



THE NEWSLETTER

GRAND JURORS ASSOCIATION OF ORANGE COUNTY

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10064 Sunn Circle, Fountain Valley CA 92708

August 2011

YOUR OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

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Director	Bill Nelson	(714) 974-6025
Director	Larry Callahan	(714) 537-8094
Dir - News Chair	Cheryl Brothers	(714) 839-4509

JOIN US FOR LUNCH
Thursday Sept. 1
at Meridian Sports Club
1535 Deerpark, Fullerton

Speaker
Neale Kelley
OC Registrar of Voters

"Update From the Registrar"

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

GREETINGS!!!

From the President's Keyboard

The 2010-11 Grand Jury term ended on July 1 with a heartwarming thank you and farewell from the Hon. Thomas M. Goethals, Felony Panel Judge and Grand Jury Recruitment/Selection Committee Member. I would like to add my praise to the members of the 2010-11 panel members for their outstanding work on the trilogy of reports on county, municipal, and special districts compensation. I particularly appreciated their recommendation that governments make employee compensation easily accessible on agency websites. I extend a hearty welcome to the 7 members who accepted our offer for free membership to the Grand Jurors Association of Orange County for the rest of the calendar year. I hope others from the 2010-11 panel will, at the least, join us at our quarterly luncheons to learn more about our mission and accomplishments.

I welcome the newly seated 2011-2012 panel. Congratulations to you all for surviving the rigorous and

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SEPTEMBER LUNCHEON SPEAKER

The speaker for our September 1 quarterly luncheon meeting will be Orange County's Registrar of Voters Neal Kelley.

He will present an overview of the many activities of his department is current issues facing a changing voting landscape. He will also review preparations for the forthcoming 2012 Primary and General Elections. He is well known to many Grand Jury members who were in contact with his department during their Grand Jury service and for many who par-

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

competitive selection process. I have no doubt that you are feeling somewhat overwhelmed at this point in your term but hope you can find time to join our Association for lunch on September 1.

As I write this message, the onerous AB 622 continues to move through the mysterious and baffling California legislative process. As you may recall, AB 622 was introduced by a freshman Assemblyman, Roger Dickinson, who had problems with the Sacramento County Grand Jury on several occasions while serving as a County Supervisor. As originally drafted, the bill would have had disastrous effects on the grand jury system...requiring a 60-day review of final reports before release to the public, also require all sworn testimony be taken in public session, and allow counsel to accompany witnesses who appear before the grand jury.

The first airing of the bill was before the Assembly Judiciary Committee in early April. The California Grand Jurors Association and the California District Attorneys Association spoke in opposition to the bill, providing salient arguments against all provisions. No support was offered in favor of the bill but a slightly amended version passed on a 6 to 4 vote, largely along party lines. The bill proceeded to the Assembly Appropriations Committee where it was again opposed by the CGJA. After additional modifications, the bill passed the committee on an 11-5 party line vote with no

supporting arguments. The House then approved the bill on a 66-8 floor vote and passed it on to the Senate. The Senate Judiciary Committee heard opposition from the CDAA and the CGJA, made further amendments to the bill, and passed it on a 3 to 2 vote. The bill now awaits action by the Senate Appropriations Committee scheduled for August 15.

The current version of the bill requires a 21-day review period of reports before public release and allows witnesses to have counsel present when testimony is given to the grand jury. Interestingly, that particular provision now has a 5-year sunset clause and will expire in 2017 without further legislative action.

In a last-ditch effort, the California Grand Jurors Association has prepared a detailed analysis of costs that would be associated with enactment of AB 622 in its present form. Their analysis shows that county and local governments would be faced with more than \$2.5 million in additional costs to cover attorney and court reporter fees. Hopefully, the Senate Appropriations Committee will realize the dire consequences of these expenses on already strained county coffers.

We applaud the efforts of the California Grand Jurors Association in battling this troubling bill. Although we have assisted by contacting our local assembly members and senators, their presence and testimony at state hearings

have, at the very least, blunted some of the most vexing parts of the bill. If you have wondered why you should pay dues to an organization you rarely have contact with, their efforts in dealing with AB 622 to protect the grand jury system for future generations should remove any doubt.

As always, I welcome your comments on any subject. Please feel free to share your thoughts or ideas by calling 714-328-3255 or emailing morelandjoe@hotmail.com. If you haven't been receiving periodic email updates from me regarding Association business, I either don't have your email address or the one I have has an error. If you'd like to receive my emails, just send a note to me at the above address and I'll add you to my distribution list.

