

## Editor's Message

Important Dates

### August 31

Renew Membership  
(Otherwise you will  
be dropped & this is  
the last Journal you  
will receive)

### September 21

Mail Ballot  
(Ballots must be  
postmarked on or  
before Friday, Sep-  
tember 21, 2007)

### October 3

Register for  
Conference  
and  
make Hotel  
Reservation

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# Grand Jurors' Journal

Vol. 8 No. 4 CGJA Journal August 2007 Page 1

## President's Message

Judi Lazenby

Dear Colleagues,



Congratulations to all new and returning Grand Jurors throughout the state, and welcome to grand jury service which is an extraordinary and rewarding experience in citizen democracy.

We have had the pleasure of meeting many of you at our regional training seminars. Our training staff advises me they have been impressed with the seriousness and attentiveness this new group of grand jurors has demonstrated.

Part of our mission is to serve as a resource for grand juries, and we renew our offer to provide any assistance we can. You can access this help through our website or by direct contact. Please be aware we cannot and will not offer legal advice, but we do offer well reasoned opinions based on the collective wisdom of our entire membership over years of service in grand juries in almost every county.

Thank you for having accepted this important challenge.

I also want to take this opportunity, on behalf of CGJA, to welcome our Madera Chapter who will have been formally recognized as an affiliate by the time you receive this.

Further, I ask you all to join me in welcoming all our new members, and thanking our members who have made a commitment to serve on the CGJA Board of Directors and are standing for election.

## CGJA ANNUAL CONFERENCE

By Serena Bardell Conference Chair

Important: Please note registration deadlines for hotel reservations and conference registration elsewhere in this issue and on our website.

There will several preconference events the morning of Wednesday, October 24 including a welcome/preview.

The conference will officially begin at 1 PM, break at 5 PM, meet for no-host beverages at 6 followed by dinner at about 7:15.

*Continued page 2*

## 2007 Nominating Committee

By Cathy Wylie, Nominations Committee Chair

As you are undoubtedly aware, nominations for directors of CGJA were closed on July 31, 2007. The ballot process to elect four CGJA directors from the Northern, Central and Southern regions of the state, also includes two ballot measures this year. Ballots have been mailed to all CGJA members in good standing. The ballot packet also includes biographical information on candidates.

The Nominations committee would like to thank the many dedicated members of the CGJA and encourages all members to carefully consider the nominations and ballot measures contained on the 2007 Ballot. Please note that voted ballots must be postmarked on or before Friday, September 21, 2007.



## CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS

### THE PROGRAM WILL FEATURE

- The Honorable David Ballati, Presiding Judge of the San Francisco Superior Court, formerly a grand juror himself
- Aaron Peskin, President, SF Board of Supervisors, who established a committee that hears all grand jury reports
- A media panel for an exchange of ideas between CGJA members and representatives of various media who regularly cover grand juries on how to publicize the work of grand juries
- The popular open forum for expression of ideas and questions from all attendees
- Presentation of the Awards for Excellence in Reporting and the Angelo Rolando Outstanding Achievement Award
- Sessions for chapters and independent local grand jury associations to meet and share ideas, practices, and achievements
- Brief presentations on especially effective results of past grand jury recommendations  
(See bottom of page 9 for details)

Conference continued from page 1

Although the conference program commences at 1 PM, Wednesday, October 24, there will be lots going on that morning, including a welcome/preview get-together. Forums, speakers, and a panel comprising members of various media will take up the afternoon, till we break around 5, meet for no-host cocktails around 6, and sit down to eat dinner and enjoy a presentation about 7:15.

Thursday's session, from 9 AM till 5 PM, will feature talks by former grand juror and now Presiding Judge SF Superior Court David Ballati and SF Board of Supervisors President Aaron Peskin, both good friends of the grand jury. Forums, awards ceremonies, and various other interesting activities still being formulated will take place throughout the busy day.

The committee is planning no-host dinners both Tuesday and Thursday evenings for those remaining for the Directors' Retreat on Friday or simply to revel in San Francisco's many delights while taking advantage of the great rates the Whitcomb is making available for three days before and three days after the conference itself.

