

## Message from the Editor

*We are pleased  
with the  
several chapter  
reports in this  
issue.*

*Also, please note  
there are  
several forms in  
this issue  
That require  
member  
action, as well  
as important  
information  
about our  
new, improved  
website.*

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# Grand Jurors' Journal

Vol. 8 No. 2 CGJA Journal April 2007 Page 1

## President's Message

*Judi Lazenby*



Dear Colleagues,

With the advent of Spring, many think of spring cleaning. For CGJA that means cleaning up and updating our membership information records. Our members are our greatest asset, and good membership data is vital to good membership relations. Inside this journal we have provided a CGJA Membership Application Form with a Membership Interest Form on the reverse. We urge **all** of our members to use this to provide us your current information. This information exchange is as equally important for new members as for renewals.

The membership/volunteer interest portion of this form has been improved so that we can obtain meaningful information regarding the areas of CGJA where our volunteers wish to participate. Each of us has our own talents as well as limits on how many volunteer hours we can dedicate to CGJA. Making that time count, as well as getting the best fit for our members' talents will be our greatest success.

We gladly announce the addition of two new chapters, the San Benito County Chapter and the Humboldt County Chapter, as well as the following actions taken to improve chapter relations and chapter benefits.

- Our Board has vacated the dual membership requirements for all Chapters.
- The Membership Relations Committee has established a new Chapter Relations subcommittee of Tim Colbie, John Sitton, and myself to implement these new changes and verify chapter coverage under the CGJA liability insurance policy; and, we are implementing measures so that CGJA will be able to host web sites for each Chapter, should they so desire.

We pause to acknowledge the resignations of our Treasurer and Director, Bill Burnett, and Director, Betty Mattea. We extend our sincere thanks to them for their contributions and service, and our best wishes as they deal with their respective health concerns.

It is with pleasure that we announce the appointment of Director Walter Hofmann, M.D. to the office of Treasurer, and the appointment of Director Joann Landi to represent the Central region on the Nominating Committee.

As you read this issue, this new administration will have completed six months of service, and in the last three Journal issues you have been hearing from me on our progress in achieving our goals. It is now time to hear from you.

When you return your completed Membership Application and Interest Form, I ask that you include with that your evaluation of our performance, and your comments on the direction we are taking our organization. This space in our next issue will be devoted to your responses.

Judi

## Meet our New Treasurer

### Walter D. Hofmann, M.D.



Born Central California in 1927 in the small farming village of Valley Home.

Went to local schools until High School years then on to Adventist schools:

Lodi Academy 1941-45,

Pacific Union College:  
1945-49

Premed B.A. Major in Biology,  
Minor in Religion

Loma Linda University – 1949  
-53

M.D. Interned in San Diego  
Navy Hospital.

Five years in Navy as Flight  
Surgeon on aircraft  
Carrier USS Forrestal

Post grad work at Ohio State  
University - Specialized in  
psychiatry

From Ohio moved  
to Glendale, CA

Owned and operated  
"Hofmann Clinic" in Glendale  
1960-1980

Forensic Psychiatrist for LA  
Superior Courts – 1980-95  
Medical Director of Judicially  
Committed Program

Retired – Moved to San  
Diego (La Jolla) in 1995

Served on San Diego Grand  
Jury 2004-05 Parliamentary,  
worked on many reports,  
especially the "Homeless"  
Study

Since July 2006 – President  
of San Diego Past Grand  
Jurors Assn.

Volunteer: Teach in psychia-  
try dept at UCSD

## Vice President's Letter

By Ivor Thomas

Dear members and friends of CGJA,

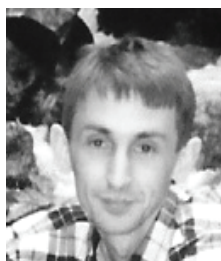
I would like to take a moment of your time to talk about our efforts to modernize and streamline the CGJA website, member records, and business practices. This administration understands that there have been some errors in tracking and recording membership information, and that our website content had become somewhat stagnant. While we are only beginning to improve on these issues, great progress has been made.

We have a much improved membership application and membership interest form that we encourage each of you to use to renew and restate your interests in volunteering to help us succeed in our mission to educate the public and to educate grand jurors. This new form is designed to be easy to read and complete and for you to indicate to us your privacy preferences in how we may contact you for CGJA communications.

The new membership interest form will allow us to get specific information for our volunteers to coordinate easily with new volunteers. It is our hope and belief that our new system will greatly reduce the number of errors that occur as we enter the information; the

information in every renewal and interest form is now entered by a volunteer and cross checked for errors by another within a short amount of time after receiving the form.

