



Grand Jurors' Journal

Vol. 7 No 2 • Newsletter of the California Grand Jurors' Association April, 2006

President's Message.....	1
Plan On Coming To Redding.....	2
Summary of Board Actions.....	2
Committee Reports.....	3
Excellence In Reporting And Success Stories.....	6
Chapter News.....	6
Letters to the Editor.....	7
Juries in the News.....	8
The Grand Jury Cooks!!!!.....	9
Highlighting your CGJA Directors.....	10
Nominating Committee.....	11
Grand Jurors' Journal.....	11

President's Message

By Jerry Lewi

President, California Grand Jurors' Association

It seems like only yesterday that we were talking about our annual Training Seminars and the Annual Conference, but in reality, these important activities require early planning to be successful. Tied to the timing of the Annual Conference is the election of directors that require the appointment of a Nominating Committee. That group will publish a call for those interested in running for the Board. The Membership Committee has an ambitious program to recruit more members. Membership renewal will be upon us before you know it. That committee is also looking at new chapter formation. At the risk of repeating myself, I have enjoyed meeting with the chapters and have found out how important they are to the association. That said, I am also looking for ways for members who do not have the benefit of a local chapter, to assist local grand juries in any way that they can. For example, I had an opportunity to attend an Open

House sponsored by my Grand Jury in Ventura County and talk about how CJGA can assist them in recruiting and other activities.

More detailed information may be found elsewhere in this issue. You will also find a report on a recent survey sponsored by the Public Relations Committee regarding recruiting practices around the state.

**PLAN ON COMING TO REDDING
FOR THE 25th ANNUAL CONFERENCE
OCTOBER 19-21, 2006**

Red Lion Hotel

By Harry Tully - Your Chairman for the 2006 Annual Conference

We look forward to seeing you at the annual conference, which takes place in Redding, in our beautiful county of Shasta.

There are things to see and do (for those accompanying you not attending the meetings but want a change of pace from everyday life). You have probably heard of the *Sundial Bridge at Turtle Bay*. It is made of an aqua green, opaque glass deck and other materials and is unique because of its Calatrava design. Its 217-foot pylon acts as a sundial, it is environmentally sensitive to its river setting and for you fishermen and women, this portion of the Sacramento River has been rated among the top ten water fisheries in the World.

Those members who may want a mini-vacation and want to bring their children along, there is the Redding Sports Complex. The Sacramento River Trail offers pedestrian and bicycling attractions for the 'walkers' amongst you and will give you insights into Redding's early history. Shasta Dam and Lake are about twelve miles north of Redding on I-5 and Shasta Lake is noted for being the houseboat capital of the West. If you like to plan ahead, you can arrange for a vacation of house-boating while you are here.

We will be announcing our program in future issues of *The Journal* so you will see that even if you cannot take the time to sightsee, you will have an interesting educational experience which will benefit CGJA and, hopefully, yourself.

Summary of Board Actions

The CGJA Board of Directors took the following Actions at the January 23, 2006, regular meeting.

Unfinished Business from the November 28, 2005 Meeting

The motion to send survey letter to Grand Juries re: Outreach, was passed by voice vote.

The motion that the 2005 Tellers' Committee Chair Linda Baker make available to the Board the two (2) protest letters was passed by voice vote.

The recommendation to investigate the availability, with the intention of having, Boardsmanship training was passed by a voice vote.

The motion to Receive, discuss and report to Solano County Chapter by December 1, 2005, passed by voice vote with 2 Directors voting no.

The motion that Board actions will remain on the agenda as old or unfinished business until the action has been implemented was passed by voice vote.

The motion to establish procedures for the nominating committee to be elected by the CGJA membership failed by a roll call vote.

The motion to revert to the 1997/98 bylaws failed by a roll call vote.

The Training Committee 2006 Goals were approved.

The CGJA 2006 goals were passed by voice vote with 1 Director voting no.

The CGJA 2006 budget was approved by voice vote.

