

THE NEWSLETTER

GRAND JURORS ASSOCIATION OF ORANGE COUNTY

Volume 21, No. 1

10064 Sunn Circle, Fountain Valley CA 92708

February 2007

YOUR OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

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Director	Karen Evarts	(949) 673-1432
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JOIN US FOR LUNCH
Thursday March 1
at Phoenix Club
1340 S. Sanderson Ave Anaheim
Speaker

Reed Royalty
President - OC Tax

"Retiree Benefit Time Bomb"



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

This year the 2007/2008 Prospective Grand Juror orientation was held on January 25th at 5:00 p.m. in the Superior Court Jury Assembly Room. The Honorable David T. McEachen—Superior Court presiding judge and chair of the Grand Jury Recruitment/Selection Committee—welcomed the 239 applicants and overviewed the selection process. Last year there were 172 applicants.

I was grateful for the opportunity to address the assembly and inform them about the Grand Jurors' Association's goals and objectives:

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MARCH LUNCHEON SPEAKER

The speaker at the March luncheon meeting will be Reed L. Royalty, President of the Orange County Taxpayers Association (OCTax). He will give an overview of the pension crisis facing many California's governments, including Orange County.

Reed has been involved at all levels of California government for many years. He was a lobbyist in Sacramento and has met many notable public government figures. He has many interesting stories about his political encounters during his long career in government and private business circles.

As the head of OCTax, he acts as the public outlet for the opinions and positions the association takes on many state and local legislation items. He is an effective writer as well as an eloquent speaker.

During the period leading up to the costly expansion of the County Employees retirement benefits, he was one of the most active, but ignored, advocates for scaling back the benefits given to the county employee unions in 2004. Supervisors Campbell, Wilson and Silva allowed the retirement plan expansion, Supervisors Norby and Smith voted against it. Taxpayers are going to pay the price for the overly

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President's Message
(contd. from p. 1)

- Create and disseminate a quarterly newsletter
- Investigate and report opportunities to serve on various boards, commissions and committees
- Promote the Grand Jury System, educate the public and attract future Grand Jury members
- Provide a pool of speakers to support public education concerning the Grand Jury System

One good example of our involvement in the community that also reflects the public's perception and respect of the Association was the Transportation Initiative, known as Measure M. This measure had been placed on the ballot and was voted down. Possibly, the initiative didn't fully define how the monies would be allocated and the voters just didn't have enough confidence to pass it. The measure was reintroduced with provisions that the monies would not be diverted to satisfy other shortfalls in the budget, and it contained a provision to form a Citizen's Oversight Committee and named a body, such as the GJAOC to recommend persons that would make up this committee. The measure passed and this Association was asked to perform this task.

Every year, we screen applicants by interviewing them and recommend the most qualified for the committee. The final selection is done with a process of randomly selecting the names of qualified persons with a drawing, similar to the process used in selecting the final members of the Grand Jury. This year's chair for the

Measure M selection committee is Joe Moreland.

The sitting Grand Jury has been invited to attend all of our quarterly business luncheon meetings.
- *Joe Quiros, president*

Luncheon Speaker
(contd. from p. 1)

generous retirement benefits given to public service employees by our elected politicians. Reed will detail the unpleasant facts and the outlook for lessening the financial consequences facing county taxpayers.
- *Bob Fauteux, v.p. programs*

**GJAOC MEMBERSHIP
ROSTER**

The Association periodically publishes a confidential membership roster to be distributed for the exclusive use of the members. If you are a member in good standing by March 2007 (meaning you have paid your 2007 annual dues), your name and contact information will be in the book.

If you would like to have your name - but not your contact information published - please let us know by March 1, 2007.

Many more of us are using E-mail notices to stay in contact. If you have an E-mail address that you would like to have published, please send an E-mail to jmquiros@pacbell.net to let him know. He will automatically add your E-address to your listing.

**MAUK STAYING AS
COUNTY CEO**

Thomas G. Mauk, Chief Executive Officer, is pleased to announce that he is staying with Orange County as CEO.