-Joe Moreland, president

Luncheon Speaker

(contd. from p.1)

participate in running the election voting locations.

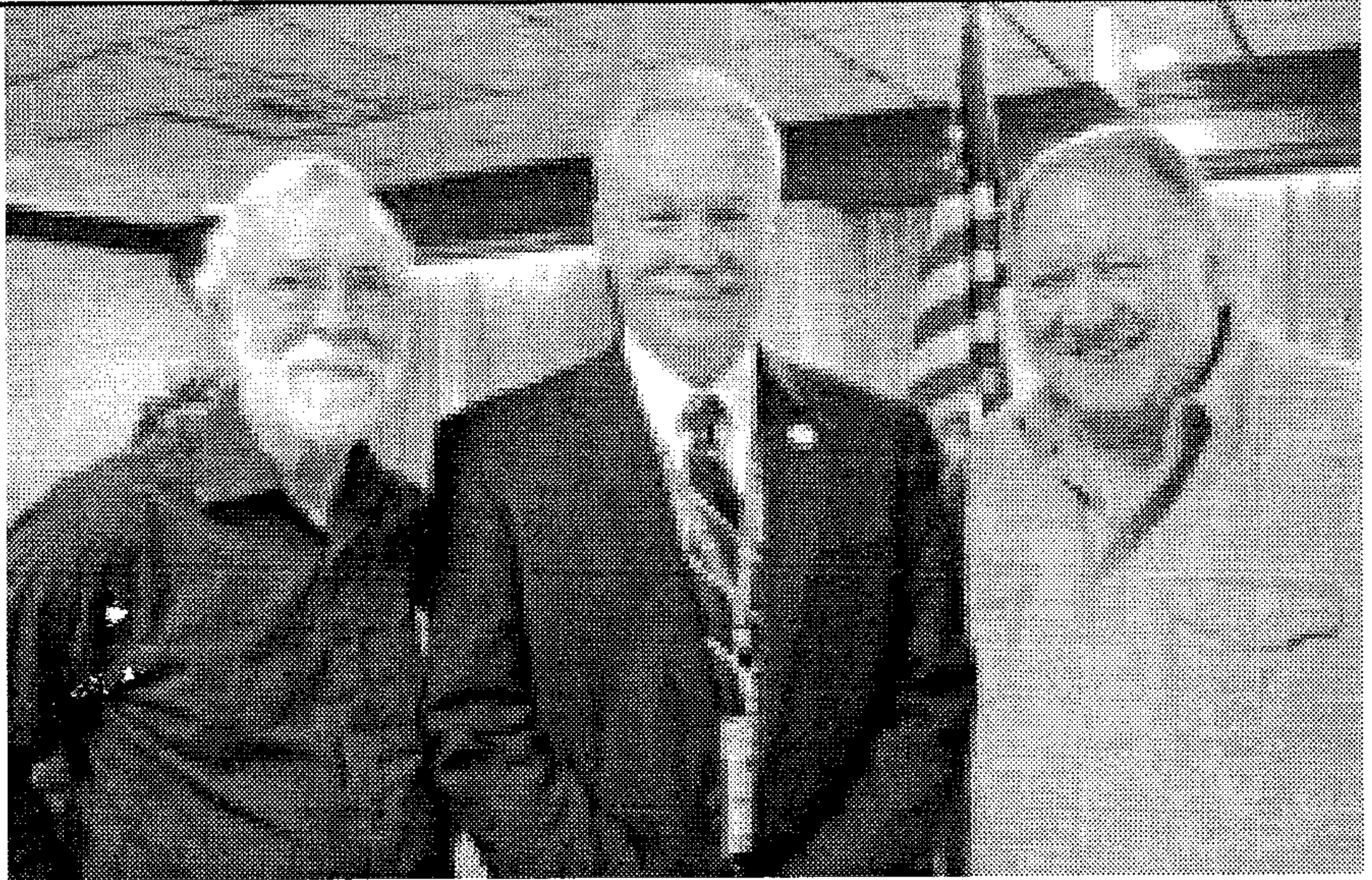
Neal holds degrees from the University of Redlands (BS, Business Management, 1992) and the University of Southern California (MBA, 1997). He has been the county Registrar for seven years since his appointment in May 2004.

