

Civil Grand Jurors' Association of California 2024 Annual Conference Final Report

Conference Summary

Sunday 10/20/24

1:00 Opening Remarks- Lloyd Bell, Conference Chair

1:15 Training

Training is organization's primary emphasis and the principal link of CGJA to county GJs
Growing number of Trainers

Goal to transition to personalized in-person training at local GJs

35 Trainers

Current training regimen reflected in reports getting better

Typically provide 3-day seminar with 3rd day report writing

Mentioned that Exit Interviews with report subjects help get better results

CGJA contacts county GJs in January to set up training

Sometimes, academic credits for training available

CGJA provides interactive seminars for foremen

Also provide legal advisor workshops for county councils, DAs, court staff

County Counsels also have an organization and have training

Also have materials for Presiding Judges

Recent issues

- Definition of "Jail" as a place where persons can be held for 24hrs or longer
- Jail reports required to have findings (new??)
- Created facts, findings, recommendations roadmap
- How to critique findings & recommendations- who, what, when

Questions

- What is our defined & typical interaction with the current GJ?
- Should/can we invite current Foreman to Board meetings?

Encouraging Recruitment

Recent name change to "Civil" Grand Jury to distance from criminal GJ

New logo

2:30 Judge Hulsey speech

2:55 Awards

Best Report- Contra Costa, 2028-2019, Regional Medical Center, Recommendations completed

Best Media Coverage- Humboldt, Brown Act compliance problem

Sunday 10/20/24 (continued)

3:15 Breakout Session 1- Strategies for Recruiting GJ Members, Juliana Jones

Entire session was excellent!

Recruiting packages available

Biggest impediment is people don't know what the Civil GJ does- hence name change

Need to diversify, attendees mostly white

Typical ideas, many that we use

Petit jury- OC specifically mentioned that we do this

Service organizations, clubs, churches

Social media- Facebook, Nextdoor

Other ideas

February is GJ Awareness Month

Could present to OC BofS and City Councils

Yard signs & banners

Newspaper editorials & paid ads

Facebook paid advertising, inexpensive

PSAs- free and samples available

Press Releases to local media

Samples available- see May 2023 CGJA Santa Barbara

Small counties often invite GJs back for another year

Could we do that in a pinch?

Miscellaneous

Simple is best

Do a few at a time (not just one) since repetition works

Use QR code

If Court is resistant, have them contact other counties

Someone asked how do we know where interest from- I mentioned in OC we have a box on the Application asking where they heard about the GJ

Call for "Special Investigators" to hint what the GJ does

4:05 Breakout Session 2- What can the CGJA do for you, Lou Panetta

CGJA and GJA relationships with current GJ & Courts differ by county

One court told GJ they could not be part of county GJA although no state rules against it

CGJA training oriented

Does current GJ utilize CGJA? I don't remember 2019-20 doing so other than report workshop

I wanted to learn more about what the GJAOC can gain from a closer relationship

I mentioned our Board's previous reluctance to become official chapter

A lot of changes in recent years and maybe past issues no longer apply

Mentioned CGJA By-Laws may be more complicated than we feel we need

Only official chapters invited to some events

Leader reiterated that follow-up of recommendations not limited to organizations but individuals can do so on their own

Sunday 10/20/24 (continued)

- 5:00 Report out from Breakout Sessions
 - How to recruit GJ members
 - Mentioned our videos and also videos from Butte & Santa Barbara counties
 - How to recruit GJ members into GJAOC
 - Confer with County Council to inform GJAOC what contact with GJ is acceptable
 - Inform current GJ that help is available
 - Establish relationship with foreperson
 - Invite GJ to Board meetings
 - Advertise at GJ training
 - Don't "guilt" people
 - Do periodic (annual) surveys of membership

Monday 10/21/24

- 8:45 Keynote Address by Leon Panetta- *The Value of Public Service*
 - 23rd Secretary of Defense and former Director, CIA
 - Born & raised in Monterey
 - Very engaging speaker
 - Spoke about current national leadership
 - Top people lack leadership skills- won't do the right thing when it's hard

Monday 10/21/24 (continued)

- 9:45 Committee Chairs present committee objectives and volunteer opportunities – speed dating format)
- Awards
 - Presented for Best Report and Media Coverage
 - Finance
 - Summarized treasuries investments
 - Documents on the website
 - Technology
 - Mostly about websites
 - Responsive to requests for help, content
 - Websites tend to get stale after ~6 years
 - Discussed social media- Facebook, Nextdoor
 - Annual Conference
 - Always in Bay area since rough center of state
 - Next year in San Luis Obispo
 - Training
 - Have enough Trainers
 - Looking for process improvements
 - Typically CGJA trainers coordinate with each county
 - Public Relations
 - CGJA has monthly journal even months, important events odd months
 - February is GJ Awareness month- suggest advertise in Supervisor meetings
 - Legal
 - Provides answers to legal questions
 - Monitors state legislation (definition of jail example)
 - Can review our By-Laws
- 10:45 Grand Jury Lab by Professor Josue France- *The Grand Jury Lab: Attributes of Effective Grand Jury Reports*
- Cuyamaca College (San Diego) and CGJA Grand Jury Effectiveness Workgroup
 - Very interesting concept
 - Getting students involved in GJ process
 - Organization is currently reviewing ALL 2023-24 GJ Reports
 - Developing statistics
 - Looking for commonalities (ex. Homelessness)
 - Developing techniques for follow-up
 - Recommendation implementation rate
 - Database is or will be available
 - Perhaps GJAOC can coordinate with local universities
 - Recruit college students for GJ service
 - Part-time
 - Give course credits
 - Need to coordinate with Court
 - Have students review recommendation implementation, etc
 - Again, course credits
 - Discussed usefulness of translating report summaries into other languages

Discussion

Areas of Follow-up

Consider some of the other advertising ideas mentioned in Session 1

Investigate becoming an official chapter

I can lead effort early next year

Other Board members have distinct opinions

Need to flush out EXACTLY what issues are driving reluctance

CGJA great resource we could use more

Action- When/if appropriate Membership Chair agreed to attend Board meeting

Do our By-Laws meet CGJA standards?