The motion that Section 5.303 of the Policies and Procedures Guidelines be amended by adding paragraph 5.303h as follows: "h. Persons applying for membership in CGJA during the period March 1 through June 30 and if their application is approved shall receive a membership through June 30 of the following calendar year," was approved by voice vote.

Authorize the Training Committee to proceed to scheduling site selection, speaker commitments and advertising for a two day training program in the LA basin as a fifth program, with flexibility to revert to only a fourth program in either LA or Visalia was passed by voice vote

Authorize the Finance Committee to seek Directors and Officers Insurance. When such application is approved, it will be brought back to the Board for approval and authorization of funds was passed by a roll call vote.

The Membership Committee will review the San Mateo Chapter request from to reverse dual membership policy letter and come back with a recommendation. The President will send an acknowledgment to the Chapter. The motion passed by voice vote with 1 abstention.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance

Ira Grooms, Chair

No report was submitted by the Finance Committee.

Legal Affairs

Jack Zepp, Chair

There have been no developments of interest within the Legal Affair Committee's purview since the last report.

Membership

Chapter Relations

Owen Haxton, Chair

And away we go -----

Spring is here and with spring comes selection of new grand jurors. Every CGJA member needs to convince a fellow citizen to apply for selection as a grand juror. I have my two. Hope that is not above the legal limit.

And then shortly you will receive an email suggesting you renew your membership in CGJA. Or it may be a letter. But it will arrive. We have a new treasurer and we need to make his job as easy as possible. You know, like help him avoid mistakes. To that end we have a new tool. Go to our web site, <www.cgja.org>, at the bottom of the left column click on MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION, scroll to the bottom of that page and click on Membership application, a PDF application form will appear, press CTRL 2, now you can actually fill in the form by clicking on the appropriate box or typing the necessary information into the form. When finished, print two copies. One for you and one neatly printed for our new treasurer. The next step is to fill in a

check [any amount, \$25 for membership dues and the remainder to make a deductible donation. I am told the new treasurer gets really high on donations], write your name on the bottom of the check, place the check and the treasurer's copy of the application in an envelope, stamp it, address it from the information on your copy of the application, seal it and stick it in the out going mail box.

Don't put "renewal" on your to do list, renew now, put it on your done list and feel real good about yourself. WOW! That was a mouth full.

But that is not all, I've got more! Coming up this fall is the opportunity of a life time to get in on the ground floor, nominations to the BOD in August or September, election to the Board of Directors of CGJA in October. Four directors from each of the three regions give you twelve chances. Better odds than the California lottery and when you win, what a great feeling it will be! Ask your best friend to nominate you, ask your worst enemy to nominate you, but get nominated. We need an election not just validation of a slate of insiders.

And the really great news is that by my next column we should be able to welcome both Kern County Chapter and Kings County Chapter to good standing in CGJA. Can a San Diego Chapter be far behind?

Let me hear from you with your ideas for a better member base.

Operations

Les Day, Chair

As CGJA prepares to observe twenty-five ("25") years of active service in educating Californians about the civil grand jury, the annual conference program is taking shape rapidly thanks to the efforts of Harry Tully and the local hosts from the Shasta County Former Grand Jurors.

Announcement of the **October 19 and 20, 2006 event in Redding** at the Red Lion Inn means making your plans to attend! Registration information and the schedule of invited speakers will be in the next issue of the CGJA Grand Jurors' Journal.

Other projects of interest under the guidance of the Operations Committee include: **Excellence in Reporting** (see separate announcement in this Journal), proposed expansion of the website (www.cgja.org) and an array of historical, always illuminating, publications about the civil grand jury in California's fifty-eight counties...order soon!!

Special thanks from the Grand Jury Reports Index Project

(GRIP) to Emma Fischbeck ('88-'89 LA County Grand Jury), who now resides out-of-state, for collecting and saving Final Reports from 1987-1996...Audrey Lynberg has arranged to have these sent on to the Archives in Sacramento, with any duplicates going to IGS in Berkeley. Thank you Audrey!!!

As most current grand juries are busy compiling and editing their Final Report materials, media will begin to seek highlights from early release reports. Please keep the Grand Jurors' Journal aware of any newsworthy headlines of interest in your local area. Stay informed and in touch.