The website itself has had a major clean up after changing service providers. In the past, [www.cgja.org](http://www.cgja.org) would forward you to [www.nvo.com/cgja](http://www.nvo.com/cgja).



Our new website statistics indicate that many of you still have the [nvo.com/cgja](http://nvo.com/cgja) address in your bookmarks (favorites); that address will no longer work at the end of the summer—please update the address to [www.cgja.org](http://www.cgja.org) as soon as you can. Our greatest achievement on the new website is our new and expanded document library. We are now adding new board agendas and minutes while keeping the previous, instead of having only one available at a time. We have been adding as many Grand Jurors' Journals from previous years as we can find. We are actively searching for historical Journals; please contact me or our editor if you have any to help us build our library!

We are in process of adding e-mail only newsletters that members can subscribe to and unsubscribe to at will

based on their interests; we hope to have an e-newsletter available with news about the upcoming conference this month. We have also added, and are still refining, a custom search engine that links our site with all 58 county grand jury websites as well as chapters so that CGJA will be the proud parent of the world's first ever search engine dedicated solely to all matters grand jury. If you have a moment, give it a whirl—go to [www.cgja.org](http://www.cgja.org) and type in a topic from a Grand Jury report that you worked on and see if it comes up! Chances are, if it is still online in your county, it will. It is our hope that sitting jurors will be able to use this to find similar published work in other counties.

Our next project will be to redo the look of the website so that there is a better structure for organizing content; there is no sense adding a lot of content if no one can find it! We hope to provide more up to date and specific information in the future that we can successfully manage content as we grow and change. The Fresno County Chapter became the first chapter to use CGJA's host for their website; [www.fresno.cgja.org](http://www.fresno.cgja.org), is still in the planning and development stages. We are making this available, upon request, to other chapters in good standing who would like to

Continued on page 3

*Continued from page 2*

have a website; we are willing to add one per month on a first come first serve basis so that we have time to train chapters on how to add content and manage their site. However, we can't manage content for chapters- the look and the message are the chapter's to maintain, and we ask that your site have a reference/ link to CGJA's website.

Sincerely,  
Ivor Thomas

## Finance Committee Report

*By Ivor Thomas*

Our 2007 final budget was adopted on March 2007. There were only minor changes from the draft budget, but we are glad we waited to March, as we were able to produce the budget from our newly upgraded and improved financial accounting system. We are very pleased that our membership and training application forms are now electronically linked to deposits so that we can effortlessly track each renewal or application form receipt through the deposit process long after the transaction has cleared. We really are doing our best to eliminate errors!

## Public Relations Committee Report

*By Jerry Lewi, Chair*  
cgjaprguy@roadrunner.com

We've had some additions and subtractions from our committee roster.

Bill Burnett has stepped down and Ivor Thomas is on leave of absence while he takes care of issues on his Financial Committee. Ivor will continue to support our new website



(see separate article). Betty Mattea is now a member by virtue of a Board decision to put the Osher Lifelong Institute Working Group (OLLIWOG) under the Public Relations Committee. We are looking for more members. If you have an interest please contact me.

Last month we sent a letter to all 58 grand juries seeking their advice on other features they would like to see in our Journal. The response has been disappointing. If you are a member of a grand jury that has not responded, please look for our letter and give us some feedback. If you did not receive the letter, please let us know and we will get it to you some other way even if by dog sled.

You can see by several articles in this issue, there are a number of PR-related activities going on particularly with several counties. These are all related to recruiting as it is that time of the year.

### Santa Barbara Grand Jury

The Santa Barbara Grand Jury has arranged for a two-hour adult education type course at the Santa Barbara City College Adult Education Center to support their recruiting effort. This is being organized by that jury's newly formed public relations committee under Cherif Kourhy. We were pleased to be invited to assist them and Jerry Lewi showed them the segment of the Osher Course given last November and San Jose State University that relates to orienting prospective grand jurors. The tentative course outline is as follows:

- History of the Grand Jury
- Application and selection process
- Training of the selected Jury
- Duties of the Grand Jury
- Investigation, inspection, in-

quiry of various facilities

- Evaluate and investigate civilian complaints
- End product, final report
- Responses by agencies to Findings and Recommendations
- Length of service
- Monetary compensation: per diem, mileage

The meetings were held April 9<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>. They were moderated by Lowell Dabbs a member of this year's Santa Barbara Grand Jury.

We hope to report on the results of this course in our next issue. We think of it as a mini-Osher type course.

