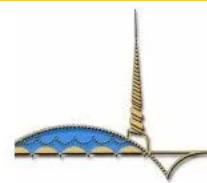




Marin Chapter California Grand Jurors' Association



September Newsletter

THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER:

By Larry Bauer

Thanks for having eyes on our inaugural issue of the MCCGJA Newsletter. It is being created to bring you information about chapter activities, opportunities for members to get involved, maybe a bit of entertainment, and a way to get questions answered. I hope that together we can pursue our goal of making Marin governance better for its citizens.

I am drafting this following the first Board meeting of my tenure as President. The two-hour Zoom meeting, attended by 19, proceeded pretty smoothly with only about a dozen "your mike is on mute"s needed. The attendees were comprised mostly of well-recognized faces with only a smattering of newer members, a couple from the sitting jury. The time was consumed by discussions of major issues, primarily the recruitment of next year's jury.

Following the basic agenda I addressed the State of the Chapter which in a word is unsatisfactory. Several of the video pictures on the Zoom gallery were occupied by committee chairpersons who have expressed a desire to reduce their commitment or resign altogether. I found another on screen when I read my e-mail after the meeting. Believe me that their service over a number of years has been exemplary but time marches on.

To wrap up my presentation to the Board I cited my assessment



HELP WANTED

A number of standing committee positions open ranging from administrative, to training, to outreach. No experience necessary because of on-the-job training. Good companionship, short hours, reward - satisfaction of job well done, appreciative customer.

QUESTIONNAIRE:

What kind of activity intrigues you the most when you consider your relationship with the Chapter? (More than one OK)

- a) Research: Best practices; County issues eg Climate change, Mental health etc.
- b) Recruiting
- c) Training
- d) Charity engagement with other NGO's
- e) Analysis: study of various metrics for trends and improvements
- f) Recreation: Golf; Tennis; Cycling; Hiking; etc
- g) Intellectual e.g. book club
- h) Jury report implementation
- i) Other

Send your choices to
ltbauer1gj@gmail.com



that the major problem for the Chapter derived from the fact that the three major tasks performed over the year, recruitment, selection, and training required only a small portion of the Chapter's resources leaving little to interest the others. To address this issue, I made a motion, unanimously approved, to create a Brain Trust team to imagine ancillary efforts that support our main mission. I would like to encourage each of you to consider the opportunity afforded by the vacancies. For the Brain Trust, out-of-the-box thinking is a plus. I invite you to become part of the team that has served this County well and, I hope, will for years to come. Contact me at ltbauer1gj@gmail.com. I had some further thoughts when I do my thinking about 3AM. I was concerned that the report might be too negative. In spite of our problems, we have seated extremely competent juries in the past few years. They have investigated very important issues and arrived at findings and recommendations that were accepted and implemented. One jury report won a coveted award from our parent organization.

I believe we will continue to perform at that level. Also, it occurs to me about expanding our horizons. Recent articles in major media highlight the success of local organizations in improving conditions despite the wrangling at the state and federal level. If you think about it, ex jurors in Marin possess experience, knowledge, and motivation to assist in the selection and solution of some of the County's significant problems. Wouldn't it be fun to try?