

**Grand Jurors' Association of Orange County  
Board of Directors' Regular Meeting Minutes**

Held at Orange County's Credit Union, 856 N Ross St, Santa Ana, CA 92701  
**November 7, 2019**

**1. Call to Order** – The meeting of the Board of Directors was called to order by President Stan Ness at 10:01 am. **Roll Call** by the Secretary: The minimum quorum of seven was established by the presence of the following members: Alf Lyle, April Lancaster, Barton Harlan, Dave Chapel, Diana Merryman, Ian Guajardo, Joe Moreland, Lynn Bonas, Sandy Dunkin, Stan Ness and Yvette Hill. Members absent: Marie Whittington. Also, in attendance were General Members Bill Underwood, John Moohr and Wanda Shaffer.

**2. Acknowledgement of Guests....** Stan – (Note: No guests were in attendance.)

**3. Approval of Board Minutes of October 3, 2019....** Stan –

**A. Suggested amendments** to October 3<sup>rd</sup> Minutes involved the Treasurer's Report and the Continuity Committee Report. April Lancaster moved that the Minutes be approved as corrected, seconded and passed without further discussion.

**B. Organization re: goals, aims, and a mission statement....** (Note: this item was not covered as such.)

**4. Treasurer's Report....** Stan Ness as temp. treas. – As of October 31, 2019, the balance in the checking account was \$13,524.10. The total in the Certificate of Deposit was \$9,373.22. Stan is still dealing with \$20.00 that is unaccounted for. Because of the amount, it appears that someone paid their annual dues, it was deposited but the member was not given credit by name. Stan will continue to work with this and should reach a resolution by the end of the year. Lynn moved to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented. The motion was seconded and passed without objection or further discussion.

**A. Establishing a list of association assets....** Stan – All future new association assets should be reported to Dave Chapel. This item shall be considered completed as of this time.

**5. Membership Report....** Alf Lyle – There is nothing new to report, at this time. A big push will be made for the 2020 membership payment to be made at the December 5<sup>th</sup> luncheon meeting.

**6. Programs....** Lynn Bonas –

**A. Status of luncheon speaker** for the December meeting – The speaker remains to be Judge Larsh. The finalized menu will be sent to Mike Morris this afternoon. Lynn will contact Judge Larsh for which of the three menu options he would prefer.

**B. Suggestions for future speakers** – Baring any last minute conflicts, Sheriff Barnes will be the speaker for the March 2020 luncheon. Lynn attended a conference on mental health recently and felt that some of the panelists would probably make good speakers for the Association. She will follow-up on this possibility.

**C. Swearing in Ceremony Process** – All newly elected Board members (from the September luncheon meeting) will be sworn in by Judge Larsh during the December luncheon. Dave Chapel will provide his Honor with a copy of the oath.

7. **Newsletter....** Status – With the absence of Marie Whittington, no report was given.

8. **Committee Reports:**

A. **Measure M....** Bill Underwood –

1. **Update & a Request** – It was reported that the selection committee will meet with OCTA in January. A change in the number on the committee is anticipated. Next year the committee will not have John Moohr nor John Gallie (due to his passing) and possibly a third member. Bill has lined up a couple of possible people to fill the vacancies. He will write up a description of the requirements by the end of the month. Applications for next year's Citizen's Oversight Committee will be accepted from March to mid-May. Bill reported that his committee will use the GJAOC's P.O. Box number on the applications. However, a phone number is still needed. The interview committee will work from the first of May to the middle of May. The compensation will be \$1,000. Bill would like to have a couple of younger members on the committee for next year.

B. **Speaker's Bureau....** Sandy Dunkin – (See [Attachment #1.](#))

1. Additions to website – (tabled)

2. Scheduled events – (None were announced.)

3. Launch of Court's Civics effort – If you are interested in being a volunteer, please let Stan know this and which location would be your preference.

C. **Legislative....** John Moohr – It was reported that currently there is no legislation in the works concerning the Grand Jury system. John will continue to monitor this.

D. **Bylaws Committee....** Dave Chapel –

1. **Status of final.** (Approve or disapprove) – The vote of the general membership at the December 5, 2019 meeting will be a straight up or down vote. No changes or amendments may be made at this time. Members may speak briefly in favor of or against passage.

2. **Procedure for the voting process of approval** – Based on discussion, Stan offered a proposed example of an agenda for the December luncheon meeting. He said that he would draft an agenda and e-mail it to all Board members.

