

THE

NEWSLETTER

GRAND JURORS ASSOCIATION OF ORANGE COUNTY

Volume 17, No. 2

10064 Sunn Circle, Fountain Valley CA 92708

May, 2003

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JOIN US FOR LUNCH
Thursday, June 5
at Phoenix Club
1340 S. Sanderson Ave. Anaheim

Speaker:
David O. Carter
Federal District Judge
"Gangs and the Mexican Mafia"

JUNE SPEAKER - DAVID O. CARTER, FEDERAL DISTRICT COURT JUDGE

The Honorable David O. Carter, will discuss "Gangs and the Mexican Mafia" at our quarterly meeting.

Acum laude graduate of UCLA in 1967, Judge Carter served as a 2nd lieutenant in Vietnam with the United States Marine Corps. He distinguished himself in numerous combat encounters and was awarded the Bronze Star and Purple Heart in 1969.

Judge Carter graduated UCLA School of Law in 1972 and worked in the Orange County District Attorney's Office where he gained a reputation as a legendary homicide prosecutor.

Nominated by President Clinton, he was appointed to the Federal Bench in 1998.

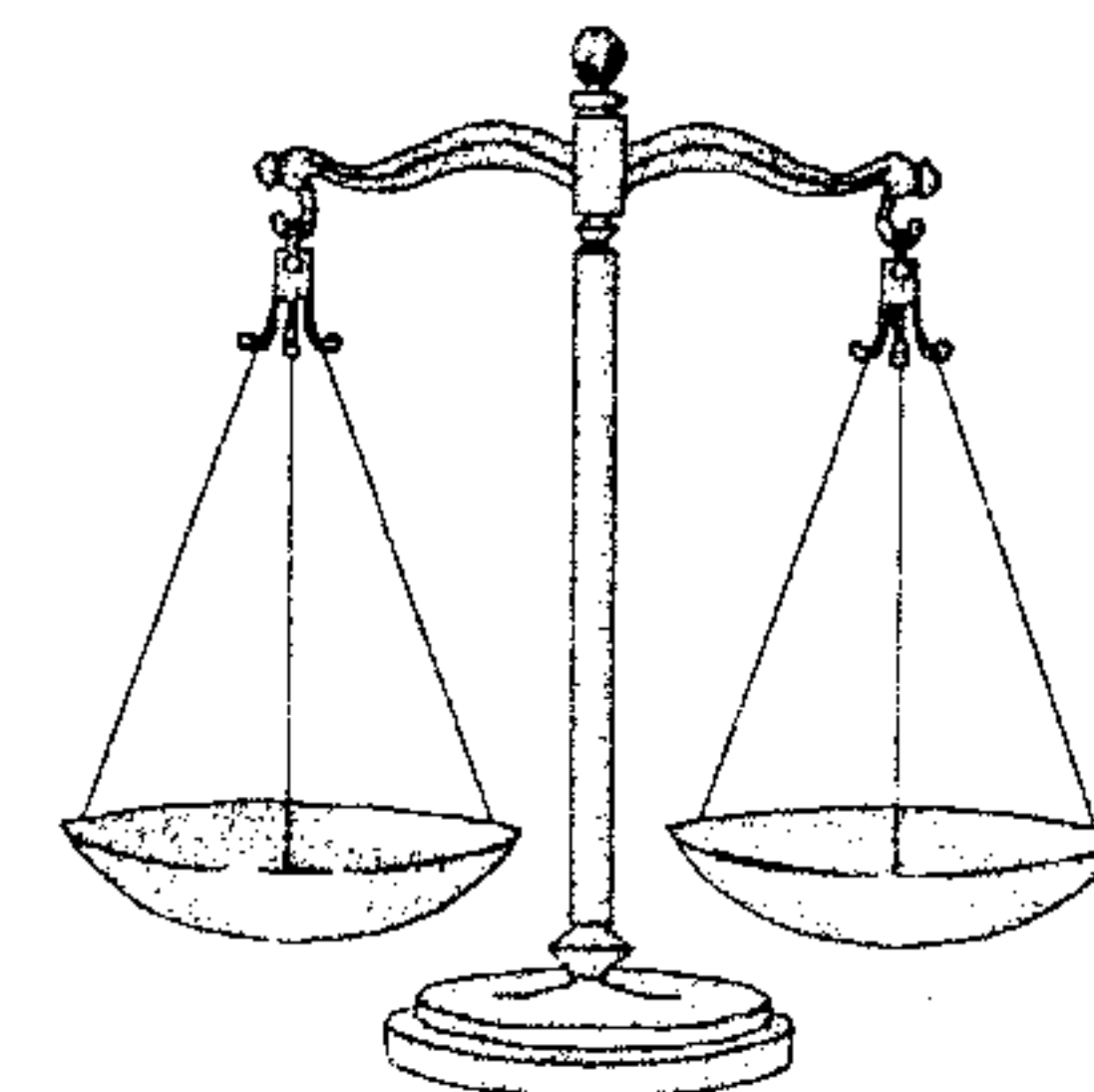
The Honorable David O. Carter has a reputation as an innovator and problem-solver. As head of Juvenile Court he would give young offenders a choice: jail or school. He has championed a tattoo removal program to assist former gang members' reintegration into society without physical stigmata.

