



Grand Jurors Association
of Orange County



NEWSLETTER

General Membership and Luncheon Meeting

Date: Thursday, March 14, 2024

Where: Santa Ana Elks Lodge, 1751 S. Lyon Street,
Santa Ana, CA



General Membership Meeting

When: The General Membership Meeting will be called to order at 11:00 AM.

Luncheon- *In the Emerald Room*

Luncheon Reservations are Open!

When: Lunch will be served shortly after the meeting.

Cost: Dues paying member lunches are \$25; Guest lunches are \$35

If you have NOT already sent in your RSVP,
you may RSVP with your menu option by email: RSVP@gjaoc.org

Please respond by: Thursday, March 7, 2024

Reservations Required / Credit Cards are accepted at luncheon

Starter: Fruit & Berry Cup, Rolls

Entree:

Option 1 House Made Chicken Pot Pie

Option 2 Flat Iron Steak w/Chopped Wedge Salad

Option 3 Gluten Free Penne Pasta w/Vegetables & Marinara Sauce

Dessert: Warm Bread Pudding w/Ice Cream

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

Program



Council on Aging
Southern California

Representatives from the **Orange County Council on Aging** will speak to us. The Council provides many resources to seniors who live in the Orange County/Inland Empire communities. The Council promotes the independence, health and dignity of older adults through compassion, education and advocacy. See their website at www.coasc.org.



President's Message - Doug Gillen

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



President's Message February 2024

And the word of the month is **Preparation**.

I know that we have a lot of gardeners in the Association, and for those of us who like digging in the dirt, this time of year is when a lot of preparation gets underway. Looking at catalogs, planning on what to plant and where, getting the garden spaces ready for Spring. All very necessary so that our efforts produce the results we anticipate. We have to review what worked or didn't last year, clear out leaves and weeds, and do the hard work of turning soil.

In like fashion, the Association, in conjunction with the Recruitment & Orientation committee from the seated Grand Jury, is making preparation for new activities that lie ahead. R&O developed a listing of Senior Centers across the county where Grand Jury information can be posted and where presentations can be made. This will require some willing hands to make contacts and work on this new outreach activity. Local media connections have also been identified so future recruitment can be strategically placed in areas where recruitment numbers have been lacking. There are also social media and the potential to have information booths at local events. Our challenge as an Association is to take this preparation work and put it to good use. Planning how to divide the work load will be critical, and Association members are key in expanding the field of recruitment, information, and promotion for the Grand Jury. Are you ready to do some serious planting going forward?

Membership

Membership information can be found on the gjaoc.org website by clicking [here](#). If you have any questions pertaining to dues, feel free to

reach out to Membership Chairman by email under the [Contacts page](#) at the gjaoc.org website.

Speakers Bureau

Speaking activities are happening all the time. 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 website.



Court Ambassador Tour

Interested in volunteering?

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



Interested in a Rewarding Volunteer Opportunity?

Apply for the May 2024 GJAOC Screening Panel of Applicants for the OC Go/Measure M Taxpayer Oversight Committee (TOC).

This is an opportunity to engage with interesting & capable OC residents, provide a public service for OC taxpayers, supplement revenue for the GJAOC and even receive meeting stipends for your time, skills and expertise.

The GJAOC Screening Panel is made up of GJAOC volunteers, as mandated by voter approved Measure M/M2 to be independent of the OCTA and elected officials. We screen candidates, interview applicants and recommend multiple candidates for an OCTA Board blind lottery for TOC openings by district.

For further details, see <https://www.octa.net/programs-projects/programs/oc-go-measure-m/taxpayer-safeguards/taxpayer-oversight-committee/recruitment/> and <https://gjaoc.org/oc-go>.

The GJAOC panel does all its work within the first 2 weeks of May and has standbys to provide staffing flexibility. So a limited commitment of time for such an important key role to ensure fiscal responsibility for such large OC transportation expenditures. To maintain our unbiased independence, GJAOC members are not eligible to apply for the TOC, of course.

If you are interested in applying for this unique opportunity on the GJAOC Screening Panel, just see Bill Underwood at the March meeting or call or text him @ 714-264-8137 or email him at uwood42@DSLextreme.com. Or tell a GJAOC current member, or past GJAOC Board member, or current GJAOC members Patti LaVoie, Lynette Fujitani, Robin Bowen, John Moohr, Bette Flick, Virginia Zlaket or Sandy Dunkin among others.

Carpe Diem!



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 website.

Grand Jury Recruitment





**VOLUNTEER
TO SERVE ON THE
ORANGE COUNTY
GRAND JURY**

Make a Difference, Support Sound Government
To be eligible you must be a County of Orange Resident, a U.S. Citizen, 18 years of age, or Older, have command of the English language, and possess sound judgement.

APPLY NOW!



The role of a Grand Jury differs substantially from a trial jury. It is a full-time assignment. Approximately 80% of time is spent in a civil watchdog role with remaining time spent in criminal indictment hearings. No jury trials and all proceedings are closed to the public.



Improve government with your recommendations

Issue indictments for serious crimes

Ensure performance of county, city & other local agencies are proper and ethical

For Application & Information Visit:
www.ocgrandjury.org

Or Call 657-622-6747

550 PER DAY STIPEND PLUS MILEAGE AND RESERVED PARKING SPACE

18 GRAND JURORS SHALL TAKE OATH OF OFFICE FOR A

ONE YEAR TERM

JULY 1 to JUNE 30



Recruitment is year-round. The OCGRANDJURY.ORG website has been updated to include on-line applications which can be filled out all year long. Check it out on the OCGrandJury.org website.



Recognition Committee



"Steiner's Way" Street Named for William Steiner
Bill Steiner's recognition by the Board of Supervisors is well deserved and earned after serving Orange County as a voice for generations of abused, neglected, abandoned, and vulnerable children. Bill passed away in 2022 at the age of 85. The street is in Orange, where he once served on the school board and City Council before becoming an Orange County Supervisor.

Several years ago, Bill spoke at a GJAOC luncheon where he praised the Grand Jury report that helped forge Albert Sitton home into Orangewood Children's Home. He gave a great deal of credit to the Grand Jury for investigating and reporting on the conditions, especially the overcrowding issue, that led to expanded facilities and staffing through the county and community joining forces to protect the most vulnerable citizens in Orange County.

And he did it "Steiner's Way", which is the name of the street named after one of the most altruistic and kind men who spent his life committed to public service and as an advocate for children.

CALENDAR

Mark your Calendars

FUTURE PROGRAMS CORNER

Honestly, the GJAOC has been known for its excellent, high-caliber programs and

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 website.

Elks Lodge
1751 S. Lyon Street
Santa Ana, CA

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

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

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

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.

- 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.
- In September 2024, speakers will address our OC Park & Recreation system and environment, including beaches.

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 \[gjaoc.org\]\(http://gjaoc.org\) website.](#)

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