

Marin Civil Grand Jury News

Join Us for a Wine Tasting

- Wine Tasting with the Jurors -

Join us this **Thursday, October 17, at 4:00 PM** at Trek Winery at 1026 Machin Ave. in Novato. All past jurors invited. \$20 fee at the door.

Please RSVP to: social@mccgja.org

President's Message

Spencer Sias (2019-22)

Welcome to the first edition of *Marin Civil Grand Jury News*, a quarterly newsletter for the membership of the Marin Civil Grand Jurors' Association.

Future editions of this publication will update you on jury news, chapter events, volunteer opportunities, and other matters.

We're off to a good start this year, having helped the Marin County Superior Court to recruit, select, and train Marin's 2024-25 civil grand jury.

More than 25 chapter members joined this effort and we thank all of them. Planning for recruiting and selection of the 2025-26 jury has started under the leadership of Tom Gannon (2021-23) and Pat Shepherd (2021-23), and Mara Perez (2022-24) is leading our ongoing diversity initiative to continue to increase and maintain diversity among the applicants for the jury.

The current jury, which includes representatives of Marin's African American and Hispanic communities, is composed of 10 men and 9 women.

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Congratulations To Marin's 2023-24 Civil Grand Jury

This hardworking jury released 11 reports, including important follow-ups on government responses to previous reports and recommendations issued by our 2022-23 civil grand jury.

Topics covered by the 2023-24 jury ranged from sea level rise, to services for seniors, county detention facilities, spending controls, cyber security, E-bike safety, special education counseling, school supplies, and public spending on preserving Marin's agricultural lands.

These reports were publicized by Marin's Independent Journal in front page articles with numerous mentions in follow-up stories and opinion pieces.

"The 2023-24 jury produced high-quality reports on relevant topics with sound recommendations that should lead to lasting improvements in our local governments," said Spencer Sias, President, Marin Chapter, CGJA. "Our chapter is proud to have helped to recruit, select, and train this jury."

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

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Dave Bonfilio (2019-20) is building a training team and new materials that will inform the next jury about the unique characteristics of Marin's more than 125 local governments and how past juries have organized themselves. Chapter Treasurer Kevin Hagerty (2013-14) has been joined by Scott Smith (2021-22) as Assistant Treasurer, and the board has adopted a new line-item budget for tracking our finances. Dave Henry (2016-17) is driving membership operations including dues, donations, and communications.

With the work of Brad Sharp (2021-22) and his social committee, the chapter is holding more membership events, including the upcoming wine tasting from 4 to 6 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 17 at the Trek Winery, 1026 Machin Ave. in Novato. We're hoping to see representatives from all of Marin's civil grand juries at this and future events.

Please stay tuned for more events and volunteer opportunities to support Marin's Civil Grand Jury. Marin has always had excellent civil grand juries, and with your help the chapter plays a big role in setting up our juries for success. We thank you for your support.

Share Your Experience

Can you remember how you felt when your investigations were complete and your first report was released? Did the media cover it and were your recommendations followed? Please tell us about it. We'd like to share your experience with new recruits.

Email your thoughts to: membership@mccgja.org

CGJA Annual Conference Register Now!



Registration for the CGJA Annual Conference, where **the Honorable Leon Panetta**, 23rd Secretary of Defense and former Director of the Central Intelligence Agency, will be the keynote speaker, is open until this Thursday, Oct. 17.

The conference on "Harnessing the Power of Civic Engagement" takes place from 1 p.m. on Sunday Oct. 20th to noon on Monday, Oct. 21st at the Embassy Suites in Monterey. Mr. Panetta will speak on Monday at 8:45 am on "The Value of Public Service."

Registration, which is required for attendance, can be completed online at: <https://cgja.org/annual-conference-form/>

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Civil Grand Jury In The News

The Marin County Civil Grand Jury continues to exert positive influence on how Marin's local governments operate. Click on the following link on the chapter website to see our **In The News** page and access published articles on the activities and reports of Marin's Civil Grand Jury.

<https://mccgja.org/the-grand-jury/in-the-news/>

New Chapter Name

We are now called:

Marin Chapter, Civil Grand Jurors' Association of California.

On April 15th the board voted to change the Chapter's name to reflect the state association's recently updated legal name to the Civil Grand Jurors' Association of California (CGJA). The name was changed to reduce public confusion about civil and criminal grand juries.

We will continue being referred to as Marin Chapter, CGJA, or MCCGJA as stated in the bylaws, and we will continue to use our domain name: mccgja.org

Help Wanted:

As a past juror, you understand the joys, frustrations and commitment involved in civil grand jury service.

The easiest way to help is to educate community members about the jury. Talk and answer questions. Encourage them to apply.

Apply to serve at:

<https://www.marincounty.gov/departments/grand-jury>

The Marin Chapter, Civil Grand Jurors' Association of California is a non-profit organization composed of current and past members of the Marin County Civil Grand Jury. The chapter's purpose is to support the civil grand jury by helping the Marin County Superior Court to recruit, select, and train new jurors.

Find us at:

Public website: mccgja.org

Members page: mccgja.org/members-home-page/

Renewal Membership page: mccgja.org/members-home-page/mccgja-membership-renewal/

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