

MCCGJA Board of Directors Meeting

May 20, 2024, 1:30 pm, Civic Center Room 410B

FINAL minutes - revised 6/8/24

Attendees: President Janeko Bower, Vice President Spencer Sias, Secretary Scott Smith, Tom Borden, Tom Gannon, Larry Bauer, Penny Moreci, Dave Bonfilio, David Henry, Brad Sharp, Bernie Samet, Rod Kerr, Trish Barrett, Deborah Haase, Diana Lopez

1. Meeting was called to order at 1:35 pm.
2. Introductions were made.
3. Minutes of the April 15, 2024 meeting were approved,
 - a. An addition to these minutes stating that “MCCGJA”, “the Chapter” and “Marin Chapter, CGJA” as listed in the bylaws, and domain name “MCCGJA.org” will not be changed with the Chapter’s name change was moved, seconded and approved unanimously.
4. Kevin was absent and so no financial report was given
 - a. Janeko reported that Kevin is submitting the 2024 recruiting reimbursement invoice to the Court.
 - b. Spencer reported that he has not yet purchased signage, so it is not included in this reimbursement.
 - c. Dave Henry reported that the sign he posted at Strawberry was removed by unknown persons, along with many other signs at that location.
 - d. Tom Borden reported that the Chapter incurred about \$500 in reproduction costs for interview packets. These costs were included in the amount Kevin will invoice.
5. Dues update:
 - a. Janeko discussed issues with the autopay option in Paypal. It doesn’t support annual renewals on July 1. It does allow for automatic renewal on their anniversary date.
 - b. Diana asked how many members there are: 120, with 70 of them being lifetime members.
 - c. Janeko discussed the concept of adversity grants for those for whom the dues present financial hardship. Dave said the board would consider these case by case, if needed. A “dues waiver request” will be on the website.
 - d. Moved by Spencer and seconded by Scott to adopt the revised dues structure of \$50 per year, with annual renewal required on July 1, with automatic life membership after 10 years of dues payment, and a dues waiver offer clarifying item 5b. of the March 11, 2024 minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

6. Bylaws Amendments

- a. Janeko discussed the proposed amendment received from Michele Manos regarding jury diversity.
 - i. Questions were raised about why gender parity was called out as “first and foremost” priority.
 - ii. Deborah moved to table this amendment and raise it for discussion at the next Board meeting. Brad seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
 1. Deborah clarified that this amendment is being considered by the Board, not the full membership as a result of it being proposed by a director following the April Board meeting.
 - iii. Deborah discussed the bylaws amendment process, and a possible future revision to lengthen time for the board to decide on a member’s amendment proposal and for this to be discussed at a future meeting.
- b. Janeko discussed the Chapter name change being driven by the State and the CGJA instructions needed before its revision in the bylaws.

7. Nomination of Officers for 2024-2025

- a. Scott reported on email nominations received to date:
 - i. Spencer Sias–President
 - ii. Pat Shepherd–Vice President
 - iii. Kevin Hagerty–Treasurer
 - iv. Trish Barrett–Secretary
- b. No other nominations were made during today’s meeting.
- c. Scott will send a reminder about email nominations before the June 1 deadline.

8. Committee Updates:

- a. Outreach/Recruitment
 - i. Spencer reported that 91 applicants were received.
 - ii. Tom Gannon has agreed to chair the recruitment committee next year.
 - iii. The process will start with a debrief on this year’s recruitment in September, and include an earlier start on outreach.
 - iv. Recruiting a diverse jury will continue to be a priority.
- b. Selection
 - i. This year County Counsel made all contacts directly with applicants to schedule interviews.
 - ii. The informational webinar with applicants was canceled since the Chapter did not have their contact information. Janeko sent a link to last year’s webinar to County Counsel; this was then shared with applicants.
 - iii. Brad noted that interviewers are not calling candidates the night before their interviews since there is no contact information; this may be leading to more no shows than in past years, and to less effective interviews.

- iv. Current alternates were assigned interviews, although the agreement with Judge Talamantes (and prior years' judges) was that they would not need to.
- v. Janeko has suggested a meeting with the County Counsel and the Court to resolve roles and responsibilities for future years. She will follow up with Renee Brewer to see when this meeting is happening.
- vi. Tom suggested a meeting with Judge Talamantes to debrief on this year's selection prior to that meeting.
- vii. Tom made and Brad seconded a motion that current alternate juror Raoul McDuff be excused from his interview on Thursday in accordance with the policy set by the selection committee and presiding judge. Motion passed 6-2, with one abstaining.

c. Social

- i. The annual membership meeting is scheduled for June 20 at lunchtime at the Club at McInnis. Lydia Roberts is the guest speaker. Invitations have been sent out, and 8 have accepted already.
- ii. The annual reception for the incoming and outgoing juries will be July 18, from 4-6 pm at the Club and McInnis.
- iii. Brad procured two sign stands for recruiting activities.

9. Deborah recognized Janeko's service as President for this term.

10. Meeting adjourned at 2:38 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Scott Smith, Secretary