Grand Jurors' Association of Orange County Board of Directors' Zoom Meeting Minutes January 7, 2021 (Revised)

- Call to Order The meeting was called to order by President pro tem, Lynn Bonus, at 2:38pm. She introduced an invited guest, Mr. Joe Boyd from the 2019-2020 OC Grand Jury. Joe was asked to say a few words about himself and his interest in the Grand Jury system.
- 2. Roll Call and determination of a Quorum Secretary, Bart Harlan (by phone only), took the roll with the following Board members being present on the Zoom call: Alf Lyle, April Lancaster, Barton Harlan, Diana Merryman, Ian Guajardo, Joe Moreland, Lynn Bonas, Tim Ogata and Wanda Shaffer. Members absent were: Marie Whittington and Stan Ness. With nine members present, a quorum was established. Also in attendance was Bill Underwood chair of the Measure M / OC GO Committee, John Moohr chair of the Audit Committee, Sandy Dunkin and Joe Boyd.

Notes/minutes from the Dec. 3rd Zoom meeting Bart Harlan – There was a brief discussion of the Minutes with a reminder to the Board that at some point the previous Secretary's Notices will need to be acknowledged and approved for the record that the Association did continue to conduct business despite not being able to hold in-person meetings (due to the Covid pandemic restrictions.)

3. Treasurers Report Joe Moreland – (Note: Prior to the Zoom meeting, Treasurer Moreland sent to the Board members an advanced copy of various financial statements - [see Attachments #1-3] [also see Attachment #4] – with the following observations and comments from Joe:
"Attached are budget files pertaining to the Board's 2020 operations. Needless to say, we had few expenditures last year and our assets grew from \$22,925.75 at the end of 2019 to \$27,464.26 at the end of 2020—despite the fact that we only collected dues from 24 members last year (2020)."

"It seems important for me to note that Bill Underwood was a major contributor to our increase in assets. In the past, we have hired outside help to collect and manage the applications for the Measure M Oversight Committee. If I were President, I would put a bit of muscle into twisting Bill's arm to ask for a fair compensation for his Pro Bono efforts."

"We only hosted one luncheon in 2020 instead of the normal four. Since we weren't subsidizing as many meals, we saved a few dollars. I'm not exactly sure how much we have been giving to our members in the way of meal subsidies but, I would argue that we shouldn't have to bribe people to attend our luncheons. Those funds might be better used to support student interns interested in pursuing a legal career who might be helpful apprentices for the sitting grand jury."

"Also note that we had only 24 members who paid dues in 2020. Perhaps the Board could consider waiving a year of dues for those who paid before Covid closed us down." . . . Joe Moreland

4. Audit Committee Report John Moohr – John reported that he, and Bill Underwood, received the 2018 – 2019 information from Treasurer Joe Moreland. They will combine that with the 2020 information. They will coordinate getting the up dated documents and put them in the binder.

5. Measure M/ OC Go Bill Underwood – Bill reported that he sent out his report to the Board members, by e-mail, just prior to this Zoom meeting. (See Attachment #5.) Bill would like some help identifying people who would be good for him to contact and invite them to be on the screening committee/panel (please e-mail him any names). Also, he would like feedback on his description that was

included in his e-mail. Joe Moreland asked who was responsible for identifying conflicts of interest. Bill answered, "Our committee."

6. Unfinished Business (Action/Discussion) -

- A. Membership discussion regarding dues Alf Lyle It was reported that last year we had 70 paid memberships some of those were paid at the end of 2019 and 24 of those were paid in 2020 before the pandemic lockdown. Alf moved, Wanda seconded, that the Association <u>not</u> collect dues for 2021 and that we Inform all of the OCGJA members that their dues for this year are waived and that this announcement will be sent to all of the members via email. Motion passed without opposition. However, it was agreed that if any members want to voluntarily pay it would be considered as a donation to the Association. General discussion followed. Wanda suggested that the OCGJA newsletter be emailed to EACH member, instead of simply placing it on our website. This is a good way to remind the membership that we are thinking of them and for them to keep us in their thoughts even though we are not meeting in person.
- **B.** Board Membership and vacancies Note: Stan Ness resigned as President but has not resigned as a member of the board to date (In any case he remains as an Ex Officio member, per the bylaws.) Five Board terms expired this year. Diana is leaving the board. We have not had a general meeting with a slate of candidates due to Covid and, therefore, no election has been held. As a result, we are currently in a holding pattern, per the President pro tem.
- **C. Possibility of Internship/Externship** Lynn Bonas/Tim Ogata One of our purposes has been to get the word out about the Grand Jury system through education and awareness. The possibility of our Association sponsoring an externship position for a college student would potentially help greatly in achieving one of our goals. The student would have to do research and write reports. This is a way of getting "young blood" interested in the system. These students would/could earn college credits and maybe a dollar amount of remuneration. Much of this will be up to the Court. Judge Larsh just took over as the Presiding Judge for Judge Nakamura. It was recommended that a committee be formed after receiving approval from the Court. Lynn suggested that a Zoom meeting be set up with Judge Larsh and possibly Judge Nakamura. April volunteered to join in on this endeavor. However, nothing can really be done until after the Covid pandemic has ended.
- 7. New Business (Action/Discussion) -
 - A. General Meeting for February or March (Nothing reported)
 - **B. Recommendation for Speakers** Lynn has spoken to Kostas about speaking to us. He said that he would be willing to do so anytime barring any Covid restrictions.
 - **C. Calendar for 2021** Alf Lyle Alf reported that he had sent out an e-mail with a proposed 2021 Calendar. (See Attachment #6.) General discussion followed.

