

## California Grand Jurors' Association Board of Directors Meeting—March 24, 2015

### MINUTES

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#### A. Call to Order and Roll Call

The roll was taken, and the meeting began at 7:14 PM.

Present: Directors Karen Jahr (president), Lloyd Bell, Medsie Bolin, Marsha Caranci, Karin Hern, Dianne Hoffman, Beckie Jennings, Lou Meyer, Jim Ragan, Gary Spaugh

Absent: Directors Jerry Kunkle, Jerry Lewi, Diane Shepp (all excused)

#### B. Agenda and Comments

B-1 Agenda Approval: Jahr

The Board unanimously approved the agenda.

B-2 Member Comments

None.

#### C. Consent Items

C-1 Approve Regular Board Meeting Minutes, 02/24/15: Ragan

C-2 Acknowledge Committee Minutes in 03/24/15 meeting packet: Jahr/Ragan

The Board unanimously approved the consent items.

#### D. Officer and Committee Chair Reports

D-1 President's Report (Jahr)

Jahr reported on a query Chernock had received from Monterey as to whether a CGJA chapter could devise its own membership criteria to allow people who are not eligible for CGJA membership to be chapter members. Jahr asked for comments. There was consensus that chapter membership eligibility is a matter for each chapter to decide.

D-2 Officer Reports

**Vice President Shepp.** No report.

**Treasurer Meyer.** Meyer said that CGJA's 2014 tax forms have been filed.

**Secretary Ragan.** No report.

D-3 Legal and Legislative Resources Committee (LLRC)

Jahr reported on behalf of Chair Johnson. She mentioned the LLRC responses to questions that it had completed in the past month. LLRC is preparing a position paper for the Training Committee about one grand jury forwarding its investigative files to the succeeding jury. LLRC is also working on its comments regarding the website and on its procedures.

D-4 Public Relations Committee (PRC)

No report.

D-5 Membership Relations Committee (MRC)

MRC Member Spaugh reported on behalf of Chair Chernock. MRC has three new members. Committee members will hold a retreat on March 27 in Bakersfield, one day before that San Joaquin Valley regional meeting. The committee will put together its plan for member recruitment and retention. It will examine whether the approved 2015 MRC budget amount of \$1,000 for travel is sufficient to support member recruitment and retention.

D-6 Training Committee (TC)

Chair Caranci reported that TC meeting minutes reflect the committee's activities. She said that trainer assignments are complete.

D-7 Finance Committee (FC)

Chair Bell repeated his request for revised 2014 financial projections from each committee. The independent financial review is close to completion.

D-8 Nominations-Elections Committee (NEC)

No report.

D-9 Awards Committee (AC)

No report.

D-10 Annual Conference Committee (ACC)

Bell, chair of the host chapter 2015 conference committee, said that the proposed conference budget is in the 03/24/15 Board meeting packet. The ACC is working on revisions, looking at the cost of the dinner and registration. All conference planning is on track.

Bell announced that the keynote speaker will be the Honorable Tani Cantil-Sakauye, Chief Justice of the California Supreme Court. Board members applauded this announcement. Discussion ensued with respect to publicizing this news as soon as possible. Jahr said that there are several ethical restrictions placed on Justices of the Supreme Court with regard to their personal appearances. We can't for example, use her appearance as part of any solicitation of donations. All annual conference promotional materials mentioning the Chief Justice should be submitted to the Chief's scheduler, in

advance, for approval. Jahr will look into this further. At this moment, Bell said that there is no problem releasing this information within CGJA, and it is OK to announce it at the March 28 San Joaquin regional meeting.

D-11 Ad Hoc Bylaws and Policies Review Committee (BPRC)

Co-Chair Spaugh referred Board members to H-2 of the 03-24-15 Board meeting packet: Status of BPRC Bylaws Recs 03-03-15. See item F below (Director Comments) for additional discussion.

D-12 Ad Hoc Fund Development Committee (FDCC)

No report.

**E. Action Agenda**

**E-1 Approve the following language concerning the deductibility of annual CGJA Dues:**

**CGJA annual dues are of token value, not substantial, and deductible in full.**

Bell said that we need this change to clarify language pertaining to the deductibility of CGJA dues. Hern said that we should be as precise as we can be, and she proposed an amendment to be even more specific, consistent with IRS rules:

**CGJA annual membership dues of \$75 or less are of token value, not substantial, and fully deductible.**

Bell accepted the proposed amendment.

**The motion passed unanimously, 9-0-0.**

**E-2 Approve categories of charitable giving to CGJA and appropriate forms to be used as fundraising tools and published on the CGJA website and in the Journal.**

**The proposed categories of giving are the current categories of membership; annual unrestricted gifts of Friend (\$100), Donor (\$250), Sponsor (\$500), Benefactor (\$750), and Patron (\$1,000+); one-time unrestricted gift; contribution in memory; employer matching gift; bequest; and stock donation.**

Discussion focused on (1) the impact of including all categories on the CGJA membership application/renewal form and (2) MRC not being asked for approval of the revised membership application/renewal form. The concern is that a revised form including all categories of charitable giving might turn off people from joining or renewing. This is especially important now because of CGJA's priority goal to increase membership.

**Ragan moved, and it was seconded, to refer this proposed action to MRC and FDC to agree on and come back to the Board with a united position.**

**The motion passed unanimously, 9-0-0.**

**E-3 Approve the budget for the 2015 CGJA Annual Conference.**

Hoffman said that she had just received amendment to the conference budget included in the 03-24-15 Board meeting packet reduced the registration fee to \$120 and the banquet dinner to \$55.

Bolin asked, how do we proceed?

Discussion focused on the following Board member concerns:

- The high cost of the Board box lunch and the chapter officers' dinner. Board members expressed strong concerns about the cost of the chapter officers' dinner, which might result in resistance and low attendance.
- The proposal that each Board member voluntarily contribute \$100 to underwrite the annual conference in order to reduce the conference fee. No one supported this proposal.
- The ACC has not yet approved the amended budget.

There was consensus that the Board should refer this motion back to ACC for further consideration and a vote. Four Board members are ACC members and can convey Board concerns.

**Meyer moved, and Bolin seconded, that approval of the budget for the 2015 CGJA Annual Conference be referred back to ACC for further consideration and a vote.**

**The motion passed unanimously, 9-0-0.**

**F. Director Comments**

Spaugh asked for guidance with respect to seeking CGJA member input on deliberations of the Ad Hoc Bylaws and Policies Review Committee (BPRC). Should BPRC seek informal member comments now, or should BPRC wait until the Board has had a chance to review and comment on proposed changes to the bylaws? The general consensus was the seeking informal input from the members through the regional meetings is a good idea. Spaugh said that he would present the current ideas at the San Joaquin regional meeting on March 28.

**G. Adjournment (8:42 PM).**

Respectfully submitted,  
Jim Ragan, Secretary