



Grand Jurors Association of Orange County



GJAOC News - 2015 Third Quarter

Volume 28 No. 3

2015

Sept./Oct.,

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GJAOC Board Contact Information

President - John Moohr OCGJ 2009-10 [\(714\) 962-0082](tel:7149620082)

1st VP - Programs - Joe Quiros OCGJ 1996-97 [\(949\) 651-0013](tel:9496510013)

2nd VP - Membership - Helen Alberts OCGJ 2011-12 [\(714\) 558-8783](tel:7145588783)

Secretary & Measure M TOC Screening Chair - Robin Bowen OCGJ 2009-10 [\(714\) 842-1519](tel:7148421519)

Treasurer - Stu Fuller OCGJ 2011-12 [\(714\) 417-2942](tel:7144172942)

Parliamentarian & Tracking/Implementation Chair - Roy Baker OCGJ 2011-12 [\(949\) 702-3751](tel:9497023751)

Sergeant at Arms & Membership Co-Chair - Virginia Zlaket OCGJ 2012-13 [\(714\) 636-0939](tel:7146360939)

Nominating Committee Chair - Lynn Bonas OCGJ 2006-07 [\(714\) 998-8395](tel:7149988395)

Speakers Bureau Chair - Fred Gebhardt OCGJ 2011-12 [\(949\) 857-4252](tel:9498574252)

Meeting Check-in Greeters (former Membership co-chairs) -

Carol Morales OCGJ 1997-98 [\(310\) 750-6527](tel:3107506527) & Carol Duensing OCGJ 1989-90 & 1991-92 [\(714\) 328-9861](tel:7143289861)

Carol Morales Termed out & Carol Duensing Resigned, so new Greeters next meeting will be:

Robin Bowen OCGJ 2009-10 & David Chapel OCGJ 2013-14

Editor & Public Relations Chair - Bill Underwood OCGJ 2011-12 [\(714\) 974-9699](tel:7149749699)

Newly Elected 2016 Board Members effective as of the 12/3/15 luncheon swearing in -

Dr. David Chapel OCGJ 2013-14 [\(714\) 667-0527](tel:7146670527)

Gerald Brown OCGJ 2009-10 [\(714\) 525-7010](tel:7145257010)



President's Message from Virginia Zlaket
(written while John Moohr was on a month-long European vacation)

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

While John is on a much deserved vacation abroad with his wife, I'm bringing you up to date on the GJAOC's activities this summer. It's hard to believe that the lazy days of summer are almost over. Hope you have been enjoying fun-in-the-sun time with family and friends. A group that has been anything but lazy is the GJAOC Board of Directors and Sub-Committee members.

On June 25, Helen Alberts, 2nd Vice President and Membership Chair, hosted a lovely "Meet & Greet" for the out-going 2014-15 Grand Jury and the newly seated 2015-16 Grand Jury at her home in Floral Park. It was an opportunity to congratulate the out-going jury and welcome in the new jury. Of course it was also a great opportunity to introduce them to GJAOC Board of Directors and the work of the GJAOC. Thank you, Helen, for your gracious hospitality.

The newly formed Speakers Bureau led by Fred Gebhardt is in full swing. In July committee members spoke at the Laguna Beach Rotary Club, the Huntington Beach Rotary Club, Garden Grove Rotary Club, and the Newport Beach Sunrise Rotary. A request was made by the 2015-16 Grand Jury for a presentation on recruiting. As a member of this committee, I'd like to make known we are in need of more speakers and speaking venues. Who better to talk about the work and merits of serving on the Grand Jury than members of our GJAOC. Your participation and recommendations are welcomed.

The Tracking & Implementation Committee under the leadership of Roy Baker has also been meeting and looking to increase member involvement. This committee is working with the outgoing 2014-15 Foreman and Pro-tem to ensure follow-up and action to the Grand Jury reports. They will also be meeting with the BOS and County CEO regarding their purpose. Again your knowledge and participation are encouraged.

Also, Shirley Grindle, Orange County political activist and finance watchdog, and her committee are working diligently to place a proposition on next year's 2016 general election ballot to establish an independent Orange County Ethics Commission and has requested advice from the GJAOC Board of Directors. Several members of the Board have met with Ms. Grindle and her committee to ascertain their role in this mission. County Ethics has been a subject of several Grand Jury reports. Future updates on this project will be made available.

In closing, I would like to remind you that the 2015 GJAOC Membership Directory has been distributed. Much work went into compiling an accurate and complete address register that also includes the names of jurists who have served multiple times.

I look forward to seeing you at the next GJAOC Luncheon.



