



THE NEWSLETTER

GRAND JURORS ASSOCIATION OF ORANGE COUNTY

Volume 19, No. 3

10064 Sunn Circle, Fountain Valley CA 92708

August, 2005

YOUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS

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JOIN US FOR LUNCH

Thursday September 1

Speakers -

Bill Campbell

Chmn- O.C. Board of Supervisors

Art Leahy

OCTA CEO

"Measure M Renewal"

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Since 1991, Measure M has helped deliver faster, safer and more efficient transportation solutions for more than 3 million Orange County residents.

Approved by voters in 1990 and administered by the Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA), Measure M will provide approximately \$4.2 billion for transportation improvements in Orange County during its 20-year life. The measure sunsets in 2011. The OCTA board has asked staff to work with the cities and other stakeholders on the development plan that, if ratified, could be on the ballot in November 2006.

Orange County freeways have received 43 percent of all Measure M dollars. Work to widen the northernmost stretch of I-5 from Buena Park to the LA County line will start early in 2006. Construction crews are also progressing with work on the Garden Grove Freeway (SR-22), funded primarily by Measure M.

Approximately 32% of all Measure M funds - or more than \$1 billion - has been invested in our local roads. Every city in Orange County has received millions

of dollars to fill potholes, synchronize traffic signals, build new bike trails, and park-and-ride facilities. The remaining 25% of Measure M funds has been dedicated to enhancing the county's transit system by improving local bus and rail service.

- Sheldon Singer, president

SEPTEMBER SPEAKERS

Bill Campbell, Supervisor, 3rd District and current Chairman of the Board, will be joined by Arthur Leahy, CEO of the Orange County Transportation Authority. They will tell our members about the importance of Measure M, and why its renewal needs our support (see: "President's Message" on this page.) The issue is scheduled to go before the voters next year.

Campbell came to the Board of Supervisors in 2003 after he had spent six years as a member of the California State Assembly.

Leahy, an experienced transportation executive, has held his present position since 2001.

MEDICARE PART D

Medicare Part D, prescription drug coverage, begins January 1, 2006. Medicare participants will need to make decisions about enrollment in the next few months.

Seminars regarding this topic are being held throughout the county at various sites. If you have questions regarding this coverage, call HICAP (Health Insurance Counseling and Advisory Program) at (714) 560-0424 for information. You can also request a face-to-face appointment with a counselor at your local senior center. For those in Fountain Valley, you can make an appointment with Rose Moreno by calling (714) 241-6298.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Governor Schwarzenegger signed a bill allowing the empanelment of an extra "criminal" grand jury by a presiding judge, the supervising judge of the grand jury, the Attorney General, or a District Attorney. SB 416 (sponsored by Dick Ackerman R-Orange County) became law on June 30th. The law modifies Penal Code 904.6, which allowed the empanelment of an extra grand jury to hear criminal indictments solely at the discretion of the presiding judge.

GJAOC took no position on this bill.

- Bob Geiss

INTO SAFE ARMS

A follow-up on a Grand Jury Report

During the summer of 2002, an article in the paper appeared describing a baby that was abandoned on the door step of a nursing facility in Anaheim. California had recently passed a law (Safe Arms for Newborns Law, SB 1368) allowing mothers to give up their newborn babies within 72 hours at a local hospital with no questions asked. However, the article indicated that the local police wanted to question the mother. It was apparent that the letter of the law was being followed but not the spirit of the law. The new law also allowed county supervisors to pass a resolution to designate any additional locations as a place to receive these infants. This event prompted the 2002 - 2003 grand jury to issue their report "Into Safe Arms" on March 10, 2003. The grand jury study noted that there were 32 hospitals in Orange County. What seemed confusing was that Los Angeles County allowed fire stations to receive newborns and local TV stations frequently identified this as a drop off for newborns. But this would not be apparent to Orange County viewers. The study recommended to the Orange County Board of Supervisors that Orange County fire station, which number 137, be designated as a surrender point for newborns also. This would significantly increase the number of facilities for receiving newborns and the chances of survival for such infants.

The board of supervisors noted that while the grand jury's intentions were well founded, they had no legal authority over city fire departments and were powerless to require newborns to be received at their fire stations. They then left that responsibility with each city or the Orange County Fire Authority to request that their fire station(s) be designated as a location to surrender newborns.

To continue the cause to have a resolution passed to allow fire stations as safe surrender points, the Orange County Juvenile Justice Commission took on the issue behind the scene lead by former commissioner Cynthia Coad. On May 24, 2005 several fire chiefs from the county and the OCFA presented to the board of supervisors resolutions from every Orange County City, along with Ms. Coad and Dr. Riley of the Orange County Children and Family Services. The results was that the resolution was passed to add fire stations as surrender points for newborns.

