



GJAOC News - 2015 Second Quarter

Volume 28 No. 2

June, 2015

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President's Message from John Moohr

It's hard to believe that we are approaching June which marks the end of the current Grand Jury term and the start of yet another Grand Jury. I would like to thank the current jury for their hard work and dedication. As a thank you we invite the current jury to our June luncheon as our guests. In addition we extend a complimentary six-month membership in our association.

In order to keep growing we need to continue to add to our membership. For all of our current members could you please contact the members of your Grand Jury that you served on who are not currently members of our association to please consider joining or rejoining the association. As you can see from our newsletter we are doing many new things to give our membership an opportunity to be involved.

For those of you who enjoy working with computers we are still looking for someone to take over our WEB MASTER position. The good news is our current web master is willing to train the new person. Please contact me if you're interested.

Another area that your association is involved in the community is assisting the OCTA in screening potential members for the measure M Taxpayer Oversight Committee.

This year's application pool for the upcoming 2015/16 Jury was on the low side. Our association hopes to assist in the recruiting process with our newly formed Speakers Bureau to get the word out to the community. *Speaking of getting involved, please consider joining our Board of Directors which will have elections later this year.*

In closing, I would like to thank our very informative speakers at our last luncheon on the topic of "Community Impact of the Homeless" - Larry Haynes, Exec. Director of Mercy House & Karen Roper, Exec. Director of OC Commission to End Homelessness.

- John J. Moohr jjmoohr@verizon.net



GJOC Incoming President John Moohr & Outgoing Membership Chair Carol Morales

From March, 2015 Luncheon



Left to Right
Benton Bejach, 1979-80,
Mission Viejo Mayor Pro Tem
Greg Raths and others

Collaborative "Problem Solving"
with GJAOC Photo
: Innovative Collaborative



Right to Left
Alf Lyle, 2013-14,
John Gallie, 2009-10 & 2013-14
and others

They are:

Paul Shapiro, The Collaborative Courts Officer and

the **Honorable Joe Perez**, Orange County Superior Court Judge

What are the Collaborative Courts?

Collaborative or "problem solving" Courts are specialized court tracks that address underlying issues that may be present in the lives of persons who come before the court on criminal, juvenile, or dependency matters. These court programs, which offer therapeutic, life-changing alternatives to the revolving door of incarceration & re-arrest. The remarkable success of these programs is reflected in many social and economic ways.

They involve active judicial monitoring and a team approach to decision making, and include the participation of a variety of different agencies, such as Probation and health treatment providers. The Collaborative Court programs offered by the Orange County Superior Court includes alternative programs for both adult and juvenile offenders.

These eleven Collaborative Courts include: **1) Adult Drug Court, 2) Driving Under Influence (DUI) Courts, 3) Homeless Outreach Court, 4) Juvenile Drug Court, 5) Opportunity Court, 6) Recovery Court, 7) Truancy Court, 8) Veterans Court, 9)WIT "Whatever It Takes" Court, 10) Boys Court and 11) Girls Court.** The latter two are Dependency Teen Courts.

A May 10th OC Register story featured the Boys & Girls Teen Court. **If you wish to volunteer at the Teen Courts**, just email Nellie.Herandez@ssa.oc.gov or Scott.Burdick@ssa.oc.gov. For more info., see <http://m.ocregister.com/articles/boys-661314-court-program.html>

Come hear more about the challenges and opportunities of these innovative programs in 2015.

Paul Shapiro wrote that we "will hear a moving and informative presentation, and have our questions addressed in a thought-provoking question and answer period".

To repeat what you should have already received by now, luncheon is at the **Phoenix Club, 1340 Sanderson Ave in Anaheim** with coffee at 11:15. Lunch is served promptly at 11:45. **Cost was \$20 with a reservation or \$25 at door.** Reservations had to be made by 6/1, but you might contact Joe Quiros at [\(949\) 651-0113](tel:9496510113) or email jmquiros@cox.net to let him now you are coming as a walk-up with your Name, Phone # & Menu selection of Chicken Picatta or Cobb Salad. However, Menu selection is no longer guaranteed without reservations.

Directions: 1. Exit Ball Road from 57 Freeway
2. Go East on Ball & Turn South on Phoenix Club Dr.
3. Turn Right on Sanderson Ave.

Save these Dates for next 4 luncheons in your calendar now:

For Next GJAOC Phoenix Club 4 Luncheons on first Thursday of 3rd, 6th, 9th & 12th months.

