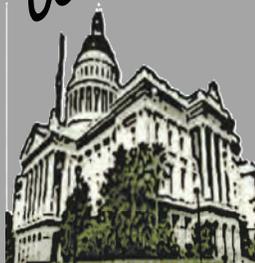


2009  
annual  
CONFERENCE



Sacramento CA  
October 29-30



# Grand Jurors' Journal

## President's Message

It is indeed a pleasure and an honor to report that there have been a number of successful activities this year which are due in no small part to the enthusiasm and dedication of many CGJA volunteers.

Since most organizational business and communications is done entirely by teleconference and the internet, in the past it was rather cumbersome with a Board of 24 directors. This year the Associations business was successfully conducted with 16 Directors and we look forward to having a more efficient maximum of 12 directors as approved by the membership in October, 2007.



How were we able to accomplish more with fewer directors? We utilized member volunteers to assume positions that were formally being carried out by directors. Whereas in the past all committee chairs were directors, we now have five directors chairing committees. We have ten committees chaired by member volunteers. That's how we are more productive with less. This increased involvement by members allows the Board more time to conduct the affairs of the Association. The Board and its Officers are looking forward to operating this coming year with twelve directors aware that this means even more of the membership will have the opportunity to get involved in the CGJA.

This years board is pleased with the progress of its successorship program where committee Vice Chairs are trained and ready to assume the Chair position should the need arises. Acknowledging that many of our volunteers are seniors it is a fact that the need for successorship is critical for continuity. We had six occasions this past year to demonstrate the need for this program within our committee structure.

Regarding expansion of our public awareness activities and support of the Grand Jury, we once again had support from State government for the second consecutive year with the Governor proclaiming the month of February "California Grand Jury Awareness Month." Along with the state proclamation, for the first time, we were able to present to the membership and the public a video production of the 2008 Annual Conference available on our website. We also added a "Blog" on our website which is an assembly of recent news articles and postings pertaining to the 58 county grand juries.

This years' Training Program, despite a tough economic environment throughout the state and the nation, exceeded our expectations by training about 740 jurors representing 48 of the 58 counties in the State. Besides presenting five regional training sessions which included four Foreperson Workshops, we conducted eight in-house training sessions. For the first time we were able to present training sessions on the same day at two different locations. This was accomplished thanks to a superb effort by many hard working members throughout the state.

*Continued on page 2*

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

CGJA sadly announces and mourns the sudden passing of Director Ray Hoffman and expresses its sincere condolences and sympathy to his family and friends. A complete story on Ray's life is found on page 8

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## Editor's Message



The *Los Angeles Times* reported on September 14<sup>th</sup> a new

group being formed to "to launch a nonprofit online news organization to provide watchdog and investigative journalism in Orange County." The group includes former state lawmakers, high-profile attorneys and veteran former newspaper reporters.

This news organization *The Voice of OC* will be an on-line source intended to replace the shrinking coverage by the *Orange County Register* and the *Los Angeles Times*.

The article reports that the *Voice of OC* sought advice from *Voice of San Diego*, a nonprofit online news outlet that has won praise since launching in 2004.

Look for their website in the near future. We will be watching with great interest as their goal appears to be in line with the role of the grand jury.

The complete *Times* article may be found on:

<http://www.latimes.com/news/local/la-me-voice-of-oc15-2009sep15,0,6316754.story>

*Presidents' Message continued from page 1*

Faced with legal action by a CGJA member, the Board was able to reach settlement in mediation where all parties executed a release and dismissal of his/her/its action without admitting to any legal liability

In making a greater effort to support our existing Chapters and encouraging new Chapters, we are very excited that our enthusiastic Membership Relations Committee is working with seven counties who are considering becoming a CGJA Chapter. Our multi-year membership program has helped us to maintain our membership as many members are showing support of our program by utilizing this opportunity. This year the responsibility of reviewing and nominating candidates for CGJA's annual EIR awards was performed by the Napa Chapter. It proved to be very successful and we plan to expand the program of involving Chapters in CGJA activities.

Our Legislative Affairs Committee continues to provide valuable assistance to the many inquires our organization receives every month from Grand Juries, County personal and the general public.

