



Ranch Democrats

Meeting Minutes (taken from video)

August 26, 2026

6:30 PM - 7:00 PM meet and greet

7:00PM - 9:00 PM meeting

The Rienda Plunge Great Room
31720 Williams Way
Rancho Mission Viejo, CA 92694

1. Speaker - Mike Levin

2. Call to Order

- Meeting called to order by: Gary Kephart, President
- Time: 7:42 PM

3. Pledge of Allegiance

4. Introductions

- New members were invited to introduce themselves

5. Announce Quorum

6. Adoption of Consent Items

- Approval of Agenda
- Approval of General Meeting minutes from previous meeting
- Consent items were approved by the voting membership

7. New Business

- None

8. Officer Reports

- Chair Gary Kephart
 - Discussion about nature of new democratic clubs
 - Starts with grass roots - money to do things comes from membership
 - Please consider becoming a paid member
- Vice Chair Mike Baker
 - Mike looking to grow membership using PDI (political data of information) that comes from the OC registrar office.
 - We need to go door knocking. Reach out to other democrats to tell them about the club.
 - Only talk to people who are receptive
 - Want to drop post cards about our club
 - Use a script
 - Asking for members to let him know if they are interested in participating
- Secretary Michele Lynch
 - Not present
- Treasurer Herb Richter
 - [Financial Report](#)
 - Current checking total of \$167 with about \$18 pending deposits
 - Recurring donations do expire. Currently at \$210/month
 - Received some donations to help pay our liability insurance
 - Membership renewals start October 1.
 - Goal is to bring in enough to get rooms for all of next year booked
 - Continue to grow membership so we can afford to start supporting candidates, etc.
 - Discussed potential of phone banking. Not as good as knocking on the door.
 - Need to research cost of postcards for a literature drop.
 - Need to use union shop
 - Gary and Mike will research
 - Door hangers might also be a good choice - can also list Democratic candidates
 - They are more expensive
 - Can create something members are able to print out themselves
 - Have to start out small

9. Committee Reports

- Membership Committee: Chair Anita Alverson
 - 160 Members
 - 29 Voting Members
 - 69 Members in good standing
 - Looking for nice bump in October
 - Introduced Suzanne Danis
 - Announced get together/happy hour on September 9 at Franco's Famous in Ladera Ranch from 4-7 and shared invitations
- Field Team: Mike Baker
 - PDI training was very helpful

- Learned a lot; now its time to use it
 - People can volunteer by emailing Mike at vicechair@ranchdemocrats.org
 - We will also set up a fieldteam@ranchdemocrats.org email that will go to Mike
 - Initially, there are tutorials on the website. We will also train on the go. No official training for now.
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- Programs: Suzanne Danis
 - Discussed Program Committee
- Communications: Herb Richter
 - Reported under Treasurer
 - Reminder of Monday email

10. Announcements

11. Adjournment

- Meeting adjourned

Signature

- Taken from video of meeting
- Secretary: Michele Lynch
- Date: August 28, 2026