June 4, 2015

September 3, 2015

December 3, 2015

March 3, 2016

Membership Rosters & GJAOC ID Cards will be given to GJAOC Members at 6/4/15 Mtg.

From the GJAOC Newsletter Editor

WHAT'S NEW?



Newsletter

Editor

Welcome to the 2nd combination E-mail & Mail GJAOC Newsletter!

With the introduction of electronic delivery, **we were able to separate the delivery timing of the Luncheon Flyer from delivery of the Newsletter.** That provides much more flexibility going forward with earlier notification, and ability for follow up. On top of that of course, e-mailings can be environmentally green, cost efficient and timely.

We were very pleased with your overwhelming positive preference for emails over US mail and glad we can deliver in the responsive way you prefer. Many thanks for your very positive reaction to the expanded newsletter format. With this issue unlike last quarter, we are no longer sending both US mail and emailed Newsletters to the same person.

We will gladly continue to send **US mail hard copy to the 11 members who do not have an email address or service, and to the 9 members** who have an email address but also wish to receive a hard copy of the Email Newsletter by US mail instead. ***It should be noted that this hard copy distribution now accounts for only 13% of our membership vs. 100% before.***

In addition, we send out 125 hard copies of the Luncheon Flyer by US mail to city, county & state agencies without any Newsletter attached, since the Newsletter is for members only. We will continue to whether that process would be enhanced by electronic distribution, as well.

As a service to our members, we also sent out follow-up hard copies of the Luncheon Flyer this time to a minority of the members who showed up on our Constant Contact reports to us as having not opened their email luncheon flyer within a reasonable time.

We included in that mailing of a follow-up, hard copy Luncheon Flyer, a Delivery Preference Survey, to ensure they get to see a Flyer on a timely basis, and to determine if a technical barrier or problem prevents them from getting an GJAOC email on a regular basis.

We feel like we have made significant communications improvements in a short time, but please pardon our dust during this transition, as we continue to fine tune and enhance a more efficient delivery of the new email newsletter format, with modern publishing methods.

With this newsletter we are introducing an ongoing section called **"ISSUE SPOTLIGHT"**. We will focus on a timely topical issue, that is receiving the public's and press's attention and was previously the topic of an OC Grand Jury report(s). We will report just an overview of the facts and news accounts, but **we would like you to send in brief, point-counterpoint type, enlightened commentaries via Letters to the Editor** that we can publish by email only in a new GJAOC publication called **"Viewpoints"**. That will take

advantage of your experience and provide you a voice to share additional facts with others.

The controversial issue that we chose to spotlight this quarter is **"OC Ethics Commission?"**

In this **"News"** e-mail, we will provide ONLY high level facts and some basic references. In a subsequent new GJAOC e-mail only publication to be called **"Views"**, we will provide more detail and updated current status and your Letters to the Editor, as described above. Please write us, we welcome & appreciate feedback & ideas for your new "News" & "Views".

- **Bill Underwood** wfunderwood@earthlink.net

Educating the Community about the Grand Jury System



The Grand Jurors' Association of Orange County (GJAOC) has embarked on a program to educate the residents of Orange County about their Grand Jury.

The goal is to spread the word about the Grand Jury's, history, its purpose, how it functions, its powers and what it has accomplished here in Orange County. At the same time we will be recruiting prospects for future grand juries.

To date, speakers have been recruited, a speech outline has been made, speaking opportunities are being identified, and a speaker training program has been scheduled. We hope to blanket the whole county with this educational and recruitment program over the next several years.

Multiple committee meetings have been held to organize, plan and schedule the outreach. The committee members include **Lynn Bonas (2006-7)**, **Bart Harlan (2011-12)**, **Stan Ness (2011-12)**, **Virginia Zlaket (2013-14)** and **Fred Gebhardt (2011-12)**.

Stan has prepared an outline of the issues to be presented at each organization where we speak. This will make it easy for speakers to present the history, purpose, function and accomplishments of the Orange County Grand Juries, and to share some of their experiences when they served.