**Our website is a great informational resource for grand juries to use. Our "links" and "local Grand Jury information" pages will take you to websites that can assist in research and information. Visit us at [www.cgja.org](http://www.cgja.org)**

## Letter from the Editor

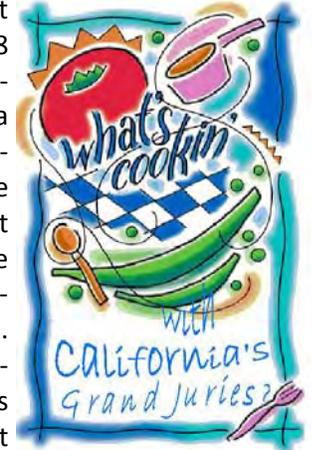
### Grand Jurors' Cookbook

This is an open thank you letter to members of the Cookbook Committee; Linda Baker, Rose Moreno, Mickey Strang and Dan Taranto for their wonderful effort and product. Frankly I was one of those skeptical about this project but happily erase that skepticism upon seeing the final result.

I am most impressed with the fact that you obtained inputs from all 58 counties as well as chapters and independent associations. From a selfish point of view as one interested in documenting effective grand jury work, I now have about 70 examples to draw from. The book is also a good source of general information about grand juries. If you have a friend who needs information about grand juries this would make a nice gift with the not inconsequential benefit of some very delicious sounding recipes from soup to nuts and then some. Please see our website for instruction how to purchase this item.

Thanks again to all of you for this fine effort.

Jerry Lewi



### From The Vice President / Chair of Finance

By Ivor Thomas

We sure are having a bust time this summer! While we have not reached our goals with membership renewals, we have quite a few new members and are more than 57 percent ahead of the same time last year. In training, the attendance numbers appear that this will be our most successful year ever!

We have received a letter from the IRS that affects all of our chapters and will affect independent associations who have tax exempt status. Beginning this year, organizations previously exempt from filing Form 990 or 990EZ due to earnings less than \$25,000 annually appear to be required to file a new electronic postcard called the Form 990N in the spring of the following year. CGJA can't give tax advice, this is just a heads up-- certain organizations file taxes for their chapters under their group number, but CGJA does not file for its chapters due to the nature of those relationships. We have posted the IRS letter and some general information on our website at [www.cgja.org/irs/--](http://www.cgja.org/irs/--) we hope to have resources there for you all to refer to, but we must make it clear that we cannot tell you how, when, or what to file.



**You are cordially invited to the 26th Annual CGJA Conference  
in the beautiful "City by the Bay" Don't delay—Reserve today!**

Though we're very pleased with the speakers we are lining up to educate and inform attendees, we will showcase **current and former grand jurors** at this Annual Conference even more than previous ones.

There will be another edition of this publication before the conference, but by the time you receive the October Journal, it will be past the **October 3 reservation and registration deadline**. The great **\$99 rate** at the Whitcomb will no longer be available. (Remember: You may cancel up to 24 hours ahead.)

To download a registration form and keep abreast of the schedule of events and speakers, please check **conference.cgja.org**. I'll post on the web site and email updates as they are finalized.

Please remember that this is the one occasion each year where you, the members, can **exchange ideas** with your colleagues, **make suggestions** and **pose questions** to the officers and directors, and **rekindle your enthusiasm** for the ultimate democratic institution, the regular ("civil") grand jury.

Take advantage of the opportunity to **share your knowledge and experience** with new members, both in casual conversation and formal panel discussions.

My fellow members of the AC Com and I have been reaching out to seated jurors as well as CGJA members: We sent **flyers** to each '06-'07 juror and are providing flyers and **announcements** at each CGJA Training session.

To add some fun while raising some money for CGJA, the conference will feature a **Silent Auction**. Please

consider donating an item (gift, service, meal, wine).

As a lifelong dining enthusiast, I hope to arrange a **no-host dinner**, perhaps Hong Kong-style Chinese, with an emphasis on (cooked) live seafood, on the Tuesday evening before the conference begins. Those who'd enjoy that or who would like to request a different culinary choice, please contact me.

It seems far off as I write these words in late July, but for planning purposes, the sooner we hear from fellow members, the more successful a conference we can promise. So, how about an email or phone call?

