



# THE NEWSLETTER

GRAND JURORS ASSOCIATION OF ORANGE COUNTY

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10064 Sunn Circle, Fountain Valley CA 92708

May 2007

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**JOIN US FOR LUNCH**  
**Thursday June 7**  
**at Phoenix Club**  
**1340 S. Sanderson Ave Anaheim**  
**Speakers-**

**Christopher Shawley**  
**Chief of Police, Costa Mesa**  
**&**  
**Alfredo Amezcua**  
**Los Amigos Advocacy**



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

An article appeared on the front page of the Sunday, April 29, 2007, edition of *The Orange County Register*. Quoting from the article, "U.S. lawmakers are trying to forge a bipartisan compromise that would increase enforcement, let millions of illegal immigrants earn permanent residency and attract new foreign workers that industry and agriculture say they desperately need. Opponents want to block any comprehensive bill.... The illegal immigration issue hasn't gone away."

This article is timely and the community implications are far reaching as well. The Grand Jurors' Board of Directors has chosen to have our speakers for the

June 7th luncheon meeting cover the subject of community implications from undocumented immigrants.

Our guest speakers will be Chief Christopher Shawkey from the Costa Mesa police and Alfredo Amezcua, Esq. from Los Amigos, a Hispanic advocacy organization.

Each speaker will have ten minutes acquaint us about their organization and will field two or three questions, depending on time available. As questions are asked, the speaker has the last word—no cross conversation. The point of the talks and questions are to be informative and non-confrontational.

## PENSION PROBLEMS

Reed Royalty, President of the Orange County Taxpayers Association, and Board Member of the Orange County Retirement System spoke at the March meeting. His subject was to warn us of the coming crisis in the Public Pension Program.

He described the problem as a mathematical dilemma in which more funding has been promised

*(continued on p.2)*



*Pension Problems*  
(contd. from p.1)

than there is money available. He claimed that the reality is that of an elephant in the living room; everyone knows it's there and no one will talk about it.

According to Royalty, the Pension has been deceptively managed for some time. The expenditures by the members have been needlessly lavish which is unfair to taxpayers. He asserted that though it is a tough problem, it is also fixable.

He characterized the problem as "Greed, Wishful Thinking and Faulty Numbers".

**CECIL HICKS , 1927-2007**

Cecil Hicks, who was Orange County's District Attorney from 1967 to 1989, died at age 80 on March 20. He served as top prosecutor during a critical time in the county's growth history. He became a Superior Court judge after his term of office then retired from the bench in 2001.

Most notable during Hicks' time as DA was his successful prosecution of three county supervisors, a congressman, and drug guru Timothy Leary.

Hicks joined the District Attorney's office in 1958 and was given prominent death penalty cases beginning early in his career. Supervisor Ralph Diedrich and congressman Andrew Hinshaw were convicted of bribery and two other supervisors were convicted of campaign law violations during Hicks' watch.

**TAX POLICY - A SMALL  
BREAK FOR DONOR  
COUNTIES**

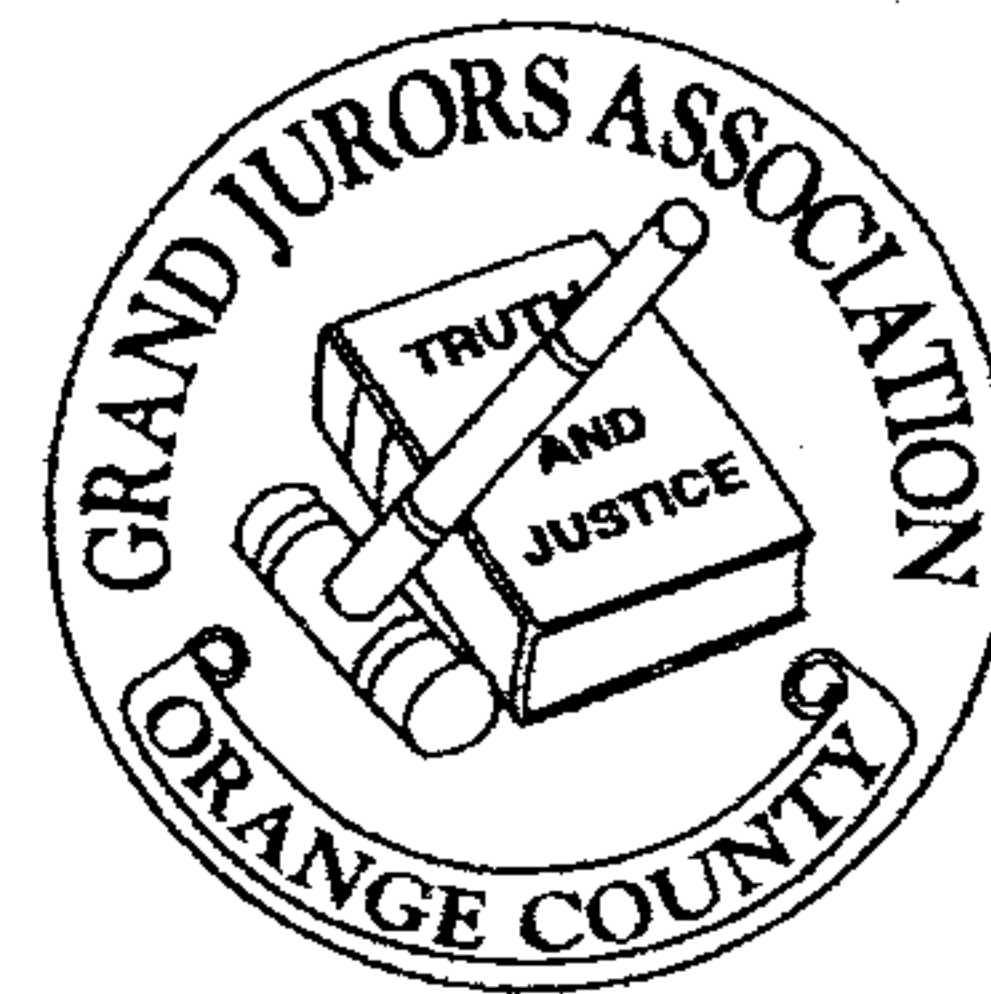
OCTax's president, Reed Royalty, has submitted an analysis of SB 547: "Property Tax Revenue Allocations" and has announced his organization's support for it.