Public Relations

Jerry Lewi, Acting Chair

Recruiting Survey

Under the lead of the Public Relations Committee, we sent out a letter to all Court Executive Officers asking their response to a survey on recruiting practices. This idea came out of our October Annual Conference. The results are summarized next column. The second column indicates the percent of the respondents that used the practice described in the first column. The table is sorted by descending order of this column. The last column is a measure of effectiveness by weighting the responses to the question about which of the techniques are the most effective.

It appears that the three most common techniques are also the most effective.

There were some additional practices from one or more counties described as follows:

- Letter from Presiding Judge
- Trial jury lists; church bulletins; trial jury summons
- Publish final report in newspaper
- Former Grand Juror referrals & random draw
- Direct mail to many organizations
- Notices in Library & Senior Centers
- Information on trial juror application
- Adult Education (Osher Life Long Learning Institute) classes
- Mail 200 letters plus 400 random
- Special newspaper supplement with invitation to Open House

I became aware of this last item in my own Ventura County when I attended their annual Open House that was coincidental with my preparation of this summary. Ventura has been holding this event annually but I believe this was the first time it was held during recruiting season. I noticed that people were actually filing out applications right on the spot, so the jury was pleased. Looks like a good practice.

We also asked the question about the average size of the pool of jurors who either volunteer or are recruited. The range of numbers, expressed as a factor of the county population, is quite wide ranging from a low of 0.47 per 1,000 population to a high of 32.5. Three of the smallest counties that responded had the highest response rate. We do not know how to evaluate this information.

We would hope that counties may use this information to improve their recruiting practices. Many thanks to those who responded.

Technique or Practice	Percentage Using	Effectiveness
Publish information on the county website.	89%	60
Place notices in local papers and/or television stations.	76%	62
Use court personnel to directly recruit by asking judges and other elected officials to nominate candidates.	67%	69
Do members of the current grand jury visit as many community organizations as possible?	50%	19
Do members of a local chapter of our association or an independent association of past grand jurors do the same as item above.	50%	22
Use court personnel for the same purpose as item above.	42%	41

Include recruiting announcements in trial juror orientation sessions.	37%	22
Use video presentations on local TV (Public Access or other)	29%	28
Conduct press conferences.	17%	30

Training
Sherry Chesny, Chair

No report was submitted by the Training Committee

EXCELLENCE IN REPORTING AND SUCCESS STORIES

This notice is to remind all present and past jurors of the importance to be preparing an application for the Excellence in Reporting and Success Story Committee. The 2006 submission deadline is **July 15, 2006**. The recipients of the EIR Awards will bring well deserved recognition to their respective jury or news media. All applicants may bring recognition of the importance of the California grand jury system to state and local government officials as well as the citizens throughout the State. A quantity of Success Stories serve CGJA in providing strength for the missions of our legislative, public relations, and training committees. Criteria were explained in the January edition of the Journal.

A nomination form can be found on page 10 of this Journal. The form may be duplicated as needed. Questions will be answered by the EIR committee members:

Linda Baker- 925.513.8301

Les Daye - 530.778.3368

Earl Heal - 707.446.1353

CHAPTER NEWS
SOLANO CHAPTER

By Wanda Kiger-Tucker, President

The Solano County Chapter of CGJA is currently making plans for our annual membership drive/BBQ to be held July 9, 2006, at Pippo Ranch in Vacaville; more details will be forthcoming later. We are always looking for donated items for our auction fundraiser which is always fun.

I would like to mention that we have received e-mails and phone calls from current and past members and directors who indicate they are in support of the stand we have taken on voting issues, financial accountability and adherence to our by-laws.

Thank you. The support has been very

encouraging to us as we have made some very difficult decisions.

Letters to the Editor

Dysfunctional and divisive proceedings

Dear Editor:

A very unique experience!! --that's what I had on Monday evening March 27 when I called in to listen to the CGJA Board of Director's teleconference - President Jerry Lewi presiding. I didn't have a chance to announce my presence on the line. I sat and listened for over two hours to the most dysfunctional and divisive proceedings one could imagine before I hung up. I don't know how much longer the meeting went on. Incoherence, inconsistency, duplicity and disregard for time tested meeting protocols and decorum ruled the meeting.

