

California Grand Jurors' Association Board of Directors Meeting—February 23, 2016

MINUTES

A. Call to Order and Roll Call

The roll was taken, and the meeting began at 7:02 PM.

Present: Directors Karen Jahr (President), Lloyd Bell, Medsie Bolin, Marsha Caranci, Rich Knowles, Jerry Kunkle, Joann Landi, Jerry Lewi, Jim Ragan, Mac Small, Barbara Sommer, Andi Winters

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, 01/26/15: Ragan

C-2 Acknowledge Committee Minutes in 02/23/16 meeting packet: Jahr/Ragan

The Board unanimously approved the consent items.

D. Officer and Committee Chair Reports

D-1 **President's Report (Jahr)**

Jahr announced that the State Assembly will proclaim March as Grand Jury Awareness Month in the state in the Assembly chambers on Thursday, March 10, at 9:00 AM. Lloyd Bell, Beckie Jennings, and Steve Meyer (foreperson of the Sutter County Grand Jury) will be present on the Assembly floor. Seating in the Assembly gallery is available for others. Jahr said that she has parking information. Others wishing to be present should let Jennings know by March 5.

Jahr then discusses activities in the past month.

Bay Area Regional Meeting, February 6, in San Rafael. Jahr said that board members Caranci, Jahr, Landi, Sommer, and Small attended, as did new Awards Committee chair, Todd Lloyd. Total attendance was 37 people from 11 different counties. The meeting focused on a discussion of chapter activities and the results of a San Francisco Grand Jury survey on best grand jury practices. Jahr said that she distributed a document highlighting a new page on

our website, “Chapter Resources,” that contains documents that can be downloaded for use. Most of the documents came from chapters. She asked for comments. Small said that many of the documents have been very helpful to the new Monterey chapter.

Southern San Joaquin Valley Regional Meeting, February 27. Jahr said that she recently circulated to board members a copy of an email indicating that CGJA directors are not really welcome at this regional meeting. Jahr said that she wants to include in the board’s April retreat the topic of regional meeting sponsorship and who can attend. She asked for preliminary comments. Bolin said that this “director exclusion” came about because—at an earlier regional meeting—the Fresno chapter president in particular wants it because directors stifle discussion. She said that the regional is only for a few counties. Lynn Runyan, the organizer, has not notified MRC or Lewi, the webmaster about it. Lewi said that there is no information on the website about the meeting. Caranci said that we need regional meeting guidelines. All meeting notices should go to everyone in the region. Knowles said that MRC has discussed the situation. He said that he would talk with Runyan and the Fresno chapter president to seek clarification.

Senate Bill 1292—legislation about exit interviews and preliminary responses to grand jury reports. Jahr said that the bill was introduced on February 19, but it did not include the language we had been negotiating with the California Special Districts Association (CSDA). She said that she is now working with CSDA on marking up the bill for amendment when it goes to Legislative Counsel and then to the first committee – Senate Judiciary, which can’t consider the bill until March 23. Before then, she said, we need a delegation to go to the bill’s sponsor, Senator Jeff Stone (Riverside), a possible co-sponsor, Senator Bill Monning (Carmel), and all eight members of the Judiciary Committee to discuss CGJA concerns and position.

Jahr said that she and Caranci visited with Stone’s staff person, Chris Norden, in Sacramento on February 19 and dropped by Monning’s office, as well. She said she will contact our consulting lobbyist, Bob Hoffman, on February 24 to begin formulating our campaign. Caranci said that Stone’s office knows that there are changes to the bill’s language that CSDA and CGJA have agreed to and will support those changes.

Lewi asked about timing. Jahr responded that the Judiciary Committee would probably consider the bill in April, so we have to contact the sponsors and committee members before then.

Lewi offered to meet with the chair of the Senate Judiciary Committee. Knowles, Bell, Sommer, and Winters (including her husband) offered to participate.

Directors discussed and agreed on the need to inform CGJA chapters and the superior courts about the legislation. Consensus was reached that the Executive Committee can approve such communication.

Jahr said that, over the next few days, she would finalize the language agreed to by CSDA and CGJA.

The April 10 board retreat in Sacramento. Jahr said that the time will be 8:30 AM to 2:30 PM. She asked directors to tell Caranci whether they need a hotel room reservation for Saturday night, April 9. Currently, the agenda items are the Infusionsoft contract and alternatives, e-Commerce, electronic communication responsibilities, and what the board and each committee can do to promote membership growth.

