

California Grand Jurors' Association Board of Directors Meeting November 23, 2021

MINUTES

A. Call to Order and Roll Call

The roll was taken, and the meeting began at 3:04 PM.

Directors present: Marsha Caranci, Janet Clark, Bob Finlayson, Travis Gibbons, Diane Lloyd, Lou Panetta, Barbara Sommer.

Absent (all excused): Shirley Boracci, Bernadette Cheyne, Tim Hafner, Larry Herbst.

Quorum is present.

Others present: Committee Chairs: Lloyd Bell, ACC and FC; Karen Jahr, LLRC and BPRC, Joann Landi, AC and Jerry Lewi, PRC.

B. Agenda and Comments

B-1 Agenda Approval: Board members unanimously approved the agenda.

B-2 CGJA Member Comments - none

C. Consent Items

C-1 Approved Corrected (D-6 report) Regular Board Meeting Minutes, 10/26/21: Panetta

C-2 Acknowledged Committee Minutes and other documents in 11/23/21 meeting packet: Panetta Board unanimously approved the consent items and the corrected minutes.

D. Officer and Committee Chair Reports – see committee minutes in packet for details on current activities

D-1 **President's Report** – Panetta said that he was going to be interviewed tomorrow by Wendy Brickman on his local government channel (Monterey). He will provide an overview and information about the civil grand jury.

D-2 **Officer Reports**

Vice President (Herbst) – no report.

Treasurer (Gibbons) – no report. Insurance renewal is due in December. No increase is expected.

Secretary (Sommer) – no report.

D-7 **Finance Committee (FC)** – Bell said that the committee is incorporating three new members. They are discussing accrual versus cash-based accounting procedures. He will keep the board posted.

The end-of-year donation mailing will go out soon via Constant Contact. We collected \$4,600 last year. The letter will be sent to the board for approval with the hope that it can be sent on Giving Tuesday (11/20/21).

D-10 **Annual Conference Committee (ACC)** – Bell reported that the committee plans to invite Ethan Rarick, Executive Director of the Little Hoover Commission, to be the keynote speaker at next

year's conference. They are also considering panel discussions on the current workgroup topics of grand jury effectiveness and diversity.

Finlayson described the Santa Cruz program of using a past grand juror as a "volunteer clerk" to help the sitting grand jury with various tasks such as dealing with forms, technology, and such. He suggested that might be a good panel discussion topic.

D-3 **Legal and Legislative Resources Committee (LLRC)** – no report.

D-4 **Public Relations Committee (PRC)** – Lewi reported that the final edits have been made on the system book. The next major task will be getting statewide coverage on its release. He will need help from chapters with regard to media contacts.

D-5 **Membership Relations Committee (MCRC)** – Lloyd said the committee continues working on its goal of 350 CGJA members, having a current count of 337 and going up each month. They are concerned about membership drops and are planning to follow up, particularly on recent one (i.e., within the last few months) with personalized emails. There are a number of multi-year signups among new members. The committee will pursue the sponsored membership proposal with chapter presidents to get the latter's buy-in. They will also add chapter information in their contact with Introductory Members (IMs) and hope to provide a local contact.

Their policy manual needs to be updated. After collecting the needed changes, they will contact BPRC. There was some discussion about specific tasks and commitments and the letter to be sent to new members.

Caranci asked about the chapter officers' meeting with the president. It is scheduled for January 11, 2022, at 3 PM.

D-6 **Training Committee (TC)** –Caranci said they have finished the report writing workshop season. The evaluations were very positive. The December activity is the in-person Train-the-Trainers session. The number of January training sessions has declined to seven counties (rather than the expected 12). Some of the counties are going dark with respect to their grand jury – waiting for the start of the fiscal year. There will be a foreperson workshop in January and one or two report writing workshops in the spring. Regular training resumes in June.

Clark and Caranci discussed the problem of some of the Alameda-sponsored jurists not signing up in time for the report writing workshops. Clark also mentioned the recent disappearance of the legal adviser in Alameda County. He had been extremely helpful and the chapter and the court is struggling with the loss.

Lloyd asked Caranci about the grand jury situation in Calaveras county. Caranci said they are waiting for the fiscal year and will probably have a tri-county arrangement.

D-10 **Awards Committee (AC)** – Landi said that the committee is drafting a letter to chapter chairs alerting them to the Certificate of Special Recognition Award. Panetta suggested adding, as an incentive, that the award would be accompanied by a press release to local media.

D-11 **Bylaws & Policy Review Committee (BPRC)** – no report. Jahr said she is working on a list of items to be reviewed. They will meet in spring. Committee chairs should review their procedures and send any changes to her, indicating a time frame for resolution.

D-13 **Technology Committee (Tech)** – no report.

- D-14 **Grand Jury Effectiveness Workgroup** – Finlayson said Lewi is on the committee and that they welcome new members. They would like to recruit Josh Franco as an associate member.
- D-15 **Diversity Study Workgroup** – Sommer reported that the committee has three new members: Lauren Hallinan, Sharon Shou and Carolyn Stinemates. The committee has held one meeting via Zoom and hopes to have a draft report after the first of the year.
- Panetta said he spoke with Scott Law about the latter’s interest. Clark, in the Alameda chapter, will follow up with Law.

E. Action Agenda

- E-1 Approve the 2022 CGJA Budget**
[Motion made by Lloyd, seconded by Panetta]
The motion passed, 7-0-0, by hand vote.

F. Director Comments

Caranci thanked Jahr for her work on the system book. Jahr in turn thanked Caranci and others who have worked on the multiple revisions.

G. Adjournment (3:53 PM)

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara Sommer, Secretary