### Ventura Grand Jury

The Ventura Grand Jury held a media day on March 1<sup>st</sup> as part of their kickoff of their recruiting effort. The local National Public Radio station news director, Lance Orozco, interviewed foreman Alyce Klussman and Jerry Lewi, as a member of the jury's support group, and broadcast a seven-minute story that in our humble opinion is one of the best media discussions of the role of the grand jury, including some of the problems we are all familiar with.

The report also discussed some effective grand jury results in support of what we have been advocating, namely: the grand jury systems can be improved by publicizing good grand jury results. The interview also emphasized the commitment prospective grand jurors must make in order to effectively serve. There were also several in-depth stories in the local print media, much more extensive than the usual press release from a county.

This was the first such event in this county and was followed up by an open house later in March that last year proved to be a successful way to recruit grand jurors.

*Committee Reports continued on page 8*

## CGJA Chapter News

### Fresno Chapter

by Joan Gray

#### METHAMPHETAMINE SUMMIT

The idea of having a methamphetamine summit was first conceived last year after Judge Nancy Cisneros spoke to the 2005-2006 Grand Jury about the large disconnect between the various community resources that deal with methamphetamine i.e. law enforcement, treatment providers, faith based organizations that assist with job development for recovering addicts and medical services. Judge Cisneros spoke to this year's Grand Jury and voiced the same concerns. The panel felt the most effective method was to go directly to the top people in the agencies and arrange a meeting between them. The panel became very excited about the proposal and decided they could raise the money for the project. After consultation with the County Council, the panel was informed that this activity was not within the boundaries of the sitting Grand Jury.

Current and past jurors had discussed forming a local chapter of CGJA on several occasions. It was decided to accelerate the process so the Fresno chapter could sponsor the summit. The GJ members were able to be involved under the auspices of the new chapter and did most of the work.

The summit was held February 27, 2007 at the Cornerstone Conference Center in Fresno.

Kyle Loreto, representing Mayor Alan Autry, gave the welcoming address.

Nancy Cisneros, Commissioner, Superior Court, was the moderator

and the driving force behind the Summit.

Panelists represented the following: Fresno County Sheriff, Fresno Police Department, Fresno County Probation Department, Fresno County Children and Family Services, Fresno County District Attorney, Fresno City College, Cornerstone Church, Chair, ADA Board, Fresno County Department of Behavioral Health, and a Drug Court Graduate.

The luncheon speaker was the 17-year-old daughter of a methamphetamine addict. She gave a very powerful picture of life growing up with a mother addicted to this destructive drug. Her mother, a graduate from the drug court program, also spoke. It was a moving presentation.

There was interaction between the panelists and the attendees. We wanted the participants to know each other, the procedures and programs available and to whom to turn to for information and/or assistance. The participants were very excited and grateful for our efforts and told us that if we hadn't done it, it would never have happened. We felt the summit was a definite success, and we are planning to have an expanded version in the fall of this year.

Sponsors for the event, in addition to the Fresno Chapter CGJA, were the Fresno County Office of Education, Burgess/Smith Development Group, Janzen IdeaCorp, State Center Community College District and a private citizen.

### San Luis Obispo Chapter

By Jim Ragan, President

March has been proclaimed Grand Jury Awareness Month by the county Board of Supervisors and the

city councils of Arroyo Grande, Atascadero, Grover Beach, Morro Bay, Paso Robles, Pismo Beach and San Luis Obispo.

The purpose of their proclamations is for all citizens to become better acquainted with the purposes of the grand jury, to give attention to the grand jury's public reports and to encourage public participation in the grand jury process.

Grand Jury Awareness Month coincides with the Superior Court seeking applicants to the 2007-08 grand jury, which will begin July 1 and run through June 30 next year.

Read what a few former grand jurors say about their experiences

•••

"What was truly great was to work with a diverse group of people who came from very different backgrounds and most relatively new to the county, but all dedicated to doing something that would better their chosen community. We came with open minds, and we learned how to fight for our position, giving when needed and never making it personal."

Don Blythe, Templeton  
2001-02

•••

"Being a grand juror gave me the opportunity to work hard, learn new skills and have fun on a diverse team.

I learned a great deal about how governments work and was impressed with the quality and dedication of the government employees we met. It was also very rewarding when some of the agencies implemented a number of our recommendations."

Hedy Damery, Los Osos  
2004-05, 2005-06

•••

"I found that the public officials, department and staff respected the

power of the grand jury and believed in its purpose and function. My grand jury service greatly expanded my depth of knowledge of local government. It also gave me a better appreciation for the dedication and good work done by the great majority of those who work in local government."