Our financial stability, structure and record keeping is sound, current and in capable hands. Boxes upon boxes of records will, someday in the near future, be stored on a secure CGJA website.

The CGJA Journal, under the tutelage of the Public Relations Committee, continues to best itself with each edition. The December, 2008 edition which featured the 2008 Annual conference is a prime example of the high standards the Committee sets for itself in providing members and grand juries with interesting and informing content. The Public Relations Committee is also responsible for CGJA participation in Osher programs throughout the state. This year there were two presentations which teach the public about the grand jury system and why it is important to preserve. We have seen improvement in our Grand Jury Achievement Report program which is a valuable resource tool for grand jurors as is our website which is always being updated.

As we look forward to another year of service we want to express our thanks to the 2009 Annual Conference Committee, which includes our newest Sacramento Chapter, and we look forward to meeting you all in our state Capitol later this month. We know it will be a great conference-- join us.

## Annual Conference Update

Important! Now is the time to register for our annual conference. This program will be of interest to both current and former grand jurors. It includes adequate time for member comments and questions on a variety of topics.

The updated program and a conference registration form are in this issue and may also be found on our website by clicking on *Annual Conference* on the Home Page

We are particularly excited about the panel discussion titled *Who's Watching the Watchdog* in which we will explore various constituencies such as the Courts and the Press about their responsibility in their local community to see that Grand Juries are meeting their charge. Another highlight will be an address from the Executive Director of *California Forward*. (Visit their website, [www.caforward.org](http://www.caforward.org).) Also, the Governor's Office has been requested to provide a speaker but we will not get confirmation for some additional time. We will post this on our website when and if that happens.

The costs are reasonable; the conference hotel is up-to-date and conveniently located. We look forward to seeing you there. If you have any questions please contact the conference chair, Jerry Lewi.

**California Grand Jurors' Association 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference**

**October 29 & 30, 2009**

**REGISTRATION FORM**

**Double Tree Inn, 2201 Point West Way**

**Sacramento (near the California State Fairgrounds)**

Conference rates are \$84.00 (single or double)

[Make room reservations directly with hotel 916-929-8855](#)

Mention CGJA Annual Conference for \$84.00 rate

(Reservations must be made by Oct. 15, 2009 for \$84.00 rate with the hotel)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Guest(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

County: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

AFFILIATION: CGJA Member ( ) Chapter Member ( ) Association Member ( ) Associate Member ( )

Sitting Grand Juror ( ) Court Representative ( ) Other ( ) Specify \_\_\_\_\_

REGISTRATION: Conference Attendance \$60.00 per person # \_\_\_\_\_ = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

DINNER: Thursday, October 29, 2009 \$40.00 per person # \_\_\_\_\_ = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Strip Loin of Beef \_\_\_\_\_ Marinated Chicken Breast \_\_\_\_\_

Vegetarian Options/ Special Diet Available Upon Request \_\_\_\_\_

*Note: Menu selections are subject to change*

BREAKFAST/LUNCH: Friday October 30, 2009

Chef's Choice Buffet \$35.00 per person # \_\_\_\_\_ = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Price includes Deluxe Continental Breakfast & beverage service 8:00 am-noon

**TOTAL PAYMENT DUE**

(excluding hotel room, which attendees book directly with hotel) = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Check Enclosed ( )

Visa or Master Card \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ CVV \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_

Billing name & address if different from name/address above \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

( ) Please accept my donation, payable to California Grand Jurors' Association to help defray costs.  
Contributions are tax deductible. \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: Joann E. Landi, Registration Chair, 178 South Palomar Dr. Palomar Park, CA. 94062

Phone: 650-365-4184 FAX 650-366-1587 Email: [joannelandi@aol.com](mailto:joannelandi@aol.com)

Information: Jerry Lewi, Conference Chair, 2275 Fernleaf Court, Thousand Oaks, CA 91362

Phone: 805-532-1321 Email: [cgiaprguy@roadrunner.com](mailto:cgiaprguy@roadrunner.com)



# California Grand Jurors' Association Annual Conference

October 29-30, 2009

Doubletree Inn, Sacramento, CA

Grand Juries and Local Governments – Working together in times of Financial Crisis

