

THE CLARION

THE SAN MATEO COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF FORMER GRAND JURORS' PUBLICATION

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*Regular meetings held every third Monday of the month at the San Mateo Bank of America (3rd Ave.)
Newsletter Chairperson: Mike Miller, Ph. 650-344-1074 Editor: Al Armand, Ph. 650-583-0362*

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By: *George Habeeb, Pres.*



THE SAN MATEO COUNTY GRAND JURORS ASSOCIATION (SMCAGJ) held its monthly meeting June 19, 2006. A substantial amount of business was conducted with all opinions and actions voted on by the members in attendance, they were mutually agreeable on most topics being discussed, which made for a very productive meeting . . . and I thank you all for that. Chairpersons' reports were read and discussed by the Board until all relevant matters were satisfactorily accepted by the members.

<u>Board of Directors</u> George Habeeb, Pres. Mike Miller, V. Pres Eva Landmann, Treas. Joann Landi, Secty. Al Armand Angelo Carmassi Lois Everett Bob Gentry Jean Johnston Marina Kaiser Walter Robinson
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Currently we are mailing SMCAGJ information notices to many of the local residents, letting them know about us, and what we do for the community, how we do it, and trust, they will join our Association to help us. Likewise, the Y2006 Grand Jury members are being specifically contacted and asking them to join our Chapter. I'm recruiting a very good candidate for membership in our organization, **my wife Helen**, who will be available at the end of her current San Mateo Grand Juror's assignment soon.

On May 11th, 2006, we held a **Special Luncheon Meeting**, inviting all San Mateo residents we could contact to attend an informational talk and slide show lead by Director, **Al Armand**, who presented a business plan for the Association to pursue in reaching goals for our Chapter in Y2007. We had an attendance of around 35 persons, which included three current Grand Jurors who enjoyed the luncheon and the interesting exchange of ideas and opinions expressed by some of the participants.

We're now planning our annual October luncheon meeting and hope to engage a prominent jurist as our guest speaker. It always makes for a good publicity event. Our website, www.co.sanmateo.ca.us/smcagj and our **Clarion newsletter** we'll have more information as our plans become firm.

As Y2006 President, I find that our Board of Directors is a friendly, compatible and productive group, and it's a pleasure in working with them during my term in office. Our Chapter and its members will continue to look forward in the development of new activities and generate ideas for the benefit of the San Mateo County residents.

HOW MEMBERS AND FRIENDS OF SMCAGJ CAN HELP PROMOTE OUR WEBSITE

A website, to be effective, has the luxury of many visitors who take the time to browse its pages. There are millions of web sites available to individuals who have computers and on-line service. Depending on interest, awareness and usefulness, visits are made to gather, learn, share and investigate website formats primarily to gather needed information, enjoy creative animation, order sundry products for personal usage and a number of other reasons. Ergo, it becomes extremely important to the webmaster that whatever has been developed becomes of interest to a potential visitor. and encourages that visitor to return numerous times.

Motivating visitors to select the SMCAGJ website is the purpose of this article. How can you, the reader, assist the SMCAGJ Website Committee, with very little effort and at no cost, encourage and stimulate citizens to visit our domain? Let us count the ways and perhaps one of the following will provide the stimulus for you to join our marketing team.

Before we begin to provide you with a list of ideas and strategies, you must know the website address which is: www.co.sanmateo.ca.us/smcagj.

Now you are ready to help us.

1. If you have a computer, you can send emails to family members, relatives, friends, teachers you know, school administrators whom you know, political personalities, attorneys, judges, law enforcement officers, members of organizations in which you have privileged email addresses or anyone who might open your email upon your request and honor your suggestion to visit our site. Your email may say something like this:

" Hi Joe: Just came across a website that may be of great interest to you. It provides information, search stations and a learning center that conveniently make it easy for you to gather a variety information on any subject and specifically zeros in on the organizational and purpose of the grand jury system in California. Highly recommend you take the time to visit www.co.sanmateo.ca.us/smcagj (You should ask someone how you can easily convert this email address into a **hyperlink**, which will make it easier for your contact to visit our site. Email me at angcarmassi@aol.com, and I will explain how you can do this. When you are ready to send your email to your contact.

2. A personal postcard to the above contacts is also effective.
3. A letter to the above contacts is very effective
4. Sending a home made flyer to the President, Big Sir, Knights of the Round Table or distinguished leaders of community organizations is very effective.
5. Writing a letter to School District Boards of Trustees is extremely effective.

