



# THE NEWSLETTER

## GRAND JURORS ASSOCIATION OF ORANGE COUNTY

Volume 15, No. 1

10064 Sunn Circle, Fountain Valley CA 92708

February, 2001

### **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  
Treasurer - Elsie Carruthers - (714) 828-0621  
Parliamentarian - Carol Morales - (714) 283-2755  
Sgt-at-arms - Joe Quiros - (949) 651-0113  
Counselor - Mike Harris - (714) 538-4832  
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, Mar. 1  
at Phoenix Club**

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

**Michael A. Schumacher  
Orange County  
Chief Executive Officer**

### **DECEMBER LUNCHEON SPEAKER, C. ROBERT JAMESON**

Judge Jameson is the Presiding Judge for California's third largest court system: little ol' Orange County's unified courts. In this system, also the fourth largest in the country - Miami-Dade in Florida is larger - there are 109 commissioners, 1,600 employees, and a budget of \$165 million.

There have been changes in our county courts: Trial court funding is now administered by the State of California. Previously, the county supervisors were responsible for court budgets and court personnel. The Marshal function is now part of the Sheriff's responsibilities (a smooth transition in our case since Sheriff Corona was formerly Marshal Corona). And the Superior and Municipal courts are being combined into a single unified court system with some economies expected in the areas of payroll and personnel administration, computer systems, and applications of technology to our courts. The unification process is well under way.

According to Jameson, we can anticipate the streamlining of such functions as collecting traffic fines and

some family law matters by ATM-like machines at local kiosks and e-filing on the web. He is also implementing a system of publishing the schedules of North, Harbor, Central, and South courts on the web, with calendars of cases to follow. Grand Jury recruiting continues to be one of Jameson's priority projects. He insists on getting as diverse a membership on the panels as possible.

### **MARCH GENERAL MEETING**

Everyone knows that we have a new CEO, Mike Schumacher, or as his bio reads "Michael A. Schumacher, PhD". But few of us know who he is. March 1st is your chance to find out. Dr. Schumacher will be the feature speaker at our general meeting in March.

His biography defies reproduction in our limited space. The "short" bio takes five pages of 10 point type. His educational, professional, honorary and literary accomplishments are truly outstanding.

You will be doing yourself a disservice if you don't attend our general meeting to meet and hear Dr. Schumacher. Call today to make your reservation.

## **MEMBERSHIP**

As of February 1st, we have 141 paid members of the Grand Jurors Association of Orange County.

The association operates on a calendar year. Membership fees, \$15. per year, are due and payable as of January 1st each year. You may send a check (payable to GJAOC) to our membership Vice President, Sheldon Singer, 12672 Kona Lane, Garden Grove, CA 92841 — or you may pay at our general meeting on Thursday, March 1st at the Phoenix Club .

## **GRAND JURY REPORTS**

You may already know that the Grand Jury reports are available on the internet at <http://www.oc.ca.gov/superior/extract.htm#gjreports>

At this point in time, the responses to these reports are not posted to the net. Jim Nolan, a member of our Board of Directors, has undertaken the task of getting these responses added to the GJ website and attached to the final report. The major problems revolve around getting permission / access and manpower to do the job.

We are confident that Jim will succeed.

## **TRACKING & IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE**

The sitting Grand Jury has notified the CEO that, in their opinion, it is their function to review the implementation of the recommendations made in the 1999/2000 Grand Jury Final Report. It is their position that our Tracking & Implementation Committee, which was authorized by the Board of Supervisors and the CEO, will not be needed at this time.

Our President, John Baird, has requested a letter from the CEO to release us from our obligation for this year.

You have all recently received a letter from Bob Geiss, the chair of our TIC, requesting help in our review. We are hereby withdrawing that request until such time as our committee is re-activated. Thank you for offering to help.



## **TREASURER EXTRA-ORDINARY**

The Board of Directors reviewed and adopted a budget for the association finances for 2001.

This may be Elsie Carruthers' last official act as treasurer as she turns the books over to our newly installed treasurer - Joe Quiros.

As in the past, our funds come from dues which are set to cover expenses such as: the cost of this newsletter which is mailed to members, legislators and departments in the county; and to host our speaker's meal at quarterly luncheons.

Our other big funding source is compensation for duties performed in selecting OCTA Measure M Oversight Committee candidates. This money contributes to our healthy bank balance. Historically, our funds have been used in various ways designed to raise awareness of the Grand Jury system and encourage recruits.

The Board of Directors is exploring ways to enhance these efforts. If you have some ideas — give any board member a call.

# NOTES MISCELLANY

## TREASURERS REPORT

As of December 31, 2000  
Checking account balance:  
\$8,448.08  
Custom Time Deposit:  
\$3,143.33  
Total Reserves:  
\$11,591.41

Elsie Carruthers, Treasurer

## ENERGY CRISIS

The bad news is that you may actually be in the dark from time to time.

The good news is that the state legislature is too busy with this current power shortage problem to consider changes in the code that would impact the grand juries.

Therefore, the County grand juries can continue to shed light in their inimitable way.

## PAID ORIENTATION - INCREASED PER DIEM

The Board of Supervisors voted in January to pay incoming grand jurors \$25.00 per day during their orientation period, just prior to their swearing in.

They also voted to continue the part of the agenda item that asked for an increase from \$25.00 per day for sitting grand jurors to \$50.00. Sheldon Singer continues to spearhead this campaign. Expect to see this item back on the Supervisors' agenda on March 6th.



## **FAMILY TASK FORCE**

In a memo from Supervisor, Cynthia P. Coad to Dr. Michael Schumacher, County Executive Officer: "Action taken at the October 3, 2000 Board of Supervisors meeting directed the CEO to form the Foster Care Task Force, to be comprised of not more than 12 members. Supervisor Coad will assist in the selection of Task Force Members and will host the first meeting of the new Task Force in November.

In addition, Supervisor Coad asked as part of the motion, that the Task Force be called the Foster Children & Family Services Task Force and that it will meet to discuss and identify perceived gaps and needs relating to emancipation, adoption and foster care programs, as well as develop recommendations to address those gaps and needs with their first report due back to the Board in 180 days, and then every 6 months after that, until it's sunset in 2 years.


Supervisor Coad directed the Task Force to develop measurable outcomes and standards that can become indicators and triggers for change in the Continuum of Care for Orange County's foster children and families at-risk.

Supervisor Silva asked that the Task Force act as an action-oriented group, rather than a study group. Furthermore he asked that the group work on creating solutions rather than presenting the need again. Jim Palmer committed to the Board that the Task Force would focus on Prop 10 methodologies that would lead the County towards Outcome measurements for Children and Family Services.

Jim Palmer further outlined the direction to be given to the Task Force to the Board to include the following: development of pilot programs for the recruitment and retention of foster and adoptive parents; create and train a fully vested group of volunteers; provide a strong advocacy voice at the State and Federal levels; provide opportunities for community and faith based involvement; provide a venue for the formation of collaborations; solicit financial involvement from the private sector; strengthen partnerships among existing non-profit service providers; develop sources of less restrictive funding for innovative foster care programs; and develop strategic linkages to Prop 10 Commission.

The above action was unanimously approved 5/0."

GJAOC board member, Jim Nolan, has been selected to serve on this committee.

	<p><b>General Meeting March 1 Good Friends Good Food Be There!</b></p>
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