



**Approved Minutes  
Chapter Meeting on September 18, 2008  
Marin Joe's – Corte Madera**

1. **Convene Meeting:** President McKown called the meeting to order at 10:05am.
2. **Guest Speaker:** Margie Eller from The League of Women Voters presented a comprehensive review and analysis of the various Marin-related measures on the November 4, 2008, general election ballot, including the pro and con arguments in favor of and against such measures and the identity of persons and organizations who do and don't support the measures. Ms. Eller also provided a Q & A.
3. **Quorum Present:** Secretary Hern confirmed that a quorum was present to conduct the business portion of the meeting, which commenced at 11:10am.
4. **Announcements:** Congratulations were extended to Betty Mattea for receiving CGJA's coveted Angelo Rolando Memorial for outstanding service at the local and state level; she will receive the award at the CGJA annual Conference in October. Members were encouraged to vote for Bernie Bolger and Joann Landi in the upcoming election of CGJA Board directors. Mattea encouraged all Members to attend the annual CGJA Conference October 23-24, 2008 and to take the Amtrak train with fellow colleagues to Bakersfield on October 22. McKown encouraged Members to visit the Chihouly blown glass exhibit at the DeYoung Museum in SF.
5. **President's Remarks:** McKown extended thanks to Lowell Smith for arranging the LoWV speaker and to Hern for arranging the venue at Marin Joe's. She further reported that the MC-CGJA Board has met several times already in this new Chapter year and has exciting plans to reenergize the Chapter and to support the Chapter's successful track record with CGJA. McKown encouraged all present to get involved in the Chapter by signing up for Committee and other volunteer service. She further noted that Jeff Skov, current foreperson of the Grand Jury, reports that the sitting Grand Jury has seated 3 alternates on the panel and that the Orientation & Training provided to the new Jury in July was a great success. She reiterated Mattea's encouragement that Marin Chapter Members consider attending the CGJA Conference in Bakersfield which will be more interactive than in prior years. McKown concluded that the Chapter's success will be influenced by greater Member participation and asked all to contribute ideas for meeting venues, Chapter activities, and NewsPage contributions (to be sent to Sterling Harwell, Editor at: [sharwell@sbcglobal.net](mailto:sharwell@sbcglobal.net)) She thanked Gene Dyer for posting the meeting announcement during Harwell's recent absence while working on the expansion project of the canal in Panama. She encouraged Members to sign-up to join one or more committees on a sheet that was passed around the room.

6. **Board Member Reports:** Treasurer Taranto announced the \$5,000+ balance in the Membership coffers and indicated a budget would be proposed to the Membership for approval at the October meeting.

7. **Work Plan/Committees:** Mattea announced that the October 16 Membership meeting would be preceded by a tour of the Buck Institute for Age Research in Novato. All who wish to attend must confirm four days in advance, given the security restrictions to visit the I.M. Pei-designed building. Contact McKown at [cdmac1@aol.com](mailto:cdmac1@aol.com) or (415) 383-5262. She will e-mail an announcement of the meeting and directions to all Members.

Hern reported the upcoming activities of the Bylaws & Policies Committee to update and streamline the Bylaws (from Sept. 2005) and Policies (from May 2007), and encouraged Members to join the Committee, citing that Committee meetings would be held at her home in Tiburon with wine and cheese to make the meetings more lively.

Dyer reported for the Communications Technology Committee that we have a new ISP address for our website, and the Committee is offering computer training to the sitting Grand Jury and to Chapter Members. Taranto announced that in order for the Chapter to improve public outreach and training presentations, the Chapter recently purchased a projector for \$613 (which retailed for \$800) that the Members will be asked to approve in October. Lacking approval, either Taranto or McKown will reimburse the Chapter and take ownership of the projector.

