



April 1, 2020

To the Membership of the Grand Jurors' Association of Orange County

Presidents Message

These are trying times to say the least. While all of our membership's priorities must remain with our personal and family health and well being, other aspects of our lives continue.

Hopefully, the following comments will enhance your understanding somewhat as to our Association's efforts.

After the recent luncheon of March 6, 2020, your board met briefly regarding Association business, adjourning with intentions to again meet at the next scheduled meeting on April 2, 2020. However, in light of recent public health concerns, the "in person" part of that meeting has been cancelled. However, your board continues to meet through e-mail and telephone conversations. Committee chairpersons are continuing to provide important information by reporting to the rest of the board in that manner. Your board continues to meet its obligations regarding treasury matters, committee efforts, and other association matters.

While we hope to have a regular board meeting in May, that decision along with other future meetings, including the June luncheon meeting will have to be decided by the board as circumstances permit.

We hope and pray for all our members and your families, and you can be certain that no steps will be taken which would in any way jeopardize the health of anyone.

As you may have heard, the application process for the 2020-2021 jury panel was struggling to obtain applications and the numbers of prospective candidates was at or near an all time low. Obviously, recruitment efforts by all interested parties have been less than fruitful. It is my personal opinion that this deficiency in applications is due to circumstances outside of our influence and in spite of our Association's substantial efforts.

Of considerable concern is the impact on the Grand Jury process by the current medical crisis, including the current panel, on the application process, and future panels as well. Hopefully, we will see significant improvement in the health issues before much longer.

That being said, the board has communicated with the Superior Court and the current Grand Jury panel offering them any assistance we are able to provide. Our membership has already been investigated, approved by the court, has relevant experience associated with prior jury service and continues to have a sense of community responsibility.

Should the court or the current Grand Jury reach out to us, or accept our offer of assistance, I would hope that we would stand at the ready and be available. Obviously, any and all efforts by us, or by others must be conducted with respect to medical considerations.

We have received a number of compliments regarding the March luncheon and the speaker and we would like to thank Chairperson Lynn Bonas for all of her efforts in that regard.

While our immediate efforts are subject to the serious set of present circumstances, we will prevail in the long term and we hope that every one of our members will be there to participate.

Most importantly, take care of yourself and your family.

Please feel free to contact me, or any member of the board with any questions or suggestions you might have. We are always interested in any thoughts you have regarding future speakers at our luncheons, any organizations who would be interested in hearing about the "Grand Jury" and how they might participate, other programs in which the Association could become involved, or maybe just a short note as to how we can improve your organization.

We look forward to hearing from you.

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