For advice on dining, I recommend chowhound.com; for what's going on entertainment- and culture-wise, check out sfgate.com. Many desirable restaurants and events book up long in advance. Please contact me if I may help make the visit to the Annual Conference and San Francisco more enjoyable.

Tourist info: <http://www.onlyinsanfrancisco.com>

More events: Beach Blanket Babylon is an extremely long-running, ever-changing, highly successful musical comedy/satire playing in North Beach:

[www.beachblanketbabylon.com/](http://www.beachblanketbabylon.com/)

All of these are located within 6 blocks or less of the hotel.

**San Francisco Museum of Modern Art**

151 Third Street (between Mission and Howard Streets)

Telephone: 415.357.4000

**M,T, F-Sun: 11 am-5:45 pm; Th:- 8:45 pm. Closed Wed.**

**October:** Widely heralded as one of the most important artists of his generation, Olafur Eliasson nimbly merges art, science, and natural phenomena to create extraordinary multisensory experiences. Wonderful building; good permanent collection.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Academy of Sciences** (Aquarium and more), temporarily located 875 Howard Street between 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> while a grand new edifice is being constructed in Golden Gate Park. Open 10-5 daily. [www.calacademy.org](http://www.calacademy.org)

\*\*\*\*\*

The **Asian Art Museum** of San Francisco (200 Larkin Street) is one of the largest museums in the western world devoted exclusively to Asian art. T-Sun.10-5, till 9 Th Hiroshi Sugimoto: History of History; Stylized Sculpture: Contemporary Japanese Fashions from the Kyoto Institute.

Also, please check out: Yerba Buena Center for the Arts: [ybca.org/calendar/index.aspx](http://ybca.org/calendar/index.aspx) and **Museum of the African Diaspora**: [moad.org](http://moad.org)

EXPERIENCE A PART OF SAN FRANCISCO HISTORY



The Hotel Whitcomb echoes the graciousness of turn-of-the-century San Francisco with Austrian crystal chandeliers, beautiful marble, Tiffany Stained Glass, and rare Janesero paneling adorning the elegant lobby.

Continued on page 7

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

### Public Relations Committee Report

By Jerry Lewi, Chair

cgjaprguy@roadrunner.com

The committee has recruited one more new member, Trudy Slater, from Kern County. You can see an example of her contribution elsewhere in this issue.



The committee has changed its meeting date to be coincident with Journal deadline dates so that the committee can be more effective as an advisor to the Journal Editor. As Editor, I do appreciate these recommendations.

Through the generous offer of members from our Marin Chapter, we will be video taping portions of the Annual Conference. Hopefully this will provide some initial footage for the long-desired CGJA Video describing grand juries to the public.

This committee has now assumed responsibility for the Grand Jury Achievement project. Please see a separate story how this will be covered at the Annual Conference.

*(Please see bottom of page 9 for details)*

We are pleased to report at least one success story from our Osher Institute presentation last fall at San Jose State. One member of that class was just sworn in to the Alameda County Grand Jury.

This should encourage us to further our efforts to develop

more Osher courses, and we are doing just that.

### Operations Committee Report

By Serena Bardell, Chair

Any member of CGJA is welcome to volunteer for Ops. Its purview includes many aspects of CGJA's functions as well as subcommittees for the Annual Conference, Excellence in Reporting, GRIP, and Publications.

At the April meeting, some of the longer-serving members commented from their historic perspective as follows: Directors need considerably more orientation on their duties than they receive; Articles of Incorporation need careful re-examination; Mission Statement needs re-evaluation; often Agenda Transmittals (which is the method individual directors use to make formal proposals to the full Board of Directors) fail to comply with CGJA's own rules.

Orley Ryals drew an analogy between the agreed-upon need for better orientation for directors and how much better the trained jury, on which he is currently serving, functions than the previous, untrained one. He suggested longer-serving members orient newer ones. Serena opined that all directors, not just newly elected ones, would greatly benefit from training in "boardsmanship" and readily agreed that the "Directors' Handbook," which she helped produce a couple of years ago, though useful, could not replace "hands-on" training.



Everyone agreed that directors in particular should be familiar with governing rules. Ops will formulate proposals to achieve the above goals (indeed, a committee to propose a Retreat agenda is about to start meeting).

Judi said any modifications to Policies must be in exact wording adopted and include legislative intent.