As members of SMCAGJ, former grand jurors or just friends of the San Mateo County Association of Grand Jurors, you can become an integral part of our marketing program by sending the message above to a multitude of citizens. Your time and effort to assist us will be greatly appreciated

Angelo Carmassi
Marketing Director

SPECIAL MEMBER AND NON-MEMBER MEETING

The **SMCAGJ Board of Directors** put on a special May 11th luncheon meeting for members and non-members willing to voice their earnest and conscientious ideas and suggestions, at a leader-led meeting, in order to gather their valuable input on how to possibly improve upon what the Association is doing today. The results of the meeting will be published in the next issue of the Clarion.

It was very gratifying to see so many new faces at our luncheon, and to participate in a lively and fruitful exchange of ideas.

Our hosting the luncheon was a way to acknowledge and thank all of the special people who have, thru the years, greatly encouraged, contributed and supported us in so many ways. It was also a way to give members a chance to informally meet, share concerns, gain new members and encourage more Board participation.

Much of the credit for the success of the program goes to our moderator, **Al Armand**. His well-prepared format and friendly, relaxed style encouraged participation by all. Credit also goes to **Joann Landi**, who ably recorded the many ideas, advice and proposals that were presented.

I would like to make special mention of one of our long-standing members, **Dan Foster**. And I hope Dan won't mind my mentioning that he is in his nineties and still active. Good to see you, Dan!

Also attending was a number of currently sitting Grand Jurors and two council members, **Fro Vallerga** from Colma, and **Irene O'Connell** from San Bruno.

My thanks to all who attended and worked to make the occasion a success.

Please keep in mind that we will be having our annual General Meeting and election of officers in October. Looking forward to seeing you then!

Submitted by:

Marina Kaiser, Events Chairperson

—————**SMCAGJ Membership:** The San Mateo 2005-06 Civil Grand Jury was sent a letter by our Association expressing our feelings on the fine work they did with their published Final Report, and extended an open invitation to all the jurors on becoming members of our Association. We also sent a congratulatory letter to the 2006-07 Grand Jury on their appointments to the Grand Jury, and also informing them about our Website and the valuable information services that it provides, as pointed out in this newsletter.

As Director **Bert Rifas** suggested, all future communications by SMCAGJ should continue to stress the many ways that new members to our Association can use their skills and experiences in enhancing the Association's success.

Our President **George Habeeb**, is confident that we can recruit a substantial number of new members, over last year's figure, from the 2006 retiring Grand Jury members.

The Board wants to thank **Angelo Carmassi's** gallant fund raising efforts with his many generous friends. It has allowed our Association to have funds to accomplish some of our projects successfully.

An area of concern by SMCAGJ members is the State California Grand Jurors' Association's (CGJA) requirement in having dual membership status in CGJA and SMCAGJ; we hope this policy will be changed by CGJA for improving local chapters and CAGJ relationship.

A bit of good news is that the CGJA Training Committee recently allowed any California County the use of CGJA's copyrighted Training Manual to assist County Grand Juries, without making a profit for CGJA.

Mike Miller, SMCAGJ Membership Chairperson



Michael (Mike) Miller

Membership/Newsletter Chairperson
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REPORTS, SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COMMENTS

This is a clarion call by your Association's leaders to participate in the promotion of our website, which went operational in March 2003. The site has been successful in communicating valuable information to members, students, school administrators, jurors, judges and the general public for many months now. It is replete with information that will interest those that have always wanted to know about the California Grand Jury system but were reluctant to ask.

The site is a collection of topics that inform and guide the novice as well as the experienced citizens on jury concepts while getting to know what the processes and the participating activities are of the Grand Jury System. The results of the knowledge and skill imparted to the visitants of our site certainly demand that we encourage members and friends of the Association to visit its website often by accessing it at: www.co.sanmateo.ca.us/smcagi

The experienced website browser individual knows accessing our site is a free ride and is easy to do. For those of you that aren't quite familiar with all the web-surfing going on today, we thought that we would have some suggestions on how you can help us in our promotional efforts to persuade and stimulate members and visitors to view the SMCAGI website. (See Carmassi's article on page 2 of this writing.) Not only does the Association's website deal with Grand Jury System information, it also has avenues of connections to educational websites for teachers and students for their course of studies . . . take a peek at those interesting and educational topics.

It's amazing the number of people, once they discover our website, find the site rich-full of data that would satisfy many by adding to their overall general knowledge.

The Association is well aware of the many websites available in the world of national and international communications, but we feel that our site is unique in many ways while serving the San Mateo County residents as well as others on the World's Network. We have combined a local information center with worldwide connections spanning throughout the entire world for those that are interested in the Grand Jury System, whether dealing with Local, State or Federal structures.

Again, our humble request is simple, visit our Website and you decide if it has the value that The Association feels it has, and the effort put into its creation will be appreciated by the San Mateo County Community for its creativity and knowledge-based impact on the unflagging community service minded citizen.

Contributor: Alfred Armand
Director: Website Chairman