## Program

Thursday afternoon, October 29, 2009

1:00 PM Conference Convened, Jerry Lewi, 2009 Conference Chair (Ventura)

1:10 PM Welcome by Sacramento Superior Court Judge Raymond Cadei and CGJA President, Tony Noce (Kern)

1:30 PM Open Forum – Questions & Answers, Comments regarding Grand Jury practices and experiences. Chair, Ron Miguel (San Francisco); Panelists: Marsha Caranci (Shasta), Walter Hofmann (San Diego), and Bill Trautman (Napa).

3:00 PM Break

3:15 PM *Life after Grand Jury Service* – reports from CGJA members who are serving their communities as appointed and elected officials about how grand jury service influenced them. Chair, Jerry Lewi (Ventura), Panelists: Lew Avera (Orange), Ted Freeman (Marin), Ron Miguel (San Francisco)

4:45 PM Report of Election of Directors & Ballot Measure to Increase Size of Board, Karin Hern, Chair, Nominations Committee (Marin)

Thursday evening

5:30 PM Reception- hosted by Sacramento Chapter with invited guests from local government

7:00 PM Dinner, with local entertainment, followed by Awards

Friday, October 30, 2009

9:00 AM *Who's Watching the Watchdog?* A panel discussion with representatives from the courts, the press, grand juries and our association about whether any of these groups feel a legal or actual responsibility to determine whether or not grand juries are doing effective work. Chair, Jerry Lewi (Ventura), Panelists: Judge David de Alba, Sacramento Superior Court, Don Prange, former Sacramento Grand Jury Foreman, Robert Lewis, *Sacramento Bee*, Judi Lazenby, Past President, CGJA (Santa Cruz)

10:30 AM Break

10:45 AM Annual Report to Membership – Report from the Officers, Committee Chairs and Chapters about the status of the association vis a vis its mandated charter. Chaired by CGJA President, Tony Noce (Kern)

12:00 Noon Lunch to be followed by annual awards such as *Excellence in Reporting* and the Angelo Rolando award to the most deserving member of the association.

*Excellence in Reporting* Chair: Dan Mufson (Napa) Angelo Rolando Award Chair: Duane Mason (Shasta)

1:15 PM *Public Participation on Main Street* – a program developed and presented by the Sacramento Chapter to help Grand Jurors, past and present, be aware of promoting transparency and accountability of local governments. Chair, Joe Maloney, President, Sacramento Chapter, CGJA

2:30 PM Jim Mayer, Executive Director of *California Forward*, a new organization dedicated to help California with long term solutions to many structural problems.

4:00 PM Closing & Adjournment. CGJA President Tony Noce and Jerry Lewi, 2009 Conference Chair

## 2009 TRAINING COMMITTEE REPORT

This summer the CGJA Training Committee conducted training throughout the state for incoming grand jury members as they prepared to serve their counties. From July 9 to August 6, 14 trainers traveled to 12 locations, training 759 new and returning grand jury members as well as some grand jury administrative staff.

The schedule was as follows:

Sonoma	July 7-8	24 attendees	
Humboldt	July 9-10	20 attendees	
Ventura	July 9-10	19 attendees	
Fullerton	July 12	Foreperson's workshop	
Fullerton	July 13-14	48 attendees	6 counties
San Joaquin	July 16-17	19 attendees	
Sacramento	July 19	foreperson's workshop	
Sacramento	July 20-21	165 attendees	17 counties
Redding	July 22	foreperson's workshop	
Redding	July 23-24	97 attendees	11 counties
Concord	July 26	foreperson's workshop	
Concord	July 27-28	141 attendees	13 counties
Visalia	July 30-31	105 attendees	8 counties
Merced	August 1	19 attendees	
Tri-County*	August 3-4	66 attendees	
Alpine	August 5-6	12 attendees	

\*Amador, Calaveras, Tuolumne



At each location, guest speakers provided keynote addresses and subject expertise to augment the core curriculum developed by the Training Committee. Representatives from the California Special Districts Association, California Corrections Standards Authority, and various county counsels covered the details of their areas of responsibility and provided clarification to interested attendees. Additionally, panel discussions were conducted at each session to enable those in attendance to have their questions answered about individual topics and overall grand jury procedures.