- Bob Fauteux

NOTES & MISCELLANY

TREASURER'S REPORT

As of Jul 30, 2011
Orange County Credit Union
Business Checking Balance
\$6,558.76
.Certificate of Deposit
\$8,860.66
Total
\$15,419.44
Joe Quiros, Treasurer



June 2, 2011 GJAOC Luncheon Meeting
L-R Joe Moreland, Jim Ellis (June speaker), Glen Stroud

ELECTIONS

At the September meeting, the nominating committee will present a list of six members who have agreed to serve on the Board of Directors for the next two years beginning January 1, 2012.

The slate of nominees are:

- Carol Duensing (incumbent)
- Bob Fauteux (incumbent)
- Robin Bowen (2009/10 panel)
- Connie Buenaventure (2009/10 panel)
- John Moore (2009/10 panel)
- Ed Wylie (1997/98 panel)

They will also accept nominations from the floor at that meeting. The proposed nominees must be present to accept their nominators or have signed a note stating that they are willing to serve. If there are no nominations from the floor, (there haven't been since 1995), the slate may be elected through voice vote at the meeting.

Association officers will be elected by the Directors at the November meeting and will be sworn in at the December luncheon.

MISCELLANY

Well wishes to Elsie Carruthers 1988-89/93-94 panel member, and past Association Board Member who has had health issues this year.

IN MEMORIAM

Jim Nolan
1999-2000 Panel &
Past GJAOC Board of
Directors member

2011 -12 ORANGE COUNTY GRAND JURY SELECTED

The 19 members and 10 alternates of the 2011-2012 Orange County Grand Jury were selected on May 17 from a drawing held in Dept. C1 of the Central Justice Center. Canvassing efforts for the Grand Jury members included the following: More than 4,500 applications were mailed to prospective applicants, flyers were distributed to 700 companies and 48 minority organizations, and advertising and articles appeared in newspapers and on the Web. Also, current members of the Grand Jury and the Grand Jury Recruitment/Selection Committee spoke to organizations and appeared on local television to inform the community of the opportunity to serve on the Grand Jury.

Following the four-day training program, the 19 members officially took the oath of office and began their one-year term on July 1.

The names of the 2011-2012 Grand Jury members are listed below:

- | | | |
|----------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Richard Newman | 7. Dianne Mitchell | 13. Dorean Ora |
| 2. Helen Alberts | 8. Lynn Cudd | 14. Barton Harlan |
| 3. Donald Dillon | 9. Myra Spicker | 15. Jean Watson |
| 4. Arthur Rosen | 10. Douglas Rosenow | 16. Patricia Place |
| 5. John Fornes | 11. Charlene Rieder | 17. Stanley Ness |
| 6. Stuart Fuller III | 12. Louis Kurkjian | 18. William Underwood |
| | | 19. Roy Baker III* |

GRAND JURY REPORT SUBMITTED FOR CGJA AWARD

The "Compensation Study of Orange County Cities" report prepared by the 2010-2011 Orange County Grand Jury was submitted to the California Grand Jurors' Association (CGJA) for consideration for the 2011 Bob Geiss Excellence in Reporting Award.

The Award is given each year for excellence in writing and public service. It also honors Bob Geiss, a long time member of the CGJA as well as our local association.

Also submitted for the News Media Coverage award was an article in the June 26, 2011 edition of the Orange County *Register*, OC Watchdog, by columnist Teri Sforza. It was titled: "Cities lack clarity on pay, says grand jury".

The award Nomination Form cited the report's "Reason for Study". "While compensation of public officials and employees has long been a subject of citizen concern, recent allegations of gross abuses have created a fire storm of media, government and even prosecutorial attention. Recent revelations from cities outside of Orange County have led to charges that city officials were paying themselves lavish salaries

and benefits at taxpayer expense." Further noted was the city compensation report received widespread attention from city governments, the press and the public throughout Orange County. It, along with companion reports for the compensation for Special Agencies and the County, continues to receive substantial public attention.

- *Bob Fauteux*

GJAOC WEBSITE

Director Bill Nelson is taking the lead on the investigation of developing a GJAOC website. If you are interested in participating with the committee looking into this - please call Bill at (714) 974-6025.

***NEW JURY FOREMAN**

Roy Baker has been selected as the foreperson for the 2011/2012 Grand Jury which began a one-year term July 1, announced Presiding Judge Thomas J. Borris, Chair of the Grand Jury Recruitment/Selection Committee.

Mr. Baker graduated from Boston University with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Economics and from Gonzaga University with a Master of Science degree in Human Resources Management. After retiring from military service, Mr. Baker worked for the city/county of Honolulu, Hawaii, as a purchasing administrator and for the Saddleback Valley Unified School District as a purchasing manager.

- *Superior Court press release*