In May, CGJA VP Ivor Thomas visited Ops to report on two major obstacles to librarians', archivists', and historians' using electronic means as a primary source of records retention: The first is degradation in magnetic media storage. All forms of electronic media--CD's, DVD's, hard disks, diskettes, etc.--rely on magnetism. These media have a lifespan of 10-15 years before the magnetic field loses its charge. Documents stored must be rotated from medium to medium to preserve the contents' integrity. The second is the likelihood that manufacturers of record-keeping software will have ceased to exist or support their products in a decade or two. An international group of scientists developed a non-proprietary standard for documents to be supported indefinitely. Ivor said the California Assembly is addressing this issue (AB No. 1668). As he further explained, where large arrays of disks are connected to the internet on "storage attached networks," the system compensates failing disks by moving the data to another disk and notifies the administrator to replace the original disk.

The Operations Committee continues refining committee

*Continued on page 11*

## CHAPTERS OF THE CALIFORNIA GRAND JURORS' ASSOCIATION

By Editor, Jerry Lewi

### San Luis Obispo Chapter

*This month's featured chapter is San Luis Obispo. We apologize for leaving them off the chapter listing in the last Journal – a makeup error that makes us pay more attention to these details as we gain experience.*

The San Luis Obispo Chapter is one of our newest and is also a case where an independent association of former grand jurors decided to apply for chapter status.

Here are the questions posed to Jim Ragan, Chapter President and his replies.

*Q. How did your association come into existence, and in particular what made you decide to apply for chapter status?*

A. Six to eight former grand jurors got together in 1986 to form a group—undoubtedly to continue friendships developed. Chapter status with CGJA became a possibility in 2003 when our then president, Don Blythe, pushed the exploration. There are three main reasons we decided to apply for CGJA status. First, we want to support the CGJA legislative effort to protect/support California's unique grand jury system. Second, we also want to support CGJA's training of grand jurors and forepersons. Over the past few years, our county grand jurors received other training. Starting this year, we have been successful in returning the training to the CGJA. Third, we want to exchange information among chapters. We became a chapter in 2004.

*Q. What is your current membership?*

A. 35 to 40. Some years, very few former grand jurors join. Other years, several do. I don't know what will happen this year, since our new grand jury has nine holdovers. Is this a record? Is this good or bad?

*Q. Your chapter has led the way in developing a course presented to the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI). Tell us how that came about and your experience with it.*

A. I'm the culprit. OLLI came to Cal Poly San Luis Obispo in the spring of 2003, just as I was completing my term on the 2002-03 Grand Jury. A fellow grand juror was involved in Cal Poly's initial planning for OLLI. He said that Cal Poly needed additional people from the community to help in the planning. I joined five other members of that grand jury in signing up. Together, we (and a few non-grand jury people) shaped Cal Poly's program into a peer-led model: member - rather than university-creation of courses. OLLI members then elected a Board of Members with me as president. One of the first OLLI courses we offered was a six-hour session (over three days) on the grand jury, timed to encourage more applications to grand jury service. I admit to a conflict of interest here. Members of our chapter developed and conducted the courses (now in our fourth year). Prominent course speakers have included the county executive, supervisors, and sheriff. Several "graduates" have gone on to (presumably successful) grand

jury service. We will continue this course annually.

*Q. What are some other projects, both current and future?*

A. We now focus our efforts in three areas. First, to maintain our base membership, we meet monthly for lunch to hear from and talk with a person prominent in the community about public issues. We have been very successful in booking some of the most important public officials in our county.

Second, we annually promote/solicit (with the superior court) applications to the upcoming grand jury. We do this through creating a "grand jury awareness month" in the county with government declarations, media placements, and presentations to organizations. 2006 was not a good year for this effort. Applications were very low. We are now rethinking our approach to this solicitation effort and welcome suggestions from everyone.

Third, for the superior court we conduct the orientation for grand jury applicants. And, as I said earlier, we have returned the major grand juror training to the CGJA fold.

