

Grand Jurors' Journal

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President's Message

By Jerry Lewi

President, California Grand Jurors' Association

I regret to inform you that Beverly Hill has resigned from the Board and all her positions for personal reasons. Beverly was recently elected Vice-President and appointed Chair, Operations Committee. She was also chair of the Research & Analysis Sub-committee of Operations. Her duties included spearheading the recent *Excellence in Reporting* award program and the tracking of the Counties' performance against the state law requirement to provide copies of all Grand Jury reports and responses to the state archivist. She has also chaired a multi-discipline working group developing a new generic handbook and chaired the Training Committee sub-committee on the continuity workshop outline.

So in Beverly's brief two-year stint as a Director and Officer, she achieved many things. The challenge the Board and I are left with is to replace her in all these duties. No one person could possibly pick up

on all these activities. We thank Beverly for her extended efforts, wish her well and hope someday she can return to an active status.

I am pleased to report that the Board has approved the nomination of Roger Loper as Finance Chair. Although by his own admission, Roger is not a finance person, his experience in dealing with the Treasury issues during a recent difficult transition period has equipped him well to serve this important role. Roger has served with distinction on the Board, as was Vice-President from 2002-2003. He serves as Chair of the Policy & Procedure Subcommittee. His wise counsel and straightforward thinking will serve us well.

Speaking of Finance, I want to express my thanks to Marilyn Maxner, past Treasurer. She has agreed to keep the books up to date through December 2004 while new Treasurer Linda Baker is coming up to speed on our accounting system.

I have embarked on my mission of visiting the Chapters by meeting with three chapters, Marin, Napa and Nevada last month. I outlined my vision for CGJA, heard their concerns and promised to address their issues in order to develop a stronger working relation between the chapters and the state association. I have additional meetings schedule this month and next.

A very important activity that has been ongoing for many months is the rewrite of our bylaws. We needed to do this to insure compliance with the California Corporation Code and to resolve some other issues needing clarity. It is taking more time than I would like, but I feel we are closing in on a final draft for Board approval. We will keep the membership advised as we complete this task.

I was very pleased to participate in one-day training sessions for both the Los Angeles and Orange County Grand Juries. Both groups appeared to appreciate this and wished they had arranged for these sessions earlier in their terms. We hope this will lead to greater participation by these counties in our training seminars.

Please make note of our forthcoming training seminars and our annual conference.

Please know I am always glad to hear any comments about the association from the membership.

Regional Training Seminars:

Sacramento:	July 25-26 2005	Bay Area:	August 1-2 2005
Redding:	July 28-29 2005	Southern Region	August 8-9 2005

Please check our website
www.CGJA.org for updates

Summary of Board Actions

The CGJA Board of Directors took the November 30, 2004 Board meeting:

- Approved to receive and file the minutes of the October 14-15, 2004 general membership meeting.
- Approved to receive and file the Board of Directors Retreat notes.

- Approved the appointment of Committee Chairs, Jack Zepp, Legal; Sherry Chesny, Training; Clif Poole, Membership & Chapter Relations; Beverly Hill, Operations; Elwood Moger, Public Relations.
- Authorized payment for legal fees in the amount of \$648 charged by the attorney associated with two letters that were not authorized by either former or current Presidents. Director Baker will provide the President with letters #4 and #5 for distribution to the Board prior to the next meeting.
- Approved the formation of a fact finding special committee that will investigate allegations of misconduct in regard to securing D&O insurance.
- Authorized a special board meeting in January 2005, to review the revision of the bylaws now under process.
- Approved to join California Association of Nonprofits (CAN) at an annual cost of \$60.
- Directed the President to contact the list of the individuals he has and get fee estimates for possible Board intraaction outside counseling.
- Approved the production cost of a Public Relations video not to exceed \$1,200. Funds will be expended in 2005. The PR Committee will come back to the Board for copying and distribution costs.
- Approved the Excellence in Reporting awards to be continued.

Committee Reports

Membership

Chapter Relations

Clif Poole, Chair

I am writing this article to you for the last time as Chair of the Member Relations Committee. While I have enjoyed the challenge to increase membership and shape policies of the CGJA as a board member, premature “Golden Years” have set in and I must resign from the board.

I have been fortunate enough to see our paid membership more than double in the last three or so years. I’ve watched some chapters dissolve and others replace them. I have also worked with an excellent group of people, some with different philosophies and opinions than mine (I’m sure mine were always right) but we always knew that the intent of every person on the board is to protect the California Grand Jury System and increase awareness of the government watchdog function.

As of this writing I have not heard who the board will choose to replace me as Chair of the Member Relations Committee, but I wish them well and will try to help in the transition. In the meantime, if you have membership questions you may ask any Director, as they each will know where to direct it to get you an answer.

In parting I encourage all of you to check with past grand jury members and try to convince them to join the CGJA. After you have talked to past grand jurors, talk to friends and encourage them to join as an associate member. Remember that we can do miraculous things as a group or we fail to accomplish much as an independent.