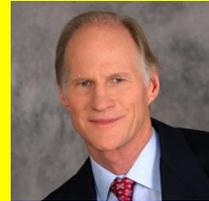
GJAOC Current President John Moohr & Retiring Director, Carol Morales who is moving to Cool, CA

Virginia Zlaket
Director/Sergeant at Arms zlakets@att.net

September 3rd Luncheon in Retrospect -

If you missed it, you missed a good one -
Why? 3 key reasons -

1. **Timely topic** which many Grand Jurors had worked on.
2. **Informative, knowledgeable & articulate speaker**, and
3. **Lively interactive group discussion ensued**, thanks to distributing the ordinance before the meeting by email, to focusing on this topic in last newsletter, and to Helen Alberts Q&A emphasis idea and John Moohr streamlining the agenda to leave time for lots of Q & A's.



Definitely a successful engaging luncheon!

The Thursday September 3rd GJAOC Phoenix Club luncheon featured the topic of:

Orange County's Ethics Commission Proposed Ordinance

Presented by:

Bill Mitchell of Citizens for OC Ethics Commission (working with watchdog activist Shirley Grindle) and Former Chair of OC Common Cause

Lots of forward movement, political compromises and public discussion by Board of Supervisors, their staffs, ethics commission experts, legal positions and citizens groups to make things happen, since our September 3rd luncheon.

It is still going on today (10/20/15), making news with a Board of Supervisors discussion meeting today and 4-1 vote to get it on the June, 2016 ballot for a citizens' vote!

If you haven't been tracking the OC Ethics Commission proposed ordinance, **here is a 6 link primer from press accounts (including 2 late breaking ones this PM just off Internet) -**

Late Breaking News this afternoon:

1. Does Orange County need an ethics commission? Voters to decide in June

- OC Register 10/21/15 (yes, tomorrow's news today for you!)

<http://www.ocregister.com/articles/county-688393-commission-voters.html>

2. Voters to Decide if Ethics Commission Should Police OC Political Campaigns

- Patch 10/20/15 (instantly posted news)

<http://patch.com/california/alisoviejo/voters-decide-if-ethics-commission-should-police-oc-political-campaigns>

Recent October news reports:

3. Watchdog Says Watered Down Ethics Commission Plan Is Still Progress

Voice of OC 10/15/15 (Nick Gerda interviewing Shirley Grindle)

<http://voiceofoc.org/2015/10/how-orange-countys-ethics-commission-plan-changed/>

4. OC Supervisors Bring Ethics Commission a Step Closer to Reality

Voice of OC 10/6/15 (by Nick Gerda)

<http://voiceofoc.org/2015/10/oc-supervisors-bring-ethics-commission-a-step-closer-to-reality/>

Recent guest editorial opinion columns:

5. Shirley Grindle's OCR guest editorial column of 10/9/15
Opinion - O.C. ethics panel next step in political reform
<http://www.ocregister.com/articles/ethics-686702-county-orange.html>

6. Supervisor Andrew Do's OCR guest editorial column of 10/11/15
Opinion - How ethics panel can track money in O.C. politics
<http://www.ocregister.com/articles/campaign-686223-county-orange.html>

Our next December 3rd luncheon is at the **Phoenix Club, 1340 Sanderson Ave in Anaheim** with coffee at 11:15. Lunch is served promptly at 11:45. Mark your calendar NOW. *Cost is a subsidized \$20 with a reservation or \$25 at door.*

WATCH for DECEMBER 3rd LUNCHEON Announcement Flyer coming in November!

Phoenix Clug 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.

December 3, 2015

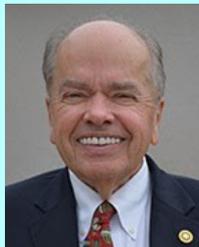
March 3, 2016

June 2, 2016

September 1, 2016

From the GJAOC Newsletter Editor

WHAT'S NEW?



Newsletter Editor

Welcome to the 3rd combination E-mail & Mail GJAOC Newsletter!

Due to a time consuming, laser beam focus on tracking & reporting on the very active development of a potential OC ethics commission ballot initiative, **we delayed the publishing of this issue until now.** We did this in order to focus on gathering updates on the OC Ethics Commission and issuing special bulletins to those who had shown interest in the subject by attending the September luncheon. We will issue a

more complete follow-up bulletin within a month to all GJAOC members, detailing status of Board of Supervisors resolution of this issue.

With the introduction of an electronic delivery formatted newsletter, **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. 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 in email format to the 10 members who do not have an email address.**

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 see 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 year of transition, as we continue to fine tune and enhance a more efficient delivery of the new email newsletter format, with modern publishing methods.

We very much welcome your ongoing input and views to improve.

- 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.