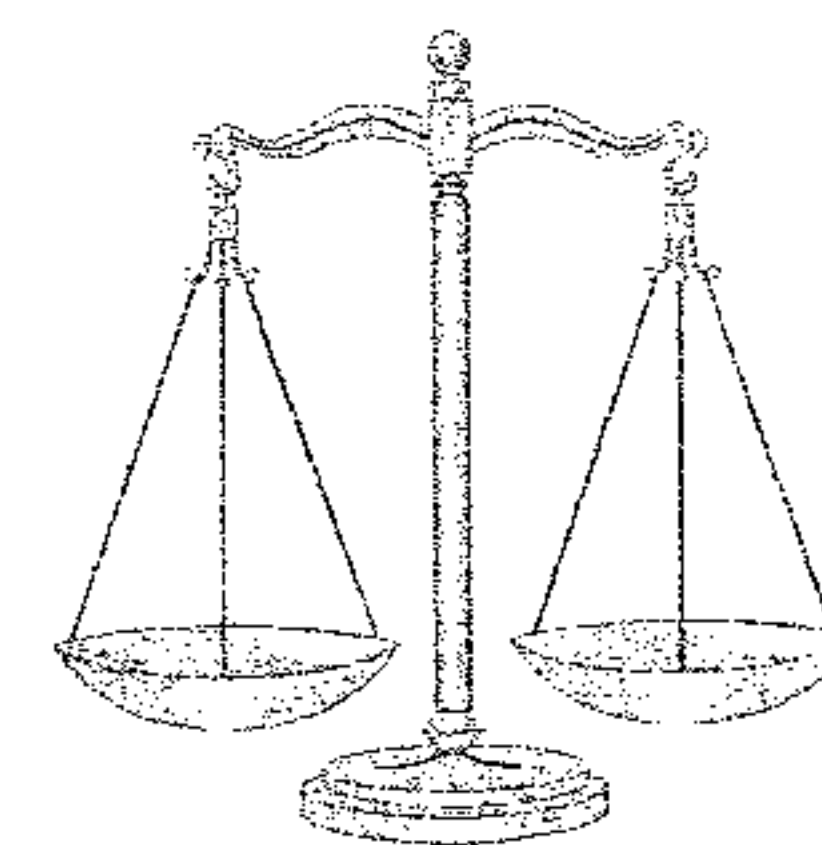
"The support of the Orange County Board of Supervisors and staff of the County was key to my decision," said Mauk. "The Los Angeles Board of Supervisors is first class and a remarkable Board for oversight of the nation's largest County."

Mr. Mauk indicated there is much to do in Orange County under the direction of the Board of Supervisors including:

- Strategic plan process
- Labor negotiations with the Association of Orange County Deputy Sheriffs
- Retiree medical reform implementation
- Public facilities study and master plan
- 2007-08 budget and business plans
- Expand open space and recreation opportunities in North Orange County
- Implementation of Dana Point Harbor revitalization.

Details of the revised employment contract will be available following the February 6 Board meeting.

- *O.C. press release*



NOTES MISCELLANEOUS

TREASURER'S REPORT

As of January 31, 2007
Orange County Credit Union
Business Checking Balance
\$5,391.12
Certificate of Deposit
\$5,102.68
Total
\$10,493.80
Hiro Kranz, Treasurer

CALL YOUR FRIENDS

Join us at the
March 1
Luncheon

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Our nominating committee is engaged in selecting a slate of six members to serve as directors for two years starting January 1, 2008. At least two of these six will be new members to replace those who have completed six years on the Board.

The Bylaws provide for nominations by mail until August 15th or from the floor at the September meeting. All nominations must have the nominees consent either in writing or in person.