The efforts of many were need to bring to pass a recommendation of a grand jury study to fruition.

- Carlos N Olvera

NOTES & MISCELLANY

TREASURERS REPORT

\$11,398 Balance on Hand

By resolution, the board continued to subvent the cost of luncheon for all attendees (with a reservation) in the amount of \$3.00.

Also by resolution, we have moved the Association bank accounts to the Orange County Credit Union.

RECRUITMENT VIDEO

Rose Moreno is continuing to make plans for a new Orange County Grand Jury recruitment video. Contacts have been made to solicit student involvement in the production.

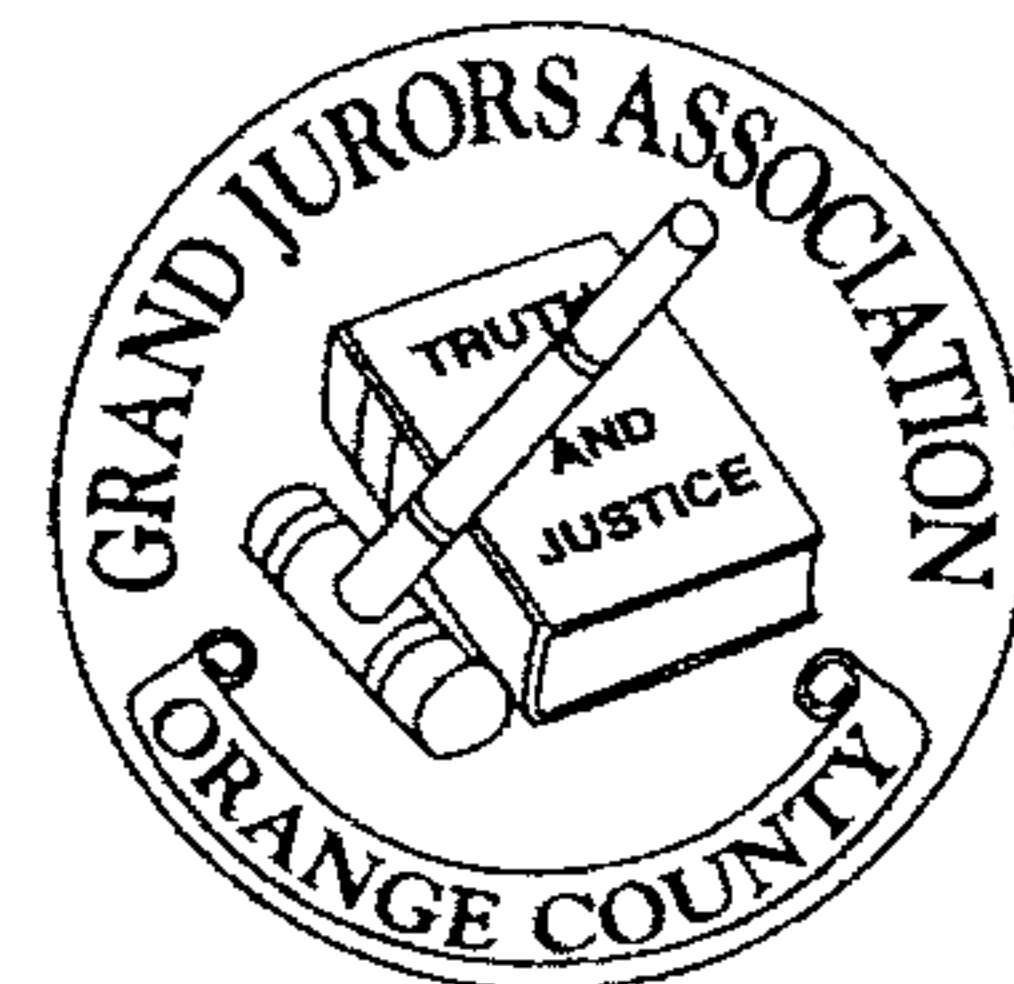
Anyone who has photos from their Grand Jury is encouraged to contact Rose at (714) 846-3219.

GJAOC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

At the September general meeting, the Nominating Committee will present a slate of six members for two year terms on the Board of Directors.

The bylaws provide for nominations from the floor at the meeting. The bylaws also provide that the member nominated from the floor be present to accept such nomination, or that the nominator have a written agreement from the nominee.