Robert Mires, Grover Beach  
1997-98

•••

The county grand jury is the citizen watchdog of local government. It examines and makes recommendations on the operations and management of county government and its officers. It inspects the condition and management of prisons within the county, which includes the state prisons. It may examine and make recommendations on the operations and management of other government institutions such as cities, police departments, fire departments, special districts, special taxing authorities, joint powers authorities and school districts.

A grand juror's volunteer personal commitment for a year is big (think an average of 20 hours per week). The personal rewards for grand jury service are much bigger, as the testimonials above demonstrate.

## Kern County Chapter

By Trudy Slater

### Essay Contest Helps Kern County Celebrate Grand Jury Awareness Week

On February 20, 2007, the Kern County Board of Supervisors proclaimed the week of February 20<sup>th</sup> to be Kern County Grand Jury Awareness Week. Current Kern County Grand Jurors attended televised meeting to receive the proclamation. This was one of several events scheduled to educate the public

regarding the Grand Jury and to focus interest in recruitment efforts for the upcoming year.

Although the Kern County Grand Jury had already made approximately 35 presentations before community groups, Grand Jury Awareness Week helps focus its efforts before the public at large.

In a press conference held on February 22, citizens, County and City public officials, and media representatives gathered on the steps near the Kern County Liberty Bell to pay tribute to the Grand Jury system and to recognize local students for award winning essays on Grand Jury activities. Current Grand Jury Foreperson John Mainland hosted the event. Presiding Kern County Superior Court Judge Jerold Turner provided opening statements.

Public and private Kern County high schools and middle schools had been asked to participate in the essay contest which had several topics from which the students could choose to write. These included:

1. How does a citizen become a member of the Kern County Grand Jury?
2. What is the difference between a criminal grand jury and a civil grand jury? Petit jury?
3. What is the role of the Foreperson of the Grand Jury?
4. What areas of government can be investigated by the civil grand jury?
5. Write a valid letter of complaint to submit to the Grand Jury. (Forms available on-line.)
6. What are the functions of the Grand Jury?
7. What are the responsibilities and powers of the Grand Jurors?

At the media-covered public ceremony, awards were given to first and second place winners in both

the high school and middle school categories. Redwood High School students Travis Smoot and Jorge Villarreal won first and second place for high school submissions. St. John's student Caitlyn Krug and Curran Jr. High student Jacquelyn Wattenbarger won first and second place for middle school submissions. First place winners received checks in the amount of \$100. Second place winners received checks in the amount of \$75.

Doris Duquette, Grand Jury member and Chairperson of the Essay Contest, was encouraged with the essay submissions. "The students gained insight into what the Grand Jury is and what it does and how you can become a member. These students can serve as information conduits as they let family, friends, and others know what they have learned through this process."

In addition to recognizing the essay award winners, local media were presented with certificates of appreciation for assistance during the year. These were received by television, radio, and printed media representatives.

At the ceremony, an honor guard from Redwood High School presented the flag, and the Star Spangled Banner was sung by the Golden Empire Barbershop Quartet. The *Bakersfield Californian*, the largest Kern County newspaper, had just that morning printed a letter from Diana Aronson, former Kern County Grand Juror, and Publicity Chairperson of the Kern County Grand Jurors' Assoc. on Grand Jury service to the community. As Foreperson John Mainland stated, "The timing couldn't have been better!"

Plans continue for annual Grand Jury Awareness Weeks. Foreperson Mainland is hoping interest can be generated in having all California

## San Francisco Chapter

By Bill Bowen, Chapter Secretary

At least in San Francisco, results of Civil Grand Jury reports do not usually come right away with a direct link. Rather, they become part of the civic dialogue about issues confronting the City – often as a “first voice”, sometimes as a reinforcing, respected point of view. A few examples demonstrate the point:

- In 2003, the CGJ issued a report criticizing the lack of coordination of disaster preparedness in a post-9/11 earthquake center. In 2004, the new mayor made this a priority convening the disaster Council for the first time in several years and working on several of the report's recommendations. Since then there have been changes in management of the Emergency Services Department and a subsequent CGJ report challenging the absence of comprehensive planning for private as well as public hospitals in the event of an emergency.
- In 2003, the CGJ issued a report criticizing the Department of Building Inspection for favoritism. Since then, the department manager has been replaced, an FBI investigation has been conducted, and a trial of one manager has begun.
- In 2005, the CGJ issued a report criticizing funding levels for the Ethics Commission which allowed only one investigator. The subsequent budget increased funding to allow for three investigators and current budget discussions may increase funding further.