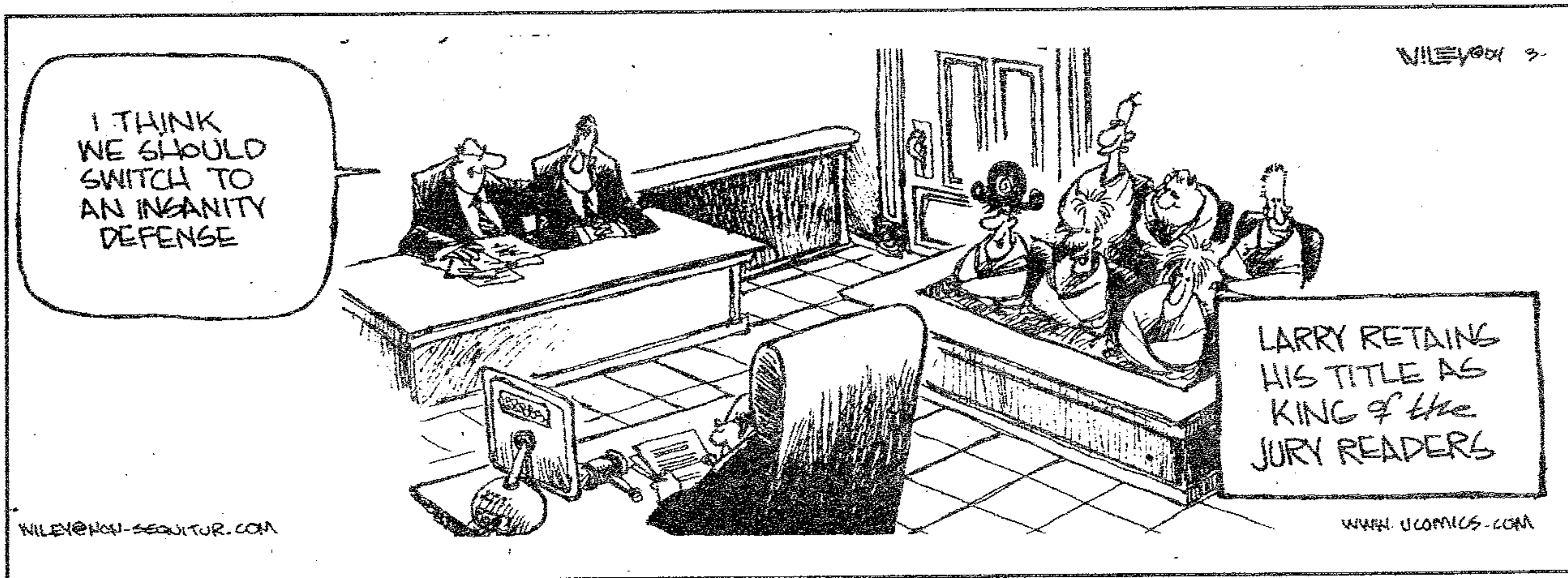
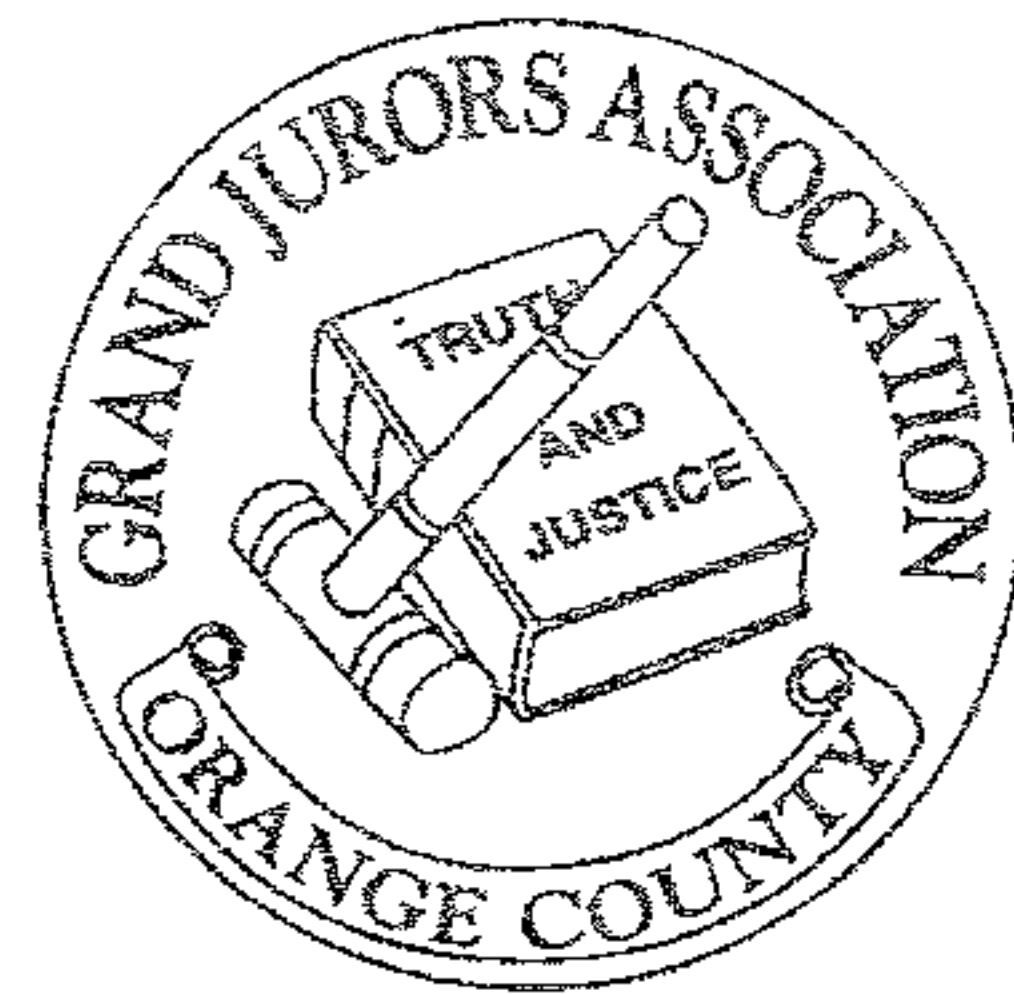
The chairman of the nominating committee is Carlos Olvera, 949-240-2490,