*Q. Can you point to some recent Grand Jury reports in your county that would meet the standard of an effective grand jury achievement?*

A. The recently completed 2006-07 Grand Jury produced a number of high-quality reports that received very positive press coverage. I urge newsletter readers to go to the Grand Jury

# THE VERDICT: HANG UP

# Don't Fall for Jury Duty Scam

The phone rings, you pick it up, and the caller identifies himself as an officer of the court. He says you failed to report for jury duty and that a warrant is out for your arrest. You say you never received a notice. To clear it up, the caller says he'll need some information

for "verification purposes"-your birth date, social security number, maybe even a credit card number.

This is when you should hang up the phone. It's a scam.



when the scammer dangles a solution-a fine, payable by credit card, that will clear up the problem.

With enough information, scammers can assume your identity and empty your bank accounts.

"It seems like a very simple scam," the agent adds. The trick is putting people on the defensive, then reeling them back in with the promise of a clean slate. "It's kind of ingenious. It's social engineering."

Jury scams have been around for years, but have seen a resurgence in recent months. Communities in more than a dozen states have issued public warnings about cold calls from people claiming to be court officials seeking personal information. As a rule, court officers never ask for confidential information over the phone; they generally correspond with prospective jurors via mail.

The scam's bold simplicity may be what makes it so effective. Facing the unexpected threat of arrest, victims are caught off guard and may be quick to part with some information to defuse the situation.

"They get you scared first," says a special agent in the Minneapolis field office who has heard the complaints. "They get people saying, 'Oh my gosh! I'm not a criminal. What's going on?'" That's

In recent months, communities in Florida, New York, Minnesota, Illinois, Colorado, Oregon, California, Virginia, Oklahoma, Arizona, and New Hampshire reported scams or posted warnings or press releases on their local websites. In August, the federal court system issued a warning on the scam and urged people to call their local District Court office if they receive suspicious calls. In September, the FBI issued a press release about jury scams and suggested victims also contact their local FBI field office.

In March, USA.gov, the federal government's information website, posted details about jury scams in their Frequently Asked Questions area. The site reported scores of queries on the subject from website visitors and callers seeking information.

The jury scam is a simple variation of the identity-theft ploys that have proliferated in recent years as personal information and good credit have become thieves' preferred prey, particularly on the Internet. Scammers might tap your information to make a purchase on your credit card, but could just as easily sell your information to the highest bidder on the Internet's black market.

Protecting yourself is the key: Never give out personal information when you receive an unsolicited phone call.

## CGJA Chapter News

### Kern County Chapter

By Trudy Slater

#### Kern County Grand Jury Establishes Telephone "Hotline"

In an attempt to make it easier for those wishing to contact it, the 2006-2007 Kern County Grand Jury established a new telephone hotline so that it could be contacted at any time, day or night.

Members of the Kern County Grand Jury had for some time felt that the public needed a new method where individuals could reach it with both confidentiality and spontaneity. One of the ideas mentioned during discussions on the issue was the establishment of a Grand Jury telephone hotline. This would allow individuals to contact the Grand Jury with their concerns both anonymously, if they so desired--and spontaneously, at any time of the night or day. After further discussion on the pros and cons, in

November 2006, a Kern County Grand Jury telephone hotline was established to meet these needs. The new Hotline number for the Kern County Grand Jury is (661) 868-4800.

Attempting to get the new number out to as many members of the public as possible, over 10,000 flyers were printed and distributed to the community during December. Additionally, flyers were included in all Kern County and special district paychecks in January. Grand Jury Foreperson John Mainland discussed the new hotline with the City of Bakersfield, who generously agreed to put flyers in with its employee paychecks as well. Grand Jurors also now have the hotline number printed on the reverse side of their cards.

Results so far indicate a positive response to the telephone hotline. Even though the hotline supports anonymity, some individuals using it have opted to provide names and addresses. The Grand Jury feels certain that the public's use and support of the hotline will continue to grow as the knowledge of its existence and availability is disseminated within the community.

The new Hotline number for the Kern County Grand Jury ((661) 868-4800) can also be found on its website:

[www.co.kern.ca.us/grandjury/GrandJuryHotLineInformation.pdf](http://www.co.kern.ca.us/grandjury/GrandJuryHotLineInformation.pdf).

## San Francisco Chapter

By Bill Bowen, Chapter Secretary

As in recent years, the San Francisco chapter again worked with the Presiding Judge and the court staff on recruitment, interviews of some 50 applicants, and local training. This year the selection and training

of the 19 jurors and 11 alternates was done in June to facilitate a quick start when the Presiding Judge swore in the new jury on July 2. With four carry-overs including the foreperson, we are optimistic that the jury will hit the road running.

