

Minutes from GJAOC Meeting February 5, 2026 - Meeting held via Zoom

Call to Order @ 1:01 PM

Special Zoom with CGJA prior to the business meeting

Greg introduced Marcia Caranci from CGJA. Marcia lives in Shasta County, is a member of CGJA and has been a trainer for 22 years. She discussed the pros of GJAOC becoming a Chapter member. She noted that CGJA training, their website, and their active public relations work in promoting and educating about the Grand Jury were key elements that our Association agreed with. She responded to the question of why we should join by stating that our mission statement and CGJA's were in sync. She noted that groups like ours, working with CGJA, were stronger working together. While there are only 25 groups currently in California with connections to CGJA, two more are being added. She sees GJAOC joining CGJA as a positive, as together we can offer mutual support, collaborate via networking, share ideas, and there is the potential for Chapter bonding. With increased numbers comes increased credibility with Legislation and with the Superior Court.

She noted that there would need to be some refining and changes to our by-laws, but we could work out those details prior to becoming a Chapter. GJAOC already has the correct non-profit status. There are no costs for the Chapter, only the requirement that three members of a Chapter are also members of CGJA.

Questions were raised as to what Chapter is the largest and current membership in GJAOC. Marcia stated that the largest CGJA Chapter is Marin County. Ken noted that only 25 of the 58 Counties are active in CGJA and someone wondered why there was no connection to some of the others. Marcia replied that CGJA has members from 57 counties, but Alpine County does not have a GJ due to very small population and other counties do not have enough members to support a Chapter.

Another question was raised about dues. Marcia noted that each chapter is independent, there are no dues to CGJA, only dues for members who decide to join, and a Chapter only needs three CGJA members to be complying. CGJA dues are \$30 and GJAOC currently has five members of CGJA. (This was amended later in an email from Greg who noted that GJAOC has 11 members of CGJA.)

A question was raised about why CGJA seems to have a majority of their members from Northern California. How does GJAOC compare to San Diego or Ventura County as far as membership numbers? Marcia noted that the San Diego Chapter collapsed a few years back but was gradually rebuilding. She noted that CGJA had a stronger connection with some of the smaller counties due to the training program, and there was pushback from counties where training is provided by in-house programs. She

noted several strong Bay Area chapters where they have maintained strong membership and have grown. Together with CGJA, these Chapters are part of a support system that informs the community about the Grand Jury.

Bill made a comment about the fragility of the Grand Jury system, and Marcia responded that CGJA has legal and legislative contacts to protect the system. She noted past pressure from Special Districts who wanted to diminish the power of the Grand Jury, but were denied changes to legislation that protects the Grand Jury

Ken asked if financial data was shared. Marcia stated that no financial information was required and asked if GJAOC was incorporated. The answer is yes, and we are a 501-C (4).

The question was asked, "Do we see any downside?" Bill wondered if we would lose any of our independence since this was a question asked many years ago when considering this move.

The answer was that there are guardrails and unless a Chapter threatens CGJA's status or a Chapter's actions reflect badly on CGJA there are none. There will need to be a change in documents as it relates to the number of Directors, as CGJA has a maximum of 9 in their by-laws, while GJAOC currently has 11. This may require an adjustment at their end.

Marcia noted that if we should want to proceed, a first meeting with Larry Herbst regarding by-law tweaks would be the first step and then a request to join which would need to be approved by the Board at CGJA. She noted that our by-laws do not have to be in step with the sample version on their website. This document template was posted to provide a sample for those who were looking to join but did not apply to an organization such as ours which has been in existence for over 50 years.

Roll Call: Members Present in Person – Lynn, Ken, Lisa, Greg, Chris E. Lynette, Chris P.

Members Present via Zoom – Karen, Terri, John, Doug (Recording Secretary)

Guests Present – Alf Lyle, Joe Barret, Bill Underwood, Marcia Caranci (for the pre-meeting discussion only)

Approval of Minutes for January 8, 2026

.Minutes from the January 8th meeting were approved by consensus.

Membership Report – Greg Tettermer

Greg reported minor adjustments to membership. He stated that we have 189 members, with 64 currently paying dues, this is the same number as last year. (See attachment at the end of minutes)

Treasurer's Report – Ken Blake

Ken provided a proposed budget for 2026. He stated that he has cancelled the credit card machine as usage does not justify cost. There needs to be notification to members along with luncheon announcements that payment will be by cash or check. Lynn commented that there is an ATM in the lobby of the Elks Club if Association members need cash. The recent donation to Orangewood Foundation is noted under the Recognition Committee line item.

There was discussion about the budget and the line item for Conference Costs. It was agreed that \$1,000 per person attending was workable given hotel and travel expenses.

Terri inquired about adding more funds to the Recognition Awards line item. She would like to have \$500 awarded at the March luncheon. There was discussion about the recent food donation to Orangewood Foundation, which was also \$500, but this was an emergency gift to tide them through some difficulties with the SNAP program. It was noted that in the past, financial awards were only \$300, but that was under different circumstances and multiple organizations being recognized.

Terri would like to have a certificate and a check for \$500 for Orangewood Foundation when they are recognized at the March luncheon. Karen made a motion to approve this which was seconded by Terri and passed by consensus. (See attached Budget at the end of minutes)

Programs Report – Chris Evans

Chris reported that the speaker for the March luncheon will be someone from Orangewood, but he needs the speakers name. The menu is ready, so once the speakers name is known, this information can be passed on to Greg for the website.