Virginia has recruited at least a dozen speakers who have expressed their willingness to spread the Grand Jury story. **If you are interested in being a voice for the Grand Jury, please contact Virginia at zlakets@att.net or 714-636-0939.**

Bart has compiled opportunities for speaking engagements such as civic clubs, service organizations, home owners associations, schools, etc. **If you know of organizations that want speakers, please contact Bart at bnbharlan@socal.rr.com or 714-530-5759 with the names, contacts, and meeting schedules if you know them.**

A training session was held on May 12th at Red Hill Lutheran in Tustin, with more members attending. **Another training session is scheduled for June 23rd at 3pm in the same location. If you are interested in attending just to see whether you might be interested in helping, please contact Fred Gebhardt at f.gebhardt@att.net or 949- 857-4252.**

A new Orange County Grand Jury will be sworn in on July 1, 2015. Our committee will work closely with them in their efforts to recruit applications for the 2016-17 jury.

TRACKING & IMPLEMENTATION

Committee

Shaping The Future by Tracking Past Grand Jury Recommendations



T/I Committee Chair Roy Baker (far right) at last GJAOC luncheon

The Tracking & Implementation Committee has agreed that procedures developed by Board of Supervisors in response to Grand Jury reports in 1994,1996 & 2002/3 provide logical starting points for the current T/I committee to consider as it approaches tracking responses to OC Grand Jury reports.

The committee is also canvassing California Grand Juror Chapters & Grand Juror Associations to ascertain how they are tracking implementation of approved responses to Jury reports beyond just the statutory requirements for current Grand Juries. **The committee's goal is to incorporate the "Best Practices" found, as the Committee continues to have monthly meetings to develop a program for tracking implementation of responses here in Orange County.**

The most recent Committee meeting was held on May 28 at 11:30 AM at Original Mike's and too late to report on their progress at that meeting in this newsletter.

If you would like further information, or if you would like to attend the next committee meeting, please contact Roy Baker [bakerrb3@cox.net] 949-702-3751.

Measure M Taxpayer Oversight Committee **- GJAOC screening of applicants**



Our association recently provided an independent 5 member selection committee in May to administer applicant screening process of recommending to OCTA Board up to 5 citizens from each of 4 of 5 supervisorial districts to be selected by OCTA lottery.

GJAOC's task this year was to screen applicants who wanted to serve for 3 years term on the 11 member Measure M mandated **Taxpayer Oversight Committee (TOC)**.

All applicants were evaluated on the basis of the following criteria:

- a. Commitment and ability to participate in Committee meetings:
- b. Demonstrated interest and history of participation in community activities, with special emphasis on transportation-related activities.
- c. Lack of conflict of interest with respect to expenditure of Measure M sales taxes.
- d. Currently elected or appointed governmental officials are not eligible to serve.

The lottery drawing to select the GJAOC screened eligible candidates for each district will be held at the June 22nd, 2015 public meeting of the OCTA Board of Directors. The TOC 3 year term is from July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2018. Membership on the Measure M Taxpayer Oversight Committee is a volunteer position without monetary compensation.

Membership, Treasurer & Nominating Committee Reports



Membership Report

118 Members, as of 1/31/15

145 Members, as of 5/1/15

Congratulations to our newest members of the Grand Jurors Association of OC (GJAOC) Multi-Service Clubs below!

TRIPLE CROWN CLUB

NARINDA MAHAL 1994-95, 2002-03 & 2014-15

joins Viola Sadler 1994-95, 1998-99 & 2002-03

DOUBLES CLUB

RICHARD NEWMAN 2011-12 & 2014-15

joins Abel Barboza 2004-05 & 2008-09

George Carlson 1999-2000 & 2001-02

Elsie Carruthers 1988-89 & 1993-94

Carol Duensing 1989-90 & 1991-92

John Gallie 2009-10 & 2013-14

Wanda Shaffer 2004-05 & 2007-08

Glen Stroud 2004-05 & 2009-10

Fran Tassin 2004-05 & 2007-08

To correct an oversight in the last Newsletter in the COUPLES CLUB

MARGOT (1992-93) & JAMES (1991-92) BURTON

should have been listed in addition to:

Dianne (2011-12) & Charles (1999-00) Mitchell

Eula (2006-07) & William (2002-03) Nelson

We also should have acknowledged in the last issue - the Burton's key leadership & work on

past Newsletter Committees, along with Mike Harris as well. KUDOS and we are indebted.

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There may be some confusion and perhaps misunderstandings about when our membership dues are due. We are on a calendar year and each member is expected to pay their modest annual dues by January 1st of each year.

