



THE

# NEWSLETTER

## GRAND JURORS ASSOCIATION OF ORANGE COUNTY

Volume 15, No. 2

10064 Sunn Circle, Fountain Valley CA 92708

May, 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  
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Counselor - Jodie Harrod - (949) 720-1020  
Legislation - Bill Guthrie - (949) 586-7785  
Newsletter - Cheryl Brothers - (714) 839-4509  
Director - Keith Blunt - (949) 443-0451  
Director (TIC) - Bob Geiss - (949) 472-9763

**JOIN US FOR LUNCH**  
**Thursday, Jun. 7**  
**at Phoenix Club**  
**1340 So Sanderson Ave, Anaheim**

**Speaker**  
**BGEN William A. Bloomer**  
**USMC (ret)**

**"A Regional Airport Concept"**

### JUNE MEETING SPEAKER

**BRIGADIER GENERAL**  
**WILLIAM A. BLOOMER**

Art Bloomer is the Executive Director of the Orange County Regional Airport Authority (OCRAA), a Joint Powers Authority comprised of 14 Orange County cities representing over 1 million Orange County residents.

When General Bloomer retired from active military duty, he was the Commanding General of Marine Corps Air Station El Toro, CA and Commander, Marine Corps Air Bases, Western Area (four major air installations).

Personal Awards and Decorations include two Legions of Merit, Distinguished Flying Cross, Bronze Star Medal with combat V, 17 Air Medals and Republic of China Kuang Hua Medal as well as numerous service campaign medals and ribbons.

Be sure to come and hear Gen. Bloomer report on the Regional Airport question on June 7.

### MARCH LUNCHEON SPEAKER, DR. MICHAEL A. SCHUMACHER

After 31 years of service to Orange County, most of which was as leader of the Health Care Agency, Dr Schumacher became County Chief Executive Officer less than a year ago. He gave our meeting a status report of the county's current position and plans for his list of priorities:

- *Fiscal management.* The county has made a nice recovery from the bankruptcy, with reserves today of \$21 million, and the prospects of a continued balanced budget out through 2006. (The debt from the bankruptcy is now \$950 million, and will be retired by 2015, as we make annual payments of \$75 million.)
- *Health care.* Additional capabilities are being put in place which would generally improve the system, with emphasis on children's programs.
- *Jail expansion.* This is an old problem, still unsolved. Schumacher sees more challenges in the Ju-  
*please turn to page 4*

## **STATE of CALIFORNIA GRAND JURORS' CONFERENCE**

Calling all members of the Grand Jurors' Association of Orange County to sign up as participants and ex-officio hosts of the 20th conference of the California Grand Jurors' Association. The conference will be convening in September at the Costa Mesa Hilton on Bristol. Jodie Harrod has been leading the charge in arranging for the facilities and coordinating the activities. She welcomes any and all support in guaranteeing that the conference is successful.

Currently the program for September 14 and 15 has Orange County Supervisor Cynthia Coad, Jose Guillen and Ron Overholt of the Judicial Council, former Assemblywoman Marilyn Brewer, Judge Wayne Peterson of San Diego, and Ruben Lopez of CSAC are among the dignitaries promising to speak. With its goals of strengthening and making the general public more aware of the grand jury system throughout California, the conferences have become more popular and well attended. With our Orange County association as one of the largest and most active in the state it is anticipated that many of you will participate actively in the conference. Please sign up on the registration form provided with this newsletter and call Rose Moreno if you will be able to help with one or more of the many tasks before and during the conference.

### **A CHANCE TO PARTICIPATE**

State Conference Chair, Jodie Harrod has been temporarily out of commission and Rose Mareno has stepped in to pick up on plans for the State conference on September 14 and 15.

If you would like to get involved, or have suggestions for speakers, call Rose. You do not have to be a member of the State Association to attend these informative sessions.

Take advantage of having this "in your own backyard" to register for one or both days and hear from jurors throughout the state. You will be amazed at just how different county grand juries can be.

### **HOUSE OF HOPE**

In April, the GJAOC held its monthly Board of Directors meeting at

*House of Hope* in Orange. Following the meeting, Board Members were invited by Jim Nolan to tour the facility with Jim Palmer, President of the Orange County Rescue Mission and House of Hope.

With over 3.5 million dollars in private funding and help from Home Aid, they built a home for women and children in need of shelter. Their 18-month faith based program has a 90% success rate in enabling women to find employment and surmount mis-

cellaneous problems on their way to becoming totally self-sufficient.

All the mission's activities are in continuous need of donations and volunteers. Jim Palmer can be reached at (714) 258-4460, Ext. 210. Any help, no matter how small, can make a difference in someone's life.

### **CHANGES IN GJ LEGISLATION?**

Legislation never really dies, it just goes away to get re-written. Orange County grand jurors may remember legislation referred to as the "Baugh Bill".