Each of these subjects is a “work in progress”. The President of the

Board of Supervisors has created a committee to hear CGJ reports and departmental responses, the Mayor frequently refers to CGJ reports in making changes, and the Controller has initiated an expanded follow-up system. Ultimate success requires relevant and objective reports and a process by which the local chapter helps encourage the new CGJ to follow up on the most significant past recommendations. It also requires patience.

## News from Other States

*Ed note: Although having no impact on the effectiveness of California Grand Juries, we find it interesting that there are other states that either have or might consider similar practices. Here are three stories along those lines.*

### Former Professor Suggests Arizona Form California-type Grand Juries

In a guest opinion article in the *Arizona Star* on February 26, 2007, James W. Johnson, a retired University of Arizona journalism professor and an on-call copy editor at the *Star* suggested that Arizona consider establishing Grand Juries modeled after California's. He restated many of the features of our system as a basis for establishing greater confidence in government. He quoted Joseph Nye, a former dean of Harvard's Kennedy School of Government, as saying: "If people believe that government is incompetent and cannot be trusted, they are less likely to provide (critical) resources. Without (these) resources, government can't perform well."

The full story may be found at: <http://www.azstarnet.com/sn/relatedstories/170669.php>

## Georgia Grand Jury Seeks Our Help

President Judi Lazenby received an email from Grand Juror Guy Howard of Gwinnett County, Georgia. The thrust of his message was to seek our help to form a former Grand Jurors' Association modeled after CJGA. In further exchanges with Mr. Howard, we were surprised to learn the grand juries in Georgia are more like California than we imagined. Here are some quotes from Howard's response to our questions.

*Our process in Georgia is a bit different from California. Here, both Petit Jurors and Grand Jurors are randomly selected and summoned for duty. For Grand Jurors specifically, this is done by County or Judicial Circuits. Each county or circuit establishes their length of term. In Gwinnett County, the length is six months, meeting one day, every two weeks. We empanel two separate Grand Juries consisting of 23 jurors each. Each Grand Jury operates independently of the other, meeting on alternate weeks, and each has both Criminal and Civil duties and responsibilities. When civil duties/investigations are being conducted, meetings are generally scheduled on days other than our regular meeting dates. Regular meeting dates are used primarily to handle Criminal Indictments, though we will also handle minor civil matters on these dates as time permits.*

*Grand Juries in Georgia have some Civil Duties mandated in law such as regular inspections of local jails and making appointments to some county boards. Grand Juries are free to initiate Civil Inquiries/Investigations at their discretion of any governmental office, agency, or official within their jurisdiction below the state level. These investigations may originate as a result of a*

Continued from page 6

complaint filed by a citizen, a news report, or from the personal knowledge of a Grand Juror. At least eight members of the Grand Jury must vote to initiate an investigation in order for it to be undertaken. Usually, committees are appointed by the Foreman to actually conduct the investigation and report back to the full Grand Jury for action. In most cases, the Grand Jury will present its findings in a General Presentment. General Presentments cannot mandate changes or make personal accusations, only recommendations that bring the force of public opinion to bear on the respective governmental agency or official involved. When a personal accusation is called for, it must be returned in the form of an Indictment as opposed to in a General Presentment.

We plan to stay in touch with Howard as he moves forward to form an association like ours.

## Nevada Grand Juries

We have all heard that California and Nevada are the only states with grand juries that conduct civil oversight into their local government. (We now know that is not completely true – see article on Georgia Grand Jury) President Judi Lazenby decided to look into the Nevada situation to see how their grand juries compare to California's. She looked at a report published in 2001 by the Douglas County, NV, Grand Jury. Their purpose can best be described by the judge's charge as follows:

*The 2000-2001 Grand Jury was impaneled because it appeared to the District Court that a substantial period of time had passed since a grand jury reviewed the operation of Douglas County government. The District Court further recognized the recommendation of the 1994 Grand*

*Jury that a jury be impaneled periodically. On May 3, 2000, the Ninth Judicial District Court ordered that a grand jury be impaneled for the statutory purposes including, but not limited to:*

*To inquire into the condition and management of the various departments and districts of county government.*

*To inquire into the case of any person imprisoned in the Douglas County Jail on a criminal charge, against whom no information or complaint has been filed, and no indictment found, and*

*To inquire into to all public offenses triable in the Ninth Judicial District Court.*

The 127-page report discussed all complaints, most of which carried no recommendations, but also described a number of investigations with numerous recommendations that certainly read like a typical California Grand Jury report. We do not know if there is a statutory requirement for agencies to respond, but the tenor of the reports suggests they did get considerable concurrence and support from those agencies.

