



# Grand Jurors Association of Orange County



## President's Message



A quick heads up that our luncheon on **September 14th** will be preceded by the election of 6 Board members for 2024. So please be there by **10:30 am** for the General Meeting so we can conduct the vote.

Speaking of voting, your Nominations Committee has been able to get 5 members to step up as nominees, which leaves only one more position to fill. So, if you want to serve in a new capacity, please reach out to a current Board member, or those on the Nominations Committee, as they complete the slate of nominations. Otherwise, we will need to take nominations from the floor to fill this position. However, if you should nominate someone other than yourself, that person will need to agree to be nominated.



One more reminder, your Grand Jurors' Association has several committees that could use your help. As we move forward with the Court Ambassador program and other outreach activities, we can use all the help we can get to recruit, inform, and promote the work of the Grand Jury. And, you do not have to be a Board

member to participate on a committee. Click [here](#) to check out our Committees on the website.

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 354 , Orange, CA 92856

Visit our Website at [GJAOC.ORG](http://GJAOC.ORG)

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# Grand Jurors Association of Orange County



## General Membership and Luncheon Meeting

*Date:* Thursday, September 14, 2023

*Where:* Santa Ana Elks Lodge, 751 S. Lyon Street,  
Santa Ana, CA



### General Membership Meeting

**When:** The General Membership Meeting will be called to order at **10:30 AM**.  
A slate of nominations will be presented for election of six 2024 Board members.

### Luncheon

**Luncheon Reservations are Open!**

**When:** Lunch will be served after the election.

**Cost:** Member lunches are now **\$25**; Guest lunches are **\$30**

**If you have not already sent in your RSVP,**  
you may RSVP with your menu option to [RSVP@gjaoc.org](mailto:RSVP@gjaoc.org)

**Please respond by: Friday, September 7, 2023**

**Reservations Required -- No Walk-Ins**

**NEW: Credit Cards are accepted at luncheon**

#### Option 1

*Starter:* Salad

*Entree:* Lodge Flat Iron Steak, Roasted Potatoes and Creamed Spinach

*Dessert:* Warm Toffee Butter Cake Ala Mode

#### Option 2

*Starter:* Soup

*Entree:* California Salad Avocado and Chicken Salad with Mixed Greens,  
Vegetable Garnish and Dressing Selections

*Dessert:* Warm Toffee Butter Cake Ala Mode

#### Option 3

*Starter:* Salad

*Entree:* Gluten free Balsamic Steak and Vegetable Salad, Vinaigrette

*Dessert:* Warm Toffee Butter Cake Ala Mode

#### Option 4

*Starter:* Salad

*Entree:* Vegetable Tower with Balsamic Drizzle and Black Bean Patty

*Dessert:* Warm Toffee Butter Cake Ala Mode

Coffee, Iced Tea Included. All other beverages are cash and carry no host.

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## Program Speaker

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## Dr. Colleen Fitzpatrick

Dr. Colleen Fitzpatrick will be the featured speaker. She is a forensic scientist and entrepreneur, widely recognized as the founder of modern Forensic Genetic Genealogy. She is the founder of Identifinders International, and a pioneer in the use of genetic genealogy to solve cold cases sometimes decades old.



## President's Message - Doug Gillen

Agendas and Minutes can be found on the [gjaoc.org](http://gjaoc.org) website by clicking [here](#).



As mentioned above, the General Membership Meeting will start at **10:30 am** and a slate of nominees will be presented for the election of six Board members for 2024. Lunch will be served after the election is completed.

Once elected, Board members will be sworn in at the December Luncheon.

The Board welcomes Larry Klementowski as our new Parliamentarian. He is experienced as a Parliamentarian in other organizations and is bringing his expertise to the Grand Jurors' Association.

One more reminder, your Grand Jurors' Association has several committees that could use your help. Check out the many opportunities to volunteer on a committee at our [gjaoc.org](http://gjaoc.org) **website**. However, I want to highlight current outreach and recruitment activities by the Court Ambassador Tours, as well as the Speakers Bureau. If you know of anyone interested in becoming more involved, please encourage them to check out the Committees pages on our website.

Recruitment of the next 2024-2025 Grand Jury will begin in September, so get ready for a very busy time as we get back to a full schedule.

