

THE

# NEWSLETTER

## GRAND JURORS ASSOCIATION OF ORANGE COUNTY

Volume 14, No. 3

10064 Sunn Circle, Fountain Valley CA 92708

August, 2000

### YOUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS

President - John Baird - (714) 527-7664  
1st VP (Program) - Royal Lord - (714) 838-6093  
2nd VP (Membership) - Sheldon Singer - (714) 530-9255  
Secretary - Rose Moreno - (714) 846-3219  
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Legislation - Bill Guthrie - (949) 586-7785  
Newsletter - Cheryl Brothers - (714) 839-4509  
Director - Keith Blunt - (949) 443-0451  
Director - Jodie Harrod - (949) 720-1020  
Director (TIC) - Bob Geiss - (949) 472-9763

**JOIN US FOR LUNCH**  
**Thursday, Sept. 7**  
**at Phoenix Club**

**1340 So Sanderson Ave, Anaheim**  
**Speaker:**

**Mike Carona**  
**Orange County Sheriff**



### JUDGE O'LEARY - "A CALL FOR MEDIATION"

June luncheon speaker, the honorable Kathleen O'Leary, made a case for mediation in many more disputes rather than taking precious court time. O'Leary was the presiding judge in Central Court before her recent appointment to the appellate bench. The small claims mediation program's success in Central Court led the jurist to promote its expansion to Harbor and North Courts, where similar favorable results have been achieved.

*GJAO members who wish to become mediators should read "Answering the Call" on this subject on page 5*

### LUNCHEON SPEAKER, SHERIFF MIKE CARONA

In 1998 Michael Carona was elected as the eleventh Sheriff in the history of Orange County, and the first to come from outside the ranks of the department. He is responsible for leading the county's law enforcement agency, the third largest sheriff's department in the State of California, and the fifth largest in the nation.

Prior to his election as Sheriff, Carona was Marshal of Orange County. He attained that office in 1988 at the age of 33, making him the youngest department head in the state.

This will be the first time we've welcomed Mike to our meetings since he has been in his new job. Be sure and join us to hear an old friend share his new experiences and insights.

**CALL  
YOUR  
FRIENDS**

## THE 2000/01 GRAND JURY

On July 3 the new Orange County Grand Jury was sworn in by Presiding Superior Court Judge C. Robert Jameson, the man who was responsible for recruiting this most diverse jury ever: 11 white, three Latino, two native American, two Asian American, and one African American. Five are women. The foreman is a black ex-Marine, Joseph Gatlin. The average age of the new jury is 64.

Because of public criticism for having no minority members on last year's panel, the court decided to make a concerted effort to make the Grand Jury better reflect the makeup of Orange County's population. The result was an intensive effort to reach minority communities by using Vietnamese and Spanish-speaking media and local ethnic organizations. In all, some 1,700 application packages were sent out to more than 1,000 companies and community groups. Of the more than 170 responses, about three dozen were from members of minority groups. Members of the new panel are: David Armstrong, Paul Arritt, Benjamin Beams, Margaret Beard, Joseph Boyle, Ronald Burczewski, Ernest Butler, Charles Chodzko, Maureen Collins, Harold Fischer, Joseph Gatlin (foreman), Raymond Gott, Dianne Hoffman, Edmond Macias, An Nguyen, Margot Palmgren, Larry Petersen, San Vu, Arthur Weaver. (Palmgren was a member of the 1993/94 panel.)

## DIVERSITY ON THE BENCH, TOO

On July 7, Governor Davis appointed the first Vietnamese American to the Orange County Superior Court: Nho Trong Nguyen, was a member of South Vietnam's national assembly at the height of the war in southeast Asia. He escaped from his former country on one of the last helicopters out of the American embassy compound during the fall of Saigon. Sixteen days later, Nguyen arrived at Camp Pendleton where he found his family had been quartered after their evacuation.

He earned a law degree at night while holding other jobs, and eventually found a position with the State Attorney General's office in 1995.

