

GRAND JURORS' JOURNAL

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ANNUAL REPORT

On November 15, President Jack Zepp delivered his Annual Report to the conference. He noted at the outset that he had provided a "state-of-the-Association" report to the membership in the October issue of the Journal, which members received shortly before the conference, and would not repeat those comments.

He did note that in his opinion the standing committee system had been a rousing success and the members would be delighted with the progress the committee chairs would report to them following his remarks.

Mr. Zepp reported on the state of grand juries in California and noted in particular the fact that very few people who have not been grand jurors understand grand juries. He stressed the need to increase public and governmental awareness of the functions and needs of grand juries, especially relating to their government oversight role. He emphasized the problems caused by the Trial Court Funding Act's exclusion of grand juries from "court operations" especially insofar as courts cannot fund grand jury activities and counties are facing very difficult financial times.

To illustrate the great funding diversity that currently exists among grand juries, Mr. Zepp drew on some examples from an analysis he had recently conducted using data filed by the counties with the State Controller's Office. That data, which was for the year 1999-2000, the most recent available, included the reports of expenses, including grand jury expenses, filed by all but 2 counties. Comparable data for those two counties was obtained from other sources. Among the remarkable data thus compiled were the highest (\$1,233,000) and lowest (\$14) yearly expenses. The average was \$103,000. The largest expense on a per capita basis was \$6.59; the lowest was \$0.011. Only three counties spent more than \$2.00 per capita on their grand juries and only three spent less than \$0.05. The average per capita expenditure was \$0.18. Mr. Zepp commented that \$0.18 *per year* to support an essential element of California's Constitutional system compared very poorly, in his view, with common fund raising pleas for, for example, \$0.20 *per week*, or even *per day*, to save pets, enhance the environment, etc., etc.

As another way of looking at the disparity in the financial treatment of grand juries by the counties, Mr. Zepp noted that if the State Controller's data were sorted as a percentage of each county's budget the most generous would amount to 2.5 thousandths of a percent. The least generous would be 1 millionth of 1 percent. Only five counties spent a portion of their budgets amounting to thousandths of a percent. Four counties spent a portion of their budgets amounting to only hundred thousandths of a percent, or worse.

Mr. Zepp predicted that the disparities noted were likely to worsen and called upon the CGJA to lead in an effort to educate officials so that all grand juries in the state get rational, secure and meaningful funding. He noted that, in his view, properly funded and educated grand juries and grand jurors can do wonders to ensure honest, open and efficient local government. He urged the membership to continue CGJA's efforts to obtain proper funding for, and provide quality education to, all of the grand juries and grand jurors throughout the state.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS' 2002 RETREAT – PLANNING CGJA'S FUTURE

The Board of Directors held its 3rd Annual Retreat on November 14 and 15 at the Embassy Suites Hotel in San Rafael, California with 21 Directors in attendance. Long hours were spent reviewing and revising the Association's organization and program efforts.

Rewarding results from our 2002 Membership Survey set a positive stage for the Board's 2002 Retreat. With 44 individual members expressing an interest in becoming actively involved in Association programs, the Board established a new organizational structure and program efforts to fully utilize the additional talents available.

Actions of the Retreat were formally adopted at the Board's December 16, 2002 business meeting. CGJA's organization and membership involvement for 2003 will start with the following:

Financial Development Committee with Jeanne Forbes as Chair will be responsible for Association Fund Raising and Grant Writing.

Our Financial Development Committee has been advanced to a full standing committee to coordinate the Association's future funding efforts. New members with fund raising experience will be added to this committee in early 2003.

The Office of Treasurer will continue to provide oversight of the Association's budgeting and financial systems.

Legal Committee with Jack Zepp as Chair will be responsible for CGJA's Compendium of Grand Jury Law; Legal Research and Resources; and Judiciary, Legislative and Government Relations including Grand Jury Reform issues.

Our Legal Committee represents the outgrowth of a Government Relations Committee created in 2000 to handle legislative and government issues. We intend to improve our legal resources for better analysis and response to legal issues influencing Grand Juries throughout California. Former Director Barry Newman and new member resources will join directors Daye, Geiss, Kelly, Nichols, Picone, and Probst to fulfill this committee's expanding scope. We envision our Legal Committee becoming the Association's second major support effort to California Grand Juries in 2003.

Membership Relations Committee with Clif Poole as Chair will be responsible for Association Membership, Member Resources, Relations with CGJA Chapters, and Relations with California Independent Grand Juror Associations.

Our Membership Relations Committee has been reorganized under Clif Poole to improve relations with CGJA Members, CGJA Chapters, and a number of independent associations throughout California all for a unified and improved service to Grand Juries. This committee will also be responsible for a new program we are creating to update and record new member resources under the leadership of Roger Loper. We anticipate Directors Kelly, Loper, Nagle-Burks, and Riddle will be serving on this committee with additional member resources to advance its multiple and vital missions. Our membership has expanded considerably and the future growth of both sitting and former Grand Jurors willing to support our statewide efforts is most encouraging.

Operations Committee with Jerry Lewi as Chair will be responsible for our Annual Conference; Contacts Listing; Grand Jurors' Journal; Grand Jury Research & Analysis; Grand Jury Report Indexing; Insurance; Merchandising; Policies & Procedures; Publications; Telecommunications; and Website.

Our Operations Committee, which was established in 2000 to handle the Association's internal matters, has been reconfigured to consolidate Association merchandising, publications, and telecommunications under its scope.

A new function dealing with Grand Jury Research and Analysis, under the leadership of Director Beverly Hill, will begin as a part of our Operations Committee. We are creating this new function to collect and provide California Grand Juries, Legislature, Judiciary, and the general public with important facts and

information concerning all 58 county Grand Juries. We hope to grow this effort into a significant resource of Grand Jury information in the years ahead.