The Board is clearly divided into two camps with the minority insisting on adhering to governing rules and regulations and the other camp, Lewi in charge, trying to run roughshod over the minority.

First: The minutes of an earlier special meeting were challenged and the meeting was declared invalid due to violation of bylaw requirements wherein the president was said to have unlawfully called such a special meeting.

Then followed extended argument with the president's attempt to add last minute agenda items which was cited as a violation of the bylaws.

Second: It was strongly asserted that the President had exercised undue influence in hand picking the nominating committee in the face of what appeared to me to be legitimate objections citing blatant violations of commonly accepted parliamentary authorities.

Third: It appears that the organization's treasury has fallen on hard times and heated discussion ensued over a proposal to transfer some \$9700 of a CD into the checking account to keep up with accumulating bills and incurring further liabilities. Voiced concerns were glibly rebuffed and disregarded.

Fourth: There was a hassle over missing official certified mail. Apparently certified mail was lost in the secretary's private junk mail.

Fifth: Another contentious argument ensued over peculiar bylaw amendments drafted at the earlier cited and contested unlawful special board meeting which had focused on the Board's authority to kick CGJA members out of the association and remove elected Directors from the Board sans any criteria.

Sixth: It was proposed by the majority to delete a right given to the membership to elect the CGJA officers. The majority wanted the Board to elect the officers. The minority was sufficiently strong to prevent the required 2/3 vote - asserting that changing membership rights require membership approval.

This was followed by a cursory discussion of a need for training directors to be nice to each other, developing membership and responsiveness to the recent Journal readership survey.

Seventh: The discussion that was followed was the most unbelievable, (to me): It seems that the president had consulted with the CGJA attorney without Board authority - for a fee which was charged to CGJA. When this charge to CGJA was discovered, the President said that he would pay the fee. He then refused to reveal to the Board the substance of the consultation on the grounds that since he had paid the bill, he did not have to tell the Board what he had asked the attorney or what the attorney told him. It was pointed out that this put the attorney in an ethics

conflict. In spite of all this the Board's vote to direct the president to be forthcoming with the Board regarding the substance of the unauthorized legal consultation failed - due to a tie vote. The Board remains in the dark as to the President's private action with the CGJA's attorney. I can only describe the meeting as bizarre. It seems to me that the CGJA itself is in dire need of investigation. Without an immediate course change I believe the CGJA is on a collision course with disaster.

Clarence Dilts,
elected Director 1994-2000,
elected Vice President by the membership

Juries in the News

Suisun City under fire

Grand jury report rips police Chief Forsythe

The Solano County grand jury has charged that Suisun City police Chief Ron Forsythe is a weak leader who has a narrow view of his responsibility as the city's top law enforcer. In a released report the grand jury said the city manager and the City Council should hire a consultant to audit the Police Department and determine the competency of its leadership at all levels.

Further, the grand jury said Suisun City, with an understaffed department of 22 sworn officers, should look to see whether its public safety needs could be better handled by the Solano County Sheriff's Office, which already is responsible for the city's late-night watch.

"In an effort to mediate staffing shortages, Suisun has a \$200,000 contract with the Solano County Sheriff Department to police and staff their 11 p.m. to 7 a.m. shift," the jury's report said. "Based on this contract, Suisun City should conduct a study to determine if contracting with the Solano County Sheriff Department for all of their police services would be more cost effective." The grand jury based its criticisms of Forsythe's leadership solely on what it alleges was a misuse of department funds.

A state "waterways" grant to run the city's boat patrols around the marina, instead, the grand jury said, paid for officers' overtime for such things as painting at the department.

The state grant was only available to be used by the department once local taxes generated by boat fees had been exhausted.

Through interviews with current and former managers, the grand jury surmised that Forsythe might not have directly authorized the overtime, but ultimately was responsible.