MARCH PROGRAM REPORT

Orange County's Chief Financial Officer, Gary Burton, gave us a glimpse of the future for Orange County budgets.

Everyone in California will be getting by with fewer government services and longer waits for those services that remain. Some unfunded programs will be dropped entirely and others will be severely cut back with regard to money and staff.

The County has seen a wave of retirements including CFO Burton who gave us the bad news. Burton retired from his post two weeks later.



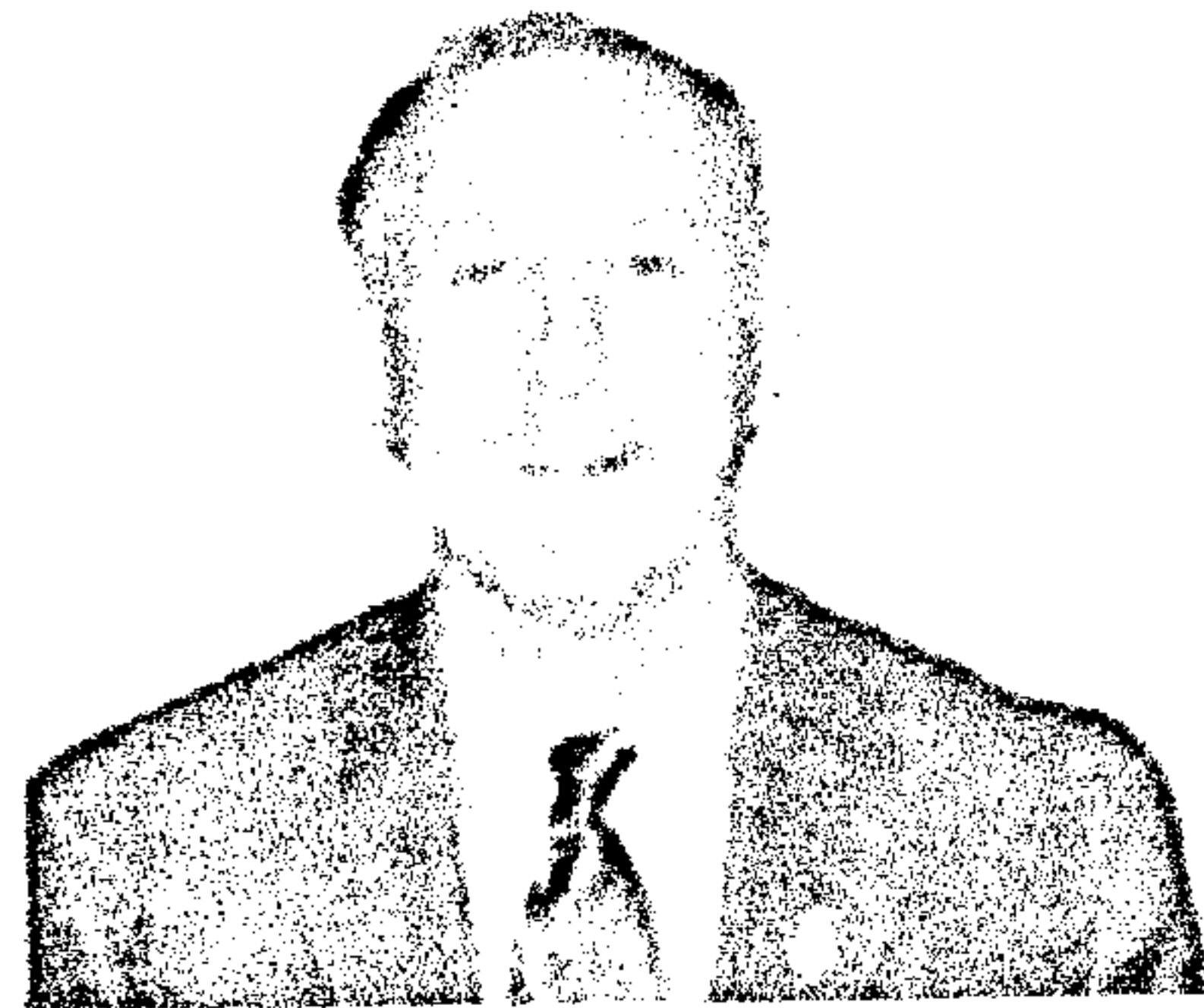
President's Message

The war with Iraq is winding down, but not officially over. Most of us have had our attention on the war with the hope of minimal casualties on both sides. No one likes war, but unfortunately sometimes that seems to be the only solution. Now our attention is refocusing on the impending budget crisis right here in our own home state of California. We have heard of the trickle down effect, but not in this vein. The budget crisis will definitely be felt by cities and counties throughout the state. School districts too, must make hard decisions on where they can cut or minimize expenses to balance their own smaller than expected budgets. I hope incoming grand juries take a hard and conservative look at agencies of government and how efficiently they spend their budgets. Those agencies that get more "bang for their buck" should be commended by grand juries in their reports. Grand juries tend to examine agencies that have something negative about them that we wish to improve. Perhaps more constructive criticism to help with the financial dilemma will be in order this year.

We all need to pull together in the war on deficits as we have in the war on terrorism. We certainly don't want to pass on to future generations the deficit spending burden brought on by current management. Who knows what solutions may come out of a Grand Jury here is California. The all-important bottom line depends on us all.

I look forward to seeing you all at the June luncheon. Talk to members of your Grand Jury panel and encourage them to join us for an excellent meal and very interesting and informative programs.

Royal Lord



MEASURE M OVERSIGHT

Provisions in the Measure M Act call for a citizen oversight committee. Members of our GJAOC act as a selection committee to put forward the most qualified candidates for a final selection drawing by the Orange County Transit Authority (OCTA).

The application period has been extended to May 16. Additional candidates from County's 1st, 2nd and 4th supervisorial districts are wanted.

If you are interested in submitting an application or need more information regarding the above, please call Carol Morales 714-832-6603 or Joe Quiros 949-651-0113.

CALIFORNIA GRAND JURORS ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE

The California Grand Jurors Association will host their annual conference in mid October in Ventura, California. Our member, Rose Moreno, has volunteered to provide planning support. If you would like to assist her, please contact Rose at 714-846-3219.

LEGISLATION

