



NEWSLETTER

Important Reminder of Future Events



Hybrid Board of Directors Meeting

1:00 pm, May 2, 2024

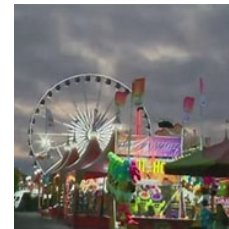
At Ken Blake's Office,
Northpoint Tax Advisory
1661 E. Chapman Ave. #2-A
Fullerton, CA 92831
714-870-4542



General Membership & Luncheon Meeting

11:00 am, June 6, 2024

At Santa Ana Elks Lodge
1751 S. Lyon Street
Santa Ana, CA 92705
*(Reservations & Menu will be
sent out in the next few weeks.)*



2024 Orange County FAIR

July 19 to 26, 2024

Actual day TBD

Fairgrounds
88 Fair Drive
Costa Mesa, CA 92626

President's Message - Doug Gillen

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



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

We appreciate the wonders of Spring. But there was a soggy and cold period before Spring arrived. Many of you are gardeners, well aware of the prep work that must be done before flowers begin to bloom. There was a season, a time of planning and preparation. And so it is with the Grand Jurors' Association. The Board and Committee chairs are hard at work, updating Association documents and preparing a wide variety of opportunities to recruit, inform, and promote the work of the Grand Jury in the coming months.

The old saying goes that "many hands make light work." This is where members of the Association get an opportunity to be a part of this saying. Opportunities are endless. The Association needs volunteers to staff a booth at the O.C. Fair for one day. The Ambassador program can still use more volunteers. The Speakers Bureau is already working on presentations for the Fall. If you have connections to civic and community groups, there are opportunities for you to promote the Grand Jury. Petit Jury recruitment for the Grand Jury will begin in October. And other opportunities for outside presentations will be coming soon. The season of planning and preparation is ending, and the season of growth is coming. Time to prepare for a season of activity. Are you ready and willing to make the work light?

Who Should Be Our Next Luncheon Speaker?

Do you have a suggestion for a GJAOC speaker? If so, please email the contact information and why you think our members would enjoy hearing from this person/organization to Programs chair **Karen Kindschi** at programs@gjaoc.org



Recognition Committee Update

This year the GJAOC will recognize and honor two organizations that diligently address issues of interest to previous Grand Juries: protection of our environments and dedication to animals in Orange County.

Kevin Marlin, Executive Director of OC Animal Allies, will deliver one of the presentations at the September 12, 2024 general membership luncheon. OC Animal Allies began in 1984 as a small group of resolute animal lovers in Orange County dedicated to helping Orange County residents and their animals. It is an independent, volunteer-driven, non-profit and is not affiliated with any other SPCA, including the ASPCA.

Darin Loughrey, Outreach and Engagement Coordinator of Natural Communities, will also deliver a presentation at the September 12, 2024 luncheon. The Natural Communities Coalition (NCC) was established in 1996 as one of the first steps following the signing of a landscape-scale habitat planning and conservation efforts for wildlife and their critical habitats. It initially was know as the Nature Reserve of Orange County.

GJAOC members are encouraged to learn more in advance about the valuable work that these two collaborations do: <https://www.ocanimalallies.org/> and <https://oconconservation.org/>.



Membership

Membership information can be found on the website Membership page

here gjaoc.org/membership. If you have any questions pertaining to dues, feel free to email the Membership Chairman at membership@gjaoc.org



Speakers Bureau

The 2024 Orange County Fair

Details are currently being ironed out to participate with the OC Courts in manning a booth at the 2024 OC Fair. Catalina Rogers, Community Liason for the OC Courts, has booked various OC agencies for the entire first week of the Fair. She is collaborating with the GJAOC to man a booth for one full day of that week where we will have the opportunity to

talk to people about the Grand Jury's mission and function. (That specific day is yet to be determined.)

We need volunteers to man the booth from 11:00am to 10:00pm in 3-hour shifts. If you are interested, please contact Speakers Bureau chair Sandy Dunkin by email at speakers@gjaoc.org



Court Ambassador Tour

Interested in volunteering?

Contact April Lancaster, Ambassador Lead, at 714-865-2205 or by email at ambassador@gjaoc.org if you, or someone you know, would be interested in serving as an Ambassador tour guide. Visit the web page at gjaoc.org/ambassador for further information.



GJAOC Measure M/OC GO TOC Applicant Screening Panel OPPORTUNITY

The 2024 GJAOC Applicant Screening Panel is underway! The public is responding to ads & notices for 2024 applicants to serve OC. Measure M/OC GO is providing 4 folks the opportunity this year to join 6 other folks on the **Measure M/OC GO TAXPAYER OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE (TOC)**! There are 10 TOC members (2 per 5 districts) chaired by the voter elected OC Auditor/Controller. The public TOC application deadline for Districts 1, 2, 4 & 5 is May 3rd, 2024.

The TOC is a public watchdog committee, independent of the OCTA and Elected Officials, charged with ensuring that the OCTA & OC

Cities spend Measure M sales tax funds in accordance with the voters' mandate of Measure M. The long-range OC transportation plan details billions of \$ planned for transportation investments.

The GJAOC TOC Applicant Screening Panel role is to independently annually screen and interview TOC applicants. It is a very stimulating interview experience. The Panel recommends 3-5 candidates for each of the 5 OC Supervisor districts that have a TOC opening that year. Those candidates are put into a public blind lottery by district at an OCTA Board meeting in June. Each candidate selected in the lottery begins their 3 year term in July at quarterly TOC evening meetings.

The 2024 GJAOC Applicant Screening Panel will perform their Panel work this year primarily in the first full two weeks of May! The panel consists of: Bill Underwood (2011-12) & Virginia Zlaket (2012-13) with multiple years on the Panel; Lynette Fujitani (2021-22) & Patricia LaVoie (2020-21) who served last year; and Lynn Fenton (2017-18) & Peter Hersh (2015-16 Foreman) are new this year.

The newly formed GJAOC Panel Advisory Group was formed with experienced former Panel members with a decade of experience to provide GJAOC panel institutional knowledge continuity & negotiated the 5 year contract renewal. They are Robin Bowen (2009-10), John Moohr (2009-10) and Bill Underwood (2011-12).

If you wish to take this truly **once in a lifetime opportunity (only open to GJAOC members)** to be considered for **future GJAOC TOC Applicant Screening Panels** or just to get more information; please contact Bill Underwood at 714-264-8137 (cell) or at uwood42@DSLextreme.com or any Board or Panel member (present or past).



Volunteers

Volunteers are the heart of our organization. Check out the many opportunities to become involved in the Grand Jurors' Association as described on the website Volunteer page at <https://gjaoc.org/volunteer>

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!
See reverse side for recruitment timeline.



The role of a Grand Jury differs substantially from a trial jury. It is a fulltime 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

\$50 PER DAY STIPEND PLUS MILEAGE AND RESERVED PARKING SPACE

19 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.

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 website Calendar page at gjaoc.org/calendar

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

FUTURE PROGRAMS CORNER

Honestly, the GJAOC has been known for its excellent, high-caliber programs and speakers at the luncheons. 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 environment and animals.

Lastly, if any member has a current topic they would like us to pursue, or a special speaker to introduce us to, email the Programs chair at programs@gjaoc.org

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Contact Us

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