The report said "contradictory testimony was given to the grand jury that on the one hand indicates the chief became aware of the painting in January 2005, but he didn't know that the overtime was charged to the waterway grants until March 2005."

Forsythe, when the allegations first surfaced in September 2005, had said that he was unaware that the funds were being used to paint the department.

The grand jury report alleges that the time sheets were submitted to a lieutenant in the department who authorized overtime in Forsythe's absence.

Forsythe said in 2005, "I later found out that part of the time they did it, they were on duty. As soon as I was aware of that I said, 'No, we don't do that,' and the action was stopped."

The grand jury alleges that the Police Department suffers from a void in leadership and that witnesses interviewed in preparing its report said that morale was bad at the department.

The department tends to serve as a training ground for officers who quickly move on.

Grand Jury OKs women's shelters

San Luis Obispo Tribune
By Nathan Welton

The county Grand Jury has concluded that local women's shelters are successfully providing services for victims of domestic violence.

The Jury focused on the Women's Shelter Program of San Luis Obispo County and the North County Women's Shelter and Resource Center.

The two nonprofit facilities ensure clients can find a place to stay, and they offer parenting classes, counseling, classes to teach children how to stay safe, legal assistance and transportation. According to the jury, there is violence in an estimated 35 percent of all domestic relationships.

THE GRAND JURY COOKS!!!!

RECIPES & REPORTS ARE NEEDED FROM YOUR COUNTY!!

Grand Jurors have long lamented that the average citizen has no clue about the role of the Regular Grand Jury. Here is a fun and easy way to let everyone know about its important oversight function.

The California Grand Jurors' Association is seeking reports and recipes from your county! It is time to celebrate and once again see all your hard work in print! Who better showcase your county than you!!!!

TO SUBMIT AN ENTRY FOLLOW THE STEPS BELOW

1. NAME: _____ COUNTY: _____
YEAR/S _____ SERVED _____ ON _____ GRAND
JURY _____ PHONE: _____ EMAIL: _____
STREET _____ CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

2. TITLE OF GRAND JURY REPORT _____ YEAR
PUBLISHED: _____

RECIPE TITLE: _____

INGRIDIENTS

<Limit 12 Ingredients – one per line>

Please use these abbreviations: c., tsp., Tbsp., pkg., qt., pt., oz., lb.

METHOD

<Limit 100 words>

4. Suggest a title for the cookbook: _____

5. Return: 2 copies of recipe, 2 copies of the Grand Jury Report (an individual topic is requested – the entire end of year Final Report not necessary), Provide 2 copies of a summary of the chosen report – not to exceed 200 words. (Additional pages can be provided.)

POSTMARKED NOT LATER THAN MAY 1, 2006

ONE COPY EACH TO:

Linda Baker

Mickey Strang

1960 Kent Drive
Brentwood CA 94513
925.513.8301
<lostkeys@comcast.net>

1131 Nelson Way
McKinleyville CA 95519
707.839.3477
<mstrang@humboldt1.com>

6. JUDGING CRITERIA - **Decision of the judges is FINAL!**

Readability counts – Multiple entries may be submitted, only one (1) report and one (1) recipe per county will be selected for the cookbook. Those whose submissions are selected will be notified.

I understand no material will be returned. I will receive no remuneration of any type, and grant permission for my original recipe/material to be used by the California Grand Jurors' Association and its publisher in the publication of the cookbook.

SIGNED: _____ DATE: _____

–

Highlighting your CGJA Directors

Vice President Judi Lazenby

Judi served on the 2000-01 Santa Cruz County Grand Jury. She has a B.A. Mathematics from Agnes Scott College, Decatur, Georgia and a Juris Doctor from Peninsula University School of Law, Mountain View, California. Retired after 23 years as an attorney, Judi currently concentrates solely on mediating dissolutions of marriage for persons in the entertainment industry.

Previously she served as Trust Representative for Union Bank of Maryland and was responsible for statewide new business, estate analysis and Will and Trust preparation.

