

California Grand Jurors' Association Board of Directors Meeting
May 24, 2022
MINUTES

A. Call to Order and Roll Call

The roll was taken, and the meeting began at 3:00 PM.

Directors present: Marsha Caranci, Janet Clark, Travis Gibbons, Larry Herbst, Karen Jahr, Diane Lloyd, Lou Panetta, Henry Rible, Barbara Sommer.

Absent: Bob Finlayson.

Excused: Shirley Boracci.

Quorum is present.

Others present: Committee Chairs: Lloyd Bell, ACC; Joann Landi, AC; Juliana Jones, PRC; and Richard Rogers, FC.

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 Regular Board Meeting Minutes, 04/26/22: Panetta

C-2 Acknowledged Committee Minutes and other documents in 05/24/22 meeting packet: Panetta. Board unanimously approved the consent items and the minutes.

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

D-1 **President's Report** – no report.

D-2 Officer Reports

Vice President (Herbst) –there will be a board retreat at the conference on Sunday morning (10/23/22) to elect officers. Therefore, board members need to arrive in San Rafael on Saturday night. Newly elected directors will vote along with the continuing ones. Bell said the necessary arrangement were in place. Caranci suggested that the new directors be informed of the meeting.

Treasurer (Gibbons) –the training season's manuals have been printed at a cost of about \$15,000.

Secretary (Sommer) – a list of links to CGJA documents stored on Dropbox is included in the packet. Feel free to skip the links and ask her for any (or all) desired documents and she will send them to you as soon as possible.

D-10 **Annual Conference Committee (ACC)** – Bell said the ACC has reviewed pertinent Policies and Procedures and have recommended improvements to BPRC for their review.

The conference registration information on the CGJA website should become active soon.

For the 2023 conference, solicitations were made to The Cambria Pines Inn, Embassy Suites Monterey, Oakland Marriott City Center, and the Embassy Suites Walnut Creek. Marriott nonresponsive after two attempts; Cambria Pines Inn reluctant to offer much data so far in advance but feel they may be up to \$80 more expensive than this year (2022 total cost is \$280); Embassy Suites Monterey appears to be \$100 more expensive than this year; preliminary information from Embassy Suites Walnut Creek indicates a \$29 upcharge from 2022. After committee review, it appears he will be working with Walnut Creek to lock down details and solicit a proposal.

Marin Chapter has volunteered to assist as the host chapter this year, and it will be providing some on-site support for our conference due to their proximity to San Rafael.

D-3 **Legal and Legislative Resources Committee (LLRC)** – Jahr said that AB 1972 is still around. This is a bill proposing a grand jury per diem of 70% of the county median daily income. The same problems as previously discussed continue. She said we should submit a position paper to let the author know of the various problems with the bill. She does not have time to follow its progress in the legislature. There was a general discussion of who might be able to do this as well as suggestions for working with other groups or individuals. Jahr will try to form a workgroup from her committee members and will keep Panetta apprised of her progress.

D-4 **Public Relations Committee (PRC)** – Jones said the committee is involved in two tasks. One is reviewing website tools, and the other is creating a cheat sheet for Osher presentations. The plan is to provide outlines to past grand jurors who are might offer a course.

The committee is also cleaning up the list of Constant Contact contacts and working on the blog.

She suggested that CGJA consider developing an overall marketing plan – something that would provide continuity across various aspects and activities. Herbst asked who would do this. Jones responded that it could be the PRC but that remains to be decided. It should be a distinct entity that would take an overall approach.

D-5 **Membership Relations Committee (MCRC)** – Lloyd attended another event sponsored by the San Joaquin Chapter. This was a luncheon for grand jurors, coordinated with the court. The committee is conscientiously doing more outreach to chapters. There are currently 317 CGJA members.

The committee will be sending out welcome letters during training over the summer. Promotion by the Training Committee is very helpful.

She had a question about the panel that MCRC will be presenting at the conference. They have invited a judge from Calaveras County. He requires a formal invitation and she wondered who should do that. Panetta said MCRC should write the letter. The panel will address relations with the court.

There are 2 new forms to add to the chapter formation packet, which will then be complete.

The “Presidents’ Meeting” has been renamed “Chapter Officers’ Meeting.” The next one will be on July 20, 2022, at 4 p.m. Let her know if you plan to attend.

- D-6 **Training Committee (TC)** – Caranci said no one was going on vacation. They finished the spring report writing workshops which went extremely well (i.e., received extremely high ratings) in the five counties where presented.

There are 8 new trainers, with a full staff of 25 people, one-half of whom are first- or second-year trainers. The **Train the Trainer** meeting took place yesterday on Zoom.

The summer training schedule will be covered in a forthcoming *Journal* article.

- D-7 **Finance Committee (FC)** – no report

- D-8 **Nominations and Elections (NEC)** – Panetta said 6 people have indicated their intention to run for the board: South – Larry Herbst, Henry Rible; Central – Gary Cooper, Bob Finlayson; North – Shirley Boracci, Jim Glover. This a full slate with none of the positions contested. However, nominations are open for another week. The slate will be presented to the board at the June meeting for approval. The August *Journal* will publish the candidate statements. Lloyd (MCRC) will update/create the list of eligible voters of record on July 31 and send out the ballots via Constant Contact on August 15.

- D-10 **Awards Committee (AC)** – Landi said the committee approved 2 requests for Certificates of Special Recognition submitted by Ruth Henderson of the Glenn County Chapter. The certificates are for chapter members **Shirley Boracci** who currently is serving as the chapter secretary and **Marge Ansel** who has a long history of serving in Glenn County, giving service on a variety of levels.

- D-11 **Bylaws & Policy Review Committee (BPRC)** – no report. Jahr said there are documents to review, but a meeting has not yet been scheduled.

- D-13 **Technology Committee (Tech)** – Herbst reported that activity has focused on the website. Conference material is being posted. He is working the Jahr and Caranci on posting testimonials about training. See “Benefits of training” on the website under the Training heading.

April website usage continues as it was in March – tends to be flat, but the flatness is 25% higher than last year. There appears to be a mix of new and end-of-term users. There were 175 hits for the system book in April.

The membership cutoff date for eligibility to vote is July 31. There was some discussion about making certain that everyone joining by that date (which can be substantial due to the training schedule) be sent a ballot. Panetta pointed out that keeping the voter list and determining eligibility was a responsibility of the MCRC.

- D-14 **Grand Jury Effectiveness Workgroup (GJE)** – no report.

- D-15 **Diversity Study Workgroup** – no report. Sommer said the group had completed its initial tasks. However, it will be kept in place to collect diversity data as it becomes available from the courts over time. Panetta pointed out that it is appropriate for the organization to keep the workgroup.

E. Action Agenda - none

- F. Director Comments** – Herbst read a letter to the editor in an online news source from Kathy Mastako, a former director, who was stuck in Scotland, having suffered a positive covid test.

Approved 06-28-31

PRC chair, Jones, requested that those present send her links to any grand jury media coverage that they might encounter. Active links are preferable to PDFs.

G. Adjournment (4:04 PM)

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara Sommer, Secretary