Thanks for your help and support.

Training

Sherry Chesny, Chair

The Training Committee has approved the following dates for our 2005 Regional Training Seminars:
Sacramento: July 25-26 at the Holiday Inn Northeast

Redding: July 28-29
Selection of site pending

Bay Area: August 1-2
Selection of site pending

Southern Region: August 8-9
Selection of site pending

In addition to our two-day regional Training Seminars for new jurors, we also do some on-site training with individual grand juries. In September we presented our five, core-workshops for the Los Angeles County Grand Jury. On January 21st we presented a similar one-day program for the Orange County Grand Jury and on January 22nd two of our trainers spent a half-day working with nine members of the Yolo County Grand Jury on How To Write G.J. Final Reports.

In February, two trainers will travel to Madera County to provide on-site training for their new jurors. The Madera and Monterey Grand Juries operate on the calendar year and were sworn in on January 1.

All of our CGJA trainers are volunteers who enthusiastically accept these additional assignments because they are truly dedicated to training grand jurors.

In addition to finalizing the sites for our 2005 Regional Training Seminars, the Training Committee is currently working on revising and updating the brochure about the training program for 2005. In February we will also be mailing a letter to the Presiding Judge in every county, about our 2005 Training Seminars.

Duane Mason, who joined the Training Committee last September, is working on reorganizing the Training Committee's Policies and Procedures. Some new procedures will be developed and existing procedures will be updated or revised as needed. Duane is a past Foreman from Shasta Co. He is semi-retired and currently does contract consulting work with a Washington D.C. based company in the area of supervisory/managerial/executive development.

As more information about the 2005 seminars is finalized, we will be posting updates on the CGJA website. Our CGJA webmaster, Diane Masini, is exploring the feasibility and costs of providing on-line registration capability for the jurors attending the 2005 seminars

History Sleuths Wanted

CGJA Grand Jury Reports Index Project (GRIP) is seeking two additional volunteers to search for Final Reports from 1950-1996. Any county locale is important in the fun quest that derives from "needle-in-a-haystack" browsing of old files at your nearby Courthouse, County Offices, Library or Historical Society headquarters. (See below for a sample of 29 electronically identified documents available (and stored in perpetuity) at the California State Library in Sacramento.)

What treasures (incl. Table of Contents) are lurking in your neighborhood? As Disneyland marks its 50th anniversary later this year, make your mark at the 24th annual conference of CGJA in Burbank on Oct. 28-29 by providing the most fully documented field workbook, containing the location and pertinent details of Final Reports FOUND!

Contact CGJA GRIP subcommittee lead: Les Daye at 530-778-3368 voice/fax or email bearpaws@sunset.net.

The California State Library, founded in 1850, is the main repository for many documents of historical significance. Located at 900 N Street Sacramento, CA 95814 Mailing address: P O Box 942837 Sacramento, CA 94237-0001 Hours: 9:30 am - 4:00 pm, Monday - Friday, email: cslocal@library.ca.gov.

GRAND JURY FINAL REPORTS

(Identified Electronically)

<u>County</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Call/Control #</u>
Alameda County	1993-94	CA-L A318 Gr35 R4 #58
Contra Costa Co.	1955-56	CA-L C764 Ju75 R4
Contra Costa Co.	1963-64	CA-L C764 Ju75 R4
Fresno County	1951	AFH-3836
Madera County	1969	CA-L M178 Ju79 R4
Mendocino Co.	1968	AFM-8932
Mendocino Co.	1984-85	AFM-8933
Orange County	1961	CA-L O63 Ju79 R4
San Diego Co.	1986-87	CA-L S217 Ju79 R4
San Francisco Co.	1955	AFK-2532
(see other below)	1974-75	AFK-2533
(see other below)	1985-86	AFK-2534
San Joaquin Co.	1964-65	AFJ-7923
San Joaquin Co.	1986-87	AFJ-7922
Santa Barbara Co.	1984-85	AFJ-2718
Santa Cruz Co.	1968	CA-L S2323 Ju79 R4
Tulare County	1953	AFI-4451
Tulare County	1991-92	AFI-4452
Ventura County	1985-86	CA-L V468 Ju79 R4

OTHER GRAND JURY Subjects

Butte Co. charge to GJ 1854 ABF-8411
Lewis, Joseph E.N. Ct. of Sessions 815 C153 10

Orange Co. GJ Manual 1968 KB89.J9 O63

San Francisco Co. 1892 ABE-6728 917.9461 S19p v.6 #17

San Francisco Co. 12/26/1896 AAU-2106

A.S. Hubbard signed report 352 Ss955 G75s
San Francisco Co. 12/10/04-8/19/05 AAU-2105 352 Ss955 G75k

San Francisco Co. 1910 352 Ss955 R42
Oliver Grand Jury JS1449.Z7

San Francisco Co. 12/16/14-12/14/15 ABE-6787 352S
Calif. Law Review 5/1955? ABK-8292

Co.Supvs.Assn.CA
Calif. Legislatre. Asmb. 1967 L500.G62 1967
Hearing CA co. GJ syst. no. 3, 5, 10

County GJ & public 1969 LB2813 M5 schls. of So. Calif.
Ed.D. Thesis by Miller, John Alva

Juries in the News

San Francisco Chronicle

More attention to grand jury reports

Civil grand jury reports and independent audits would be given more focused attention at City Hall under a plan by new Board of Supervisors President Aaron Peskin to create a Government Audit and Oversight Committee.