"Existing law shifts a formulaic percentage of property tax revenue from counties, cities, and special districts to the Educational Revenue Augmentation Fund (ERAF). SB 547 would entitle qualified 'donor' counties to retain a statewide total of \$20 million of such funds. The state would reimburse local donor-county schools for the amount not shifted to ERAF."

The principle of equal funding for all California schools, regardless of local property tax receipts, has given

us the phenomenon of "donor" and "recipient" counties and uses historical ratios of education and general services rather than adjusting amounts for some former low-tax counties which have undergone some urbanization.

ERAF costs Orange County taxpayers \$535 million a year. A remuneration of just a fraction of the statewide \$20 million to OC may sound inconsequential, but even such a tiny step, as in SB 547, acknowledges the tax inequity which is in the present system.



**CALL  
YOUR  
FRIENDS**

**SEE YOU AT THE JUNE  
LUNCHEION**





# NOTES & MISCELLANY

## TREASURER'S REPORT

As of March 31, 2007  
 Orange County Credit Union  
 Business Checking Balance  
 \$5,850.57  
 Certificate of Deposit  
 \$5,143.92  
 Total  
 \$10,994.49  
 Hiro Kranz, Treasurer

## IN MEMORIAM

**KEITH BOILLOT 81/82**

**ALAN H. LOCKER 05/06**

**LUIS F. MOLINA 94/95**

**JOHN M. FOX 87/88**

**ROBERT BARNES 83/84**

## GJAOC MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

Our two term GJ member Opal Kissinger, (1988/89 and 1993/94), has spent three decades dedicated to preserving Anaheim's history. Opal was honored last year with the Margaret Atkins Award at the Anaheim Historical Society's annual banquet.

Opal first moved to Orange County in 1968 and now lives in Santa Ana. She held the curator post at the Anaheim Public Library from 1974 until 1987. Since then, she has continued to organize collections and compile a chronology of the library.

