

Grand Jurors Association of Orange County

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

October 6, 2016

Call to Order: President John Moohr called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

Board members present: John Moohr, Paul Borzcik, Roy Baker, Helen Alberts, Stu Fuller, Fred Gebhardt

Board members absent: Bill Underwood, Robert Breton, Lynn Bonas, Robin Bowen

Other members present: Pat Place, Alf Lyle, Mike Morris (arrived at ~10:20 a.m.)

Quorum: Because quorum of Board members not present, President Moohr exercised his prerogative to initiate filling one of the two existing Board vacancies by moving to appoint Alf Lyle to the Board. (Alf was elected to serve on the Board starting in January, 2017 at the September luncheon meeting at the Phoenix Club.) Motion was seconded and approved. With this addition to the Board, a quorum was established, which allowed the meeting to proceed as a formal Board.

Minutes: Fred Gebhardt moved and Stu Fuller seconded that the August 4, 2016 Minutes be approved. Motion carried, and the Minutes will be forwarded to Mike Morris for posting to the GJAOC web site. In the absence of the Board Secretary, John M requested Alf L to record the minutes for the meeting, and Alf agreed to do so.

Treasurer's Report: Stu Fuller distributed the Association Directors Budget as of 30 September 2016. John Moohr asked all committee chairs to provide up-to-date expense information to Stu. Roy Baker moved and Paul Borzcik seconded approval of the report; motion approved.

Membership: Helen Alberts reported that the Association now has 150 members with dues fully paid for 2016. Helen will send a Dues Collection Letter on November 1st via email reminding members that 2017 dues should be paid starting January 1st 2017. Helen will use regular mail to notify the 10 members who don't have an email address. John M asked for a more detailed breakdown of the membership numbers. Helen also reported on the results of the survey attempted at the September Association luncheon regarding Association business cards and use of the GJAOC directory – only 5 responses were received to the 25 surveys distributed at the luncheon. John M stated that so few responses meant that no decisions on ideas put forward in the survey could be reasonably made. However, the current plan is to print Membership cards for all calendar year 2017 members. Helen is to call Lynn B regarding software used to print business cards. The topic of alternate locations for the luncheons was brought up again. A couple of potential sites, Bowers Museum and Tustin Golf Course were investigated, but were too expensive. The current annual GJAOC contract with the Phoenix Club will have to be renewed by 21 December 2016 if the Association continues with the Club. The go-forward plan agreed to at the

meeting was to extend the Phoenix Club contract for a year. Stu F and Virginia Z are to talk to the Club about some new ideas for the luncheon including providing options for a lighter meal and for vegetarian meals, presumably with price adjustments. The Board also will remind membership that there will be no video/audio recording of the luncheons and that private business is not to be conducted at the luncheons.

Programs: The guest speaker at the December meeting at the Phoenix Club will be the Grand Jury's Supervising Judge, Sheila Hanson. The Programs Committee has not been able yet to line up speakers for next year.

Newsletter: Paul B noted that the GJAOC has not published a newsletter for over a year and that Bill U, after creating and publishing several excellent editions of the newsletter, has not had the time to devote to publication. Paul stated that the responsibility for the newsletter needs to be transitioned as soon as possible. Helen A pointed out that the lack of a current newsletter hurts membership recruiting. Paul B and Mike M agreed to the idea of publishing news articles on the web site as Mike M receives them and also sending them out via email as a sort of "newsletter light" until the newsletter is resurrected. John Moohr cautioned that articles with any potentially controversial content should be vetted by the Board prior to publication and that any content that is the personal opinion of the author be clearly notated as such.

Correspondence: None reported. John M requested that all out-going correspondence nominally representing the GJAOC or in-coming correspondence directed to key members of the Board be forwarded to him for his awareness and for archival.

Standing Committees:

Measure M: Robin Bowen has replaced Bill Underwood as chair of this committee.

Web site: Michael Morris has taken over the GJAOC web site design and maintenance. The Board expressed its appreciation to Ron Harris for his valued work in creating and maintaining the web site and for the smooth transition to Mike M. Mike inquired about the editorial process for updating the web site especially with respect to who vets and approves postings to the site. The resulting discussion led to a number of actions and the establishment of several processes:

- John M requested that all significant proposed postings to the web site be sent to the Board for prior approval, with the Board to respond within 4 working days. Also, any postings that represent the opinions of individual GJAOC members must be clearly identified as such and not as Board positions.

- Mike to call Bill U regarding December luncheon announcement so that the announcement can be posted on the web site as well as sent out via email “blast” and by regular mail to members who have not provided email addresses.
- Bill U has been accumulating a number of inputs for the next newsletter publication, but with the actual publication now on hold, Mike M will call Bill to obtain Bill’s accumulated articles to see if any are still current enough to be distributed by Mike via email to the GJAOC members.
- Mike M requested that more people take better pictures at GJAOC-related events

Speakers Bureau: Fred Gebhardt has stepped down as chair of this committee. He listed the significant accomplishments of the committee under his aegis, but expressed disappointment in the committee’s lack of success in getting invites to speak to Orange County organizations about the Grand Jury despite their extensive efforts to do so. However, among the committee’s successes over the past year were:

- Established themselves as an ad hoc committee.
- Developed a plan to provide speakers throughout the county.
- Prepared a speech outline that told the history of grand juries, how they operate, and what they have accomplished here in Orange County.
- Trained a half dozen speakers.
- Appealed to service clubs throughout the county offering speakers.
- Provided speakers to a score of organizations throughout the county.
- Appealed to cities that had had five or more of their citizens serving on the Grand Jury to honor them. Three cities did just that.

Legislative: Paul B briefed the status of SB 1292, which, at the instigation of the California Special Districts Association, proposed major changes to California Grand Jury related Penal Codes. SB 1292 has been tabled for this year, but Paul believes the Special Districts will re-introduce legislation next year. One beneficial result of dealing with SB 1292 had been establishing a much stronger working relationship with the California Grand Jury Association. Paul initially worked with Karen Jahr, the Association President and with Board Director Marsha Caranci. Among the resulting pending actions are:

- Addressing the Special Districts’ assertion that Grand Jury reports are low quality
- Developing a list of quid-pro-quo items which would increase GJ effectiveness for any tradeoff discussions/negotiations with the Special Districts.

- John M and Paul B will travel to Sacramento to meet with the California Grand Jurors' Association Board on November 4, 2016.

TIC: Roy B reported status for the Tracking and Implementation Committee. The Committee is reviewing OC Grand Jury reports published 2-5 years ago to identify candidate reports which might benefit from follow-up by the GJAOC. The focus will be on reports directed to cities, special districts, schools, or other non-Board of Supervisors entities, which have outstanding promises (i.e., "will be implemented" or "requires further analysis") for review. The Committee will select one or two reports for follow-up. Roy also plans to talk with the San Diego Grand Jurors Association, which has an active, County supported, involvement with report follow-up.

Old Business: All old business was discussed during the various committee reports and associated discussions as noted in these minutes.

New Business: Fred Gebhardt submitted his resignation from the Board and his position as Chair of the Speakers Bureau Committee effective the end of this calendar year. He had not intended to serve on the Board beyond the end of this calendar year, and the September election came as a surprise to him.

Adjourn: Meeting adjourned at 11:35 a.m.

Next meeting: November 3, 2016 at the Orange County Credit Union (856 N. Ross Street, Santa Ana) starting at 10:00 a.m.