GJAOC provides members a grace period with payment no later than May 1st. This gives our members four full months to send their \$15 renewal checks, before being dropped from the membership rolls on June 1st. See below for details.

Our By Laws read under Article II, Section 5: The Board of Directors may from time to time establish and fix membership fees or dues and determine the amount thereof, which shall be due January 1 of each year. The Second Vice President shall notify in writing any Regular or Associate Member who is more than three (3) months delinquent in the payment of any membership fees or dues prior to May 1. If the member is still delinquent in the payment of the membership fees or dues on June 1, his or her name shall be removed from the roll of members and all rights or benefits of membership shall thereupon be terminated. Upon payment of dues, the member shall be reinstated.

GJAOC DOES NOT WANT TO LOSE ANY MEMBER DUE TO A LATE PAYMENT

With that said -

Our committee helps to remind our members as follows:

- 1. In November with a letter** (prior to next year), asking for the membership dues.
- 2. At December & subsequent luncheons**, being available to answer questions and accept payment at the membership table
- 3. In March we remind our still "not paid" members with a second letter** asking again to please pay their membership dues before May 1, and with follow-up phone calls/emails.

NOTE: The current 2014-15 Grand Jury, leaving on June 30 2015, has the privilege of receiving six (6) months free membership until Dec. 31, 2015. On Jan. 1, 2016 they will be asked to pay their annual \$15 dues. This is standard procedure for every outgoing grand juror.

If anyone has questions concerning membership dues, please email: ladyhaha@gmail.com
- Helen Alberts, Membership Comm. Chair or Virginia Zlaket, Membership Comm. Co-Chair

Treasurer's Report

Cash Balances of 4/30/15:

Checking Account \$3,226.52

Certificate of Deposit \$9,001.10

Submitted by Stu Fuller, 2015 Treasurer

Nominating Committee Report

Nominations for the GJAOC Board of Directors are now Open!

It is time to think about nominating yourself or someone you think would be an excellent choice as a GJAOC Director. Every year we hold an election at our Sept. luncheon for 6 of our 12-member Board. The nominating committee presents a slate of 6 or more candidates at the Board August meeting to publicize in advance of the September luncheon.

As you know from other communications this year, the GJAOC President and Board of Directors has dedicated itself to providing more opportunities for the General Membership to get involved with numerous activities beyond just luncheons in order

to make a difference in civic life.

*This has resulted in more effort and commitment on the part of individual directors. Nominees should be willing to embrace this spirit and continue these important initiative on the part of the Board. But **that also means "new blood" is very much welcomed to bring new energy and expertise to this re-energized, proactive Board.***

The timetable for the election is as follows:

1. **BY AUGUST 1st - Nominations are now open & are to be submitted before August 1st** to Lynn Bonas at lynn.bonas@gmail.com 714-998-8395
2. **ON AUGUST 6TH - Slate of 6 or more candidates** submitted to Board on August 6th for advance publication to General Membership
3. **ON SEPTEMBER 3RD - Election at September 3rd Phoenix Club Luncheon Meeting**
4. **ON DECEMBER 3RD - Swearing in Ceremony at December 3rd Phoenix Club Meeting**
5. **ON JANUARY 1ST - Assumption of Office on January 1st** for a 2 year term

The GJAOC Board meets 7-8 times a year for 2 hours max. from 10AM to Noon on first Thursday of the months when there is No General Membership Luncheon.

SPOTLIGHT ISSUE

Orange County Ethics Commission?



Summary Timeline of OC Ethics Commission Public Discussion:

1978 - TINCUP "Time is Now, Clean Up Politics" county campaign ordinance passed by OC voters, authored by Shirley Grindle. Grindle has often acted as a volunteer one-person enforcer notifying the elections office or the candidates of improperly completed forms. She keeps a massive card catalog of campaign contributions in her home. Shirley is now 80 and she & others would like to see a formal enforcement panel.

1982 - TINCUP 2 authored by Grindle was approved by 84.5% of the voters. OC supervisors now call this campaign reform ordinance flawed as this local law says the maximum individual contribution of \$1,500 is also the combined total a husband and wife can give, but an attorney general's opinion is that the spousal provision is unconstitutional means that it is ignored. Self appointed Grindle, without any official standing, continued her voluntary enforcement of the contributions law.

2006 - OC Ethics Commission is called for by Grindle. There was reported to be support for the idea of an Ethics Commission by the League of Women Voters and Los Angeles' Center for Governmental Studies.