Action- I will send By-Laws to Legal Chair to review for compliance to law & CAGJ reqts

Can/should we be more involved with current GJ

Invite Foreperson to Board meetings?

Should we have relationship with County Council?

Website development

Talked to Technology Director

Full website development expensive and can cost 5 figures (we just could use a tune up)

Suggested website be overhauled every several years to avoid getting stale

Action- I will send GJAOC.org link to get feedback on our website

Insurance

Talked to Travis Gibbons, knowledgeable about insurance

Typical policies cost about \$2,000/year

Can provide broker information

Action- Agreed to talk to us (Not me since not my area of expertise or experience)

Grand Jury Lab

Work with local colleges to see how they can help

Consider translating report summaries into other languages

Other Items and Remarks

Overall very worthwhile 2 days

Met many people, asked a lot of questions

Orange County was specifically called out a couple times for good things we do

Petit jury presentations

Karen Kindschi well known and previous participation mentioned to me several times

I was asked to inquire about putting the meetings on ZOOM. I did not. While the actual presentations and speeches might be okay on ZOOM, the real benefit was in the Breakout sessions with participant interaction and discussions with others during down time. These would be very difficult to do well via ZOOM. Even our simple ZOOM Board meetings are sometimes a bit problematic.

Next year's conference will be in San Luis Obispo (2 hours closer!) October 26 & 27.

Contacts

- Marsha Caranci- Membership (membership@cgja.org)
- Larry Herbst- Technology (webmaster@cgja.org)
- Travis Gibbons- Insurance
- Karen Jahr- Legal (karen.jahr@sbcglobal.net)
- Juliana Jones- Recruiting (jolinka.pgi@gmail.com)

Official Conference Schedule

Sunday Schedule

Sunday, October 20, 2024

Laguna Grande Ballroom (E, F, & G)

1:00 – 1:15 PM: Conference and silent auction opens: Pledge of Allegiance and opening remarks
Lloyd Bell, Annual Conference Chair

1:15 – 2:15PM: Panel Discussion: Meet the Training Team
Marsha Caranci, Richard Rogers, and Karen Jahr with audience Q&A

2:15 – 2:30PM: CGJA President's Report on CGJA Activities and the State of the Association
Presentation of Certificate of Affiliation to Solano County
Gary Cooper, CGJA President

2:30 – 2:55 PM: Election results
Karen Deeming, Chair, Nominations-Elections Committee
Swearing in Officers and Directors
Honorable Stephanie E. Hulsey, Superior Court Judge, Monterey County

2:55– 3:10 PM: Presentation of Best Report and Media Awards
Barbara Sommer, Chair, Excellence in Reporting Subcommittee

3:10 – 3:15 PM: Break (reassemble at breakout session location after break)

3:15 – 3:55 PM: Breakout session #1 (four different topics from which to choose)

- Strategies for Recruiting Chapter and Retaining Members, Leader: Anne Granlund, Contra Costa
- Strategies for Recruiting Grand Jury Members, Leader: Juliana Jones, Mono
- Chapters – What can CGJA do for you? Leader: Lou Panetta, Monterey

3:55 – 4:05 PM: Move to breakout session #2

4:05 – 4:50 PM: Breakout session #2

- Strategies for Recruiting Chapter and Retaining Members, Leader: Anne Granlund, Contra Costa
- Improving Grand Jury and Court Relations, Leader: Tom Mastre, Monterey
- Chapters – What can we do for you ? Leader: Lou Panetta, Monterey

4:50 – 5:00 PM: Stretch Break; reassemble in Laguna Grand Ballroom

5:00 – 5:25 PM: Report out from breakout session leaders

5:25 – 5:30 PM: Wrap up by breakout session Moderator, Juliana Jones

5:30 PM: CGJA Annual Conference recesses

Sunday Schedule (cont'd)

6:30 PM: CGJA Annual Conference Dinner
Seaside Ballroom
Angelo Rolando Service Award presentation
Joann Landi, Chair, Angelo Rolando Service Award Subcommittee

8:00 PM: Silent Auction closes
Live Auction commences (Monterey Chapter)

Monday Schedule

Monday, October 21, 2024
Laguna Grande Ballroom

8:30 – 8:45 AM: CGJA Annual Conference resumes
Lloyd Bell, Annual Conference Chair

8:45 – 9:30 AM: Keynote Address: The Value of Public Service
The Honorable Leon Panetta, 23rd Secretary of Defense and Former Director, CIA
23rd Secretary of Defense and former Director, Central Intelligence Agency

9:30 – 9:45 AM: Break

9:45 – 10:45 AM: CGJA NEEDS YOU!
Committee Chairs present committee objectives and volunteer opportunities – speed dating format)

10:45 – 11:15 AM: The Grand Jury Lab: Attributes of Effective Grand Jury Reports
Professor Josue France, Cuyamaca College and CGJA Grand Jury Effectiveness Workgroup

11:15 – 11:30 AM: Member comments and Q&A
CGJA President

11:30 AM – Noon: Conference wrap up and closing remarks
CGJA President