

## 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."

That was how I started my first President's Message back in February of this year and as time has passed, many new opportunities for the Association have begun to appear.

The Association has now been tasked with taking a much larger role in the Grand Jury recruitment process. Three elements/opportunities where we as past Grand Jurors can step up, show up and more importantly, speak up have opened up.

For starters, members of the Association will be the primary speakers in Petit Jury Assembly when the recruitment window opens on October 3<sup>rd</sup>. Initially, members of the seated Grand Jury will assist and pass out fliers. Later, if members of the current Grand Jury wish to speak, they will have that opportunity. The goal is to create a solid core of speakers who can bring a strong message and put information into the hands of those who might be interested or know of someone who might be.

Secondly, the Court has come to realize that old methods of advertising for Grand Jury applicants, which over time, have become less and less effective, need to be upgraded. So, with the help of Karen Kindschi, a member of the current R&O committee, and staff from the Court, major changes are coming to social media outreach, Facebook sites, and even the Court website where Grand Jury reports are posted, and the electronic application is located. Even the old flier is going to be upgraded.

And last, but certainly not least, as website and social media outreach expands, Sandy Dunkin and our Speakers Bureau will be getting more requests generated by these new links. So, if a person sees the site, is a member of an organization, and that organization would like to know more about what the Grand Jury is and what it does, they can make contact and schedule a speaker for a presentation.

The Court is also looking for opportunities in all OC Cities and unincorporated areas to set up small racks with fliers as part of the application process. Senior centers and libraries have been key locations in the past for this type of advertising. While the seated Grand Jury will take the lead in this activity, if you happen to have contacts in your community and can obtain permission to set up one of these displays with Grand Jury information, please let us know so we can provide you with the proper materials.

As those who have served on the Grand Jury, we understand the impact that our reports can have on our communities, and our county, and how they hold government agencies accountable. If you have the desire to assist in any of the above opportunities, we welcome you and your skills so that we can continue to make a positive difference.

*Doug Gillen*