2013 - OC Grand Jury called for an OC Ethics Commission

The 2012-13 Grand Jury recommended:

1. **The Orange County Board of Supervisors creates a Blue Ribbon Commission to**

study ethics programs in California and around the nation. The Commission shall recommend an ethics reform program and oversight authority to the Board of Supervisors within 12 months.

2. The Orange County Board of Supervisors shall select Blue Ribbon Commission members based upon their knowledge of government ethics, ability to conduct research and desire to make positive change to Orange County government. Their selection should represent a cross-section of Orange County's population and be free of political influence. Commission applicants should be vetted and randomly selected from an approved pool of candidates.

3. The Board of Supervisors shall require that ethics reform recommended by the Blue Ribbon Commission address the following in their report:

A. Goals

- a. The enhancement of public trust in government.
- b. The prevention of unethical conduct.

B. Legislation

The oversight authority has the power to review and recommend County ordinances related to ethics, including but not limited to: Conflicts of Interest, Preferential Treatment, Recusals, Gifts, Confidential Information, Misuse of Government Property, Patronage, Nepotism, Transparency, Procurement, Campaign Financing, Lobbying and Post-Employment of Government Officials.

C. Advice and Training

- a. The oversight authority shall provide formal and informal ethics advice to public officials and employees.
- b. The oversight authority shall plan, develop, implement and facilitate regular ethics training for public officials and employees -- at all levels of Orange County government.

D. Whistleblower Hotline

- a. The oversight authority shall create, maintain, monitor and publicize a hotline for citizens and County employees alike to report real or suspected unethical conduct.

E. Enforcement

- a. The oversight authority shall ensure compliance through the use of administrative settlements and published annual reports that are available on their website.

F. Independence and Jurisdiction

- a. The oversight body shall have the following powers:
 - i. Be free to act without political interference.
 - ii. Have jurisdiction over each County department, agency, commission, and board and joint powers authority - regardless of whether the head of such a body is elected or appointed.
 - iii. Have ethics-related jurisdiction over the elected leadership of the County.

G. The oversight body must have the authority to enforce compliance through the use of warning letters, administrative settlements and the issuance of annual public reports.

For the full report -see

http://www.ocgrandjury.org/pdfs/2012_2013_reports/Corruption-in-OC04152013.pdf

2013 - OC Board of Supervisors rejected the Recommendations, calling the Grand Jury's work unfair, inaccurate and sensational.

2014 - 2013-14 OC Grand Jury called upon County Supervisors in Grand Jury report to put OC Ethics Commission before voters in next general election.

The report concluded: "Ethics campaign and lobbyist reporting oversight and enforcement in Orange County is deficient in a number of areas. The report further stated: "An ethics body in Orange County would not be bureaucratic, unnecessary, irresponsible, or wasteful, as asserted by the Board of Supervisors."

Specifically, the 2013-14 OC Grand Jury recommended:

1. The Board of Supervisors should place a proposition on the next available general election ballot to establish an Orange County Campaign Reporting and Ethics Commission, similar to commissions in other jurisdictions in California.

2. The Board of Supervisors should carefully weigh the drawbacks to FPPC enforcement outlined in the Findings before pursuing it as an option to enforcing the County's campaign finance ordinance.

3. If the Board of Supervisors contracts with FPPC for enforcement of County's campaign finance ordinance, it should establish an Office of Ethics and Compliance charged with receiving complaints, monitoring, and investigating possible ethics law & policy violation, and offering training, advice and recommendations regarding such laws and policies.

The Office should have the following characteristics:

- a) a director nominated independently from County government officials,
- b) a budget mandated by ordinance, with a floor on year-to-year reductions
- c) paid staff, including its own inside or outside counsel, and
- d) power to subpoena records and persons.

4. At a minimum, to address current deficiencies in ethics and campaign and lobbyist oversight and reporting, the Board of Supervisors should:

1. Charge and appropriate funds for an existing agency in the County to perform comprehensive oversight of ethics compliance.
2. Charge and appropriate funds for the Registrar of Voters and the Clerk of the Board to accomplish more comprehensive oversight of campaign and lobbyist reporting, including more complete audits.
3. Charge and appropriate funds for an existing agency in the County to create and manage a consolidated, compressive database of economic interest and campaign reporting data and information, available to the public via the Internet.

