



Membership Meeting of the Marin Chapter of CGJA

Approved Minutes

October 16, 2008 – Buck Institute in Novato

1. **Convene Meeting:** President McKown called the meeting to order at 10:25 a.m. to commence the tour of the Buck Institute for Age Research.
2. **Quorum Present:** Secretary Hern confirmed that a quorum was present to conduct the business portion of the meeting, which reconvened at 11:55 a.m.
3. **Tour:** (no minutes).
4. **Announcements:** McKown confirmed that Marin's Bernie Bolger won a seat on the CGJA Board of Directors in the recent election.
5. **Grand Jury Report:** Hern very briefly summarized that the GJ issued a Report finding that Measure B is appropriate to consolidate the County positions of the Auditor-Controller and Treasurer-Tax Collector and establish an appointable Director of Finance.
6. **President's Remarks:** McKown extended thanks to Lowell Smith for arranging the Buck Institute tour; reminded all that Betty Mattea will be conferred the Rolando Angelo Lifetime Achievement Award at the CGJA Annual Conference in Bakersfield; announced the new court website address as www.marincourt.org, which has links to the GJ website with NewsPage prepared by Director Harwell; and encouraged all members to join committees, including the proposed Public Issues Committee.
7. **Board Members' Remarks/Reports:** Treasurer Taranto announced the \$5,608.41 balance in the Membership coffers; Hern requested and the Members approved the Minutes of the Sept. 18, 2008, Membership meeting.
8. **Proposed Budget:** McKown presented the proposed budget for approval. Hern moved to amend and then approve the budget as presented with the addition of another \$300 for the 10th Anniversary celebration, and the budget, as amended, was passed unanimously. Layne announced that the members were invited to have lunch following today's adjournment at Sam's Roadhouse at 271 Alameda del Prado in Novato.
9. **Work Plan/Committees:** Mattea announced that the November 20 Membership meeting, with the Presiding Judge and Court CEO as speakers, would be held in the Planning Commission chambers at the Civic Center at 10:00 a.m.

Hern reported that the Bylaws Committee hopes to meet before the end of October.

Dyer reported for the Communications/Technology Committee (C/T) that more sitting Grand Jurors have received computer training; that 3 e-mail lists exist, listing the C/T Committee, the Social Committee and the Membership Committee; that Owen Haxton is trying to compile a full list of past members back to the Chapter's inception.

Layne reported for the Continuity Committee that the Committee will meet soon; that he is working with members of the immediate past and current sitting juries regarding the

quality of Reports and the need for feedback on Responses to Reports to (a) create “institutional knowledge” that might assist future juries in identifying investigative issues, and (b) help the EIR (Excellence in Reporting) Committee to identify reports deserving recognition or award, with Hern/McKown/Bolger following up with CGJA re. award criteria; that the Committee will look at San Diego County’s highly successful Continuity program.

Mattea reported that the Membership Committee is developing the Welcome Packet and the list of former Marin grand jurors back to 1980 to solicit over 200 former jurors to join the Chapter and become active; that the Committee needs a Chair and Trish Hibben and Ted Freeman might co-chair.

McKown noted for the Orientation & Training Committee that it will meet in January 2009 to start planning the July training, but the Marin GJ Training Manual revision will soon commence when Harwell becomes available, with Wes Huss joining that effort.

Hern commented that the potential Public Issues Committee will meet in November to discuss and perhaps draft its charter.

Carolyn Burwell noted that the Public Outreach Committee will meet next week and examine ways to increase diversity in the pool of applicants to the GJ and solicit speakers for juror recruitment; that speaker materials would be developed and appointments with community groups would start in Feb./March 2009 with a view to a successful recruitment in April; and encouraged all members to join the Committee’s efforts as either a member or a speaker and bring ideas of how to cater to working people (with the Committee looking at how SF and LA do so.)

Robinson reported on the Social Committee’s efforts with a focus on finding affordable venues and activities for the Anniversary party and other member events, including rental of buildings and/or using restaurants or private homes, with varying ideas about food (dinner or lunch or hors d’ oeuvres) and wine/cocktails, and a silent auction and/or raffle; she encouraged all with ideas to email her, and to hold February 21, 2009, at present for the Anniversary party (subject to Board approval), and stay tuned for announcement of a Christmas party in a private home.

10. **New Business:** None.

11. **Miscellaneous and Good of the Order:** Taranto confirmed the operating manual for the purchased projector may be found at www.users.taranto.com/guide.pdf

12. **Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 12:43 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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