Layne reported for the Continuity Committee that although the Committee has not yet formally met, he and Hern have provided support to the sitting Grand Jury by providing a Template for Tracking and Publishing Responses from Report respondents and by meeting with the new Foreperson to assist in the organization of the Grand Jury Continuity Committee. The Committee will develop a work plan with action items for assisting the Grand Jury in several ways, including arranging work sessions with the lead authors of prior Grand Jury reports to help assess (1) the responsiveness and thoroughness of official responses to GJ reports, and (2) the need for further follow up with official respondents. Layne further indicated that the Committee intends to build a data base to infinitize reports and responses and more easily view what impacts the reports and responses have had in Marin.

Layne also noted for the Excellence in Reporting Committee that its charter includes bringing Marin Grand Jury reports to CGJA's attention for their statewide report awards program and to fashion a similar awards/recognition program in Marin (i.e., to recognize former GJ committees' work on reports.)

Haxton summarized the Elections Committee's responsibilities and encouraged participation from at least 2 volunteers to develop a slate of 4 directors/officers and 3 at-large directors each January for the May Board election.

Mattea reported as acting Chair of the Membership Committee that the Committee intends to develop a Welcome Packet to encourage former grand jurors to join the Chapter and CGJA, as well as to maintain Membership. The Membership drive will include a review of the list of former Marin grand jurors back to 1980, and solicitation of over 200 former

jurors by the President with thanks for past service and encouragement to join the Chapter and CGJA.

McKown noted for the 10-Member Orientation & Training Committee has met and that its goals include training the incoming Grand Jury every July and overhauling the Marin County Grand Jury Training Manual (through a Subcommittee, which will begin its work in October when Harwell returns from travels). Members were invited to sign-up for the committee. The Committee is requesting a budget of \$24 for Grand Jury snacks at the July sessions and for printing costs for thank-you's to outside trainers (i.e., other than current director trainers McKown, Hern, Robinson, Gross and Layne.)

Rick White commented on the potential for a Public Issues Committee and encouraged Members to sign up to discuss the feasibility of such a Committee, whereby former Grand Jurors with varied perspectives might identify potential issues of interest for future Grand Juries to examine. White has offered to chair the Committee, and the Committee's work might include interviewing Marin citizens for topics of concern as well as advising how complaints to the Grand Jury might be addressed. A caution is that the Committee should not and will not become a "shadow" Grand Jury but rather an educational tool for broadcasting issues of concern. Eleven Members signed on to form this committee.

Carolyn Burwell noted that soliciting citizenry to sign up for Grand Jury service is the charge of the Public Outreach Committee, and she emphasized that a focus (per the Court) is to increase diversity in the pool of applicants for GJ service. The Committee's first meeting will be on Sept. 23 at Burwell's home in Mill Valley, and monthly meetings will follow. In recruitment efforts the Committee will use the projector purchased by the Chapter, and Burwell encouraged all Members to join the Committee's efforts as either a Member or a speaker. The Committee has requested a budget of \$50.

Robinson reported on the Social Committee's efforts to arrange for snacks at Membership meetings, plan a 10-year Anniversary celebration for the Chapter, and plan inexpensive social activities for the Chapter outside of Membership meetings. In polling those present, Robinson confirmed that (a) not many Members feel snacks are necessary at Member meetings, (b) the preferred expense for an anniversary party would be under \$50 per person and held in a month other than May when the reunion luncheon occurs, and (c) outside social events are desired. Robinson asked all to join the Committee and encouraged all to bring ideas to meetings for social events, or to contact her by email. The Committee is requesting an annual budget of \$665 to carry out the various social activities.

8. **New Business:** The Membership voted unanimously to approve recommending to CGJA changing the name of the CGJA Lifetime Achievement Award to the Jack Zepp Lifetime Achievement Award.

9. **Miscellaneous and Good of the Order:** McKown confirmed an annual budget will be brought to the Members for approval at the October 16 meeting.

10. **Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned to a lunch session at 12:10pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Karin Hern, Secretary of the MC-CGJA Board of Directors