For the complete report, see

http://www.ocgrandjury.org/pdfs/2013_2014_GJreport/Ethics062414.pdf

2014 - OC Board of Supervisors again rejected the OC Grand Jury proposal for an independent ethics commission.

The Orange County Employees Association told supervisors that county workers support the Grand Jury's proposal. Supervisor Todd Spitzer called for a wide ranging dialogue on ethics next year. Spitzer said: "As long as you have politicians overseeing politicians, it makes the process political. There are two sides to it: the money side & the ethics side."

The response to the Grand Jury pointed to the supervisor's efforts to hire the state political

watchdog agency to enforce local campaign finance limits. Supervisor Nguyen stated the state Legislature recently killed the bill that would have allowed the state's Political Practices Commission to take over enforcement.

2014 - OC voters pass Measure E for local ethics enforcement

Measure E changed the enforcement responsibility for the county's campaign reform ordinance from the District Attorney to the state's Fair Political Practices Commission (FPCC). But the State Legislature did not pass the bill that would have allowed the FPCC to enforce campaign law violations for cities and counties. Instead the state Legislature told the FPCC to confine its enforcement to state laws, not local laws.

Meanwhile Los Angeles has an Ethics Commission, as do San Diego, San Francisco, Oakland, Ventura and San Bernardino, but not Orange County as the 3rd largest governmental jurisdiction in California with a budget of \$5.6 billion. The issue of an Ethics Commission appears to be controversial among the elected officials of Orange County.

2015 - Activist calls for OC Ethics Panel to go on ballot in 2016

It has been reported that Shirley Grindle has been developing a new Ethics proposal.

Also reported that she would like to see prospective members of an ethics commission screened by the **Grand Jurors Association of Orange County**, which is made up of former Grand Jurors. Then the final selection might be made by the three most recent presiding judges of the Orange County Superior Court. The GJAOC has not commented on her proposal.

Grindle qualified the 1978 TINCUP measure for the ballot using volunteer signature gatherers. But with the growth of the county, she said she plans to employ paid gatherers for the **62,056 signatures she says are needed for the 2016 Ethics Commission measure.**

She said the fundraising budget for the 2016 ballot initiative is \$90,000 and she plans to begin the 5 1/2-month task of collecting signatures in November, 2015.

2015 -Spitzer hosted roundtable discussion on Future of Ethics in OC

The informative roundtable public meeting discussion was moderated by Professor Stephen J. Stambough, Ph.D., who is the Chair of the Division of Politics, Administration & Justice at the California State University, Fullerton (CSUF).

Speakers at the event included:

- Emelyn Rodriguez, Staff Attorney, Legal Division, California Fair Political Practices Commission
- Ann Fletcher, Senior Assistant County Counsel, Orange County
- Mark Sacks, Deputy District Attorney, Orange County
- Heather Holt, Executive Director, Los Angeles City Ethics Commission
- David Tristan, Deputy Executive Director, Los Angeles City Ethics Commission

What is next?

The issue of an OC Ethics Commission appears to be evolving again and is once again current in OC governmental affairs discussions & in the press, but with very real and significant potential challenges ahead.

What are pros, cons and political realities from your perspective?

Share your experience and views on this issue.

Send your insights, references & additional, balanced summary thoughts to:

WFUnderwood@earthlink.net or to:

GJAOC c/o William F. Underwood, 9885 Colony Grove, Villa Park, CA. 92861-1225.

We will publish a "**Views**" email only edition with your views as events unfold.

Of course, do not reveal or discuss anything confidential that you discovered as a Grand Juror as the Grand Jury reports speak for themselves. We want your views and insights as a involved citizen & taxpayer, not as a Grand Juror.

The Roving Reporter



The ROVING REPORTER (RR) returns!

He or she may be sitting at any one of your luncheon tables and wondering: "These are all very interesting people and I bet they have their own stories to tell about when they served on the Grand Jury, that I should report."

The ROVING REPORTER was seated at a table nearly in the center of the Phoenix Club dining room during our March Luncheon. Looking around the table the RR saw two women guests sitting directly in front of her chatting away with each other. The RR didn't recognize them so asked them their names.

What a delight and surprise to meet these two women Council Members from the City of Buena Park: **Beth Swift**, elected in 2010 and, **Virginia Vaughn** who had just been elected only 10 days prior to our luncheon.