Committee rosters. Jahr asked committee chairs to give Ragan their current committee and sub-committee members.

D-2 Officer Reports

Vice President Bell. No report.

Treasurer Bolin. Bolin said she was willing to answer questions about the financial statements submitted in the board meeting packet. There were none.

Secretary Ragan. Ragan said that he is working on the committee rosters.

D-3 Legal and Legislative Resources Committee (LLRC)

No report.

D-4 Public Relations Committee (PRC)

Chair Ragan said that PRC is developing a draft electronic communications matrix that spells out responsibilities for each communication item—in preparation for the April 10 board retreat. PRC will coordinate this with MRC.

D-5 Membership Relations Committee (MRC)

Chair Knowles said that Sommer has joined the MRC. She has drafted a paper regarding member recruitment. Knowles said that he is in the process of contacting chapter presidents.

D-6 Training Committee (TC)

Chair Caranci said that no TC minutes were included in the board meeting packet because the February committee meeting was just the day before the board meeting. With respect to summer grand juror training, she said that TC has scheduled 29 of the 35 venues. With respect to the new class of trainers, she said that the New Trainer Orientation on February 20 was very successful. Ten of the eleven new trainers attended.

D-7 Finance Committee (FC)

No report.

D-8 Nominations-Elections Committee (NEC)

Chair Lewi said that, at its first meeting of the year, NEC elected Marsha Caranci as vice chair and Joann Landi as secretary. The big challenge for 2016, Lewi said, is how to deal with voting for director by region: a single ballot or three ballots? He also pointed out that NEC—this year—must nominate officers and consider, in seeking board member candidates, that two incumbents will term out.

D-9 Awards Committee (AC)

No report.

D-10 Annual Conference Committee (ACC)

Chair Bell said that the date for the 2016 annual conference is November 5, with the board retreat on November 4. While nothing is definitive yet, the ACC is planning for 50 attendees. It looks like the room rental would be \$700 plus 30%. If we provide food, the cost would be \$57/attendee (assuming 50 attendees). This would mitigate the room rental cost.

D-11 Ad Hoc Committees

E-Commerce Task Force. Chair Knowles said that we are now using PayPal rather than Intel for e-Commerce. It looks like this is the least expensive, but the task force is still examining the options. He said that he hopes to have a recommendation for the April board retreat.

E. Action Agenda

E-1 Ratify the president's appointment of Lloyd Bell as chair of the Annual Conference Committee.

Jahr said that Director, Vice President, and Finance Committee Chair Lloyd Bell has agreed to be chair of CGJA's Annual Conference Committee, filling the vacancy that resulted when former Chair Leslie Lea needed to resign in January due to family obligations. Director Bell is well qualified to take on this responsibility. As the Host Committee chair for the 2015 Annual Conference, he skillfully led the development and presentation of our successful conference in Lafayette.

The motion passed unanimously, 12-0-0, by voice vote.

E-2 Ratify the president's appointment of Todd Lloyd as chair of the Awards Committee.

Jahr said that Director Barbara Sommer is stepping down as chair of the Awards Committee in order to join the Membership Relations Committee to assist it in its goal of energizing our chapters and building membership. Director Sommer will continue as chair of the Awards Committee's Excellence in Reporting Subcommittee.

In her place as Awards Committee chair, Jahr has appointed Todd Lloyd (San Francisco), a current member of the committee and the chair of its Local Achievement Award Subcommittee. He is also a member of CGJA's Financial Review and Bylaws and Policy Review committees.

The motion passed unanimously, 12-0-0, by voice vote.

F. Director Comments

Directors discussed the implementation date for Senate Bill 1292. There was consensus that we should try to get the date moved from January 1, 2017, to July 1, 2017. This will coincide with the grand jury year.

Directors discussed the possible demise (a "sunset provision"), on January 1, 2017, of the current law that requires grand juries to allow interviewees—if to testify under oath—to be accompanied by an attorney. What do we do in training this summer? There was consensus that, in training, we must only present current conditions. If this requirement is removed after January 1, 2017, CGJA will so advise members, chapters, grand juries, and courts.

G. Adjournment (8:31 PM).

Respectfully submitted,
Jim Ragan, Secretary