Covid 19 virus may have an impact on the annual conference this year. After the next announcement from the county, Bell will query the hotel about possible rescheduling options.

- D-11 **Bylaws & Policy Review Committee (BPRC)** – no report.
- D-13 **Technology Committee** – Panetta said that the committee is working on a user guide for CGJA for ZOOM. There was a general discussion about scheduling and hosting meetings. Zurek has the meeting number and password (which will remain the same) and has scheduled committee meetings. Panetta will resend guidelines.
- D-14 **Pandemic Response Coordination Workgroup (PRCW)** – Caranci said the letter distributed to the board in the packet has been sent to some presiding judges, all court executive officers, the legal advisers list, all court and county contacts, and all sitting forepersons. It is posted on the website. Coverage has been extensive. The group's biggest concern is that some courts might assume that a new grand jury can function with initial online meetings. They feel strongly that this is not satisfactory for a new grand jury; that jurors need to get to know one another through in-person contact in order to function well. They feel if direct contact is not possible, it would be better to wait until January to begin.

They are getting more responses from counties. A January starting date is trending. Also, people are paying attention and relying on CGJA information.

The committee vice-chair, Jahr, described her new contacts at Judicial Council (the policymaking body of the California courts). One of them directs a jury improvement project. The organization seems to be leaving grand jury decisions up to the local courts. She and the council representatives have exchanged information and appear to be developing a very positive relationship.

E. Action Agenda

- E-1 **Direct the president to undertake the formal process of revoking the CGJA charters of the Solano and Sutter Chapters** [Motion made by Ragan, seconded by Panetta]

Discussion: Ragan provided background information.

The motion passed, 11-0-0, by voice vote.

- F. Director Comments** – Caranci reminded directors that the BPRC committee must review any changes in committee procedures to be certain they are in accord with CGJA bylaws and policy. They are then sent to the board as information (do not require board approval).

Panetta has scheduled Dropbox training for Thursday. Let him know if you are interested.

- G. Adjournment (4:19 PM).**

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara Sommer, Secretary