The 61-year-old jurist replaces Judge Kathleen O'Leary who has been appointed to the 4th District Court of Appeals.

Of the County's 107 judges, at least 10 are ethnic minorities. Six are Hispanic, three are Asian and one is black. The two other Asians are of Japanese and Chinese descent.



## TRACKING AND IMPLEMENTATION

The Tracking & Implementation Committee researched the responses made by the County regarding the reports generated by the 98/99 Grand Jury panel and the actions the County proposed for recommendations that they agreed to implement. In accordance with an agreement with the County in 1996, the Grand Jury Association has accepted the task of reviewing the implementation status of recommendations with which the County (through the Board of Supervisors) has concurred. This task has been made easier by the proactive stance of the last few Grand Jury panels toward following up the required replies by the County and other agencies, and taking immediate action as a sitting panel on tardy or incomplete responses to previous Grand Jury findings and recommendations.

The 98/99 Grand Jury generated 18 studies with recommendations that are documented in its final report and which are available for reading on the Superior Court's Internet website at: <http://www.oc.ca.gov/superior/GJReports.htm>.

The 18 studies have been reviewed, along with the responses and the follow up activities of the 99/00 Grand Jury's Special Issues/Continuity Committee. Further assignments will be made by the

*please turn to p. 4*

# NOTES MISCELLANEOUS

## TREASURERS REPORT

As of July 31, 2000  
Checking account balance:  
\$9,026.93  
Custom Time Deposit:  
\$3,076.06  
Total Reserves:  
\$12,102.99

Elsie Carruthers, Treasurer

## MEMBERSHIP BOOKS

Membership directories are being printed and will be mailed to all paid members during this month. History and Bylaw booklets will be available at the lunch meetings or mailed to you at your request. Please call Cheryl Brothers 714-839-4509.

## JURY PER DIEM INCREASE

*"Raise the Pay Rate and They Will Come"* is the battle cry being presented to the Orange County Board of Supervisors in September.

An effort being led by our board member Sheldon Singer will see an item put before the Supervisors to raise the per-diem rate for Orange County grand jurors from \$25.00 to \$50.00 per day. There is some sentiment that this will entice a larger spectrum of our population to apply.

While no one is expected to get rich at this rate, more people could consider it as a second income, or a starting wage for a younger person.

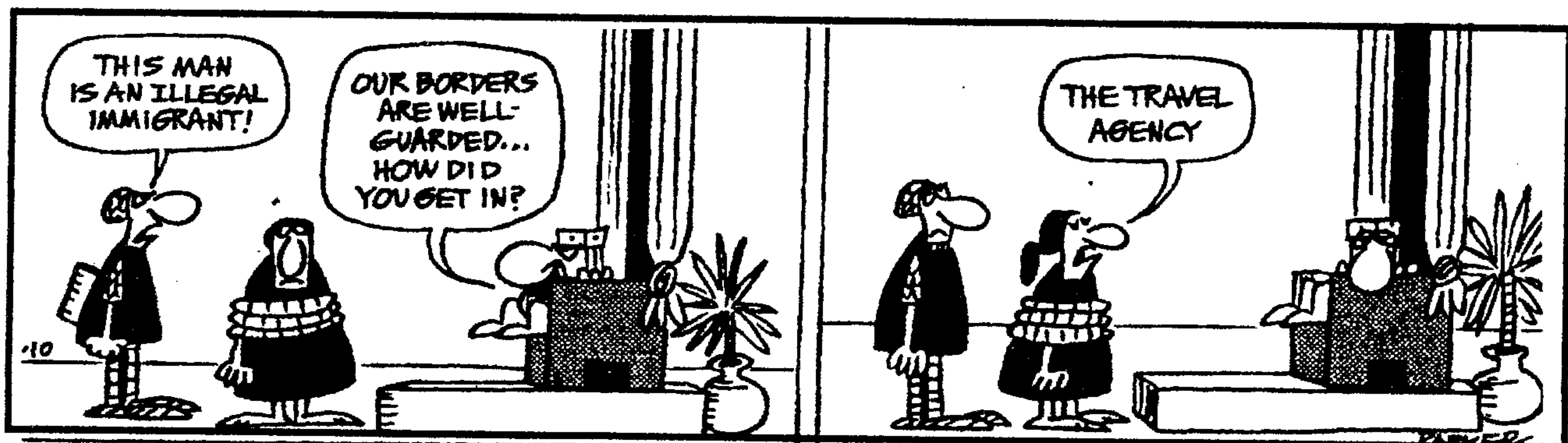
Steve Rodermund, of the CEO's office, is drafting the agenda item that will ask for the raise and include 6 days of pay for the orientation period. The Supervisors are expected to consider this item in September.