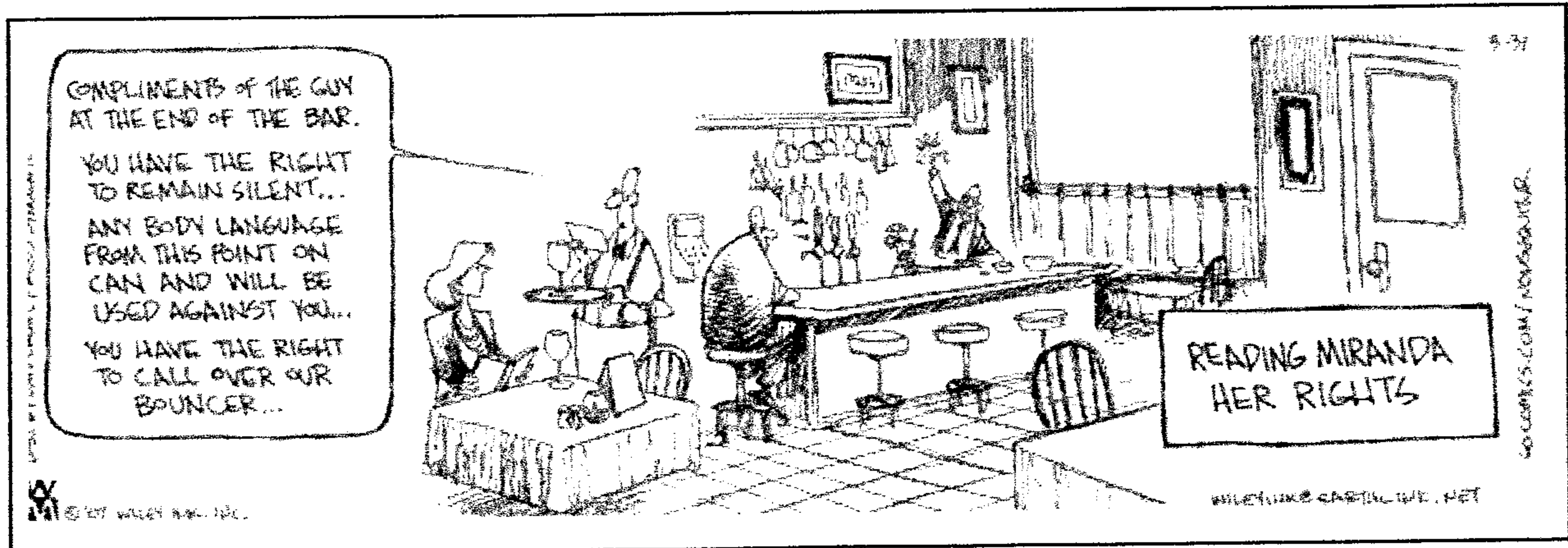
She also administered the Mother Colony House, which is Anaheim's oldest structure and museum where she introduced 25,000 students to the city's history.

## LAW DAY IS COMING

Please mark you calendar to attend a Flag Raising Ceremony at the Old Orange County Courthouse, located at 211 West Santa ANa Blvd., to kick-off the Court's Law Day program. The event is scheduled for Thursday, May 10, 2007 AT 9:30 a.m. The thirty-minute program will include a performance by the All American Boys Choir and we expect that the Marine Drum and Bugle Corps will perform.

## WHAT'S COOKIN'?

Attention! Out soon - a CGJA publication featuring summaries of grand jury reports from California's fifty eight counties along with some great recipes! "What's Cookin' with California's Grand Juries?"





## **STOP VOTER FRAUD**

### *Require Photo ID at the Polls*

*(The following article was released by Assemblyman Bob Huff (R-Diamond Bar) in early April.)*

If you look under 30 years old, you have to show it. If you drive a car, you have to carry it. If you want to cash a check, it has to be valid. If you want to fly, it must match the name on your boarding pass. But, if you want to participate in the most sacred right guaranteed by our Constitution – engaging in the electoral process by casting a ballot to determine who represents you at each level of government – it is inconsequential...in California at least. With the most registered voters of any state in the nation, California has the bare minimum identification requirements to vote.

In our state, voters who register by mail and do not provide ID verification with their registration must show ID before voting – the first time. But, non-photo ID is acceptable. That means anyone who mails a voter registration form need only show up at their polling place on Election Day with a utility bill, bank statement or sample ballot in order to vote. It is harder to buy a Value Meal at McDonald's with a debit card.

It doesn't take more than simple math to see the loophole in this law. Even those who aren't smarter than a fifth-grader can figure out how to cast a fraudulent vote with this system. But unlike other loopholes, this one poses a real and serious threat to our democracy.

Opponents of my bill to require photo identification, AB 9, cite the fact that of the millions of votes cast for candidates throughout the state, the number of fraudulent votes that are being cast aren't sufficient to require photo identification for everyone. Tell that to Trung Nguyen who just lost the Orange County Board of Supervisors election by 3 votes. Just one vote can decide an election. Just one illegal immigrant registered to vote can affect the electoral process. But, according to these opponents, that isn't as important as relieving voters of the burden of carrying their wallets to the polls.

Florida and Indiana are two states who are at the forefront of preserving the integrity of the political process; both require photo identification to cast a ballot. Many other states require some form of identification each time a voter goes to the polls. But, California is in the minority – only requiring non-photo identification the first time a voter casts a ballot in the state.

Predictably, the ACLU and MALDEF were on hand for the committee hearing to offer arguments for allowing potential voter fraud to continue. They were there to defend the rights of all those Californians who don't have any form of photo ID. They even invoked racism in their defense, claiming that more Latinos and African Americans lack photo ID than others. Of course, the Democrat-majority on the Elections Committee was swayed. Maybe a fifth-grader would agree with them.

But those who are smarter than a fifth-grader know one thing: there is no more precious right than the right to choose who governs us. Men and women have died to preserve that right for us; men and women are sacrificing their lives to preserve that right for others. And, failing to protect that right, failing to demand accountability in the electoral process, is shameful. Weighing the burden against the consequences – requiring photo identification versus compromising the integrity of our entire political process – is simple math too, and the arguments against requiring photo identification just don't add up.

*(Huff's proposed AB 9 was voted down in committee 2-5 on April 3. -ed.)*