Note: Our President pro tem sent out an end of the year message to the General Membership. It was posted to the Association's website on December 31, 2020 by our web master, Mike Morris.

8. Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned by the President pro tem at 4:15pm.

The next Zoom meeting of the Board is scheduled for February 4, 2021 at 2:00 pm. Submitted by Barton Harlan – Association Secretary

Attachment #1.

Grand Jurors' Association of Orange County 2019 Financial Statement

<u>INCOME</u>	
June 1,2 Sep 9	\$4,110.00 945.00 30.00 65.00 070.00
Measure M Income	6,000.00
Membership Income members @ \$20/ea	
Interest Income Checking - \$6.2 CD - \$168.48	8 174.76
Total Income	\$12,084.76
EXPENSE Luncheon Expense Measure M Expense Membership Expens Badges Newsletter/Web Exp Recruiting Expenses	e 776.70 0 ense 208.49
Travel & Association	
Total Expense	<u>\$ 9,752.60</u>
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Attachment #2.

Grand Jurors' Association of Orange County 2020 Financial Statement

INCOME

INCOME	Luncheon Income March \$985.00 June 0 Sep 0	\$985.00	
	Dec 0 Measure M Income Membership Income members @ \$20/each	6,000.00 480.00	
	Interest Income Checking - \$15.71 CD - \$131.82	147.53	
Total	Income		\$7,612.53
<u>EXPENSE</u>			
	Luncheon Expense Measure M Expense Membership Expense Badges Newsletter/Web Expense Recruiting Expenses Travel & Association Expe	\$2,012.02 0 233.75 297.98 283.59 0 nse 126.00	
Total	Expense		<u>\$ 2,953.34</u>
BALANCES: Checl	Net Income/(Deficit) : king Account (12/31/20): \$17	7,926.61	<u>\$ 4,659.19</u>
			ssets: \$27,464.26

GJAOC Director's Budget 2020

Through December 2020

INCOME Luncheon Income Measure M Income Membership Dues Interest Income Misc. Income	Budget \$4200.0 \$6000.00 \$1800.00 \$175.0 -0-	\$6000.00 \$480.00
Total Income	\$12175.00 \$7	612.53
EXPENSE Luncheon Expense Measure M Expense Membership Expense Badges Newsletters/Web Expense Recruiting Expenses Association Expenses	\$7250.00 \$700.00 \$900.00 \$300.0 \$1000.00 \$400.00 \$900.00	\$2012.02 -0- \$233.75 00 \$297.98 \$283.59 -0- \$126.00
Total Expense	\$11450.00	\$2953.34
INCOME VS EXPENSE	\$ 72	5.00 \$4659.19

Attachment #4.

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Attachment #5. OCTA OC Go (Measure M) Committee Report

For the Board, Committee Chairs, & Interested Others -

Below the "<u>Summary of Key Points for the Board</u>" is a communication I prepared for the GJAOC general membership, but it has not yet been distributed.

Summary of Key Points for Board:

1. We will contact screening interviews this year in a virtual remote environment from GJAOC Panel members home by Zoom in early May.

2. We would like to add 2-3 new panel members this year from the last 5 years of OC GJ jurors to be on the GJAOC OC Go TOC applicant screening 2021 panel this year so in future years, we could transition younger members could take over to lead and populate this key panel. We have a pool of experienced past panel members to act as substitutes & backups, as needed as well.

3. We would like to direct contact the past 5 years OCGJ forepersons for recommendations of names of key recent GJAOC members to personally offer this rewarding opportunity.

4. We have our 2021 recruiting planning & scheduling meeting with the OCTA on Wednesday, January 27, 2020.

5. The ad campaign and recruiting will start in late February and beyond to enable Applicants to apply in March and April.

6. The remuneration for the GJAOC remains the same under a 5-year contract at \$6,000.

7. The OCTA will supply the GJAOC Microsoft Forms software and their web site this year to enable the application process this year in place of Survey Monkey. Hopefully we can do without a separate subcontracting contract this year even though we have applicants from 4 districts applying instead of the 2 districts we had last year, which was our 1st year without a \$1,000 - \$1700 subcontract for an application processor.