Changes to the regular curriculum this year included adding two new presentations entitled *Grand Jury Essentials* and *Local Government*. Comments during and after the seminars indicated these changes were helpful.

The Training Committee is grateful to the many volunteers from the various CGJA chapters who significantly contributed to the success of these seminars by manning the registration tables, serving as timekeepers for the speakers, and assisting with other duties. Some of these volunteers return every year to support us and bring a high level of professionalism and dedication to what they do. We truly could not do it without them.

The trainers themselves spent many hours preparing for the seminars, working on their presentations, handling the many details of arranging for meeting space and logistical support, conducting registration, and traveling the length and breadth of the state to deliver their subjects. Of particular note is the dedication of Lew Avera who was at every location and carried equipment and supplies with him as he went. In addition to her many duties as CGJA Treasurer, Judi Lazenby took on the many details of coordinating logistics, handling registration and serving as liaison with volunteers. Marsha Caranci provided invaluable assistance in developing and distributing training and equipment schedules and monitoring the regional and on-site venues to assure all ran smoothly. Duane Mason determined trainer assignments after arranging and conducting a *Train the Trainer* session last February. Now he has the laborious task of reviewing over 700 evaluation sheets to collate the numbers and comments. This will enable the committee to further polish and fine tune the content and manner of instruction in accordance with participant suggestions.

Training 2009 continued from page 5

This year's trainers were:

**Lew Avera (Training Committee Chair),**  
*Grand Juries and the Law and Group Process*

**Bette Flick,**  
*Report Writing*

**Karin Hern,**  
*Grand Juries and the Law*

**Judi Lazenby,**  
*Interviewing*

**Duane Mason**  
*Investigations*

**Ron Miguel**  
*Investigations, Interviewing*

**Tom Staple**  
*Investigations*

**Marsha Caranci,**  
*Report Writing, Interviewing*

**Ted Freeman,**  
*Grand Jury Essentials, Continuity*

**Karen Jahr,**  
*Local Government*

**Jerry Lewi,**  
*Grand Jury Essentials, Report Writing*

**Catherine McKown**  
*Report Writing*

**John Sitton**  
*Interviewing*

**Bill Trautman**  
*Interviewing*

This fall, the committee will conduct three one-day Report Writing Workshops in Roseville and San Diego. This is the third year they have been offered and they have been found to be very helpful to the panels in organizing and producing their study reports. The dates of the workshops are:

Thursday, November 12                      Maidu Community Center, Roseville

Friday, November 13                        Maidu Community Center, Roseville

Friday, November 20                        San Diego Courthouse, San Diego

They will run from 9:00 am to 4:30 pm at a cost of \$50 per person. Further information about these workshops and registration forms can be found on the CGJA website.

## **Return to Alpine County** *By Jerry Lewi*

Last year we reported on some of the unique situations when training in California's smallest county, Alpine. This year also revealed some unusual circumstances. The first was that, when Lew Avera, Ron Miguel and I arrived in Markleeville, we learned that we could not conduct our training in the courthouse because it was being fumigated for bats!

However, from a training perspective, that turned out to be OK, as the court was able to use a small conference room in another county building about eight miles away. This turned out to be a better training venue as the jurors had room to spread out their manuals and take notes rather than trying to do so in a court room audience chair.

As happened last year, the Presiding Judge David DeVore (new PJ this year) sat in almost the entire session along with his Court Administrator. This proved valuable for us as he was able to explain some of the unique issues in Alpine such as, being such a small county, everyone knows everyone so it is hard to maintain confidentiality.

We were very anxious to review the report of the 2008-09 jury to see if there were any significant improvements over the previous year based on our training. We are happy to report that they did a good job. The most unique recommendation in a report critical of their Board of Supervisors was as follows:

*Current and future BOS and County Counsel receive at least the first day training session provided to Alpine County Grand Jurors by the California Grand Jurors' Association. This presents an opportunity to understand the role and responsibilities of a GJ and provide orientation of the Ralph M. Brown Act related to the authority, operations, and functions of a California Grand Jury.*

We were very flattered or perhaps even embarrassed to see this recommendation and are curious how their Board of Supervisors will respond.

