

San Joaquin County Chapter – CGJA

San Joaquin County Chapter



Civil Grand Jurors' Association
of California

ANNUAL REPORT

2023-2024

2023-2024 Annual Report
**San Joaquin County Chapter of the
Civil Grand Jurors' Association (CGJA) of California**

“Citizens for Positive and Ethical Government”

Chapter Mission Statement:

“A Voice for Accountability in Government in Support of the Civil Grand Jury through Advocacy, Education and Communication”

Chapter Purpose and Goals:

The purpose of the San Joaquin County Chapter of the Civil Grand Jurors' Association of California is to tell the story of the Civil Grand Jury and to support the efforts of each year's Civil Grand Jury.

- To accomplish this purpose, our Chapter will endeavor to:
 - Provide citizens of San Joaquin County with information on the Grand Jury system and its importance and benefit to the well-being of the community,
 - Assist in recruiting qualified candidates who are representative of the community for membership on the Grand Jury,
 - Work with the Court to provide support and training to each current Grand Jury, sharing our experiences and lessons we have learned, and
 - Promote greater awareness of Grand Jury reports, including meaningful responses by local government agencies.

- 2023-2024 Objectives/Goals
 - Continue to support the sitting Grand Jury by offering presentations and consultation
 - Continue to make presentations in the community:
 - to share the mission and accomplishments of the Grand Jury
 - to recruit additional applicants to serve on the Grand Jury

Summary of 2023-2024 Chapter Accomplishments:

- Grand Jury Education and Training
 - Education and training committee members developed an on-going question and answer forum with the 2024-2025 grand jury members to assist with best practices
 - Conducted an Orientation for the 2024-2025 Grand Jurors
 - Completed outreach presentations to several service clubs and community organizations in San Joaquin County during 2024

- Grand Jury Outreach
 - Continued work to keep our website updated with current events and photographs from this year's activities.
 - The Outreach Committee had three presentations this year. The Stockton Rotary Club, The Truman Club and Manteca Rotary.
 - Contact with the Tracy Chamber of Commerce to stay updated on their yearly events as well as Chambers of Commerce in Stockton, Manteca, Ripon and Lodi.

- Chapter Information Technology
 - Kept the "Members" page up to date with announcements, meetings, events and club documents.
 - Updated the "Home" page and the "Reports & Media" page with the latest reports from the sitting Grand Jury.
 - Provide links to media stories about Grand Jury reports.
 - Updated the "Home" and other pages to reflect the new name and logo for the state organization.

- Chapter Membership
 - Expanded our Guest Speaker Program which included a variety of guests including:
 - Director of the Port of Stockton (Kirk De Jesus)
 - SJ County Registrar of Voters (Olivia Hale)
 - Executive Director of the Little Hoover Commission (Ethan Rarick)
 - Executive Officer of LAFCO (J.D. Hightower)
 - Waterloo/Morada Fire Chief (Eric Walder)

- Social Committee
 - Hosted a Juror Appreciation Luncheon and reunion with several past juries in attendance
 - Initiated a Q&A visit with the present Grand Jury

- Grand Jury Recognition (Initiated by our Chapter)
 - Sponsored San Joaquin County (SJCO) Board of Supervisors Resolution declaring February Grand Jury Awareness Month – February 6, 2024 Board of Supervisor's Meeting



Gary Cooper (CGJA), Denise Snider (CGJA), Tom Patti (BOS), Mary Kennedy-Bracken (current Juror), John Kimbrough (Jury Foreperson), Miguel Villapudua (BOS), Fran Block (CGJA), Robert Rickman (BOS), Paul Canepa (BOS), Stephen Ding (BOS)



Fran Block (CGJA), Denise Snider (CGJA), Mary Kennedy-Bracken (Current Juror), John Kimbrough (Jury Foreperson), Ron Freitas (County District Attorney), Gary Cooper (CGJA)

2023-2024 Chapter Committee Reports:

• Education and Training

- Purpose
 - Provide training and support for the Grand Jurors to compliment the education provided by San Joaquin County court and the Civil Grand Jurors' Association of California
- Members
 - Gary Cooper (chairperson), Denise Snider, Fran Block, Judy Prima, Cynthia Favre
- 2023-2024 Accomplishments
 - Education and training committee members developed an on-going question and answer forum with the 2024-2025 grand jury members to assist with best practices
 - Conducted an Orientation for the 2024-2025 Grand Jurors
 - Completed outreach presentations to several service clubs and community organizations in San Joaquin County during 2024



- 2024-2025 Objectives/Goals
 - Meet with the 2024-2025 Civil Grand Jury Foreperson and develop a year-long training plan for the Civil Grand Jury
 - Provide training on topics such as investigations, interviewing, and report writing
 - Offer support for individual committees including Continuity, Editorial, and Law and Justice
 - Conduct the Orientation for the 2025-2026 Civil Grand Jury members and alternates

• Outreach

- Purpose
 - To bring awareness of the Civil Grand Jury to the citizens of San Joaquin County.
 - To continue a program of presentations to county wide organizations.
 - To make better use of social media to spread the word about the importance of the Civil Grand Jury.
- Members
 - Denise Snider (Chairperson) and Cynthia Faure.

- 2023-2024 Accomplishments
 - Continued work to keep our website updated with current events and photographs from this year's activities.
 - The Outreach Committee had three presentations this year. The Stockton Rotary Club, The Truman Club and Manteca Rotary.
 - Contacted the Tracy Chamber of Commerce to stay updated on their yearly events as well as Chambers of Commerce in Stockton, Manteca, Ripon and Lodi.
 - Signed up for a booth at the Tracy County Connects event which takes place on September 21, 2024.
- 2024-2025 Objectives/Goals
 - To recruit more chapter members to join the Outreach Committee to bring new and fresh ideas on how to make connections in our communities.
 - To expand our social media presence to include such platforms as Instagram, Next Door and Snapchat.
 - Keep our chapter Facebook page updated and current.
 - To continue to keep our Outreach presentations thriving. The goal for the coming year is to double what was accomplished last year.
 - To again reach out to Delta College in the Spring of 2025. Their Political Science is a tremendous resource for us to bring in the Civil Grand Jury for a presentation.
 - To continue to reach out to a much more diverse audience in the hope that all citizens of San Joaquin County will see the benefit of the Civil Grand Jury experience.

- **Social**

- Purpose
 - Help recruit new members to the Chapter
 - Celebrate the Chapter's accomplishments throughout the year and support the efforts of the Grand Jurors
- Members
 - Fran Block (Chairperson), Denise Snider, Judy Prima
- 2023-2024 Accomplishments
 - Hosted a Juror Appreciation Luncheon and reunion with several past juries
 - Initiated a Q&A visit with the present Grand Jury
- 2024-2025 Objectives/Goals
 - Continue to retain all current Chapters members
 - Continue to expand Chapter membership from current jury pool
 - Host annual Holiday Gathering if supported by the Chapter membership
 - Host annual Juror Appreciation Luncheon for the 2024-2025 Grand Jury

- Continue to host two Q&A Sessions yearly with the current Grand Jury







- **Information Technology**

- Purpose
 - Provide Information Technology avenues for Chapter members to access as they conduct Chapter business.
 - Maintain the Chapter website with information for interested citizen and organizations regarding the Chapter and the County Civil Grand Jury.
- Members
 - Tom Horsley (Chairperson), Ryan Gresham
- 2023-2024 Accomplishments
 - Kept the “Members” page up to date with announcements, meetings, events and club documents.

Upcoming Meeting & Events

 <p>Sept 17 – Year End Reports/Elections</p>	 <p>October 15 – Kimberly Johnson, SJC County Counsel</p> <p>October 15 – Kimberly Johnson, SJC County Counsel</p>	 <p>Nov 19 – Pat Withrow, SJC Sheriff</p> <p>Nov 19 – Pat Withrow, SJC Sheriff</p>
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Recent Meetings & Events

 <p>August 20 – Dr Michelle Rodriguez, Superintendent SUSD</p> <p>August 20 – Dr Michelle Rodriguez, Superintendent SUSD</p>	 <p>July 16 – Mountain House, Bernice Tingle, City Council, Vice President</p> <p>Bernice Tingle, Vice President of the Mountain House City Council talked about California's newest city.</p>	 <p>Grand Jurors 2024-2025 Training</p> <p>Members of the San Joaquin chapter of CGJA train the newly formed Grand Jury.</p>
		

- Updated the “Home” page and the “Reports & Media” page with the latest reports from the sitting Grand Jury.

