RANCH DEMOCRATS

Voices Rooted in Democracy

Club Member, Democratic Party of Orange County

Serving Ladera Ranch, Las Flores, Rancho Mission Viejo

Meeting Minutes

September 23, 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. Call to Order

- Meeting called to order by: Gary Kephart, President
- Time: 7:00 PM

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Introductions

- New members were invited to introduce themselves

4. Announce Quorum

5. Adoption of Consent Items

- Approval of Agenda
    - Gary Kephart moved to have speaker during Program Committee report on Agenda
    - Mike Baker seconded
    - Motion passed with all in favor
- Approval of General Meeting minutes from previous meeting
- Consent items were approved by the voting membership

6. New Business

- None

7. Officer Reports

- Chair Gary Kephart
    - We are starting to get involved more with the DPOC (Democrat Party of Orange County)
        - Explained associate member system with DPOC
        - We are missing an associate member
            - Gary attends ex officio because he ran for an office 2 years ago
            - JJ will take over that spot
        - If anyone is interested in being our associate member, please let Gary know
- Vice Chair Mike Baker
    - Mike reported on field team progress
    - We are continuing to use PDI to know on local doors of Democrats to tell them about our club
        - We've had a few people agree to join us
    - We also drop literature regarding the endorsed local candidates
    - Based on registrar voter data, there are about 55 Republican 45 Democrat
    - Anita shared the positive feedback she got from people she spoke to
    - Regularly scheduled on Sunday mornings from 9 AM to 11 AM until the election
- Secretary Michele Lynch
    - No report
- Treasurer Herb Richter
    - Financial Report
    - Current funds in bank $1,151.43
    - 1 new member joined us this month
    - Estimate having $1,146.29 to start the year if we get $1800 in memberships
    - We expect next year to be a building year
    - 18 sustaining donors for a total of $270/month

9. Committee Reports

- Membership Committee: Chair Anita Alverson
    - Membership renewals start on October 1. Includes the full year of 2027.
    - Excited to recruit new members starting October 1
- Programs: Suzanne Danis
    - Job is to bring in speakers that are interesting to us as well as speakers that the DPOC has endorsed
    - Always open to suggestions about new speakers and ideas
    - Next month Michael Sall will be speaking to us about the propositions on the ballot
        - October 28
        - Bring a friend
    - **Today's Speaker GIla Jones**
- Field Team: Mike Baker
    - See Mike's officer report
- Communications: Herb Richter
    - Working with Suzanne to revamp the first Monday email to be a more detailed newsletter

10. Announcements

- October 17th is the next No King's day with an emphasis on getting out the vote
    - Discussed doing something local
    - Use Mobilize to find events
    - DPOC website also has a lot of good information

11. Adjournment

- Meeting adjourned at 7:53 PM

Signature

- Secretary: Michele Lynch
- Date: September 23, 2026