**Nominations for 2024 Board of Directors by  
Virginia Zlaket, Chairman of Nominating Committee**

*As head of the Nominating Committee, I am proud to introduce the six nominees for the*



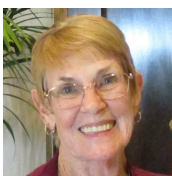
*six openings on the 2024 Board of Directors for your consideration.*



John Siragusa served on the 2022-2023 OC Grand Jury as Foreperson. John is a native Californian, and lives with his family in Dana Point. In his career as an executive in the passenger transportation field, he has been responsible for a multitude of employees, contracts, and budgets, as well as a union negotiator and start up coordinator. He has traveled extensively throughout the U.S. and Canada. John is an active community volunteer with youth sports and church outreach programs and currently sits on two non-profit boards.



Greg Tetterer served on the 2019-2020 OC Grand Jury where he was Secretary on the panel. He is the current Webmaster of the GJAOC and has revamped and updated the [gjaoc.org website](http://gjaoc.org). Greg has an extensive background in science and physics where he has worked on satellite instrumentation in a government research lab outside Washington, DC. Moving to California, he continued his career as a physicist and aerospace engineer working on various space programs. Greg lives with his family in Fullerton.



Theresa Elders (aka Terri) served on the 2018-2019 OC Grand Jury. She currently has been heading up the Ad Hoc Committee in selecting non-profits for special recognition. A native Californian, she is a published writer and received a Distinguished Award in Social Welfare and Community Service. Terri travelled extensively with the U.S. Peace Corps and served as a public member of the Washington State Medical Commission. She is currently a grant reviewer for SAMHSA and FYSB, an AARP state volunteer, a member of AAUW and OC Peace Corp Association.



Sandy Dunkin served on the 2013-2014 OC Grand Jury and has served as Chairperson of the Speakers Bureau of the GJAOC for several years. She has made numerous presentations to community organizations and civic groups throughout Orange County, as well as worked closely with the R&O Committees of grand jury panels. Sandy was a marketing professional in the homebuilding industry and has marketing experience with both local and nationwide homebuilders. She is active in the Irvine Rotary Club as well as on the Special Events Committee at OLLI at UCI.



Chris Evans served on the 2019-2020 OC Grand Jury where he was on the HHS, Cities and P&O Committees. He spent the better part of three decades in the metallurgical field in sales engineering and management, with assignments in Chicago, Washington and NJ/NYC. Chris has volunteered for the CHOC Childrens Foundation, Second Harvest Food Bank, Project Adult Literacy and last year's Point-in-Time Homeless Count.

Larry Klementowski (aka Klem) served on the 2018-2019 OC Grand Jury as Sargeant at Arms. He recently took on the position of Parliamentarian of the GJAOC. Klem is a native of Buffalo, New York. He served as a US Air Force pilot flying



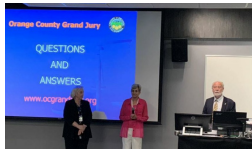
C-9A Nightingale, a Medivac plane and managed large acquisition programs for the Air Force. In 1982 Klem started a company designing and building military and civilian video products. Now retired, Klem lives in Placentia with his family and is a volunteer and fundraiser for The Chino Hills State Park.

## Membership

Annual Dues in the amount of \$20 for the 2023-2024 term are now due. Dues can be paid by cash, check, or credit card at our next luncheon. If members prefer, they can mail a check to:

Grand Jurors' Association of Orange County  
P.O. Box 354  
Orange, CA 92856

Membership information can be found on the [gjaoc.org](http://gjaoc.org) website by clicking [here](#). If you have any questions pertaining to dues, feel free to reach out to Membership Chairman Karen Kindschi at 714-213-6051 or by email under the [Contacts page](#) at the [gjaoc.org](http://gjaoc.org) website.



## Speakers Bureau

*Mark your Calendars!!* John Siragusa, Foreman of the 2022-2023 Grand Jury, and Doug Gillen will be speaking on those reports that garnered the most interest in the recently completed term, at OLLI@UCI on October 17, 2023 and at OLLI@CSUF on November 16, 2023.

The primary goals of the Speaker's Bureau are:

- Educating the public on the role and impact of the Grand Jury.
- Recruiting citizens to apply for Grand Jury service.

Our speakers present the Grand Jury story to civic and educational groups of all sizes. If you belong to a community organization interested in learning about the impact of Grand Jury investigations in both criminal and civil matters, contact Sandy Dunkin by email under the [Contacts page](#) at the [gjaoc.org](http://gjaoc.org) website.



## Court Ambassador Tours

The Ambassador program is designed to help visitors gain a greater understanding and appreciation of the work of the Court, its history, and the art, and architecture of the buildings.