2023 - 2024 Reports



2023-2024 Final Report

- Introduction
- Investigations
- Law and Justice
- Follow-up
- Presentation and Tours
- Grand Jury Process



City of Stockton: Crisis In Government (Case #0123)

"In response to complaints received, the 2023-2024 Grand Jury investigated potential new Brown Act violations by members of the Stockton City Council. Previous complaints regarding the same type of violation by the City Council were also received during the 2022-2023 Grand Jury term. Because those complaints were received late in that term, they were forwarded to the 2023-2024 Grand Jury for evaluation and potential action. The 2023-2024 Grand Jury also received complaints regarding the creation of a work environment of fear within Stockton City Government. The alleged sources of that fear were created by individuals associated with 209 Times, LLC, a Social Media Platform (SMP), through e-mails, and public comments that have left city staff and elected officials continuously intimidated."

- Media
- Summary
- Findings
- Recommendations
- Responses
- [Full Report »](#)



City of Tracy: Public Trust Still Not Restored (Case #0323)

The City of Tracy has been plagued with a city council that cannot form a

- Media »
- Summary
- Findings
- Recommendations
- Responses

- Provide links to media stories about Grand Jury reports.
- Updated the "Home" and other pages to reflect the new name and logo for the state organization.



Recent Reports From San Joaquin County



City of Stockton: Crisis In Government (Case #0123)

"In response to complaints received, the 2023-2024 Grand Jury investigated potential new Brown Act violations by members of the Stockton City Council. Previous complaints regarding the same type of violation by the City Council were also received during the 2022-2023 Grand Jury term. Because those complaints were received late in that term, they were forwarded to the 2023-2024 Grand Jury for evaluation and potential action. The 2023-2024 Grand Jury also received complaints regarding the creation of a work environment of fear within Stockton City Government. The alleged sources of that fear were created by individuals associated with 209 Times, LLC, a Social Media Platform (SMP), through e-mails, and public comments that have left city staff and elected officials continuously intimidated."



City of Tracy: Public Trust Still Not Restored (Case #0323)

The City of Tracy has been plagued with a city council that cannot form a civil, cohesive governing body willing to set aside differences and personal agendas for the benefit of City residents. The 2018-2019 Civil Grand Jury issued a report entitled "Restore the Public Trust". That investigation highlighted the inability of the Tracy City Council to work together cohesively, manifested by unprofessional behavior towards each other during public meetings. In addition, a consistent

- 2024-2025 Objectives/Goals
 - Continue to keep the site fresh and up to date for both members and the public.
 - Add links to significant media stories about reports, the sitting Grand Jury and the CGJA.
 - Include training materials.
 - Include the club's standard outside presentation.

- **Membership**

- Purpose
 - Maintain an accurate Chapter membership roster
 - Recruit new members to the Chapter
 - Retention of current Chapter members to support ongoing efforts of the Chapter and the San Joaquin County Grand Jury
- Members
 - Fran Block (Chairperson)
- 2023-2024 Accomplishments
 - Expanded our Guest Speaker Program which included a variety of guests including:
 - Director of the Port of Stockton (Kirk De Jesus)
 - SJ County Registrar of Voters (Olivia Hale)
 - Waterloo/Morada Fire Chief (Eric Walder)
 - Executive Director of the Little Hoover Commission (Ethan Rarick)
 - Executive Officer of LAFCO (J.D. Hightower)



- 2024-2025 Objectives/Goals
 - Continue to maintain an accurate Chapter membership roster by member categories
 - Continue to confirm with the Secretary/Treasurer that all members are in good standing by category in accordance with the Chapter bylaws
 - Focused recruitment on outgoing members of the 2023-2024 Grand Jury as well as other former grand jury members from previous years
 - Continue efforts to retain all current Chapter members
 - Continue to grow our Guest Speaker Program with the goal of encouraging current members and potential members to attend monthly meetings