Members of the Speaker's Bureau spoke to three civic organizations during July reaching approximately 100 Orange County residents. **Our message was one of educating the public on the history of the Grand Jury System, the organization and operation of the Orange County Grand Jury, and the opportunity to volunteer for Grand Jury service.** This message was developed by our committee and used as the training topic for the speakers before presenting the message to the public. All the guests were pleased with the programs that generated many questions.

Because of the large number of possible speaking opportunities throughout the county, each committee member was assigned the responsibility of contacting the following organizations:

- Elks, Moose, Shriners, Masons and other fraternal organizations;
- Chambers of Commerce and business networks;
- Soroptimists, cities and libraries;
- College and libraries;
- League of Women's Voters, Assistance Leagues, PEOs, AAUWs, etc;
- VRW and American Legion Posts.

We are anxiously awaiting the responses from these and other groups in Orange County that engage speakers. If you know of other organizations that need speakers to educate them about the Grand Jury system and how it works, contact either Fred Gebhardt at f.gebhardt@att.net or Bart Harlan at bnbharlan@socal.rr.com. We will be happy to contact those organizations and provide speakers for them.

We are always looking for more speakers. If you are interested, please contact Virginia Zlaket at zlakets@att.net. She will answer your questions and provide you with more information about our speaking program.

We would love to hear from you.
Fred Gebhardt, Chairman, Speaker's Bureau
(949) 857-4252 or f.gebhardt@att.net

TRACKING & IMPLEMENTATION Committee *Shaping The Future by Tracking Past Grand Jury Recommendations*



The Tracking and Implementation Ad Hoc Committee is gearing up to formalize an agenda for going forward.

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

The Committee plans to rely heavily on Grand Jury reports issued in the past several years which have identified the need for, and provided recommendations to ensure, continuity of follow-up on approved responses.

The Committee's goal is to develop a T/I program that will provide policy and guidelines to the sitting Grand Jury, the Board of Supervisors, the County Executive Officer, and the executive and administrative heads of cities and agencies, to ensure implementation and completion of actions accepted in response to Grand Jury recommendations.

The Committee will be especially intent upon ensuring that all responses are tracked to completion, and effectively "closed" by the sitting Jury.

There are still openings on the Committee for any of you who still have a desire "to stir the pot".

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](tel:949-702-3751).

Nominating Committee Report by Lynn Bonas **September Election of Six Directors:**

Six seats of the twelve on the GJAOC Board of Directors are up for election every year, with 2 -year terms.

At the Sept., 2015 GJAOC membership luncheon meeting, the following 6 Directors were elected for 2016-2018 terms. They will be sworn in at the Dec. 3, 2015 luncheon meeting.

1. **Roy Baker**, incumbent Director
2. **Robin Bowen**, incumbent Director
3. **Gerald Brown**, new Director
4. **Dr. David Chapel**, new Director
5. **Stuart Fuller**, incumbent Director
6. **John Moohr**, incumbent Director

Welcome to Gerald and David!

David, Roy, John & Bill Underwood will all be going to the California Grand Jurors Association (CGJA) annual conference Nov 2nd-3rd to hear new developments, listen to California's Chief Justice, and trade ideas, tips & techniques with other California county grand jurors chapters and associations to bring back to Orange County.

See www.cgja.org if interested in more details.

CGJA Membership is open to all former Grand Jurors.

For all General Members,

Please consider becoming a member of the following committees:

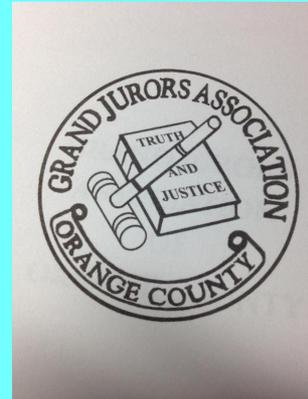
Audit Committee: We are required per our Bylaws to have two individuals from our General Membership on this committee.

As well as the following 6 Ad Hoc Committees opportunities to be of service -

1. **Taxpayer's Oversight Committee Selection Panel** - *contact Robin Bowen*
Provides a Selection Panel to recruit, screen and recommend persons to fill vacancies on the Taxpayer's Oversight Committee, an element of the transportation initiatives Measure M and Measure M2. Contracts with Orange County Transportation Authority are negotiated every five (5) years.

2. **Editorial/Public Relations Committee** - *contact Bill Underwood*
Reports on GJAOC and relevant governmental activities, produces the quarterly GJAOC Newsletter, publicizes the quarterly luncheons and conducts public relations for the Association, as needed.

3. **Tracking & Implementation Committee - TIC** - *contact Roy Baker*



Under the authority of the Board of Supervisors, reviews and reports to the CEO the implementation of those Grand Jury recommendations with which the subject organizations have concurred.

