

Civil Grand Jurors' Association of California 2025 Annual Conference Final Report

Held at Embassy Suites, San Luis Obispo

Conference Summary

Introduction

GJAOC members who attended- Greg Tetterer (GJAOC 2nd VP), Joyce Keller (CGJA Trainer), John Woodward

Also note here that GJAOC member Chris Pounds is also a CGJA Trainer but was unable to attend

My second time attending; I also attended last year. Very worthwhile.

Sunday 10/26/25

1:00 Opening Remarks- Lloyd Bell, Conference Chair

1:15 Keynote Address- *Understanding Artificial Intelligence*

Dr. Foaad Khosmood, Professor, Cal Poly San Luis Obispo

digitaldemocracy.org, foradd.net, foaad@calpoly.edu

Presented nice summary of AI suitable for laypeople

Recommended that the Grand Jury system should be careful since information can be easily hacked/stolen. GJ confidentiality could be at risk.

2:15 President's Report

Training is a key focus of the organization and has been performed in 54 of the 58 counties

All sections are growing

2:55 Best Report Award

San Joaquin County- "Stockton School Board" 2021-22

3:10 Breakout Sessions #1

1- *Ask the Trainer*

2- *Strategies for Recruiting Grand Jury Members*

3- *Harnessing Social Media*

Note that counties are very different

Facebook most effective

What is visible to non-members?

Nextdoor

Podcasts on community websites- one or 2 minutes per report

Report abstracts on websites

Perform keyword searches to find places to advertise

Ex. citizen engagement in Orange County, citizen watchdog

4:10 Breakout Sessions #2

1- *Ask the Trainer*

2- *Writing Effective Press Releases and Op-Eds*

3- *What's Your Chapter's Purpose?*

CGJA Mission- "To promote, preserve, and support the grand jury system through training, education, and outreach"

Facebook most effective & Nextdoor also mentioned

Discussed on-going work obtaining performance metrics

- Referred to last year's presentation on Grand Jury Lab by Cuyama College Professor Josue France
- Several CGJA members are working to obtain metrics so we can show citizens how our work improves the community
- Developed Excel templates to document reports
- I've agreed to provide info on OC reports. Will start with 2024-25 reports
- AI techniques also being investigated
- Eventually will pass on task to current GJs

4:55 Report Out from Session Leaders

Public Relations Committee has produced "Talking Points" available on the CGJA website. Similar to our brochures

Monday 10/27/25

9:00 Day 2 Opening Remarks- Lloyd Bell, Conference Chair
\$5k donations this year helps reduce the cost for next year

9:10 Panel Discussion- Chapter Relations

Keep members active

Good relationship with GJ foreperson (more later)

More than 1 activity

Hold regular meetings & make them convenient

Provide a “human connection”

Challenges and triumphs

Relationships with Court, staff, trainers, current GJ (more later)

GJ awareness month is February

What should we plan?

Some orgs have good relationship with Supervisors

Communication and Support

November 19 Zoom meeting to share best practices

Chapter Resources documents page on website

10:25 CGJA Questions

Public Relations needs volunteers

Final Thoughts

Relationship with current GJ

Many current GJ members attended

Many orgs have closer relationship with GJ

Our interaction with current GJ is generally via Foreperson & Joyce. This keeps us independent and in good standing with the Court. Primarily this way because our GJ also has criminal function

LA County wants to coordinate with us

Review becoming CGJA members again

Marsha can attend Board meeting

Next year's Convention November 1 & 2 in Sacramento