## More Committee Reports

### Membership Relations Committee

By Tim Colbie, Committee Chair

Thank you to all who have renewed their CGJA membership this year. We have set a goal of 400 members for this year; as of July 20th, we have 229 paid regular and associate members, of which 59 are new members. This means that we have only 170 of 350 current members received by July 20th, less than 50 percent.



I understand that there was some confusion about the membership application we were including in the journal, that many members were waiting for a renewal letter as has been our custom. However, sending the membership application/renewal form with the journal by bulk mail saves us a lot of money; we all know how expensive first class mail is becoming. Including the renewal form in the journal does not raise the price of mailing the journal, and believe it or not, bulk rate costs for non-profits went down this year, not up!

It's not too late to renew; members are not removed from the active role until 60 days after June 30th, and you are always welcome to be reinstated later. Membership can be sent by fax or mail, a copy of the registration form is available to download from our website, <http://www.cgja.org>. We hope to hear from you!

## Training Committee

By Lew Avera Committee Chair

Training is in full swing. At press time, we have completed the seminars in Fullerton, Sacramento, and Redding with Concord and Visalia still to go.

Seminar attendance all five locations is up this year and the Forepersons Workshop in Sacramento, CA held on July 22 had representation from 24 of California's 58 Counties.

With all of the Training Committee traveling about the state to our different seminars, there is little else to report except that the committee's opinion is that we are having a very successful year. A full report will be in the next issue.

*Whitcomb Hotel continued from page 4*

Originally named Hotel Whitcomb, after wealthy San Franciscan A.C. Whitcomb, the hotel then went through a few name changes over the years until its proper name was restored in 2007. The hotel bears the city's history as deeply as the 1906 earthquake altered the destiny of the yet unbuilt hotel.

During the post-earthquake reconstruction period of 1910, city architects were drawing plans for the new hotel. Inspired by a sense of civic pride, the Whitcomb Estate agreed to have their hotel used as City Hall. Hotel Whitcomb served as the seat of government for San Francisco from 1912 through 1915.

Until the mid 1990s, the words City Hall could still be seen faintly etched above the main entrance. The mayor's office, once located on the mezzanine level, now serves as the administrative office. Guests stay on the remaining floors of the hotel that were once occupied by other government officials, including judges for the Superior Court. Remnants of the original jail cells are still intact in the basement of the hotel and used for storage rooms today.

## GRIP Submission Draws High Praise

By Les Daye



This past year, Tuolumne County has far exceeded ordinary fieldwork volunteerism and greatly extends historical education. The CGJA Grand Jury Reports Indexing Project (GRIP) proudly recognizes a superb new resource, documented in field research workbook format.

Les Daye, GRIP subcommittee lead, received the completed workbook from Orley Ryals, Foreman, 2006-07 Grand Jury.

Orley, a current member of CGJA, spearheaded the yearlong search for old grand jury final reports and responses. Deserving of recognition are Charlie Dyer, Supervising Records and Archives Coordinator, County of Tuolumne Assessor-Recorder (archives assistance); Lorraine Schultz, (editorial, publication of final report at each stage of development); Alison Daniels (collating and compiling the report's index) and Paula Ryals, project support.

Detailed information on where these reports are located and, how they could be accessed is a key feature contained in the workbook submission. Bound books archiving records from 1855-1871, Boxed Records from 1917-1935, and Table of Contents for Final Reports from 1985-2007 are part of this remark-

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## CGJA at New Grand Jury Inductions

We have several instances to report where our members were present and, in some cases, participated in the induction of new grand juries at the beginning of July.

In Santa Cruz, President Judi Lazenby spoke to the new grand jury, emphasizing how a grand jury can help insure the effectiveness of prior grand jury work by following up on the responses and implementation of recommendations. This is basically the same message we emphasized in the Continuity Workshop portion of our Training Seminars.