The charge of the new supervisors' panel would be to hold hearings on the audits conducted by the city controller and the board's budget analyst, and to consider the findings of the grand jury, all of which scrutinize the workings of city agencies and the effectiveness of city policies.

Peskin said he wants the new committee to not only consider the new reports as they come in but also to conduct follow-up reviews to see whether past recommendations have been carried out. The Rules Committee approved the proposal.

Solano County Chapter BBQ

Mark your calendar!! Sunday, May 15, 2005

The Solano County Chapter announced their annual Bar-Be-Cue to be held at Pippo's Park in Vacaville on Sunday May 15, 2005. It has become a Chapter tradition and members are looking forward in welcoming former and sitting grand jurors, their families and friends for a fun day at Pippo's Park.

Look for detail information in the next Journal as Solano Chapter Members are finalizing the particulars for a fun filled day. Chapter President Wanda Kiger-Tucker can be reached at 707-678-4059 or kigertucker@juno.com for additional information

Excellence In Reporting Criteria

The Board of Directors of the CGJA is seeking nominations for the Excellence in Reporting Award. The Award is offered in two categories - Grand Jury and News Media. Awards will be presented at the Annual CGJA Conference to be held October 27-29, 2005 in Burbank.

The Grand Jury category will be judges on information identifying meritorious achievement in the watchdog function. Each county is encouraged to submit one or two applications with appropriate justification. Investigations and reports for the fiscal year 2001-02 (calendar year 2002) and subsequent are eligible. Because proof of success is one of the judged criteria and some current reports may not have that criteria available, it may be advantageous to delay such submissions a year to enable documentation of the necessary proof.

Criteria are:

Nomination input letter
Citizen impact - severity and number of citizens affected
Duration of problem - recent, 2-4 years, < 4 years
Difficulty of investigation - few or many agencies
Bureaucracy interference - denials, subpoenas, etc.
Written report- - - - documented; succinct; complete; readable; substantiated findings and recommendations; Public support gained; Media support gained; Success verified

The News Media category will be judged on reporting that either increased awareness of the grand jury institution or increased awareness of the community of a grand jury investigation so the community benefited in the investigation. Criterion evaluated will include apparent media research, quantity and quality of reporting, and apparent citizen impact. Submissions may be independent of grand jury participation or in conjunction with specific grand jury investigative reports.

Grand Juries and News Media please submit all applications in five copies:

with a nomination letter stating the achievement
with appropriate documentation and final report or media reports
with name, address, county, and phone of contact person
no later than July 15, 2005
to Earl Heal, 512 Spring Lane, Vacaville, CA 95688 (phone 707-446-1353)

Members who would like to serve the CGJA

The CGJA is currently organized with six (6) standing committees: Finance, Legal, Membership/Chapter Relations, Operations, Public Relations and Training. Financial Development, Grand Jury Final Report Index and Training Curriculum operate as subcommittees within our standing committee structure. Standing committees have monthly teleconference meetings while subcommittees conduct business via e-mails and periodic teleconferences.

Members with an interest in actively serving or if you have questions relative to serving on a specific committee feel free to contact the committee chair shown on our Grand Jurors' website.

For further information concerning volunteering for any type of endeavor within the CGJA, you may also contact:

CGJA President:

Jerry Lewi

2717 Rocky Point Ct.

Thousand Oaks, CA 91362

Tel. 805- 492-0122

jerrylewi@adelphia.net

Standardized Journal Format

Please note the standardized format for submitting articles to the Grand Jurors' Journal

Articles should be e-mailed to Ourania Riddle, Editor, at ouraniar@yahoo.com

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

E-mail attachments are the preferred form of transmittal to alleviate retyping article content.

If e mail is not available, articles should be faxed to Ourania Riddle at 707-678-9468.

Contributors submitting articles close to publication deadline should notify Editor as early as possible, with size of article to assist with page layout and format.

Deadline is the Saturday after each Board of Directors meeting. Next issue deadline:
Saturday, April 2, 2005 at 5:00PM

The Editor reserves the right to reject, edit, or not print submitted articles except as directed by the CGJA Board of Directors.

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

Chapter Presidents:

We haven't heard from your chapters lately. Share your news with the CGJA Membership.

CGJA 24th Annual Conference

CGJA 24th Annual Conference will be held October 27-29, 2005 in Burbank.