● **2023-2024 Financials (7/1/23-6/30/24)**

<u>Date</u>	<u>Num</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Memo</u>	<u>Category</u>	<u>Tag</u>	<u>Amount</u>
BALANCE 7/1/2023						686.77
7/18/23		Deposit	Dues and Donations	Dues and Donations	Gresham, Ryan: Cooper, Gary: Gibbs, Faye: Magee, Bob: Sloan, Pam: Spaugh, Gary: Vistica, Bonnie: Prima, Judy: Shibata, Gene: Mathews, Denise	350.00
8/15/23		Deposit	Dues and Donations	Dues and Donations	Snider, Denise: Block, Fran: Buck, Ken: Nickison, Sharon: Bayley, John: Prima, Judy: Horsley, Tom	230.00
8/15/23	1041	Check	Denise Snider	Office Expenses	Entry Fee for Tracy Connects	-25.00
9/19/23		Deposit	Dues and Donation	Dues and Donations	Brown, Bert:Faure, Cynthia	80.00
9/29/23	1042	Check	Denise Snider	Food & Dining	Tracy Connects Event	-51.97
10/17/23		Deposit	Dues	Dues	Graser, Larry: Meyer, Lou	90.00
11/21/23		Deposit	Dues	Dues	Downs, Ward: Pixler, Susan	80.00
11/24/23	1043	Check	Fran Block	Misc. Expense	Thank You Gift Cards for Humphreys University Staff	-76.00
12/13/23	1044	Check	Fran Block	Food/Dining	GJ Luncheon	-353.67
1/16/24		Deposit	Luncheon Donations	Donations	GJ Luncheon	135.00
5/14/24	1045	Check	Kenneth Buck	Office Expenses	Yearly Subscription to Quicken	-131.88
6/18/24		Deposit	ZELLE	Chapter Dues	Kenneth Buck	30.00
6/20/24		Deposit	ZELLE	Chapter Dues	Fran Block, MG Drilling, Larry Graser	90.00
6/20/24	1046	Check	Fran Block	Food/Dining	GJ Appreciation Luncheon	-503.64
6/24/24		Deposit	ZELLE	Chapter Dues	Bruce Frank	30.00
6/28/24		Deposit	ZELLE	Chapter Dues	Janyce Canote	30.00
7/1/23 - 6/30/24						2.84
BALANCE 6/30/24						689.61
Inflows						1,145.00
Outflows						-1,142.16
Net Total						2.84



BANK OF STOCKTON

SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY CHAPTER
OF CALIF GRAND JURORS ASSOCIATION
PO BOX 9319
STOCKTON CA 95208-1319

*Page 1
6-30-24
1215023407

QUESTIONS? PLEASE CALL 209-929-1600 OR 800-941-1494

1215023407 BUSINESS BASIC CHECKING

SUMMARY *****			
Previous Balance	5-31-24		1,013.25
+ Deposits/Credit	6		180.00
- Checks/Debits	1		503.64
- Service Charge			.00
Current Balance			689.61
Days in Current Period	30		

EFT ACTIVITY *****			
Date	Tracer	Description	Amount
6-18	96500	ZELLE KENNETH BUCK 4170P0M0CLVT	30.00
6-20	96500	ZELLE MARY BLOCK 4171P0J0MEWL	30.00
6-20	96500	ZELLE M G DRILLING COMPANY, INC 4172P000140J	30.00
6-20	96500	ZELLE LAWRENCE GRASER 4172P0P0JREQ	30.00
6-24	96500	ZELLE BRUCE FRANK 4177P0E05FKR	30.00
6-28	96500	ZELLE JANYCE CANOTE 4180P0A0KWZL	30.00

CHECKS PAID *****					
Serial No.	Date	Amount	Serial No.	Date	Amount
1046	6-20	503.64			

DAILY BALANCE SUMMARY *****					
Date	Balance	Date	Balance	Date	Balance
5-31	1013.25	6-18	1043.25	6-20	629.61
6-24	659.61	6-28	689.61		

OVERDRAFT CHARGES/REFUNDS SUMMARY *****		
	This Cycle	YTD
Total Net Returned Item Fees	.00	.00
Total Net Overdraft Fees	.00	.00
Total Net Fees Charged	.00	.00

END OF STATEMENT

Enclosures 1