There are two proposed bills on the horizon that do not bode well for future grand juries. The GJAOC has formally opposed the two pending bills that are aimed at weakening the function of the California grand jury system. We need your help to derail these bad bills. The bills are SB 307 and AB 312. (Read the bills on-line at: www.leginf.ca.gov OR at or at the California Grand Jurors' Association Website: www.CGJA.org (Legal Developments)). SB 307 will weaken the civil oversight function of grand juries, create unnecessary expense for counties by requiring two grand juries, create litigation expense and delay because portions are subject to attack as unconstitutional, and create confusion and uncertainty in the law.

AB 312 will EITHER require grand jurors to illegally disclose confidential information and will revise the confidentiality rules so as to let politicians have access to the identities of those who complain to grand juries; are witnesses; are "whistle-blowers" OR absolve agencies from responding to grand jury reports that do not provide that information. In addition, AB 312 would have former grand jurors stand by to answer for their reports 4 months after their term expires. AB 312 will interfere with the citizens' rights to privacy, and have a chilling effect on people's willingness to serve on grand juries.

The status of these two bills as of the 1st of May is that they have

both become "two-year" bills and the next series of hearings will be deferred until Fall for SB 307 and next year for AB 312. Some of us have vigorously opposed these bills in Sacramento and through visiting and mailing our local reps in Orange County. That certainly helped. However, these bills are merely dormant and may rise again. We will need help to stop these bad pieces of legislation should that happen. Please contact your legislators (Assemblyperson for AB 312, and Senator for SB 307) by calling and writing to say you oppose these bills should they arise. Snail mail is better than e-mail because the word is out that less attention is paid to email.

Remember, tell your representatives to oppose these bills that are bad for the future of the watchdog functions of the Grand Jury. Thanks for your support,

- Bob Geiss, *Legislative Chair*

BYLAWS

The proposed Bylaw change that was presented in our last Newsletter was approved by the members at our March general meeting.

This change allows those Orange County residents who served on a County Grand Jury in a County other than Orange County, to become regular members of the Grand Jurors Association of Orange County (GJAOC).

NOTES & MISCELLANY

TREASURERS REPORT

As of April 30, 2003
Checking account balance:
\$5,013.97
Custom Time Deposit:
\$3,360.66
Total Reserves:
\$8,374.63
Joe Quiros, Treasurer

Providing information to members at quarterly luncheons requires approval. Contact a Board member with your request to distribute hand-out material or to speak.

IN MEMORIAM

Leonard Gutman who served on the 1996/97 Grand Jury passed away in April

MEMBERSHIP

As of this date, 175 members have paid dues for the 2003 year. If we do not hear from you soon, this will be your last newsletter.

The Association will host the outgoing panel for lunch in June and their membership will be sponsored for the remainder of this year. We welcome these concerned citizens to our Association.

NON SEQUITUR By Wiley Miller

