

# 2023 1st Quarter Newsletter

## March 2023 Luncheon

The Spring Luncheon was held on March 2nd at the Santa Ana Lyons Club. Over 45 people, including GJAOC members, current OC Grand Jurors and their guests, attended. The Orange County Sheriffs Department K9 team, members of the Orange County Police Canine Association, were the featured guests. Officer K9 handlers and their dogs demonstrated the capabilities of the unit in apprehending suspects and sniffing out contraband. For more comments and photos, visit the GJAOC Facebook page.

OCSD K9 teams are proud members of the Orange County Police Canine Association.









## **President's Message February 2023**

May this find you enjoying the warm air and the beginning signs of Spring.

And speaking of Spring and new things, let's get right at it.

On the recruitment side for next year's Grand Jury, this was the first year since the pandemic that the application period did not need to be extended. A total of 140 citizens of Orange County made that initial application. Many thanks to those in the Association who made this possible with special thanks to Sandy Dunkin and Speakers Bureau, Karen Kindschi for all her work in Social Media outreach, and to those who made presentations before Petit Jury between October and January. As is to be expected, there were those who applied, but once they realized the time commitment, decided that this was not for them. But the good news is that even after withdrawals, there is a solid pool of applicants with equal representation from all five supervisor districts. That last aspect has been a problem in the past, so thanks again to all who made this result possible.

Another new thing post pandemic is the restart for the Court Ambassador program. For those unfamiliar with this volunteer opportunity, Court Ambassadors conduct tours of the Central Justice Center, primarily for student groups as part of their education in Civics. The Court has created a new recruitment flier for this program that is posted on our website. For those looking for an opportunity to learn more or to apply, please contact April Lancaster. She will be our point of contact for those interested in applying. Since those in the Association are former members of the Grand Jury, you have a unique advantage since you have already cleared a Sheriff's background check. There are mandatory training and a commitment to volunteer a few times during the year, but the schedule is flexible, and the service this provides to our community is well worth your time. This opportunity is another way to make a positive difference by connecting those unfamiliar with the third branch of government to a vital part of our legal system.

When you get an opportunity, please take a look at the Grand Jurors' Association website. Greg Tettermer, and some other members who are tech savvy have done some major housecleaning trying to make the site more user friendly and provide relevant information for all of our members. Please note the calendar of events, and don't forget to RSVP for the upcoming luncheon in March. Lynn Bonas is working hard to schedule speakers who can provide interesting talks, so be sure to attend and participate in these gatherings.

There are other new activities coming, so stay tuned and be ready to step up as you are able to inform, promote, and recruit for a better Orange County.

Doug Gillen