*We have the privilege of becoming teaching docents as we provide "civics lesson" tours to students from our local Orange County High Schools. The time*

*spent with these teens allows us to present them with in-person education regarding our Courts and Justice System.*

Former Grand Jury members, as well as former applicants, are especially qualified to lead the tours since they have already been vetted by the Courts.

*Interested in volunteering?*

Contact April Lancaster, Ambassador Lead, at 714-865-2205 or by email under the [Contacts page](#) on the [gjaoc.org](http://gjaoc.org) website, if you, or someone you know, would be interested in serving as an Ambassador tour guide.



## OC Go / Taxpayer Oversight Committee Screening Panel

The five member GJAOC OC Go 2023 TOC Applicant Screening Panel has successfully completed their work this year. In May, we

presented ten Measure M Taxpayer Oversight Committee (TOC) independently screened finalists to fill the two openings on this 11-person staggered term committee, chaired by the OC Auditor Controller.

At the June 26, 2023 OCTA Board Meeting, two names were drawn by the Chair of the Board in a blind draw to serve 3-year TOC terms. The check was delivered to the GJAOC for services rendered in record time this July. A 3-person GJAOC sub-committee is now working with the OCTA for the next 5-year contract to continue our three decade streak mandated by Measure M to achieve taxpayer trust.

See the [gjaoc.org website](http://gjaoc.org) for further details on the panel.

What is the TOC and what do their members (from applicants screened by a GJAOC independent panel) produce? Here is a recent acknowledgement of the TOC's vital work from the OCTA website:

"On June 13, 2023, the Measure M Taxpayer Oversight Committee (TOC) determined for the 32nd consecutive year that Measure M is being delivered as promised to the voters of Orange County".



## Ad Hoc Committee

Five non-profits have been selected by the Ad Hoc Committee for recognition in

addressing the issues/recommendations in past Grand Jury reports. A member of each organization will be at the December Luncheon to receive a Certificate of Recognition:

Catarina's Club

Kherut

Eli Home

Laura's House

Radiant Future (formerly Women's Transition Center)



## Volunteers

Volunteers are the heart of our organization. Check out the many opportunities to become involved in the Grand Jurors' Association at our [gjaoc.org](http://gjaoc.org) website.



### 2022-2023 Final Report

John Siragusa, Foreperson, presented the 2022-2023 Final Report to the Superior Court on June 30, 2023.

The 2022-2023 Grand Jury panel has finished their session and has released seven excellent reports. Check out these reports at the [OCGrandJury.org](http://OCGrandJury.org) website.

## CALENDAR

### *Mark your Calendars for future GJAOC Luncheons*

GJAOC Luncheons are typically held quarterly at the Santa Ana Elks Lodge. Generally, meetings start at 11:00 am while lunch will be served at 11:30 am. Dates and times, particularly many months out, may be changed, as needed, but will be updated in this Newsletter as well as on the Calendar section of the [gjaoc.org](http://gjaoc.org) website.

Elks Lodge 794  
1751 S. Lyon Street  
Santa Ana, CA

## FUTURE PROGRAMS CORNER

Honestly, the GJAOC has been known for its excellent, high-caliber programs and speakers at the luncheons. Even though Program Chairpersons will change with elections from year-to-year, we make every attempt to maintain this level of high quality programs. While everything is subject to change, we thought we might share a couple program subjects that are being discussed for 2024.

- Judge David Carter is typically booked for every December Luncheon where he will swear in the new Board of Directors. He is then our featured speaker and Judge Carter speaks about whatever he chooses, no matter what the advanced topic is!



December 7, 2023, 11:00 AM  
MEETING & LUNCHEON

-----2024-----

March 7, 2024, 11:00 AM  
MEETING & LUNCHEON

June 6, 2024, 11:00 AM  
MEETING & LUNCHEON

September 12, 2024, 11:00 AM  
MEETING & LUNCHEON

December 5, 2024, 11:00 AM  
MEETING & LUNCHEON

- In March 2024, OCSD and Probation Dept. will present information on the Re-entry program for inmates released into the County.
- In June 2024, a Federal DOJ prosecutor and two Special Agents with Homeland Security are now members of the OC Human Trafficking and have committed to be speakers.

*Lastly, if any member has a current topic they would like us to pursue, or a special speaker to introduce us to, [click here for the 1st Vice President under Contacts on the gjaoc.org website.](#)*

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