E-mail olveracn@speakeasy.net. Please contact him if you would like to be considered.

OCTA OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

In April applications to serve on the OCTA Citizens Oversight Committee will be distributed. This year applications will be accepted from the 1st, 4th and 5th supervisorial districts.

If you would like to be considered, you can get an early jump on the application process by contacting OCTA; Bill Daughters (714) 970-9329.



BE SAFE WITH SAIF

Every day we read or hear about new types of schemes aimed at separating people from their valuables. Schemers use the Internet to tout all these hundreds of “orphaned princes or princesses”, heirs to multi-million dollar bank accounts that just need an honest person to access these riches. All you need to do is to advance a sum of money or access to your bank account and you will receive a generous percentage of these hidden riches. Or you are the winner of a sweepstake or lottery; one you never entered, but somehow miraculously won.

Others use the telephone to convince you to part with personal information. Callers pretend to be officials of banks, credit unions, and other agencies. They give you a number to call to give you assurance that you are calling a legitimate office. This is an office that will most likely disappear in a few days.

Orange County is a magnet for these schemers. They prey on seniors, women, and those who live alone. Be safe by being aware.

Recently a young man related that he had gone to see his grandmother. She had just completed making seventeen checks to various agencies pulling at her generosity. Another person told of a neighbor who was submitting check after check for magazines that she neither wanted nor needed.

Whether from Nigeria or from the next city or down the street, there are those eager to separate you from your money. The best protection is to be aware and knowledgeable.

The Department of Corporations is taking the proactive stance to make anyone and everyone aware of the many ways others are after your money and the ways you can protect yourself.

There are SAIF (Seniors Against Investment Fraud) volunteers who will speak to your group. GJAOC has two volunteers—Rose Moreno and Wanda Schaefer. If neither can fit your group into their schedule they will be happy to arrange for someone else to meet with your group.

At the conclusion of these talks each participant receives a pamphlet that lists the top financial scams, steps to protect your privacy, information about reverse mortgages, annuities, living trusts mills, “free” seminars, and numbers to call if you have any doubts or questions.

Make sure your money goes where you want it to go; not to some pocket that has no connection or benefit to you.

NEXT GJ RECRUITMENT COMPLETED

The Orange County Superior Court received 238 applications from prospective jurors to serve on the 2007-2008 Orange County Grand Jury. The average age of the applicants is 66. Approximately 14% of the applicants are minorities: 11 Latinos, seven Asians, five African Americans, two Filipinos, three Native-American Indians, and five who identi-

fied themselves as other than Caucasian. 73 females applied.

During the recruitment process, 5,000 applications were mailed to prospective applicants. Flyers were distributed to 1,000 companies and 93 minority organizations.

The orientation for grand juror applicants was held January 25. Now the first step in the selection process will begin: Each qualify-

ing applicant will be interviewed by two Superior Court judges and background investigations will be conducted by the Sheriff's Department. Judges of the Superior Court will then submit the nominations of 30 qualified applicants from which 19 individuals will be selected to serve on the Grand Jury in a random drawing.