## Membership Relations Report

By Daniel Mufson, Ph.D., Chair

*The primary purpose of this committee is to develop and maintain a relationship with each chapter to facilitate exchange of information and to coordinate on matters of common concern; to encourage the formation of new chapters; to maintain a database...*

During the past year the positions of CGJA treasurer and membership chair have been in flux such that there has been difficulty maintaining the membership list. The good news is that Bonnie Kenk joined the CGJA and immediately volunteered to assist Judi Lazenby and Tony Noce in reestablishing the membership database and billing systems. This was not easy because recently we had switched to an anniversary date renewal system. These are now under control due to lots of dedication of the aforementioned.

A verified list of active members was then able to be provided to the Nominations Committee to conduct the recent election of Directors.

Unfortunately there was little outreach effort over the past year to existing or potential chapters. However, we have recently begun to answer inquires and to promote chapter formation and are in contact with seven county groups.

The Presidents of each chapter have been invited to meet one another at a special session at the Annual Conference to discuss problems, progress and programs.

Our CGJA membership form contains a Volunteer Interest Application (VIA) which is sent by us to the appropriate committee chair. We take this part of our job very seriously as it is the life blood of the organization. We are all volunteers and must strive to welcome and incorporate new and renewing members into meaningful positions of activity. Therefore, all of you should fill in the VIA even if you've been around forever and each committee must follow up with the application.

Our goal for this coming year is to emu-

late Polk's "54-40 or fight" with "58-5 or bust" [5 new chapters from our 58 counties]. Please help.

## Grand Jury Opens New Opportunity for Retiree

By Lou Gomez, Kern County

*Reprinted with permission of the Bakersfield Californian*

Someone asked me the other day what I've been doing since I retired as president/CEO from the Kern County Hispanic Chamber of Commerce.

Funny you should ask, I said.

Retiring after 26 years with Ma' Bell and the last 10 years with the Kern County Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, I was doing very little. Honey-do's, mainly.

But after loafing for several weeks, I saw an ad in the newspaper recruiting applicants for the Kern County grand jury.

I decide to take a chance. After a selection process and interviews with county Superior Court judges, my name went into a pool along with dozens of others.

Eventually, 19 names were drawn, and I happened to be one of the lucky ones.

Most people know very little about the grand jury -- and for good reason.

The work of the grand jury is strictly confidential until a report is prepared and made public.

The grand jury is a "watchdog" agency. Jurors make a one-year commitment to represent the citizens of Kern County as overseers of local government -- county, city, school districts, special districts and joint power districts.

It is a regular jury (which means it investigates and reports) rather than a criminal jury.

But it can bring criminal indictments against an agency, public official or an individual when requested by the district attorney.

Considering the complexity of local government, a year is a very short time to carry out this role.

But its mission is large.

It is a voluntary body that is independent of administrators, politicians and legislators.

All jurors are sworn to secrecy to protect the confidentiality of complainants and interviewees. Empowered by the judicial system, the grand jury submits meaningful solutions to a wide range of problems. As grand jurors, we monitor the performance of county, city, and other public entities by conducting research, interviewing public officials, experts and the citizenry, and visiting public facilities.

Reports are developed, resulting in recommendations, which have the potential of increasing the efficiency and effectiveness of government services.

The goal: Make recommendations that facilitate positive changes in our county.

We have a jury foreman (foreperson to be politically correct), and the jury is divided into committees of two to four jurors for specific areas of investigation, such as the health, education, special districts, and law and justice.

Each committee selects the topics they want to investigate. They may come from the news (hot topics), fellow jurors, complaints, frequency or infrequency of past investigations; or it could be a hunch. Each committee must have the approval of the entire grand jury before moving forward with an investigation.

This ensures that no juror can have a specific agenda.

An investigation or inquiry can serve to reinforce the fact that an agency is doing a good job. Or the committee can make recommendations on improvements.

The objective is to shed light on local government -- both good and bad.

