

California Grand Jurors' Association Board of Directors Meeting January 24, 2023 MINUTES

A. Call to Order and Roll Call

The roll was taken, and the meeting began at 4:31 p.m.

Directors present: Shirley Boracci, Janet Clark, Gary Cooper, Travis Gibbons, Jim Glover, Larry Herbst, Diane Lloyd, Lou Panetta, Henry Rible, and Barbara Sommer.

Late arrivals (excused): Marsha Caranci, Bob Finlayson, Karen Jahr,

Quorum is present.

Others present: Committee Chairs: 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, 11/22/22: Gibbons

C-2 Acknowledged Committee Minutes and other documents in 01/24/23 meeting packet: Gibbons 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** – Gibbons announced that the Spring BOD retreat would take place on March 6, 2023, on Zoom. Please let him know if you can attend. He will probably schedule it in the afternoon.

The listing of website logons and password needs to be updated. This list is kept by the treasurer and secretary to ensure continuity should an officer or committee member need the information. Please update the list per the instructions the treasurer will email to you.

The Annual Conference Committee would like ideas for a theme for this year's conference.

D-2 **Officer Reports**

Vice President (Herbst) – no report.

Treasurer (Gibbons) – no report.

Secretary (Sommer) – I will be away for next month's meeting but will prepare the packet. Boracci has agreed to take minutes.

D-10 **Annual Conference Committee (ACC)** – Clark reported that the committee is in the early preparation phase for the 2023 Annual Conference. There are some things the Board members could help out with, such as:

- Theme for the conference. This is usually tied to one of the strategic goals of CGJA and will guide the committee as they build the program.
- Breakout session topics. The committee is considering small group sessions covering topics of interest to attendees.
- Panel discussion topics.
- Location suggestions for the 2024 conference.

Clark solicited location suggestions for the 2024 conference. Suggestions were Santa Barbara and SLO. Jones said it was advantageous to have something closer to Southern California, recognizing the need to make it accessible for those in the north. Gibbons pointed out the need to consider expense level in the chosen community and if the hotel has large meeting rooms, banquet room food service, complimentary breakfast and happy hour bar.

Ideas or suggestions should be sent to the Annual Conference Committee for consideration as they work to build the program for 2023.

She also requested ideas for panel discussion topics. Lloyd said it would be desirable to again have a judge and CEO on a panel.

- D-4 **Public Relations Committee (PRC)** – Jones said the survey results led to their keeping the blog but reformatting and making it more accessible. The Grand Jury Awareness Month template was sent out to all chapters and associations. It was also sent to every court CEO in counties where there is not a chapter. There was a good open rate. The committee will follow up.
- D-5 **Membership Relations Committee (MCRC)** – Lloyd pointed out that the chapter relations subcommittee has been very helpful. The multi-chapter meeting had a good turnout. We now have 313 members.
- Herbst asked about the membership database being in Dropbox. Lloyd will get to it.
- D-7 **Finance Committee (FC)** – Rogers updated the board on the current financial situation. There is no cash crunch now. The fundraising effort netted \$1,400. Gibbons reported having just received an end-of-year donation of \$1,000.
- D-10 **Awards Committee (AC)** – no report.
- D-13 **Technology Committee (Tech)** – Herbst said visits to the website dropped in November and December, a trend repeated every year. Regarding the website redesign, the homepage should be finalized by April or late March in time to synchronize with training materials. A backup plan is in place should this not occur. He is currently uploading pages to *Elevation* development site. Gibbons asked when a demo would be available for the board. Herbst replied “about a day before launch.”
- D-3 **Legal and Legislative Resources Committee (LLRC)** – no report.
- D-6 **Training Committee (TC)** – Caranci said that they just completed the last session for the January season. There will be a Legal Advisors Workshops this week and foreperson training on Wednesday. That will wind up training for now.

The Forepersons and Pro Tems roundtable was wonderful. There were two sessions with a total of 38 participants. Lloyd added that it was “dynamite” and “very fruitful.”

D-11 **Bylaws & Policy Review Committee (BPRC)** – no report

D-14 **Grand Jury Effectiveness Workgroup (GJE)** – Finlayson said that Josh Franco was still an asset and that his teaching module will be distributed to the board to give them a better idea of his college teaching model. The committee has a new member, Marilyn Acree from Colusa.

In response to a question from Herbst, Finlayson said they are still working on construction the database of report effectiveness. He also hopes that the board can better understand the Franco grand application and provide support. Herbst also asked about relations with the state archivist. Finlayson said they hope to assist the archivist in developing a manual for CEOs to use when submitting grand jury reports to the archivist.

E. Action Agenda

E-1 Ratify the President’s appointment of Marsha Caranci to the Executive Committee.

[Motion made by Gibbons, seconded by Glover].

The motion passed, 12-0-0, by hand vote.

E-2 Ratify the President’s appointment of Gary Cooper to the Executive Committee.

[Motion made by Gibbons, seconded by Herbst]

The motion passed, 12-0-0, by hand vote.

E-3 Adopt chapter formation guide revision.

[Motion made by Lloyd, seconded by Glover]

The motion passed, 12-0-0, by hand vote.

E-4 Adopt chapter by-laws template revision.

[Motion made by Lloyd, seconded by Rible]

The motion passed, 12-0-0, by hand vote.

E-5 Amend policies 9.10 and 11.10

[Motion made by Jahr, seconded by Lloyd]

The policies identify BPRC, rather than LLRC, as the committee for reviewing the chapter formation guide and proposed chapter bylaws.

The motion passed, 12-0-0, by hand vote.

E-6 1) Approve the attached position paper regarding AB 78, adding that demographic data required from the courts by the California Rules of the Court, be included in the bill’s justification.

(2) Authorize the LLRC chair action.

[Motion made by Jahr, seconded by Caranci]

The absence of supporting data for the assumption that an increase in per diem would increase diversity was noted. Discussion included a suggestion of \$50 per diem rate for plenary session.

The motion passed, 11-0-0, by hand vote.

F. Director Comments – Herbst thanked Juliana Jones, Lou Panetta, and Barbara Sommer for their work on the logos. He suggested that despite the wide range of reasons for rejection of the logo options, that there were some features that were agreed upon – specifically the state, the

colors, the initials (CGJA) and removing the scales of justice. He suggested keeping the old logo but removing the scales of justice.

Sommer pointed out that Jones and Panetta were involved and were no longer present at the meeting. She said that some individuals had objected to removing the scales and using the initials. When asked why those views has not been circulated, she said they were responses to the straw poll and that she did not feel that it was necessary to distribute them to everyone on the board (the senders could have). Sommer had forwarded the results and emails to the president.

Caranci said that the process of arriving at a consensus was one that was central to grand jury operations and should apply here. Gibbons wondered why the original logo had been rejected. Lloyd said she felt it was related to the development of the new website and the desire for a new look in our promotional material.

G. Adjournment (6:06 p.m.)

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara Sommer, Secretary