When asked what brought them to our meeting they said it was because of the of the speakers' topic, the Homeless. Both spent the greater part of our luncheon taking pages and pages of notes.

After our speakers conclusion, our RR remarked to the Council Members about the volume of notes they took and their reply was, they are deeply concerned about the homeless and felt our speakers gave a lot of information they were unaware of and will help Buena Park in the future.

This was proof positive that the Grand Jury Association of Orange County is providing outstanding speakers with up-to-date information for our members and our "special" elected officials.

Will the Roving Reporter be seated at your table on June 4th????

Here's to New Friends! - THE ROVING REPORTER

Editorial Footnote -

The March Homeless lively and informative topic luncheon was also attended by;

- the new **Mayor Pro Tem Greg Raths of Mission Viejo** (and recent candidate for the US House of Representatives which Mimi Walters recently assumed),
- the two term, seventh generation Californian **Mayor of Orange Teresa "Tita" Smith** (and also Executive Director of Catholic Charities of OC), and
- **two County staff aides to OC's newly elected 1st District Supervisor, Andrew Do**, among others in addition to the **two Buena Park City Council Members above**.
GJAOC's civic impact continues!

Webmaster Terrific Training Opportunity

Kudos to Ron Harris, our webmaster extraordinaire!

He has built a very comprehensive web site at <http://gjaoc.org/> (alternately at www.gjaoc.org)

It now contains GJAOC's mission, goals & objectives; bylaws & committee descriptions; quarterly newsletters back to 2000; Board agendas & minutes since November, 2012; gallery of pictures; the link for applying to OC Grand Jury and past OC Grand Jury report; and the link to the California Grand Jury Association resource rich web site.

Ron is looking to turnover his Webmaster role along with a willingness to share his significant web knowledge with the next Webmaster on an ongoing basis. Great opportunity to learn free.

If interested, please contact Ron at ron.harris@cox.net or John Moohr at jjmoohr@verizon.net.

Tip of the GJAOC Hat to:

Karen Roper, Exec. Director, OC Commission to End Homelessness

The Grand Jurors Association of Orange County

publicly extends their sincere appreciation to one of March's featured speaker, Karen Roper, Executive Director of the OC Commission to End Homelessness. She knowledgeably cited many homeless resources.

Karen has worked for the County of Orange for over 30 years. In 2008, Karen was appointed to the position of the Director of OC Community Services. In this role, Karen oversaw the Divisions of Office on Aging, Veterans Service Office, Community Investment Division/OC Workforce Investment Board, OC Housing Authority, Homeless Prevention Division, and Housing & Community Development Division.

Tip of the GJAOC Hat to:

Larry Haynes, Exec Director, Mercy House

The Grand Jurors Association of Orange County



publicly extends their sincere appreciation to one of March's featured speakers, **Larry Haynes**, Executive Director of Mercy House. He provided the candid experience of a "hands on" 25 year perspective of working with homeless from growing Mercy House.

At first, he ran an agency helping 10 men with one transitional shelter, growing it to serve nearly 5,000 individuals in need last year. He expanded it to include five transitional housing facilities, emergency shelter and services, homelessness prevention and rapid re-housing, and service enriched permanent housing facilities for individuals and families with low income.

In Memoriam - B. Fred Beams OCGJ 2000-01 & 2003-04

April 2, 1939 - April 2, 2014

B. Fred Beams, 74, of Troutman, North Carolina, passed away on Tuesday, April 2, 2014.

He was born in McAllester, OK, to the late Benjamin and Willie Beams on April 20, 1939. He is survived by his wife, Georgia, and his daughters, Tracy Beams-Hunt of Huntersville, Amy Beams of Huntington Beach, CA, and Bella Beams of Troutman. He is also survived by his sister, Virginia Ince of Murietta, CA, and his two brothers, W. Tom Beams of Santa Rosa, CA and George Beams of **Orange, CA**.

Thanks to Paul Arritt 2000-01 for making GJAOC aware of this.

Want to do some reporting & publishing?

Have a writing background or would like to get one? Like to find out about people & situations? Of course, you do or you wouldn't have been a Grand Juror. We have lots of future column and reporting ideas, as I assume you do. You can do as much or little as you want. Just let Bill Underwood know at wfunderwood@earthlink.net of your interests.

We are evolving with new techniques, while building upon a solid foundation that Cheryl Brothers built for GJAOC. Carpe Diem, as it's stimulating to grow with new experiences.