So we conclude that Nevada Grand Juries do pretty much what we do in California. The principal difference is that they are only empanelled when a judge decides to form one. They may only be formed in areas of greater than 100,000 population and in those areas, a minimum of three times per decade.

This report can be found by logging onto: <http://cltr.co.douglas.nv.us/grandjury/report%202001%20final.doc>



Mark your Calendars!  
CGJA Conference 2007  
San Francisco, CA  
October 24—25, 2007

## Grand Juries in the News

### Secrecy of Grand Jury Committee Members Upheld by Court

You may recall that at the Annual Conference in Redding last October, we discussed the wether or not the committee rosters of grand juries could remain secret. The question was raised by Ray March, Editor of the *Modoc Independent News*. We offered an unofficial opinion that committee membership could be held confidential but could also be disclosed at the grand jury's discretion.

That opinion has been supported by a Superior Court Judge in Modoc County. Quoting the above Newspaper, "Judge Francis Barclay has upheld the opinion of grand jury foreman Greg Smith that names of grand jurors serving on subcommittees cannot be made public although there is no specific state law supporting such secrecy." We have been advised this is not an official court finding, merely the judge's opinion

The California Newspapers Publishers Association has disagreed with this opinion.

The time is upon us to  
renew our annual CJGA membership.

Inside this journal, you will find an application  
and a volunteer preference form.

Renew your membership and think about  
volunteering in CGJA, there are all kinds of  
positions that you will find an rewarding  
experience and CGJA will welcome your  
expertise.

Please fill it out and send your check in  
today.

Pass the application around to friends who  
currently do not receive the  
*Journal*,  
Thank you

## Operations Committee ("Ops")

By *Serena Bardell, Chair*

"Ops" is humming along collegially, with its work divided among the necessary "housekeeping" chores required by CGJA's new administration--budget, clarifying its Policies and Procedures; various topics pertinent to the smooth functioning of CGJA; and its several vital subcommittees--Annual Conference (AC) (please see separate report), Excellence in Reporting (EIR), Grand Jury Reports Indexing Project (GRIP)/Research & Analysis, P&P (formed to update the format/numbering of P&Ps), and Publications, which includes the Cookbook.

Recent work includes completion of a formal process for members to address Board of Directors teleconferences and consideration of creating an electronic edition of the Grand Jurors' Manual.

Exciting news comes from the Cookbook subcommittee: *What's Cookin' with California's Grand Juries?* is nearing publication. Also heartening is the report from Research & Analysis that this year may see 56 and possibly even all 58 counties finally complying with the requirement they send their final reports to the state Archives.

Ops meets in teleconference the second Monday of each month at 8 pm; members interested in joining the committee should contact Serena Bardell at [sbardell@aol.com](mailto:sbardell@aol.com) or 415-931-7249

*Kern County continued from page 5*

counties participate in a statewide coordinated Grand Jury Awareness Day.

After the ceremonies were completed, participants were able to partake of refreshments generously donated by Smith Bakeries.

## Excellence in Reporting Award Application

California Grand Jurors' Association  
Excellence in Reporting Award  
Success Story Recognition  
2007  
Nomination Form

Submitted for: \_\_\_\_\_ Grand Jury EIR \_\_\_\_\_ News Media EIR

Name of nominee: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of nominator: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

### For grand jury award, attach to this form four copies of:

- A nomination letter introducing the investigative report.
- The investigative report.
- Documentation indicating public and media support gained.
- Documentation verifying success of the investigation.

### For news media award, attach to this form four copies of:

- A nomination letter explaining news media actions.
- Published reports supporting the nomination.

**Submit application no later than July 15, 2006 to Earl Heal, 512  
Spring Lane, Vacaville, CA 95688  
(phone 707-446-1353)**

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MAY 11—12

As most of you are aware, the CGJA Board of Directors normally conducts meetings by teleconference. The Board has been desirous of holding more face-to-face meetings, firmly believing such meetings will greatly improve the working relationships within the Board. We have agreed to hold such a meeting on May 11-12 at the Holiday Inn, NE in Sacramento.

To make the meeting more appealing we have arranged for Rich McKee, Immediate Past President of *Californians Aware* to address us in at a dinner meeting, Friday evening May 11. We expect McKee to tell us about his organization and how its mission coincides with ours and perhaps to suggest to us ways we can make our organization more effective in fulfilling our mission. *Californians Aware's* statement of purpose is: "Supporting and Defending Open Government, and Inquiring Press, and a Citizenry Free to Express Facts and Opinions."