Prior to that, Judi was Assistant Vice President for Benefacts of Baltimore of Alexander & Alexander, where she headed a new subsidiary preparing individual estate analyses for major executives of large companies.

Besides serving on the CGJA Board of Directors Judi is a trainer: Grand Jury Interviewing.

Treasurer Bill Burnett

I was born and raised, along with my three brothers, in Stockton where I attend high school and Jr. College. After college I went to work as a bookkeeper in a lumber yard in Brentwood.

In 1964 I married my first wife which gave me my daughter, LesLee. A few years later I worked for my uncle as a Independent Insurance Agent and in 1972 I opened my own office in Stockton. Twelve years later I sold my business and moved to Truckee to run an insurance office for a company in Grass Valley. After putting up for four years with the winters I moved to Grass Valley to continue my insurance career.

In 1990 I met and married my current wife Marsha who also worked at Gold Cities Insurance. This is the best thing that has ever happened to me.

I retired after 32 years in the insurance business. When I saw a notice for Grand Jury applicants, I sent in my resume and was appointed to serve on the 2003/04 Nevada County grand jury. I reapplied for the 2004/05

and served another year. I also serve as the treasurer for the Nevada County Chapter of the Grand Jurors' Association.

Through out my working carrier I have serve on a number of non-profit organizations such as March of Dimes and being Court Appointed Child Advocate for Nevada County.

I like to fish, do wood working and travel with Marsha.

In August of 2005, I met a sweet lady with gray hair who talked me into running for the state Treasurer. I did and here I'm today.

Director Andrew Bliss

Andrew is a native Angelino and a eleventh generation American. His elementary and secondary education was obtained at the Los Angeles Catholic Schools and the Los Angeles Unified Schools. He joined the United States Air Force spending 10 years in service during which he pursued other academic studies at a variety of Colleges and Universities. After completion of his military service Andrew returned home and accepted a position as a Health Services Manager at Los Angeles County USC Medical Center where he remained for 25 years retiring as an Assistant Hospital Administrator for Medico-Legal affairs.

Andrew's volunteer service has been diversified and challenging. He served on the Advisory Committee East LA Community College (Medical Occupations), North Orange County (Mortuary Science), the Federal Economic Youth Opportunity Act (Tutorial Project Coordinator), California State University (Advisory Committee and Lecture). Served as Director and Secretary-Treasurer of a Federal Credit Union, Director and Political Action Chairman of the California Credit Union League (Trade Association for Credit Unions), Consultant for USC School of Medicine National Practice Studies, Curator of the Unclaimed Dead for California, Ombudsman for State Health Department in Los Angeles, Moderator/Group Leader for the National Issues Forum, Director/President East San Gabriela League of Women Voters, Scoutmaster, Charter Organization Rep. and Advancement Chairman Local Troop Boy Scout and Member Advisory Board West Covina Law Enforcement on after School Block Grant, Unit President & Council Member of local PTA.

Andrew served on the first bifurcated Grand Jury in Los Angeles 2000-2001. He served on the Education Committee, Public Safety Committee, Edit and Publication Committee, and chair of the Health Care Delivery Systems Committee and Welfare Services Committee.

Andrew and his wife Randina reside in West Covina. They have four adult children and five grandchildren.

Nominating Committee

At the March 27th Board meeting the 2006 Nominating Committee was appointed by the President and approved by the Board. The members are: Diane Masini, North Director and Chair, Owen Haxton, Central Director, Jeanne Forbes, South Director, Tim Colbie, North Member, Bill Bowen, Central Member, and Lew Avera, South Member.

As its first order of business the committee will publish a notice in the Journal seeking those members who would like to be placed in nomination.

Thanks to these members for agreeing to serve this important duty.

Grand Jurors' Journal

Publisher:: California Grand Jurors' Association

Editor/Design/Layout: Ourania Riddle

Opinions: The views expressed in the Grand Jurors' Journal are those of the writers unless otherwise stated.

Copyright: All rights reserved. The California Grand Jurors' Association Board of Directors disclaims any liability arising from errors or omissions. The Editor reserves the right to reject, edit, not print, or not accept any submitted articles.