



# Ranch Democrats

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## Meeting Minutes

January 28, 2026

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

7:00PM - 9:00 PM meeting

The Ranch House Great Room  
35 Ascenso Ave.  
Rancho Mission Viejo, CA 92694

### 1. Call to Order

- Meeting called to order by: Gary Kephart, President
- Time: 7:01 PM

### 2. Introductions

- Gary asked for introductions from new members

### 3. Pledge of Allegiance

### 4. Announce Quorum

### 5. Adoption of Consent Items

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

### 6. New Business

- Young Democrats from the Canyon Young Democrats group came to talk about their group and their role in political activism and community building. Their next meeting is February 26 at happy hour. We will link the mobilize information on our website and include in our next email.
  - They brought a petition for JJ Sanchez's candidacy for signature
  - They talked about food pantry assistance and brought flyers with more information

- Information can be found on the canyon democrats website

## 7. Officer Reports

- Gary Kephart
  - Slowly growing.
  - We will be working on adding additional activities.
  - Discussion of need for more paying members so that we can afford to rent a room for meetings
- Mike Baker
  - Please encourage your friends and neighbors to check out our website and come to our meetings
  - Friday afternoon protest at Camino Capistrano and Del Obispo.
- Michele Lynch
  - Reminder that meeting minutes will be available on our website
- Herb Richter
  - Need chairs for our committees
  - Documents on the website also include a potential budget
  - We still need a communications chair
  - 135 people on our mailing list; now have 55 members in good standing
  - We moved our banking accounts from Wells Fargo to US Bank so we can avoid bank fees
    - We have a state and a federal account to meet various legal requirement
    - \$142 in federal account
    - \$257 in state account
    - \$60 in recurring donations
  - Herb reviewed our expenses to date, including recurring expenses for liability insurance, email, and post office box
  - All financial details can be found on the website

## 8. Speaker: Katrina Foley

## 9. Committees

- We have no committees. We need committees.
- Gary reviewed the committees we need to fill.
- We don't need a formal chair if people who want to work together.
- Gary officially appointed Anita Alverson to serve as our Membership Coordinator.

## 10. Announcements

- Ice Out for Good event hosted by DPOC and DWOSC is listed on our website January 30 from 2:30-4 at Camino Cap and Del Obispo;
- Indivisible starting a group in Ladera Ranch hosting a protest January 30 from 5-6:30 at Antonio and Crown Valley
- Saturday there are regular protests in Aliso Viejo
- Discussion of redistricting

## **11. Adjournment**

- Meeting adjourned at: 8:07 pm

## **Signature**

- Secretary: Michele Lynch
- Date: January 28, 2026