4. **Legislative Committee** - *contact John Moohr*

Reviews and reports on current and pending legislation pertinent to the grand jury system and recommends appropriate action.

5. **Public Service Committee** - *contact John Moohr*

Reports on openings on County Boards, Commissions and Committees as opportunities to provide public service.

6. **Speakers Bureau** - *contact Fred Gebhardt*

Fulfills objective of public education about Grand Jury system. Members are supplied with Grand Jury information materials & give presentations to clubs & organizations.

Membership, Treasurer & Nominating Committee Reports



Membership Report

118 Members, as of 1/31/15

145 Members, as of 5/1/15

155 Members as of 10/3/15

We are growing again! Thanks to you!

The Largest County Grand Jury Association/Chapter in California (or so I am told!)

The Membership Committee, in an effort to increase membership, held a "Mixer" to meet with both the 2014-15 outgoing grand jurors and the 2015-16 incoming grand jurors. The purpose was to have jurors from both grand jury years to meet each other and, the members of the GJAOC Board.

One of the board members opened her home to this gathering, serving delicious refreshments. Altogether we had about 25 seasoned & new grand jurors attending. Those from the 2015-16 Grand Jury were very enthusiastic about meeting the GJAOC board members and learning about the Grand Jurors Association.

The foreman from 2014-15 Grand Jury, Paul Borzcik, was there to share his experience with new jurors and to give solid support for GJAOC. The emphasis of the gathering was to encourage new jurors to feel free to contact GJAOC any time & to keep in touch with the board.

We want them to feel like "family" to the Grand Jury Association. They left with a copy of our current Newsletter and a copy of our GJAOC By-laws.

At our June luncheon we wanted to honor members who have been loyal to GJAOC for: 5 years, 10 years, 15 years, 20 years and even, 30 years.

1984-1985 - **Vivian Owen - 30 years**

1994-1995 - **Gilbert Cruz, Dianne West - 20 years**

1999-2000 - **Charles Mitchell, Jr. - 15 years**

2004-2005 - **Narinda Mahal, Wanda Shaffer, Glen Stroud - 10 years**

2009-2010 - **Robin Bowen, John Gallie, John Moohr, Terrance Moy - 5 years**

If there are members having health problems or if any members have heard of a member's passing, please do call [714-558-8783](tel:714-558-8783) to let us know.

Last December, Benjamin Beams (1978-79) passed away.

This year, **Bill Atkinson** (1999-00), **Phyllis Drayton** (1984-85), **Charles Loos** (2004-05) and **Elsie Caruthers** (1988-89 & 1993-1994) passed away. Condolences were sent to their families on the behalf of Grand Jury Association of Orange County.

Virginia and I are looking forward to seeing you at our next meeting, September 4th and, don't forget to stop by our Membership table and say "Hello." I am also happy to report that new Board Member, Dr. Dave Chapel is joining Membership Committee with new ideas & energy.

Helen Alberts, Chair

Treasurer's Report

Cash Balances of 7/31/15:

Checking Account \$7,083.94

Certificate of Deposit \$9,007.85

Submitted by Stu Fuller, 2015 Treasurer

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."

So where was I, the Roving Reporter, at the June 4th Grand Jurors Association of Orange County Luncheon?

Like any good Roving Reporter, I was there in full sight and enjoying every minute. But first I want to express what I felt. There was a definite "buzz" in the air. When I first walked in to the Phoenix Club the "buzz" was generating from the Membership table.

Everyone walking in gravitated immediately to that table and why not? It seems the three people seated at the table were handing out new GJAOC directories and membership cards to those attending the luncheon.

I noticed there were little paper baskets being given to certain members. By standing close by the table, I could hear they were for members who have been loyal to the association for 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, & 30 years! Wow, I was impressed! Those that received these little tokens of appreciation left the Membership table with such a smile, it lit up their faces.

The Roving Reporter found a single seat not taken at a premier table. This table was occupied by some very influential people and one was Paul Shapiro, Collaborative Courts Officer.

The Roving Reporter, for the first time, was simply a listener rather than a questioner and sat silently listening to the conversations directed to Mr. Shapiro. The Hon. Joe Perez, OC Superior Court Judge arrived just in time to introduce himself to everyone at our table and it was clear, Paul Shapiro, is closely associated with the judge.

At the conclusion of the judge's remarks there were lively questions from the grand jurors and the judge was quite candid with his responses.

See you at our next Luncheon and I may have my lively September luncheon RR report in the next newsletter too.

The Roving Reporter

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.

Want to do some reporting & publishing?

Have a writing or reporting 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 are in control of **this rewarding volunteer opportunity. You can do as much or little as you want.** Just let Bill Underwood know at wunderwood@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.