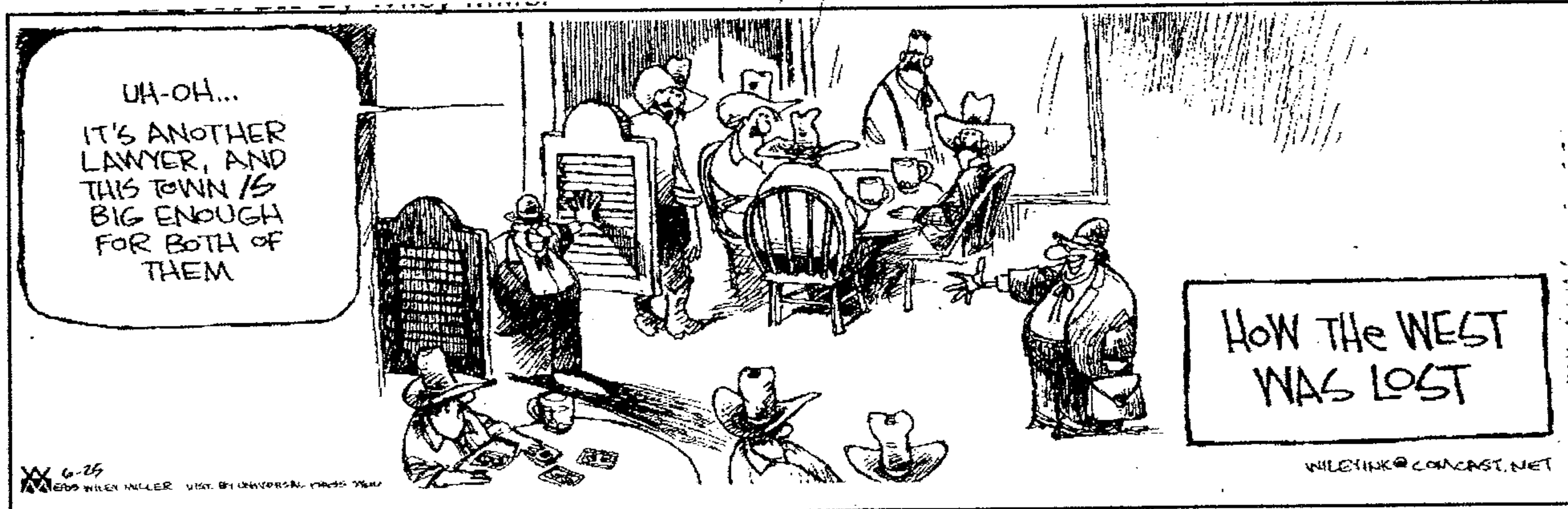
If there are no nominations from the floor the slate will be elected by voice vote at the meeting. If there are additional nominations from the floor, the Nominating Committee will conduct an election by mail.



IN MEMORIAM

Collier McDermon
1987-88 Panel
died in May 2005

William Guthrie
died in July, 2005. He served on the 1990/91 panel. Bill also served as an Association Board member for six years, from 1999-2004 devoting his energies to tracking legislation.



THE 2005 - 06 ORANGE COUNTY GRAND JURY

The new Grand Jury has been seated as of the first of July. The 19 members and 9 alternates were selected in a drawing held on May 11. The panel consists of one Hispanic, one Asian, one African-American, and sixteen Caucasians. There are 15 men and 4 women on this jury. Ages range from 45 to 79, with an average of 67 years.

The recruiting program this year included the mailing of more than 3,000 applications to prospective jurors and flyers were distributed to 1,190 companies and 111 minority organizations. In addition, the outgoing panel sent speakers to various civic groups and made messages for public service television and radio announcements in several languages.

Members

Maryann Bohan	Richard Kirwan
Donald Cordill	Harold Kravitz
Virginia Douroudian	Alexander Kovaleski
Donald Eyer	Alan Locher
Richard Fisher	Yasuo Osajima
Bette Flick*	Phillip Russell
Panos Georgantas	Richard Russell
Marilyn Hemingway	John Teutimez, Jr
David Jones	Fredrick Von Coelin
Jack Jones	

* foreperson

Alternates

1. John Hirschboek
2. Robert Geiss
3. Lawrence Callahan
4. Edward Klopfenstein
5. José Sanchez
6. Robert Badham
7. Raoul Silva
8. Stephen Livingstone
9. Schubert Byers

2004-05 GRAND JURY REPORTS

- Another County Crisis: Pensions, Health Care, and Other Benefits
- Can O. C. Afford To Lose the Human Relations Commission?
- Harbors, Beaches, and Parks: Riches to Rags?
- Coroner Case Reviews: An Examination of the Process
- LAFCO – Is It Working?
- Problems with the OCTA Mobile Communications System
- Review of 91 Toll Road Funding
- OnTrac and the City of Placentia
- Orange County Cemetery District
- Substance Exposed Babies
- Red Light Cameras
- The State of Orange County Jails
- Election Nov. 2, 2004

These reports are available at most County public libraries, or can be downloaded at www.ocgrandjury.org/reports.asp