

May this find you ready to celebrate the holidays with joy and peace.

This year has been filled with some wonderful news and activities. The pandemic seems to be slowly going away, and we have been able to meet again, in person, share meals and hear great speakers. Those who have been key in planning and preparing these luncheons have done a great job, and we should thank them for their hard work.

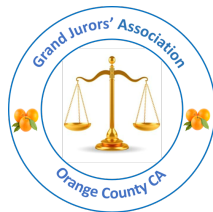
A new Board was sworn in at the December luncheon, and in recognition of the hard work Robyne's Nest performs, a donation was provided to them to further their work with at risk youth.

Of major importance this past year was the Court opening the door for more support from the Grand Jurors' Association in recruiting and promotion. The Speakers Bureau has been very active and is still looking for opportunities to present what the Grand Jury does and how it has a positive impact on Orange County. If you are a member of a service organization, or know of groups that would appreciate a presentation, please contact Sandy Dunkin, who will be more than glad to set up a meeting. On the social media side, Karen Kindschi has been hard at work using a new tool for us as well as explaining to other Grand Jury Alumni groups in the State of California how to bring outreach into the 21st Century. Greg Tettmer, our new webmaster, is working to make the website easier to navigate and provide relevant information in a timely manner. Petit Jury presentations have become a joint venture with the seated R & O committee. Following a welcome from a Judge or Commissioner, members of the Association have been the primary speakers, explaining what the Grand Jury is and how to apply. Since these presentations started in October, over 450 fliers have been passed out, and as of the first full week in December there are 46 applications.

I have asked Association members to be ready to take on more challenges, and I just received word that the Court Ambassador program is being restarted. This group will receive training and be responsible for leading tours of the Central Justice Center for groups of students from local schools. This is an opportunity to teach these young people about the importance of the courts and how they have a stake in serving their community. More details will be coming soon, and I know that there are several members who have already expressed interest in working with the Court on this project.

As citizens of Orange County who have contributed in a very unique manner by serving on the Grand Jury, we have a duty to bring this wonderful opportunity to those who have no knowledge of what can be achieved by those who reside here. Major changes have been made in the County through the recommendations and reports of past Grand Juries. Department performance has been improved, those in leadership have been held accountable, and the media has followed up on past reports to ensure that those in leadership are listening.

May your New Year be filled with opportunities to continue making a positive difference.



GJAOCChristmas 2022

The Christmas General Meeting/Luncheon was held on December 1st. Judge David O. Carter administered the oath of office to our Board Members for 2023-2024, as well as speaking. Other honored guests were incoming Assistant Presiding Judge Cheri Pham, PIO, Kostas Kalaitzidis and Robyne Wood, of Robyne's Nest.



Doug Gillen, April Lancaster, Marie Whittington, Sandy Dunkin, Karen Kindschi, Virginia Zlaket, Lynn Bonas, Ken Blake, Judge David Carter

Terri Elders, Chair of the Ad Hoc Donations Committee introduced Robyne wood, founder of Robyne's Nest.

<https://www.robynesnest.org/faqs/>



Terri Elders & Robyne



President Doug Gillen presenting a \$500 check to Robyne's Nest

The Association was introduced to the incoming Assistant Presiding Judge, Cheri Pham. Judge Pham has a distinguished background having served as a Public Defender and Assistant District Attorney, after graduating from Edison High as Valedictorian, Summa Cum Laude from UCLA for her BA , and earned her law degree from Boalt Hall. She will be supervising the Grand Jury in 2023.



Judge Carter spoke about the Homeless and how we no longer have major encampments in Orange County. He reported that the model of 60 plus one has enabled the county to provide shelter beds, not permanent housing, for Orange County's homeless population. He complimented cities in North Orange County for working together on solutions. South County is lacking in shelters and must step up. Judge Carter has other cities & counties in his courtroom currently, including cities in Los Angeles, Ventura and Santa Barbara counties. He emphasized that local politicians need to ensure public funding is expeditiously put to use and monitored closely.