Because we think this talk will be of great interest, we invite any member of CGJA to attend the dinner meeting for the price of the dinner, not yet set. If you are interested please contact Judi Lazenby or Jerry Lewi and we will provide you details.



## Summary of Board Actions

By Joann Landi

Your Annual Conference Committee (ACC) has been meeting every two weeks. Crowded agendas include everything from catering details and matters “goodies” for attendees to such meaty as theme, speakers, panels, and—

most important—member participation.

The theme of the conference will be **A DYNAMIC PARTNERSHIP WITH THE COMMUNITY—CGJA PROMOTES PROTECTS AND PRESERVES THE CALIFORNIA GRAND JURY SYSTEM.**

To invite both greater input and participation from sitting jurors and those who have recently completed their terms, the ACC is sending out feelers to current forepersons about the possibility of addressing their juries—briefly, of course—on the forthcoming conference. Because there are representatives of six SF Bay Area counties currently serving on the committee, there is the potential for reaching several juries both at the end of the current term and at the beginning of the next term. We encourage any CGJA members who would like to contact their own counties’ juries to inform them about the forthcoming conference and solicit jurors’ input to the agenda to contact the committee through its chair, Serena Bardell, at [sbardell@aol.com](mailto:sbardell@aol.com) or 415-931-7249. Those who prefer the old-fashioned way, please address any mail to 1922 Filbert, San Francisco CA 94123-3504. As plans firm up, the committee hopes to publish a brochure including all pertinent/available information on both the conference and exhibitions/performances occurring in the city. If you would like to sign up for online updates about the conference, you can go to: [http://cgja.org/mailman/listinfo/conference\\_cgja.org](http://cgja.org/mailman/listinfo/conference_cgja.org)

As for attractions for those coming early or staying on or for any family or friends accompanying conferees, here are the first of many scheduled events to mark on your calendars. Remember to keep checking web site for latest details.

**de Young Museum:** *Nan Kempner: American Chic*, originated at New York’s Metropolitan Museum of Art. (The one-year-old building housing this venerable Golden Gate Park branch of SF’s Fine Arts Museums is architecturally both fascinating and controversial.) Website: [www.thinker.org](http://www.thinker.org)

**SF Symphony** 10/21, 2 PM: Kurt Masur conducting Liszt’s Totentanz, Beethoven’s Choral Fantasy, and Prokofiev’s Alexander Nevsky, with mezzo Nancy Maultsby, pianist Louis Lortie, and the SF Symphony Chorus

10/26 & 10/27, 8 PM: Philippe Jordan conducting Beethoven’s Egmont Overture and Piano Concerto #3 and R. Strauss’s An Alpine Symphony, with pianist Pierre-Laurent Aimard

Single tickets available online commencing noon, August 24, and by phone (415.864.6000) from August 27, 10 AM-6 PM, M-F, noon-6 Sat. Website: [www.sfsymphony.org](http://www.sfsymphony.org)

**SF Opera** 10/21, 2 PM; 10/23, 8 PM; 10/25, 7:30 PM; 10/27 (“family performance”), 1 PM; 10/28, 2 PM: Mozart’s The Magic Flute

Website: [www.sfopera.org](http://www.sfopera.org)

**See you in October, Serena Bardell, ACC Chair**

### 1/22/07 Regular Meeting

- (1) Ratified appointment of Tim Colbie as Chair of Membership Relations Committee.
- (2) Approved application for Fresno County Chapter.
- (3) Approved convening monthly Board meetings through July 1 or upon completion of major projects.
- (4) Approved Public Relations Committee Goals for 2007.
- (5) Approved policy for Ad Hoc Committee Grant Writing.
- (6) Approved working budget for January-March, 2007.
- (7) Established reserve account for Training Committee Operating Expenses.
- (8) Approved Ad Hoc Bylaw Review Committee request to develop neutral set of bylaws—conditioned upon fix for Article 3.
- (9) Approved May face-to-face Board meeting contingent upon 2/3’s attendance commitment.

### 2/26/07 Regular Meeting

- (1) Accepted application of San Benito Group to affiliate as a Chapter of CGJA.
- (2) Ratified appointment of Director Bardell as Chair of Annual Conference and members of that
- (3) Committee. Authorized increase for production and publication of Cookbook.
- (4) Ratified declaration of Director vacancy in North Region.
- (5) Approved lifting dual membership requirement relative to member voting rights.