It was noted that we can tour Orangewood, either as a group or as individuals.

Alf inquired about funding and internship with the local media and there was discussion, but Alf's audio was intermittent, so trying to get a clear understanding of what he was asking was difficult. The gist was that GJAOC would provide funds to Voice of Orange County so they, as the employer, could set up this intern program. It was asked that this subject be moved to the next Board meeting under New Business, and to inquire with VOC if this is something they are even interested in.

Committee Reports

A. Measure M/OC Go – Bill Underwood

Bill reported that he and John Moohr met with OCTA in preparation for moving forward with the next recruitment for TOC. He noted three items.

- 1, The old name for this program O.C. Go is gone. It has reverted back to the old name of Measure M.
2. For the upcoming recruitment, one new member is needed for two districts. Advertising will run from February through April and then interviews will begin in May. The same five members of the interview board will the same this year.
3. Past advertising for TOC was in the L.A. Times and O.C. Reister, but results were very poor. Current advertising will include ads in Westway's magazine, and digital advertising.

Bill noted that in the past there were some problems with how GJAOC was paid for this service and going forward the method will be ETF once the candidates have been announced in July.

B. Recognition Committee – Terri Elders

Terri reported that they had met. Someone from Programs needs to reach out to Orangewood Foundation for the name of the speaker, pass that information onto Greg, and ask them to bring literature about the organization.

Karen noted that GJAOC is only recognizing one group this year. Maybe going forward we can consider two for next year?

There was a question as to whether a 501 can give donations to another 501, but it seems that this is OK.

New Business

Recruitment

Doug reported that since October 6, 2025, there have been 41 presentations to 835 Petit Jury panels, with 711 fliers passed out. He has also had opportunities to speak at a Toastmasters meeting in Costa Mesa, and to the Huntington Beach Coordinating Council, a group comprised of local volunteers, churches and non-profits working in the local area.

Chris Pounds noted that he will be working on Social Media and would like to have some time at the next meeting to talk more about this. He also noted that Feb 6th is the first orientation for next year's Grand Jury. Attend if you can.

Final Comments

Greg wanted everyone to think about what was proposed about joining CGJA and we could decide this at our next meeting. Also, he would really like someone to help him as a back up. With all the website work and other responsibilities, he would like to have someone there to help with this work.

The meeting adjourned at 2:22 PM.

Membership Data	Number
Category	
Historical master member list	236
Current master member list (includes staff & 4 new current GJ members)	189
Dues paid for 2025-26 (includes free dues 24-25 GJ) Also 1 person paid for 26-27	64
In Newsletter email list (Includes 3 staff) Hailey, Debbie, Kostas	186
In Luncheon email list (Includes 6 staff) Hailey, Debbie, Kostas, Joyce, Judges Hanson & Hernandez	189
Attended December 2025 luncheon (includes 1 speaker, 3 guests, 9 GJ)	48
Members who have attended at least 1 luncheon in last 12	101
Members who have attended no luncheons in last 12	112

Grand Jurors' Association of Orange County Financial Statements For 2020-2025 & 2026 Budget

	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	Budget 2026
INCOME						
Luncheon Income	\$ 2,445.00	\$ 4,000.00	5,230.00	4,195.00	4,255.00	4,400.00
Measure M Income	6,000.00	6,000.00	6,000.00	6,500.00	6,500.00	6,500.00
Membership Dues	140.00	900.00	1,460.00	760.00	860.00	900.00
Interest Income	60.06	30.00	460.46	884.94	817.99	750.00
Total Income	\$ 8,645.06	\$ 10,930.00	13,150.46	12,339.94	12,432.99	12,550.00
EXPENSE						
Luncheon Expense	\$ 6,667.88	\$ 5,200.00	9,888.45	8,155.36	8,438.85	9,000.00
Measure M Expense	0	0	0	1,089.80	0.00	1,000.00
Membership Expense	445.94	500.00	894.81	494.27	422.96	500.00
Badges/Bus Cards/Conf.	0	0	1,172.92		1,310.87	1,000.00
Newsletter/Web Expense	125.39	200.00	334.60	199.84	327.90	360.00
Recognition Awards			1,000.00	750.00	982.84	1,000.00
Recruiting Expenses	0	200.00	458.98	255.46	0.00	240.00
Association Expenses	553.90	500.00	1,007.19	806.00	520.83	900.00
Total Expense	\$ 7,793.11	\$ 6,600.00	14,756.95	11,750.73	12,004.25	14,000.00
Net Income	\$ 851.95	\$ 4,330.00	-1,606.49	589.21	428.74	-1,450.00
Assets						
Luncheon Change			25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00
Checking Account:	\$ 18,738.11	\$ 23,068.11	6,529.95	7,571.91	7,182.66	4,982.66
CD:	\$ 9,578.10	\$ 9,600.00	20,446.36	19,993.61	20,811.60	21,561.60
Net Cash Assets:	\$ 28,316.21	\$ 32,668.11	27,001.31	27,590.52	28,019.26	26,569.26

Luncheon Expense—total cost for 4 luncheons each year.

Measure M Expense—costs for copies and processing applications each year.

Membership Expense—invoices submitted by members for Board expenses.

Badges/Bus. Cards/Conf—Pins for Grand Jury members; Bus Cards for Board; Calif GJA Mtg

Newsletter/Web Expense—printing and mailing newsletter and expenses to maintain our Web site.

Recruiting Expenses—producing and distributing recruitment materials.

Association Expenses—expenses for office supplies, government filing fees.