Jerry Lewi attended the Santa Barbara and Ventura ceremonies on July 2<sup>nd</sup>. He was presented a certificate of recognition by the court in appreciation of his effort in helping the 2006-07 Grand Jury put on a course aimed at recruiting new applicants. It was noticed that at least one member of the new jury did attend that course. Jerry reports an interesting contrast between Santa Barbara and Ventura. In Santa Barbara, the names are drawn earlier in June, so the new members are known prior to swearing in. In Ventura, the names are drawn on that day, so all members of the pool need to attend to find out if they are going to serve.

Earl Heal and Wanda Kiger-Tucker attended the Solano County ceremony and had an opportunity to speak to the new jurors at a luncheon following the swearing in.

### Santa Barbara Grand Jury



L. to R. Jerry Lewi and Anne Wiley receiving certificates of recognition from Cherif Khoury, Public Relations Chair of the 2006-07 Santa Barbara Grand Jury to acknowledge their help in putting on a course at Santa Barbara City College to help recruit new applicants. Wiley is the College's Adult Education Center Coordinator.



Judge Tamietti, left chats with new grand jury members after a swearing in ceremony at the Nevada County Superior Court

The 19 members of the Nevada County grand jury took their oaths for the 2007-'08 year in a ceremony June 22 at the courthouse in Nevada City.

Prior to the swearing in the new jury, Superior Court Judge Robert Tamietti, presiding judge of the grand jury, hosted a appreciation ceremony for members of the outgoing jury.

CGJA Directors Ray Hoffman, Jury Foreman, and Diane Masini, a member of the 2006-07 Jury, attended both ceremonies.

Superior Court Judges Albert Dover and Sean Dowling, who also is the new presiding judge for the court, along with representatives from several government entities within the county attended both ceremonies.

The new jury includes five members who remained from the previous year, plus two alternates. One of the veteran members, Francis (Mac) Small was sworn in as the foreman.

## GRAND JURIES IN THE NEWS

With grand jury terms ending in June, we have received a number of references to interesting reports, too many to document in our Journal. And, of course, generally when reports are released it is not known how well they will be received until the agencies file their formal responses either 60 or 90 days later.

However, in some instances, the agency's unofficial response was reported in the press and we will cite some examples. We will also describe several instances where the press has been favorably disposed toward grand jury work – not something we always see.

**Nevada County** wrote a scathing report on Nevada City titled "Asleep at the Wheel," that spared no one in the city's government criticizing the city manager, City Council for their lack of internal organizational oversight, poor record keeping and loss of significant loss of revenue by failing to bill or incorrectly billing for fees and taxes. The report also said elected City Clerk had "failed in a material manner" to perform her duties as clerk recommending the city hold an election to determine if the clerk position should be converted to an appointed job. Ongoing newspaper coverage of this report can be found at <http://theunion.com/apps/pbcs.dll/search?Category=ARCHIVES07>

**Tuolumne County Jail** – the report cited a number of issues with the jail such as overcrowding, cleanliness, poor plumbing, and generally unacceptable conditions. The county officials appear to agree with the findings and outlined some planned remedies, albeit some long term, and requiring outside funding to implement. See [http://www.uniondemocrat.com/news/story.cfm?story\\_no=23851](http://www.uniondemocrat.com/news/story.cfm?story_no=23851) for the full story in the *Union Democrat*.

**San Diego – City use of Stadium seats** – this report is interesting because it was covered by the San Diego National Public Radio (NPR) station in the form of an interview with the Grand Jury Foremen and a past foreman who stated that the same issue had been reported eight or nine years ago. We are seeing a trend toward radio interviews as a means to publicize what grand juries do in California and we welcome any additional form of media coverage. You can hear the entire interview at [http://www.kpbs.org/radio/these\\_days?id=8635](http://www.kpbs.org/radio/these_days?id=8635)

**San Mateo Union High School District** – this report cited serious financial mismanagement problems. The newly appointed Director of Financial Management for the district agreed with the report as reported in the press and was highly critical of the former official in that position. See <http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?file=/c/a/2007/06/07/BAGE1QAET71.DTL> for the full story in the *San Francisco Chronicle*.

**Ventura County Report on County Audits** – this report was severely critical of the number and extent of audits. It cited both the Auditor/Controller and the Chief Executive Officer of the county. The immediate reaction of both officials was highly critical of the report stating it was inaccurate. But the official response submitted generally concurred with the findings and recommendations which only proves the point that grand juries and the public should not jump to conclusions upon immediate release of reports.

