

California Grand Jurors' Association Board of Directors Meeting
July 27, 2021
MINUTES

A. Call to Order and Roll Call

The roll was taken, and the meeting began at 3:01 PM.

Directors present: Shirley Boracci, Marsha Caranci, Janet Clark, Bob Finlayson, Tim Hafner, Larry Herbst, Joann Landi, Barbara Sommer.

Absent (excused): Bernadette Cheyne, Travis Gibbons, Lou Panetta.

Quorum is present.

Others present: Committee Chairs: Karen Jahr, BPRC and LLRC; Lloyd Bell, ACC and FC; Diane Lloyd, MCRC.

B. Agenda and Comments

B-1 Agenda Approval: Board members unanimously approved the agenda.

B-2 CGJA Member Comments - none

C. Consent Items

C-1 Approve Regular Board Meeting Minutes, 05/25/21: Herbst

C-2 Acknowledge Committee Minutes and other documents in 07/27/21 meeting packet: Herbst
Board unanimously approved the consent items and the minutes.

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

D-1 **President's Report** – not present (Panetta).

D-2 Officer Reports

Vice President (Herbst) – filling in for the president.

Treasurer (Gibbons) – not present.

Secretary (Sommer) – by 06/25/21 the board of directors voted unanimously by email to approve the following action items:

Adopt amendments to Policies 6.20, 8.30, 10.20, 12.60, and 13.60.

Adopt amendments to the CGJA Bylaws Article 5(f); Article 6, §7(e); and Article 7, §4.

Approve 2021 Director Election Ballots.

D-7 **Finance Committee (FC)** – no report.

D-10 **Annual Conference Committee (ACC)** – Bell said the committee is working on the agenda for the fall membership meeting. Soon he will send out requests for standing committee reports.

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

D-4 **Public Relations Committee (PRC)** – no report.

D-5 **Membership Relations Committee (MCRC)** – Lloyd reported that membership as of June 30 was 316. Today it is 333. She commented on the fact that new members do not receive a “thank you for joining” note. In the past Jim Ragan sent out individual notes. Lloyd indicated that would be too great a burden, and suggests that instead, we generate a boilerplate notice which inserts the name of an area director and thanks the new member. The committee is moving on that possibility. There was a discussion of the possible use of swag for thanking members and a recognition that such gestures can be of value. Caranci pointed out that currently we have the greatest number of sitting grand juror members than has ever been the case. Lloyd attributed this to the efficacy of the training program.

Herbst mentioned Jim Ragan’s plan for recognizing long-term members, e.g., more than five years with an article in the *Journal*. Lloyd said she had just read that section of Ragan’s files and was very interested. She said about one-third of our members would qualify and that the committee would take a closer look at the proposal.

D-6 **Training Committee (TC)** – Caranci said there has been a 15% increase in writing workshop attendees. It is the fastest growing section of the training program. Zoom presentation has made it easier for people to participate. This has been a successful and long season with the final workshop occurring in the first week in June. As of July 28, there have been 3 foreperson and 2 legal advisor workshops along with 13 Zoom seminars since July 15, and two online seminars since that date. There will be two more this week. They have yet to schedule 4-6 on-sites in August (mainly in rural counties). Several counties have had trouble impaneling grand juries this year. Overall, training is going well with a small but hardworking team of veteran trainers. The new trainers are participating at a high level. Jahr added that they are progressing quickly.

Caranci said even though she had not had an opportunity to reach out, several counties have contacted her for training.

As an additional note, she pointed out that Panetta will be giving a presentation at the California Special Districts Association (CSDA) annual conference in Monterey in August. He is incorporating a segment on the importance of exit interviews. This had been a relevant issue in years past when CGJA was dealing with some problematic legislation backed by CSDA. Part of the resolution of the conflict was our agreement to promote exit interviews.

D-8 **Nominations-Elections Committee (NEC)** – Boracci said the committee is on track with ballot preparation.

She raised the issue of ballots being sent to members who haven’t paid their dues. There was considerable discussion about the difficulty and appropriateness of making specific cut-off dates. Some directors argued for a grace period. There was agreement that no changes would be made this year. Herbst suggested that the 2022 NEC consider the issue.

Boracci will be sending test ballots to directors shortly in order to test the Constant Contact system.

D-9 **Awards Committee (AC)** – Landi said there have not been any nominations for the Angelo Rolando Service Award (ARSA). She sent an email to chapter and association presidents soliciting nominations. Often nominations come in at the last minute. The deadline is August 27.

- D-11 **Bylaws & Policy Review Committee (BPRC)** – Jahr said the committee finished its work with the action items passed in June.
- D-13 **Technology Committee (Tech)** – Herbst said the website is ready to go for the election.

With regard to web statistics “They look regular.” One puzzling aspect was the 20 downloads of the chapter formation guide. It is not possible to identify the sources.

E. Action Agenda

E-1 Approve support letter

[Motion made by Finlayson, seconded by Clarke]

Finlayson described the application by Dr. Josue Franco titled *Civil Grand Juries: An Underutilized Accountability Mechanism* for a grant from the National Science Foundation to fund a five-year project to create a database of California county civil grand jury reports and local government responses from 2016 to 2020. It includes involving 2-year undergraduate students in data collection and coding. CGJA would provide a 2-day training program for the students. The application must be submitted by July 30.

Caranci expressed concern about the possible open-endedness of the phrasing concerning the commitment of CGJA resources. She suggested removing the phrase “as detailed in the Project Description or the Facilities, Equipment and Other Resources section of the proposal.” Clarke pointed out several areas in the letter where the supporting argument would be strengthened by adding specific numbers, e.g., the number of members. Finlayson said the changes would be accommodated.

The motion was modified to read **Approve support letter with suggested changes.**

The motion passed, 7-0-0, by hand vote.

F. Director Comments

Caranci explained the recent resignation of Mastako as due to Kathy’s having to focus on finishing her book. When that task is done, Mastako will resume her CGJA participation, particularly on the MCRC.

Finlayson commented on the positive aspects of his Contra Costa chapter’s resuming in-person meetings. They revisited their mission statement. He noted the variety of mission statements across chapters.

G. Adjournment (4:36 PM)

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara Sommer, Secretary