If recommendations are made, a formal response is required by the agency.

**Agenda and Minutes  
of Board of Directors Meetings Can  
be read online at [www.cgja.org](http://www.cgja.org)**

## Director Ray Hoffman 1929 - 2009 *By Diane Masini*

Ray Hoffman passed away in a Roseville California hospital on September 14, 2009 from complications following a fall. A memorial service was held on September 17, with the former Presiding Judge of the Grand Jury, Judge Robert Tamietti giving the eulogy.

Ray was born July 17, 1929 in Lewistown, Mont., to Henry and Elizabeth (Hildebrand) Hoffman. He spent his youth in Helena, Mont., and was active in music. His public music started with a violin solo in church in 1937 and spanned more than 70 years. He formed the Ray Hoffman Four dance band in 1946.

Ray attended the University of Montana, where he earned a degree in business administration. He kept the band active through school touring in California, Nevada, and Montana also West Yellowstone.

Ray retired from Hunts Food. He married Nancy (Gay) Taggart on May 7; 1983. They lived in Grass Valley before moving to Penn Valley. He remained active in the music community playing in orchestras and other groups.

Ray is survived by his wife, Nancy; children Deborah Rae of Lancaster, Allison (Steven Knight) of Davis, John (Elizabeth) Appel of Grass Valley and Ross (Sita) Taggart of Washington, D.C.; brothers Charles (Barbara) of Fresno and Donald (Helen) of Helena, Mont.; sister, Doris Kranich of Helena, Mont., and many grandchildren, nieces and nephews.

He was predeceased by his first wife, Dorothy, who died June 10, 1981

Ray was elected to the California Grand Jurors' Association Board of Directors in 2005 and again in 2007. At the last minute, he chose not to run for reelection in 2009. He served on the Membership Committee and the "Manual Revision Committee" that was charged with the research and composition of a generic guide for grand jurors in California. The

manual was published in 2005 and was distributed for use by grand juries in all 58 counties. Ray was also President of the Nevada County Chapter of the California Grand Jurors' Association.

Ray served on the Nevada County Grand Jury several times the first being in 1996. At one time or another, he served on all committees both investigative and non investigative and served as



Forman three terms. Grand Jury work became one of his passions. A former Foreperson said "We all think of him as the father of the grand jury, he mentored hundreds of people over the years ... He was just an awesome person."

Ray once said "I seem to be blessed with a lot of "institutional memory" which can be an asset to a jury or a hindrance, depending on the situation." He went on to describe that Institutional Memory in the case of the Grand Jury is the knowledge of what needs to be done in organizing the new jury so that it quickly becomes a body of 19 members to help improve the overall functioning of government entities within the county. This comes from being involved with the "system" several years.

The current grand jury will ask the Board of Supervisors to name the Grand Jury Room in the county building the Ray Hoffman Room in his honor.

A couple of years ago, a fellow juror, *Cindy Grubb* presented Ray with an ode that she wrote. It truly portrays how we his friends, fellow and former jurors felt about him. Nancy his wife, asked that his service be closed with the reading of "*An Ode to Ray*"

There once was  
a young man named Ray  
Who knew he'd be famous one day  
As foreman of the Grand Jury  
Ray never speaks in a hurry  
But, by golly, we do as he say!

There's now an older man named Ray

Whose wisdom grows day by day  
This past year's been trying  
Made him decide on retiring  
But we need you and wish you could stay!

Rays "wit and thoughtfulness" will be greatly missed by so many.



**Sacramento Chapter  
President  
Joseph P. Maloney, Ph.D.**

Prior to his retirement, Joe Maloney helped public, non-profit and private business groups organize, promote and implement their educational training programs and services. He assisted programs at Federal, State, county, district and school site level (public education, private schools and colleges). Practical experience included working with non-profit organizations and all levels of educational governance.



Joe's professional career began in 1964 as a high school teacher. Later, he was a site and central office administrator and a Consultant and Project Manager for the State Department of Education. He established his own consulting firm in 1981.