For a hearing schedule and/or more information, please contact Sheldon Singer (714) 530-9255.

## FURTHERMORE

Speaking of pay rates ...

Governor Gray Davis recently vetoed legislation that would have mandated all counties to implement \$25.00 per diem. Davis stated that the amount paid for Grand Jury service should be based upon the individual level of demands and determined accordingly within the different counties.



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## ANSWERING THE CALL

The two articles on mediation in previous newsletters and the talk on the subject by the Honorable Kathleen O'Leary at the luncheon in June piqued the interest of a number of GJAOC members.

Roy Richardson observed the process at West Court on a June Friday and Ava Matthews and Mel Robles were in attendance at a workshop on "Small Claims Mediation" at the Community Service Programs in Santa Ana. Kate Hoffman of the Mediation Center in Costa Mesa noted that a number of GJAOC members had inquired about the training. As a consequence, The Mediation Center is considering discounting the training fee for GJAOC.

Some of the interested parties were a bit puzzled as to the cost of training for volunteer services. Please be aware that small claims mediation is only one of the services provided by the five collaborating agencies. The training program is geared for any and all interested in mediating whether as volunteers or as paid mediators. The courts have become more attuned to mediation as a less confrontational and less expensive way to resolve disputes and have begun to use mediators to a greater degree in more involved cases. However, the path to becoming one of those compensated mediators demands more than basic training and quite a bit of experience. Small claims

mediation is a great way to get that experience.

If any of you are interested and would like more information on the subject, please call Rose Moreno.

## NOMINATING COMMITTEE

It is now the middle of August. In about two weeks the Nominating Committee will present to the membership a slate of names to be elected to the Board of Directors. As of today the response to the request for committee members and prospective Directors has been absolutely under-whelming. Of the 195 available members, 195 have NOT responded.

Carol Morales is our Nominating Committee Chair. She took the job presuming she would get some help from the membership. Her telephone number is 714-283-2755. It's your turn to call now. The Nominating Committee requires only a couple of meetings to set the slate. Directors meet once a month for about two hours. The jobs themselves do not take that much time, yet they are important and require people to do them. Time is running out. Please pick up the phone and call Carol as soon as possible.

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*I am in shape.  
Round is a shape*

## CALIFORNIA GRAND JURORS ASSOCIATION

The CGJA will hold its nineteenth annual conference in Sacramento on September 22nd and 23rd. The conference starts at 1:30 PM on Friday, September 22nd and concludes about 5:00 PM on Saturday, September 23rd.

The meetings are open to members and non-members. Discussions will cover all phases of California Grand Jury and Association concerns.

Orange County has agreed to host the conference next year. It is not too early to become part of the Committee to show off our county; i.e. arrange for speakers, select venues, catering, publicity, registration and whatever.

For information on this year's or next year's conference, please call Jodie Harrod at 949-720-1020.

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## WORDS OF WIZDUMB

*Love is grand*

*Divorce is a hundred grand.*

*Brain cells come and brain cells*

*go,*

*But fat cells live forever.*

*I'm not a perfectionist.*

*My parents were, though.*

*I have kleptomania. But when it gets bad, I take something for it.*

*When the chips fall, the buffalo is empty.*