Our Operations Committee will have Directors Daye, Forbes, Hill, Loper, Naify, Poole, Riddle, and Taranto; joined by CGJA member Bob DeQuattro; and many new member resources to pursue its expanding scope of responsibilities.

Operations will see our first organizational expansion with the formation of a Grand Jury Indexing Subcommittee under the leadership of Les Daye.

Public Relations Committee with appointment of a chair pending will be responsible for Association Public & Media Relations; Educational Outreach; and Excellence in Reporting.

New to our organization of standing committees for 2003 is the creation of a public relations effort, which we expect will build ready contacts with media resources for release of information on Association, Judicial, Legislative, and Grand Jury issues of importance to California citizens. Our Public Relations Committee will also coordinate a new program of bringing the history and role of Grand Juries into educational curriculums as well as recognition of excellence in reporting on government.

Directors Forbes, Lewi, Miller, Nagle-Burks, and Probst will be serving on this committee.

Training Committee with Sherry Chesny as Chair will be responsible for Association Training Programs; Final Report Implementation; and Grand Jury Handbook.

Training is currently our Association's major support effort for California Grand Juries. In 2002, CGJA trained 436 new Grand Jurors at three regional training programs. A starting organization for this committee will consist of Directors Geiss, Hill, Miller, Naify, Taranto, and Zepp, joined by the efforts of CGJA members Ron Miguel, Phil Norton, and Mickey Strang.

Over 20 new member resources have expressed an interest in supporting the Association's training efforts. We expect this committee to formulate subcommittees and work groups as we look to remodeling and expanding our training efforts in 2003.

In December, the Board authorized advance planning for regional training program in Redding, California in an attempt to reach new Grand Jurors in Northern California. We intend to closely track training registrations in view of county budgetary constraints and may adjust our planning as developments occur in 2003.

Planning decisions made at the Board's 2002 Retreat set the stage for major advancements by our Association. It was clear to all in attendance that a face-to-face meeting was most beneficial and consideration will now be given to establishing a mid-year meeting to further facilitate expansion of the Association's programs.

Elwood Moger

2002 Retreat Chair

2002 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The Association held its 21st Annual Conference at Embassy Suites, San Rafael, California on November 15 & 16, 2002. CGJA's Marin Chapter hosted the 2002 Conference.

The conference opened at 1:30 p.m. on Friday with a welcome by Cynthia Murray, President of the Marin County Board of Supervisors, who reviewed the history and composition of Marin County.

President Jack Zepp conducted the Association's Annual Membership Meeting with reports received from Officers and Committee Chairs. Twelve Directors were elected to the Board of Directors for two year terms beginning November 15, 2002 as follows: North Region – Les Daye, Elwood Moger, Dan Taranto, and Sherry Chesny; Central Region – Mike Miller, Clif Poole, Ourania Riddle, and Jack Zepp; and South Region – Jerry Lewi, Dian Picone, Janet Praria, and James Kelly.

Bill Larson, Santa Clara County Deputy Assistant District Attorney presented a case history of the accusation of a public official in Mountain View, California, who was removed from the City Council for misconduct in office.

California Assembly Member Joe Nation of Marin County briefed attendees on the substantial financial issues facing California's new legislature in 2003. He related California's 2002 shortfall of \$24 billion to California's slowing economy and noted figures being released on November 15 indicate a potential for a \$21 billion shortfall in 2003. He anticipated spending cuts of some \$13 billion and tax increases of \$8 billion as response to the 2003 shortfall.

Following a reception hosted by CGJA's Marin Chapter and the conference dinner, the Honorable Lynn Taylor, Presiding Judge of the Marin County Superior Court spoke of her personal and the Court's strong support for the Grand Jury System. Judge Taylor's comments were followed by an informative presentation by Jeanne Woodford, Warden of San Quentin California State Prison, who provided interesting insight of her role and the internal workings of San Quentin.

Saturday's program started at 8 a.m. with attendees selecting to participate in Judicial Council focus group meetings on Grand Jury diversity issues or a 2-hour tour of the Frank Lloyd Wright Civic Center. The morning program was concluded with a panel discussion of Final Report Responses moderated by Jack Friesen of Marin County with Jerry Lewi, Ventura County; Ed Kramer, Monterey County; John Belfonte, San Mateo County; and Mike Casey Marin County participating.

After lunch, CGJA's 2002 award were presented. CGJA's late Treasurer, Janet Praria presented the Association's Excellence in Reporting Award to the 1999 Orange County Grand Jury with Honorable Mention awarded to Placer and Stanislaus Counties. CGJA's 2002 Media Award was presented to Teresa Keagan of the Contra Costa Times. Elwood Moger, CGJA's newly elected President, presented the Angelo Rolando Service Award for 2002 to Roger Loper. Concluding the awards ceremonies was a presentation to retiring President Jack Zepp for his outstanding leadership as President made on behalf of the Board of Directors by Elwood Moger.

Dick Spotswood, a Marin Columnist, related his many experiences in journalism to lead off the afternoon program. CGJA President Elwood Moger presented a brief look at CGJA's future following Dick Spotswood's remarks. The afternoon program concluded with Chapter and Association reports moderated by Membership Relations Chair, Clif Poole. Reports were received from Tulare County Chapter – Jeanne Forbes, Solano County Chapter – Wanda Kiger-Tucker, Orange County Grand Jurors Association – Royal Lord, Monterey County Chapter – Roger Loper, Santa Clara County Chapter – Bud Alne, and Marin County Chapter – Lowell Smith.

A personal thank you is extended to all Conference Speakers and the many volunteers, who assisted me in presenting the Association's 21st Annual Conference.

Bob Abeling

2002 Conference Chair