The State Judicial Council has become concerned with some regulations regarding grand jury training (or lack thereof) and its ability to obtain authority to investigate civil and criminal activities. Consideration is being given to moving regulations from the CA penal code to the CA government code and many changes will likely occur during the transfer.

This is only a sample of what is being considered. Extensive coverage of these proposals are available on the CA Grand Juror's Association web-site ([www.cgja.org](http://www.cgja.org)).

State Assembly members Ackerman and Kelso are entertaining public comments by July 1.

# NOTES MISCELLANEOUS

## TREASURERS REPORT

As of May1, 2001  
Checking account balance:  
\$9,315.30  
Custom Time Deposit:  
\$3,158.89  
Total Reserves:  
\$12,474.19

Joe Quieros, Treasurer

## GRAND JURY REPORTS.

As the term of the 2000 - 2001 Orange County Grand Jury winds down, there are already four reports published:

- "The Emergency Operations Center ... The County Must Do Better" (2/09/01)
- "A Silver Lining- Orange County Today" (2/15/01) A review of the 1994 restructuring of the County management system to include the CEO function.
- "Sewage Spills, Beach Closures, Trouble in Paradise?" Some original findings about the effects of restaurants dumping grease into the sewage system.
- "800MHz Radio" (5/03/01) Critique of the County emergency radio system, pointing out several critical weaknesses.

## ANOTHER TERM?

It pays to consider being a Grand Juror again.

One of the things that critics of the Grand Jury panels always expound upon is the lack of age and/or social diversity inhabiting each group.

In an effort to correct these problems, the Board of Supervisors voted to increase the per diem from \$25.00 per day to \$50.00 per day. Orange County is the only county in the state to pay at this rate. As a matter of fact, very few counties pay the \$25.00 rate.

First indications are that this change will make a difference. Almost immediately after the increase was announced in the papers, Alan Slater's office started receiving calls from people eager to serve as jurors.

Our membership Vice President, Sheldon Singer, who led the group which urged the Board of Supervisors to consider this highly significant development deserves congratulations.

## IN MEMORIAM

It is with great sadness that we report the deaths of the following Grand Jurors :

**Alan Carpenter**, member 1986-87, on September 30, 2000

**William Kirkland**, member 1991-92, died September 4, 2000

**Joan Schlaich**, member 1998-99, died March 16, 2001.

## SELECTIONS FOR THE 2001-02 PANEL

The selection process has been completed and this list of prospective 2001/2002 Orange County Grand Jurors was narrowed to 30 individuals. This is the first year that the 80 prospects were interviewed by two judges rather than one.

The drawing of the names for the next Orange County Grand Jury will be held on Wednesday, May 16 at 12:00 noon at Superior Court. The list of selected jurors will be published in the next (August) edition of the *Newsletter*.

Schumacher (from p. 1)

venile system including the expiry of a lease on a youth camp in Cleveland National Forest.

- *El Toro Master Development.*
- *Programs for aging citizens.*
- *Low income housing.* The Supervisors have earmarked \$30 million to help with rent subsidies. Down payment assistance, especially for teachers willing to work at the most failed schools, will be available for some of these funds.
- *Water quality and watershed management.*
- *Services to unincorporated county "islands".*
- *Coping with the energy crisis.* The county has agreed with So. Calif. Edison to accept 25 interruptions per year during emergencies in order to get favorable electrical rates: By the end of February there were already 14 stoppages this year. Schumacher thinks there will be shortages for at least another three years and wants to renegotiate its power contracts.
- *Technology applications.* Much of the county's business is being conducted on-line. There's more of this in our future.

Schumacher closed by repeating his battle cry, "We are constantly looking for a better way."

## **IMPORTANT MEMBER-SHIP NOTICE**

Following is an extract from the GJAOC BYLAWS, Amended Jun 6, 1996.

### **Article I: Section 5: PP2: >**

Any Regular or Associate Member who is more than three (3) months delinquent in the payment of the membership fees or dues shall be notified in writing by the Second Vice President prior to May 1. If the member is still delinquent in the payment of the membership fees or dues on June 1, his or her name shall be removed from the roll of members and all rights or benefits of membership shall thereupon terminate. Upon payment of dues, the member shall be reinstated.

The required notification has been made.

**For unpaid members: This will be your last *Newsletter*. Your name will be removed from our Mailing List for all future publications and notices.**

Dues may be paid at the General Meeting /Luncheon or by mail to:

Mr. Sheldon Singer  
V.P. Membership  
12672 Kona Lane  
Garden Grove, CA 92841

Please make your check for \$15.00 payable to:  
Grand Jurors Association of Orange County  
or GJAOC

## **MEMBERSHIP**

At this instant of writing, we have 176 paid members. At the end of June we will add the 19 members of the current outgoing jury which will bring our roster up to 195 members. Chances are good that we will have 200 members before the end of this year.



***The next Luncheon Meeting is June 7.***