### 3/26/07 Regular Meeting

- (1) Accepted application of Humboldt County Group to affiliate as a Chapter of CGJA.
- (2) Approved Training Committee Policies.
- (3) Accepted resignation of Betty Matte
- (4) Ratified appointment of Joann Landi to fill Central Region Nominations Committee vacancy.
- (5) Approved 2007 budget.
- (6) Ratified appointment of Walter Hofmann to fill Treasurer vacancy.

Agenda and Minutes of Board of Directors Meetings Now Online at [www.cgja.org](http://www.cgja.org)

**Training Committee** *By Lew Avera Committee Chair*

The last issue of the Journal discussed a reorganization of the Training Committee formalizing six subcommittees, and briefly, plans for the 2007 training season. Once this organization was confirmed, the committee developed and approved the following goals for the Training Committee and subcommittees:

**2007 TRAINING COMMITTEE GOALS**

- 1. Provide useful training for county grand juries in a timely, cost-effective manner.**
- 2. Update the seminar-training manual and the training curriculum.**
- 3. Improve and professionalize presentations, training, and trainer capabilities.**
- 4. Improve and enhance operations and activities, which directly support the success of the Training Committee and its training programs.**

Dates have been determined for public training sessions and are posted on the CGJA website. At the same time, we are entertaining requests from several counties for on-site training so that the summer months look very busy.

In order to meet these training needs we are planning the addition of seven new training instructors who will begin work and phase into their assignments this summer. For the first time, and to enhance our training programs even further, we are planning an instructor workshop in mid May. This will bring together all instructors for a one-day skills training and sharing session.

We all look forward to a productive and rewarding summer.

**Grand Jury Achievement Group Seeks Help**

*By Jerry Lewi, Chair, Grand Jury Achievement Working Group*

The last Grand Jurors' Journal carried an article about the suggested cycle of the grand jury process. It emphasized that to further promote the system, effective grand jury reports must be publicized. The Grand Jury Achievement Working Group has defined a process for accumulating this information. This form can be downloaded from our website. We seek the help of chapters, independent former grand juror associations, and any former grand juror or for that matter any current grand jury to provide us with good examples of effective grand jury work, which is briefly defined as a grand jury report that resulted in verifiable improvement in a local government operation.

To minimize confusion with our Excellence in Reporting Program, any report that would qualify for the prestigious award would meet the criteria of the Working Group, but there will be many others that fit that do not meet the more rigorous requirements of the EIR award.

Please refer to the San Francisco chapter article as an example of what we are looking for.

Other members of the group are Linda Baker (Contra Costa), Earl Heal (Solano), Mary Johnston (Kings), and Judi Lazenby (Santa Cruz). Please contact me or any member of the group if you have any questions or suggestions.

**Registration for the 2007 Training Seminars**

*By Sherry Chesney*

The contact person for registration is Sherry Chesney.  
 Email: [sherry.c@cebridge.net](mailto:sherry.c@cebridge.net)  
 Ph: 530-878-8248; Fax 530-637-1041  
 or mail: P.O. Box 431, Meadow Vista, CA 95722

CGJA's Training Committee has scheduled five regional 2-day training seminars and two foreperson's workshops to be held within a nineteen day period beginning July 16 and ending August 3. Since new jurors are impaneled on July 1 this leaves a very short window of time for registration. To help offset this

- Registration packets will be mailed to each county earlier, by the end of May
- On-line registration will be available for individual jurors as well as counties who want to register a number of jurors.
- Please encourage all your jurors to register as soon as possible.
- Counties may make reservations for their jurors in advance by calling Sherry at 530-878-8248.
- With our new accounting system, jurors who enclose payment (check, Visa or MasterCard) will receive a receipt automatically when their registration is processed.

If you need more information about registration or have questions, please contact Sherry Chesney.

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# Grand Jurors' Journal

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**Celebrating**

**25  
Years**

**The Mission  
of the  
California  
Grand Jurors'  
Association  
is**

**To 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  
these grand juries have**

**Format for submitting  
letters and articles to the  
Grand Jurors' Journal**

**Articles should be e-mailed to  
Jerry Lewi, Editor  
prguy@roadrunner.com**

Articles submitted by e-mail should be saved in Rich Text Format and transmitted as an attachment to the e-mail message.

If e-mail is not available, articles should be faxed to Jerry at 805-241-7912

Letters to the editor are limited to 200 words. (One hundred words for "Kudos" thank-you letters).

The Journal will highlight opinion articles written by readers, experts, and issues advocates. They may be 500 to 600 words in length.

We are especially interested in articles on Grand Jury issues or solutions to improving public education of the grand jury system in California.

## **Grand Jurors' Journal**

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