E. **Continuity Committee....** Diana Merryman – It was reported that the Continuity Committee, as such, is not currently going to deal directly with the subject of "goals and objectives."

1. Scheduled committee meetings – (Same as previously reported.)

2. Responses from GJ panel – There has been no contact from the current Grand Jury panel.

3. Change to GJAOC Logo – The current logo is the same as the circular logo on our Board member business cards. Diana reported that a number of suggestions have been offered. She proposes that an ad hoc committee be formed. Stan suggested that the Board of Directors act as a *committee of the whole* and that the Continuity Committee handle the subject as committee work. No further action was taken.

**9. Unfinished Business....** Stan –

**A. Presentation of Proposed Standing Rules....** Dave – It was reported that we are up to date.

**10. New Business....** Stan –

**A. Structure of existing Board of Directors,** and status of election process, actions needed.

**1. Possible establishment of Historian/Archivist....** Bart Harlan – The Secretary / Parliamentarian suggested that, as part of the Standing Rules, the position of Association Historian / Archivist be created. Stan requested that this be deferred to the January 2020 Board meeting. No further action was taken.

**B. GJAOC “Established Practices”** (Dave Chapel)

1. Standing Rules Revisions (Dave Chapel, Bart Harlan) – No further action was taken.

**C. Deciding on a "plan" for 2020 Goals and Objectives....** Stan – (As previously mentioned, this agenda item will require input from all board members as well as the general membership.) Marie Whittington, Lynn Bonas and Stan Ness make up the ad hoc committee heading this effort. A handout of suggestions was distributed to the members. (See [Attachment #2.](#)) Stan indicated that he will send out a copy of this initial list, as an e-mail, so that General Members may have the opportunity to make comments, etc.

**D. Reports from state conference....** Sandy Dunkin & Dave Chapel – Sandy provided a handout with a summary of the events and her observations. (See [Attachment #3.](#)) Dave added that the state organization is a very friendly and diverse group.

**E. In Memoriam Tom Cagley** – Stan reported that he had spoken to a friend from Lake Forrest who said that they are really missing Tom as an effective arbiter. Stan said that if we can get addresses of Tom’s children back East that he (Stan) will draft a letter to the family.

**11. Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned by the President at 12:12 pm.

Until and if there is further notice, the next meeting of the Board is scheduled at Orange County’s Credit Union, 856 N. Ross Street, Santa Ana, CA 92701 on January 2, 2020 at 10:00 am.

**Note:** There will be a meeting and luncheon of the General Membership on December 5, 2019 at the Phoenix Club, 1340 S. Sanderson Ave., Anaheim, CA 92806 at 11:30 am. During this meeting the newly elected Board members will be sworn in and a vote will be taken for approval of the new proposed Bylaws for the Association. The Secretary will take notes and publish minutes of this meeting.

By:

*Barton Harlan*

Board Secretary

## Attachment #1.

November 7, 2019

To: Board of Directors, Grand Jury Association  
From: Sandra Dunkin, Chair, Speakers Bureau  
Re: **Speakers Bureau**

- **Promotions & Orientation Committee Mtg:**

- Kostas and I met with the P&O Committee on November 1, 2019.
- Stephanie Janji, Chair of the P&O Committee attended the CGJA annual conference.
- Kostas indicated he has received several applications already.
- The P&O group is diligent in speaking Monday through Thursday mornings in the Jury Assembly Room.
- Flyers & applications have been provided for distribution.
- Next meeting scheduled for 11/22/2019.

- **Emphasis in District 1 & 2.**

- Meeting with Mayor Pro Tem Cheryl Brothers of Fountain Valley – Nov. 13<sup>th</sup>
- Andrew Do's neighborhood coffee meetings.

- **Supervisor Doug Chafee's "Future Leaders Program"**. Marie Whittington will be participating in the 5<sup>th</sup> Session: **Advocacy/Leadership Training** scheduled March 21, 2020.

- **Slideshow:** 11"x14" printouts of slide show presentation.

- **Presentations:**

- Successful presentation to P.E.O. Chapter in Laguna Beach last month.
- Anaheim Rotary Club at Anaheim Country Club on 12/05/2019.

- Seal Beach TV3 – Recruitment interview scheduled Nov. 19<sup>th</sup>.
- Village Television at Laguna Woods – Recruitment interview being scheduled in December.