Respectfully submitted, Bill Underwood, Chair of GJAOC 2021 Screening Panel of OC Go (aka Measure M) Taxpayer Oversight Committee Applicants

GJAOC 2021 Panel to screen OC GO (aka Measure M) Taxpayer Oversight Committee (TOC) 2021 Applicants

The annual GJAOC Panel to screen OC GO (aka Measure M) Taxpayer Oversight Committee (TOC) 2021 Applicants after recruiting them in March/April and interviewing them in May is underway with the OCTA planning meetings already started in December for a safe process in this next Pandemic year. The Plan, in conjunction with the OCTA and using OC Go/Measure M funds, is to use print & social media plus various other contacts, to solicit applicants for the Taxpayer Oversight Committee openings in District 1, 2, 4 and 5 during March and April 2021.

In the first 2 weeks of May 2021, the GJAOC Panel will conduct interviews of the general public TOC applicants by Zoom remotely, either by video or audio depending upon the interviewee's availability or technical capability. That should ensure the safety of the interviewee and GJAOC panel of interviewers. Last year in 2020, the interviews were conducted successfully by Skype Audio, due to the lack of Zoom and other Video conferencing software maturity, intuitiveness and public familiarity. It worked well and ensures personal safety as well. The panel will also conduct internal meetings by Zoom and conference calls and share documents by email and electronic team software. It is a very intuitive medium for all now.

This annual screening by the GJAOC of TOC applicants effort is a very important and visible initiative for the OC community. The independent GJAOC was designated by the OC voters in Measure M for the task. The GJAOC is contracted with the OCTA to perform it yearly for \$6,000 per annum (which represents close to 50% of our GJAOC annual revenues), plus expenses and meeting per diems.

Details:

The GJAOC 2021 APPLICANT SCREENING PANEL of OC Go (aka MEASURE M) TAXPAYER OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE 2021 Applicants:

Opportunity to be part of a series of 20-30 minute virtual, remote structured interviews as part of a 5 member GJAOC panel during the first 2 weeks of May 2021 that screen applicants in 4 districts, from which the top 3-5 per district are presented for Lottery selection, by district, by the OCTA Board in June for a 3 year term, starting July 1, 2021. We always like to have a mix of experienced Panel members and brand new younger Panel members to keep it fresh and to provide continuity for future years.

Requirements & Reimbursements for GJAOC TOC Applicants Screening Panel Members:

- 1. Available for 1st 2 weeks in May or less, as needed, from 9 to 5 (It will probably be 7-8 days in the first half of May 2021, depending upon the number of applicants.)
- 2. Per diems of \$50 per day for each meeting day for each Panel Member.
- 3. Need Internet connection, computer, smart phone for communications and the viewing of applications & spreadsheets.
- Interviewing Skills/Experience (You should recuse yourself if you have a relationship to interviewee) (GJAOC Members are not eligible to be OC Go (aka Measure M) Taxpayer Oversight Committee Members/Applicants)
- 5. People Skills, Professional Demeanor and the Maintaining of Confidentiality.
- 6. Teamwork Skills, Unbiased Structured Assessments & Situational Adaptability.

CONTACT: Bill Underwood, GJAOC 2021 Panel Chair @ 714-974-9699 or Uwood42@DSLextreme.com, if interested

For more details on the TOC and our GJAOC panel TOC applicant independent screening role, see

1. <u>https://www.octa.net/About-OC-Go/Taxpayer-Oversight-Committee/Member-Recruitment/</u>]

- 2. <u>https://www.octa.net/About-OC-Go/Taxpayer-Safeguards/</u>
- 3. https://www.octa.net/About-OC-Go/Taxpayer-Oversight-Committee/
- 3. https://www.octa.net/About-OC-Go/Taxpayer-Oversight-Committee/Taxpayer-
- Oversight-Committee-Members/
- 4. https://www.octa.net/About-OC-Go/OC-Go-(2011-2041)/

Attachment #6. Key GJAOC Board Meeting/Luncheon Dates for 2021

- 7 January 2021 Board meeting via Zoom
- 4 February 2021 Board meeting via Zoom
- 4 March 2021 Board meeting via Zoom (no luncheon)
- 1 April 2021 Board meeting via Zoom
- 6 May 2021 Board meeting via Zoom
- 3 June 2021 Board meeting via Zoom (no luncheon)
- 1 July 2021 Board meeting via Zoom
- 5 August Board meeting in person at OC Credit Union*
- 2 September Board Meeting and Luncheon at Phoenix Club*
- 7 October 2021 Board meeting in person at OC Credit Union*
- 4 November 2021 Board meeting in person at OC Credit Union*
- 2 December 2021 Board Meeting and Luncheon at Phoenix Club*
- * Vaccinated members and guests only

By: Barton Harlan

Board Secretary