

## **California Grand Jurors' Association Board of Directors Meeting—March 22, 2016**

### **MINUTES**

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

The roll was taken, and the meeting began at 7:01 PM.

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

Absent: Jerry Lewi (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, 02/23/16: Ragan

C-2 Acknowledge Committee Minutes in 03/22/16 meeting packet: Jahr/Ragan

The Board unanimously approved the consent items, correcting one misspelling in C-1.

#### **D. Officer and Committee Chair Reports**

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

The president's report focused on SB 1292, which Jahr had discussed with the board at the February meeting. She said that during the past month, on behalf of the board and executive committee, she has been negotiating amendment language with the California Special Districts Association (CSDA), the sponsor of the bill. Compromise language has been developed and was submitted last week to the legislative counsel and the Public Safety Committee, but as of this evening's meeting, the amended language was not showing on the legislature's website.

Jahr said that she went to Sacramento last week to take part in a series of meetings with CSDA's legislative representative and the staff of members of

the committee. None of the staffers voiced any concern about the amended bill.

Larry Johnson, chair of LLRC, will attend the committee hearing on April 12 and speak in favor of the bill (if it is in fact amended as negotiated). CGJA can also submit a letter in support of the bill, if we wish.

Currently, there is no opposition—the lobbyist for a newspaper association that had earlier voiced some concern has told CSDA that the association has decided not to oppose the bill.

Jahr said she will be sending some additional documents to the board, including an email from CSDA that describes the results of CSDA's survey of its 1000 district members. She said it indicates that 49 percent of the 396 districts that responded said they had been the subject of a grand jury report. Of those 194, 53 percent felt the report was not accurate; and 77 percent said there was no exit interview. Of the 13 percent who said that an exit interview had been conducted (10 percent weren't sure if there was one), 47 percent reported that inaccuracies were discovered.

Caranci asked three questions:

- Why is SB 1292 going to the Public Safety Committee? Jahr responded that she didn't know, except that it is dealing with a penal code section. It could go to another committee, but that is unlikely.
- Has the committee staff seen the substitute language that we submitted? Jahr said yes.
- This law could result in additional costs the counties. Would they be willing to increase their budgets to include these costs? Jahr answered that this is not a fiscal bill. The exit interviews wouldn't necessarily cost anything, since the grand jury chooses which investigations to conduct and how many interviews to take. There is no mandated cost.

Caranci then said that grand juries and CGJA members haven't yet received any information on the legislation. Jahr said that she is prepared to send information to them as soon as the amendments are in print. Knowles said that he mentioned our involvement with the legislation when he met recently with the Marin County chapter.

#### D-2 **Officer Reports**

**Vice President Bell.** Bell said that he represented CGJA on March 10 on the State Assembly floor when the Assembly proclaimed March as statewide Grand Jury Awareness Month. Two other CGJA members, Beckie Jennings and Steve Meyer (Sutter County), were on the floor with Bell; others were in the gallery. Bell said that the Senate is looking at making a similar proclamation. Bell said that he would send the proclamation to PRC.

**Treasurer Bolin.** Bolin said she was willing to answer questions about the financial statements submitted in the board meeting packet. There were none. She added that the 2015 taxes are complete.

**Secretary Ragan.** No report.

**D-3 Legal and Legislative Resources Committee (LLRC)**

Jahr, on behalf of LLRC Chair Johnson, said that the committee is busy answering questions and reviewing and updating the website FAQs.

**D-4 Public Relations Committee (PRC)**

Chair Ragan said that PRC is continuing to develop the draft electronic communications matrix that spells out officer and committee responsibilities for each communication item—in preparation for the April 10 board retreat.