## Attachment #2.

### GJAOC

(Goals, Aims, and maybe a Mission statement)

The greater goal of the Grand Jury Association of Orange County is to be a "watchdog" over all matters of public interest and "To give the news impartially, without fear or favor." (Adolph Ochs 1858-1935.

*With credit to journalist Walter Hussman, Jr.:*

Impartiality means reporting, editing, and delivering "investigative results "honestly, fairly, objectively, and without personal opinion or bias."

Credibility is the greatest asset of any grand jury, "and impartiality is greatest source of credibility."

A grand jury "must not just" report their findings "but uncover it" It must conduct its investigations regardless of any "preconceived ideas".

A goal of the Grand Jurors Association of Orange County is the pursuit of truth and to report its findings as completely and impartially as possible.

The Grand Jurors Association of Orange County acknowledges its duties to the citizens of Orange County, the Superior Court of Orange County, the governmental entities of Orange County, and a duty to the law.

The Grand Jurors Association of Orange County will keep as a primary goal, the well being of the citizens of Orange County.

Said well being shall include recipients of governmental services, detainees in county prisons, the victims of unfair or illegal activities, and the well being of public agencies.

Said well being shall include the health and safety of all communities and citizens in Orange County.

The Grand Jurors Association of Orange County pledges its support to the judiciary and support those programs that ensure safe and accessibility to all courts.

The Grand Jurors Association of Orange County has a goal of ensuring people of varying cultures and backgrounds will be treated fairly and respectfully.

The Grand Jurors Association of Orange County strives to assist the courts, court administrators and staff in their needs for additional sources and services.

To promote innovation and continuing improvement through research and best practices, to the courts, governmental institutions, and the citizenry of Orange County.

To strengthen trust and confidence in governmental agencies through transparency, accountability and reliable information. To inform the public, the media, and policy makers about the state of political and financial affairs of Orange County.

To support local and state wide civics education to schools and the public at large.

To attract, develop and retain a diverse, professional high quality of grand jury participants, with a clear description of duties, responsibilities, and duties.

To strengthen leadership and management effectiveness within the governmental entities of Orange County, and to support the performance of their duties and responsibilities.

To maintain and expand opportunities for improvement and to recognize and celebrate the successes of the systems and the citizens of Orange County.

### Attachment #3.

November 5, 2019

To: Board of Directors, Grand Juror's Association

From: Sandy Dunkin, Chair, Speakers Bureau, GJA

Re: **CGJA Conference**

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- Very productive conference. Well worth the money. Scheduled conveniently and efficiently.
  
- **Keynote speaker**, Betty Yee, California State Controller, was an excellent speaker. Her responsibilities were similar at times to the Grand Jury. She had a thorough knowledge of the County grand juries and related back and forth from her office to the grand jury throughout her talk. (Very nice surprise since I wasn't expecting this.)
  
- **Promoting Jury Awareness** was basically about recruitment. Panel members from Marin, Shasta and Humboldt counties spoke on their success/frustrations in recruiting new members. While our recruitment activities seemed far and above more successful and dynamic than all other chapters – based on pure numbers – a couple new ideas were:
  - **Target 2 people.** Each member of the GJA could target 2 of their acquaintances (family or friend or neighbor) to actively recruit for the grand jury.
  - **Sample Report.** Recruiters need a sample report of some significance in your County to champion when talking about the GJ.
  - **Social Media.** Facebook, Citizens Watch, Next Door online, etc. Consider publishing condensed versions of special/successful reports as well as recruitment.
  - **Posters.**
  - **PSA's on TV.**
  - **Competitions for Kids.** Middle school and high school kids can have a competition for the best essay written on the Grand Jury. Consider prizes of \$100 and even scholarships.
  - **Newspapers, Online News Media, Blogs, and Podcasts.** Get to know editors and reporters of all media. Provide them with facts and even write the articles to submit.\* They need "content" and we need exposure. Publicize the effectiveness of grand jury reports.
  
- **Effectiveness of Grand Jury Reports: The County Prospective.** Don Ashton, Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) of El Dorado County spoke at length about how he interacts with the Grand Jury in his County. I could relate everything he said back to Orange County:

Develop a relationship at every level with the CAO, the Board of Supervisors and their staffs – to the extent it is lawful and doesn't hinder your oversight responsibilities.

- **Pitch to Join California Grand Juror's Association.** I will verbalize this section. Overall a nod goes to their Training Program and Website.

\* Make sure your submitted written article cannot be construed as advertising, per Kostas.