



President's Message

I don't know about you, but I love new things, new ideas, new experiences, and new ways of addressing old problems.

For those who do not know me, my name is Douglas Paul Gillen.

And as the new President of the Grand Jurors' Association of Orange County, it is only appropriate that I properly introduce myself to those of you who I have not had the experience, or pleasure of working with in the past. Some of you who have served with me on past Grand Juries dating to 2016-17, or 2018-19 or even 2020-21 may not even know some of this.

My folks moved to Orange County in 1952, where I went to public schools, graduating from Santa Ana High School in 1964. I served in the U.S. Navy from 1967 to 1971 as a Communications Watch Supervisor at USNCBC Port Hueneme and Naval Communications Station Adak, Alaska.

After my tour of duty, I worked in the glass trade, electronics, silk screening, toys (Cabbage Patch), cardiovascular imaging and injection molding. For the 15 years, prior to retirement in December 2015, I conducted insurance audits of companies, construction projects, fire and EMS agencies, and other operations across the western United States. This work was similar to investigations of an agency or County operation. I dropped out of Community College in 1965 but went back 30 plus years later to obtain my BA degree in Organizational Management. This helps me look at any organization, be it volunteer or paid, for ways to make them more effective. Please note that I use the word effective not efficient.

Past work experiences in manufacturing were closely tied to company philosophies of expected results and plans of action to make improvements. One company had the philosophy that, "Quality is the belief that anything can be made better", and I firmly believe that there are avenues and outreach programs that we as an Association have yet to explore that could bring a new awareness to Orange County of what the Grand Jury does, what the Grand Jury has to offer in oversight, and what the Grand Jury can mean for a better Orange County.

The Association has done great work over the past fifty years. Given all the changes in technology and how we now communicate, it has come time for us, working together, to chart our course for the next fifty. But first, as an Association, we must, as a group determine what our "**Expected Results**" will be. What can we do, what resources do we have to make this possible, and is this something that does not cross lines with the Court?

As past Grand Jurors, we all know the marching orders for the Grand Jury. As members of the Grand Jury Association, we have new and different marching orders – not to duplicate the efforts of the sitting Grand Jury, nor to intervene in their work, but to reach

out to the community to spread awareness of what the Grand Jury does to make Orange County a better place to live for all its residents. Remember the words written on the wall in the panel room: "Working together to make a positive difference."

As the new President, I would like to challenge all members to look for those connections in your local community, the people you interact with on a regular basis. There are touch points where you can speak loudly and proudly about what the Grand Jury does. I just received a notification from the California Grand Jury Association that this coming year they are emphasizing how to build Grand Jury Awareness. So, I see that as part of our challenge going into the next couple of months a targeted program not only of outreach, but information regarding the impact of past and future reports should be a priority.

I look forward to working with as many of you as possible in the coming months as we step into new experiences, a new place to have our quarterly meetings, and a new Board of Directors who will bring new chances to move the Association into the next 50 years.