Joe holds a B.A., M.A. (California State University at Sacramento), Ph.D. (University of Michigan) and Life Teaching and Administrative credentials. Dr. Maloney's Ph.D. is in Educational Administration. He has a graduate minor in survey research and his M.A. specialization is in group communication.

As former Executive Director of the Center for Youth Citizenship (CYC), Joe designed and implemented statewide models for the teaching of local government, business-school partnerships, character education and conflict resolution. Joe

Continued from page 8

has organized numerous trainings, institutes and conferences. He has also been a presenter at national and state-level conferences. His past professional experience has included the writing of numerous articles for publication.

Recognition's include the C.S. Harding Mott Award for outstanding writing and service in the field of community education, California Coordinator for Law-Related Education, Sacramento County Bar and Barrister's Club Liberty Bell Awards, Governor's Office Contact for the Washington Crossing Scholarship, numerous federal, state and local government resolutions and Honorary Mayor of Fair Oaks.

Joe served on the Sacramento County Grand Jury in 2007-2008. He is the President of the recently organized Sacramento County Grand Jury Association and in his spare time enjoys golfing and his five grand children.

## CGJA Chapter News

### Grand Juror Course Comes to Humboldt

By Phil Minor, Humboldt County

The Humboldt County Chapter recently sponsored a six hour course for interested citizens entitled **The Grand Jury, Democracy's Watchdog**. The course was conducted under the auspices of the OLLI (Osher Life-long Learning Institute) program at Humboldt State University. The instructor for the class was Phil Minor, Past President of the Humboldt County group. Materials for the course were drawn heavily from a similar course developed by CGJA, with minor adjustments tailored to Humboldt County.

Eight adult learners were enrolled in the course, and seemed involved and enthused with the material and discussions presented. At least four attendees indicated their intention to volunteer for grand jury service.

Arrangements are being sought to schedule this same course again in April, 2010 during the grand jury recruitment season.

## Grand Juries in the News

### Wanted: watchdogs

San Francisco Chronicle  
September 7, 2009

(Reprinted with permission of the *San Francisco Chronicle*)

Armed with subpoena powers, a band of 19 San Francisco residents has the run of city government, free to ask questions, demand answers and write up its findings for the city to scrutinize and consider.

It sounds like a dream job in a politically caffeinated city, flecked with pressure groups and a polyglot population divided by age, race and income.

Who wouldn't want to grab the gavel of the civil grand jury and charge into a target-rich landscape?

Very few, it turns out.

The civil panel - which has no connection to the criminal grand jury under the purview of the district attorney - is barely alive. Both judges, who loosely oversee the civil jury, and past members are worried that scant public awareness is

dulling its potential. "In a city that's filled with so many motivated and active people, it's appalling so few are interested," said Superior Court Judge Julie Tang, head of a judicial panel overseeing the jury.

Each county in California is authorized to have a civil grand jury. In most counties, the prospect of serving on the watchdog panel generally produces a line out the door. For example, Marin County received 100 applicants last year, Tang said.

But not San Francisco, where judges and former members went into overdrive last spring to lure more candidates when only 46 applicants showed up in the final days. The pool generally shrinks after a panel of former jurors screens applicants for obvious bias and suggests that a would-be member think seriously about the time commitment.

Part of the problem is the jury's low

profile. It doesn't render verdicts like the courtroom variety, not does it issue indictments as criminal grand juries do. Most people don't realize a third variant - the civil watchdog panel - exists. Its volunteer members put in long hours on self-assigned topics that are analyzed in reports that run up to 40 pages.

There's also the frustration factor. The jury's judgments carry no legal weight, though they can attract notice when veering into touchy topics.

Two recent reports addressed sensitive matters: the racially charged issue of assigning kindergartners to neighborhood schools and future bills for public employee pensions. But city authorities have mostly yawned at the results, or derided them as freelance homework turned in by amateurs.

When last year's grand jury faulted Mayor Gavin Newsom for not fully disclosing his administration's follow-through on campaign promises, press secretary Nathan Ballard said the report was "shallow and misleading."

He's since made nice on the subject: "Although we have on occasion grumbled about a grand jury report, we believe society needs the grand jury to be a watchdog, scrutinizing government. It is essential."