**The Ventura County Star** published an editorial on July 8 stating that the Grand Jury is a great watchdog and that county officials should pay attention to their recommendations. The complete editorial can be found at <http://www.venturacountystar.com/news/2007/jul/08/more-than-lip-service-due/>

**The Tiburon (Marin County) Ark** published a two-part story that describes the workings of the grand jury very completely and accurately. This type of publicity can only help the system.

Thanks to all who submitted these stories as well as others, we did not have room to print.

## Grand Jury Achievements

Past issues have described the association's initiative to document effective grand jury reporting in order to demonstrate to the general public and government officials that grand juries in this state do effective work.

To emphasize this project, there will be a panel discussion at our annual conference chaired by Jerry Lewi, Public Relations chair and head of the work group that has spearheaded this effort. We are looking for volunteers to be a part of this panel. The format will be to give brief (approximately three minutes) presentations that will (a) describe the recommendations of a report and (b) describe those recommendations that the agencies agreed with and scheduled the implementation. If you believe you have a candidate report, please see the Grand Jury Achievement tab on our website for further information.

Please contact Jerry Lewi if you wish to volunteer or for further information.

**Summary of Board Actions**

By Joann Landi

Ratified Board vacancy

Acknowledged resignation of Director and Legal Affairs Chair Geiss

Ratified appointment of Director Wylie to Chair, Legal Affairs Committee

Approved budget transfer to maintain bulk mailing permit

Approved budget transfer to pay Cookbook cost overruns

Approved establishment of (opt out) member list and (opt in) chat list for email communications

Approved ballot measure explanatory language

**Thank You 2006 Conference Committee**

I recently received the CD of the proceedings of our 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference held in Redding last October. Harry Tully and his talented Committee did a wonderful job preparing the transcript from audio tapes. This was a time consuming task and the finished product is the result of hundreds (maybe even thousands) of hours of listening and keyboarding. The end result is a transcript that we can all be proud of....thanks to Harry and his hardworking Committee.

Joann Landi

*Editor Note: this transcript can be viewed or downloaded from our website.*

**Agenda and Minutes of Board of Directors Meetings Now Online At www.cgja.org**

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San Luis Obispo County continued from page 5

website to read them [www.slocourts.net/grandjury/](http://www.slocourts.net/grandjury/). I don't dare comment on which reports would meet the standard of an effective grand jury achievement, since that would just be my standard. Does CGJA have a standard? I was particularly impressed with the 2006-07 Grand Jury in regularly publishing reports beginning in February. Every report received press attention at the time, increasing public awareness of the Grand Jury.

- Q. Do you have any recommendations of how to enhance association-chapter relations?
- A. I have heard/seen information about an improved CGJA website. I would like to see some blog feature to allow us to interact. All of us have so much information to share and to learn.

*Editor note: This activity has been approved by the board and is now in the planning process and will be implemented soon. Stayed tuned.*

GRIP continued from page 8

able documentation. A glossary and text index, electronic gems for researching an individual final report, are highlights of the recently released 2006-07 Tuolumne County Grand Jury Final Report.

Operations continued from page 3

**Policies and Procedures** and keeping current with each of its sub-committees. Policy statements and procedural tasks have been separated into two entities. The former are expressed in concise, practical statements of responsibilities; the latter--how to accomplish each responsibility-- are being clarified and simplified.

At its June meeting, Ops discussed the importance of permitting committee chairs to exercise their delegated authority without

interference from officers.

**Grand Jury Reports Indexing Project (GRIP).** Les Daye has expressed great satisfaction at the encouraging rise in local historical societies' ferreting out and preserving historic grand jury reports, especially handwritten ones from the nineteenth century.



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

### **HELP WANTED**

**Don't just be a member of CGJA, become a participating member. All committees will welcome your involvement as new people and their ideas is what will keep our organization moving ahead in both educating the public and training grand jurors.**



# Grand Jurors' Journal

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**Celebrating**

**25  
Years**

**CGJA  
Congratulates California's  
approximate 1100 new Grand Jurors  
wishing them a successful  
rewarding year**

**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  
[cgjaprguy@roadrunner.com](mailto:cgjaprguy@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.

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

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