**D-5 Membership Relations Committee (MRC)**

Chair Knowles said that MRC is examining the decrease in membership as reflected in the March MRC meeting minutes. At the moment, MRC doesn't know the reason. With respect to membership renewals, he said that 34 renewal emails have been sent this year so far; 4 have renewed. One of the problems we have, Knowles said, is that we don't have a transactional database. The numbers are small enough, however, that Knowles can track them. For the 30 who have not yet renewed, MRC will send a second email. In response to a question from Bolin, Knowles said that all membership renewals go through Bolin, the treasurer. Knowles said that, between December 8 and March 12, we had received 12 memberships.

On a different subject, Knowles said that he is continuing to meet with chapters. At Marin, most chapter members expressed appreciation that he attended.

Jahr asked about the Commerce Task Force. Knowles said that the focus is to deciding what our best commerce options are. Dianne Hoffman is putting together a matrix to compare the choices. PayPal looks to be the best at the moment. Knowles expects to present an action item to the board in April.

With respect to the cost-benefit analysis of Infusionsoft and other email marketing software, Knowles said that he will present the analysis at the April 10 board retreat.

**D-6 Training Committee (TC)**

Chair Caranci said that TC is finalizing the 2016 grand juror training program. There are 10 new trainers this year. With 3 retirements, this brings us to 24 trainers. TC is now working on draft #7 of the training schedule. Training curriculum review, for both the PowerPoint presentations and training manual, is under way. Something new this year is our offering a workshop for county legal advisors in connection with the regional seminars. Jahr is presenting this

to the State Bar to offer credit to the legal advisors as part of their required continuing education.

**D-7 Finance Committee (FC)**

Chair Bell said the FC is discussing the need to post 2015 CGJA financial information on our website. FC posted the 2014 data but doesn't believe that it is necessary. This information is annually printed in the April edition of the Journal. FC recommends that the 2014 financial data be removed from the website and that the 2015 data not be posted. After substantial discussion, there was general agreement to endorse FC's recommendation. However, it was also agreed that this should be a specific agenda board action. Bell agreed to bring it formally to the board in April.

**D-8 Nominations-Elections Committee (NEC)**

NEC Secretary Landi said that NEC has decided on a single ballot for each region in the upcoming election for directors. The next meeting will focus on the membership list to identify potential candidates.

**D-9 Awards Committee (AC)**

No report.

**D-10 Annual Conference Committee (ACC)**

Chair Bell said that working out the participant fee for the 2016 annual conference on November 5 in Sacramento is still fluid. He sought input on the current proposal: assuming 50 attendees, the cost would be \$55/person, including a hot lunch and the chapter officers' session. Some directors asked for a lower cost. Bell said that the cost per person would drop with more attendees. But, we have to cover \$1,500 in food. The room rental is \$550. The bottom line is \$3,250 for the room, food, and printing. Some directors expressed optimism that more than 50 people would attend; others said that the driving radius for potential attendees is limited. Bell said that two hours' maximum each way for participants is probably maximum. 50 to 60 is probably the best number to expect. But maybe we can move it up to 75. Caranci offered to work with Bell on the costs and participant fee. Bell said that the Contra Costa chapter has voted to support this annual conference effort. Director comments about the draft program and chapter officers' session included:

- Program needs a session on running chapters and on what CGJA is doing.
- Need to decide on how to package the president's report.
- Chapter officers' session should be earlier in the program.
- What about brunch or breakfast rather than lunch?
- Is it important to have a guest speaker? Should be relevant to the grand jury system. How "high power" a speaker can we get for this limited number of participants?

04-26-16 Approved

Directors also discussed the reason for having a chapter officer's session. Bolin said that the session was the idea of Dan Mufson, former MRC chair. The main purpose was social. The officers were coming to the conference anyway, so why not get to know each other better? Caranci said that the first such session was in San Francisco (a catered breakfast at the hotel). The following year, the meeting was followed by a dinner at a hotel restaurant in Bakersfield. Most of the sessions have been associated with a meal.

**E. Action Agenda**

None

**F. Director Comments**

None

**G. Adjournment (9:00 PM).**

Respectfully submitted,  
Jim Ragan, Secretary