In a city rife with commissions and advisory panels, there should be a place for the civil grand jury. It gives average citizens the authority and a forum to get their government's attention. About the grand jury

-- Candidates should be 18 or older and a county resident for at least a year.

-- Applications are due in mid-April for one year of service beginning July 1. There are 19 members with 11 alternates. The pay isn't much: \$15 per weekly meeting that runs several hours, though the job normally requires additional, unpaid hours.

-- For counties like San Francisco, the challenge is finding a cross section of the local population willing to pour hours of work into reports on critical issues such

SF Continued from page 9

In a city rife with commissions and advisory panels, there should be a place for the civil grand jury. It gives average citizens the authority and a forum to get their government's attention. About the grand jury

-- Candidates should be 18 or older and a county resident for at least a year.

-- Applications are due in mid-April for one year of service beginning July 1. There are 19 members with 11 alternates. The pay isn't much: \$15 per weekly meeting that runs several hours, though the job normally requires additional, unpaid hours.

-- For counties like San Francisco, the challenge is finding a cross section of the local population willing to pour hours of work into reports on critical issues such as schools, finances or public services. The results can produce a civic debate - or gather dust on a shelf.

-- Left to itself, a civil grand jury usually self-selects, attracting older professionals with the time and training to delve into complex issues. Using videos and donated ads, San Francisco is trying to broaden the pool, notably short on younger applicants, nonwhites and lower-income groups.

Independent  
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**CGJA Publications  
Work Group Report**  
*By John Sitton Chair*

The Publication Group is charged with providing educational and CGJA related items to the sitting jurors and to CGJA members. Many of these items are offered for purchase, others are provided free of charge. This year the total gross merchandise sales were \$1560.

We are now looking at other items that we could make available for purchase at the training seminars. Some of the items we are reviewing are lapel pins, ink pens, baseball caps and tote bags. Of course, all items carry the CGJA logo.

We would like to thank all those who volunteered their time to help us man the publications table at each of the seminars. We hope to have the opportunity of working with you again next training season.

- Publications  
Work Group Members are:**
- John Sitton**, Chairman  
**Dianne Hoffman**, Legislative Affairs Committee Representative  
**Bonnie Kenk**, Membership Relations Committee Representative  
**Diane Masini**, Public Relations Committee Representative  
**Sherry Chesny**, Training Committee Representative

**Grant Writers Sought**

The Board of Directors has several projects in mind to enhance our activities. However, execution exceeds our financial resources. Therefore, the obvious solution is to seek a grant. We are looking for experienced grant writers to help us. If you have an interest, please contact:

**Tony Noce or Jerry Lewi**

**Action Summary  
of Board Meetings**  
*By Joann Landi, Secretary*

**August 25, 2009 Regular Meeting**

Ratified Chair and Vice Chair of the Legislative Affairs Committee



Ratified appointment of Database Manager

Ratified appointment of Membership Relations Committee Chair

Approved wording change to Policy section 3.001 regarding subcommittees

September 8, 2009 Special Meeting

Approved Angelo Rolando Ad Hoc Committee recommendation for the 2009 recipient

Approved the recommendation of the EIR Review Committee for the recipients of the EIR jury and media awards

Approved conducting a face-to-face Board Retreat on October 31, 2009 following the Annual Conference

**Notice to CGJA Membership  
Use of Email**

Many of you should have recently received an email regarding the Annual Conference. This is our first attempt to reach the membership via email. If you did not receive that message it is probably because your email address is not in our newly updated membership database. If you would like to receive such messages – and we promise not to bombard you or share your address with anyone else – please send an email to Bonnie Kenk, Membership Database Manager at [parroted@cox.net](mailto:parroted@cox.net). Please be sure your name is in the email – somewhere!

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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)

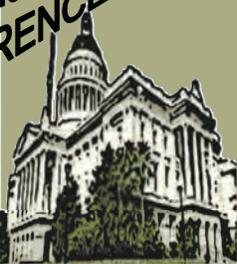


# Grand Jurors' Journal

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**2009  
annual  
CONFERENCE**



Sacramento CA  
October 29-30

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**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

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 805-531-1121

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 awareness 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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