



# MINUTES - GENERAL MEETING

February 6, 2014 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM



Marin Civic Center **(Room 410-B)**

Marin Civic Center 3501 Civic Center Drive, San Rafael, CA 94903

1. Convene Meeting 9:00 am
  - a. Mike convened the meeting at 9:00 a.m.
2. Roll Call
  - a. Attendees: Linda Glasscock, Michael Chernock, Mary Jean Boyden, Stephen Gach, Jim Murad, Owen Haxton, Rich Treadgold, Gene Dyer, Dennis Brown, Nadine Muller, Brant Miller
3. Review/Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes
  - a. The minutes from the December meeting were approved.
4. Review/Approval of Financial Report
  - a. There have been no deposits or withdrawals from the Chapter's bank account. The bank account balance is \$7,129.38.
5. President's Comments
  - a. For the remainder of the year the meetings will be on the second Thursday in Room 410-B.
  - b. Mike attended the Napa Chapter meeting. The MC-CGJA Chapter approved a \$100 donation to the Bill Trautman Fund to support CGJA training costs.
  - c. The Regional meeting was held on February 1, 2014. The main topic was Communications. There were 23 in attendance from 10 different counties. Placer, San Joaquin, and Sacramento counties were in attendance. Trisa L. Martinez, Judicial Secretary/Grand Jury Staff Secretary Superior Court of California, County of San Joaquin wants to start a recruiting and orientation program in San Joaquin for new jurors and asked for advice and counsel.
  - d. Main Topic Reviews: Mike is going to schedule these reviews in next month or so. Mike will ask Catherine McKown to talk to the Chapter about training. Catherine is also setting up an open meeting to talk about training for the next Grand Jury.
  - e. Brent Ainsworth is the Public Information Officer for County. He was a reporter for the IJ. Can he be helpful to reach media in support of Grand Jury? Most think that reporters are just too busy to get any more attention to Grand Jury? Brent may also have a conflict of interest as he works for the Board of Supervisors.
  - f. The Restorative Justice GJ reports are being used but Mike does not expect any thanks from the powers that be.
6. Officer's General Remarks/Reports – None



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## 7. Committee Remarks/Reports

### a. Communications Technology Committee

- i. **Web Update:** Gene reported that he is trying a new program for the Newsletter. He requested \$50.00 to cover the cost of the program. – APPROVED. When the next newsletter is posted please give Gene your feedback.
- ii. **The Communication Committee is responsible for the voting process for the upcoming election. Gene proposed the following amendment to our by-laws. The exact wording will be determined by the membership and will be voted on at the next meeting.**

#### PROPOSED CHANGE TO ARTICLE 11 OF THE MCCGJA BY-LAWS

By Gene Dyer February 6, 2014

Our By-Laws are established by the draft example presented by the CGJA on their web site for Membership driven Chapters – with the proviso that certain sections can be changed by the Chapter.

The intention in the CGJA guidelines is clearly stated in their draft Article 11 that “By-Laws may be amended by **two-thirds of the Chapter Members present and voting.**”

In March of 2010 our Chapter voted to change Article 11 to also allow voting by mail or e-mail so that members did not have to be present at the meeting to have their vote counted.

Perhaps inadvertently, the voting requirements wording was also changed to the following “**...shall be approved if at least two-thirds (2/3) of the Active Members vote for it.**”

The result is that any member who abstained, or whose address had changed so that the ballot did not reach him, or who merely did not respond to a ballot, would effectively be counted as a negative vote.

In the belief that we should be self governed by those of us who take the time to be up to date and to vote on any properly submitted amendment, and that we should not be held back by those choosing not to vote, I am raising this as an issue worthy of a vote to change the voting procedure currently embodied in Article 11.

In accordance with Article 11 of the MCCGJA By-Laws, I am hereby submitting the following proposal to amend the By-Laws in accordance with the following. (I will also be sending this proposal to all Active Members so that the President can place it on the Agenda for the March 2014 meeting where, if it is approved, I will be pleased to be part of the required election committee who will send it to all Active Members for a vote.)

The proposed change is to revise the third paragraph of Article 11, to read as follows:

“Any amendment proposed by an Active Member pursuant to this Article 11 shall be approved if at least **two-thirds (2/3) of the Active Members voting vote to approve of it. Abstentions or failure to vote will not be counted in the vote tally.**”

It is further suggested that the ballot be sent by e-mail. The 2 active members who do not have an e-mail address listed will be sent a ballot by regular mail.

It is further proposed that the deadline for tallying the vote be no earlier than 60 days after the ballot has been issued to allow time for reminders to be sent to those who have not yet voted.

### b. Bylaws and Policies and Procedures Committee –None

### c. Continuity Committee

- i. **Rich Treadgold reported that the IRG process is almost finalized. IRG will do an initial investigation of responses and send information to the seated Grand Jury. If after review of the responses, the IRG may initiate a Request for Investigation**



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to the seated Grand Jury. Rich will be invited to a future Regional meeting to discuss the IRG process.

- d. Outreach Recruiting-None
- e. Social Committee - None
- f. Membership Review
  - i. Owen proposed a change to the Membership policy that was previously approved by the Chapter. The previous policy had an end date. Owen proposed that the policy be rewritten with no end date. This was APPROVED by the Chapter.
  - ii. Owen suggested some ways to account for and protect the long term membership money in the Chapter account. Mike will take these suggestions to Sharon Hunter, Treasurer and get her input and suggestions on how to proceed.
  - iii. Owen proposed a project for the MC-CGJA that supports Article 3, Section 1 of the Chapter Bylaws. "This Chapter will use its best efforts to undertake an annual project mutually agreeable to the Chapter and CGJA." The proposed project description is: In an effort to increase the number of CGJA members residing within Marin County the Chapter proposed that the Chapter and the CGJA agree to conduct an effort from May 1, 2014 to a date established as the last date a veteran or current Regular Grand Juror may join CGJA and be eligible to vote in the 2014 fall election or members to the CGJA Board of Directors. This was APPROVED by the Chapter.

## 8. New Business

- a. Nadine met with Judge D'Opal. The Judge wants to see more outreach to Latino and African Americans in outreach and recruiting. It was suggested that the seated Grand Jury bring in leaders from the Latino and African American community to see what could be done in this regard.

## 9. Topic of the day: Review of program to recruit board candidates for 2014-2015

## 10. Miscellaneous - for the Good of the Order

**Good leaders learn to swallow when they want to spit!**

## 11. Adjournment

- a. The meeting was adjourned at 10:45 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Linda Glasscock, Secretary