



**THE HEMET-SAN JACINTO CHAPTER  
OF THE  
CALIFORNIA CONGRESS OF REPUBLICANS**  
*Invites you and your friends*

*to the*

**January 26, 2026 General Membership Meeting**  
*At*  
**The Elks Lodge, Hemet**

**SPEAKER**

**KIM RODRIGUEZ, Executive Director**  
**MY CITY YOUTH**  
*(serving the San Jacinto Valley)*

*My City Youth is a non-profit organization helping  
At-risk youth ages 8-17 and  
Young mothers*

***Dinner Reservations Are a Must!***

*Social at 6 P.M.  
Dinner at 6:30  
Members: \$20  
Non-Members: \$22  
Program Only: \$5*

*Please RSVP  
By Thursday, January 22, 2026  
Joanne Dieleman: 951-663-7870  
[quiltersite2@yahoo.com](mailto:quiltersite2@yahoo.com)*



# HEMET-SAN JACINTO CONGRESS OF REPUBLICANS

A GRASSROOTS ORGANIZATION CHARTERED IN 1996  
AN AFFILIATE OF THE CALIFORNIA CONGRESS OF REPUBLICANS FOUNDED IN 1989

Editor: Charlene Stover

January, 2026

**2026 OFFICERS  
AND BOARD OF  
DIRECTORS**

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## MY CITY YOUTH HIGHLIGHTED IN JANUARY

**Kim Rodrigues**, Executive Director of My City Youth, will keynote the January 26, 2026 meeting of the Hemet San Jacinto Congress of Republicans at the Elks Lodge.

**Kim** is a Californian who was actually born in Hemet, attended Hemet schools and graduated from Hemet High in 1992. Prior to 2020, **Kim** came to **My City Youth** and worked in various capacities including bookkeeping and as human Resource Manager. In 2022 **Kim** was temporarily appointed Executive Director. She was subsequently asked to accept the role on a permanent basis.

**My City Youth** is located in Hemet; however, young people from the entire San Jacinto Valley as well as outlying areas participate in the programs. Through after school programs, **My City Youth** has two main prongs: helping at-risk youth ages 8-17 and assisting young mothers.

**My City Youth** is committed to nurturing young minds while instilling Christian values, equipping students to positively impact their communities, and live purposeful lives according to God's plan.

Bring a friend to the January 26 meeting to see how this non-profit operates, hear how it touches the at-risk young, and the impact it has in the San Jacinto Valley.

## DECEMBER MEETING RECAP

The December 8 meeting of the Hemet San Jacinto Congress of Republicans was very well attended. San Jacinto City Council Member **Valerie Vandever** did the honors of installing the 2026 Officers and Board of Directors:

**President: Tom Wilson**

**Vice President Programs: Dale Dieleman**

**Vice President Membership: Robin Lowe**

**Vice President Liaison: Joanne Dieleman**

**Secretary: Sharon Durbin**

**Treasurer: Keith Meissner**

**Board of Directors:**

**Ken Campbell**

**Eileen Guarino**

**Dick English**

**Marcie Martinez**

**Todd Stamps**

**Charlene Stover**

Thanks to all of you who participated in the Christmas Event Food Drive with non-perishables for the Community Pantry. Also, thanks to all the 'elves' who helped set up the tables and organized the silent auction which did very well.

**Congratulation to the 2026 Officers and Board of Directors.**  
**Thank you, Tom, for your willingness to serve as President for one more year.**

## Meeting Information

The Hemet San Jacinto Congress of Republican's January 26 meeting is at **The Elks at 1305 West Florida, Hemet**. Check-in is 6 p.m. with the program at 6:30.

To reserve, contact Joanne at [quiltersite2@yahoo.com](mailto:quiltersite2@yahoo.com) or 951-663-7870. Please reserve by **January 22, 2026**. If you reserve and are unable to attend, cancel with **Joanne**.

The **HSJCR** is charged for all reservations which causes an unnecessary financial burden for the organization when members reserve and are 'no-shows'.

**Help keep HSJCR dues low!!**

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## JANUARY IS DUES MONTH

Please bring your membership dues to the January meeting or mail them with the form on Page 3 to the Post Office Box.

Dues will remain at \$20 per person and \$35 per couple. Of the dues \$, six dollars per member is designated for California Congress of Republicans.

**Pay Dues**

## HEMET SAN JACINTO CONGRESS OF REPUBLICANS MEMBERSHIP

**TIME TO RENEW!!** Please bring your dues to the January 26 meeting!! Or complete the form on page 3 and mail them to the post office box designated.

The **HSJCR** operates on a calendar year so dues are officially due in January. Dues remain at \$20 per person and \$35 per couple.

Thanks to the following who have renewed. New 2026 members are in **bold**.

Arvid Anderson  
Elna Anderson  
Helen Brechtel  
Ron Brechtel  
Joe Cagliero  
Taryn Cagliero  
**\*Ken Campbell**  
Renee Campbell  
Larry Cutting  
+\*Sharon Durbin  
Maureen English  
**\*Dick English**  
Bill Frayer  
Danna Graham  
Anna Greig  
Roger Greig  
Leonard Hirn

Paula Hirn  
Linda Krupa  
**\*Marcie Martinez**  
Pat Medina  
**Sharon Neill**  
Jerry Reeves  
Donald Rodriguez  
**Jeanie Rodriguez**  
Roman Rodriguez  
**AJ Ruiz**  
**Sharon Schneider**  
+\*Charlene Stover  
Rod Tolliver  
**Greg Treadwell**  
**\*Tom Wilson**

+Past Presidents  
\*Board Members

### VOTER ID PETITIONS

The **Hemet San Jacinto Congress of Republicans** can be proud of the members who collected signatures to put **Voter ID** on the November 2026 Ballot.

Over a million signatures have been collected; however, more may be needed to provide a cushion for any eliminated in the process. It does look very promising!

HSJCR did its part! Thanks to **Ken, Renee, and Amber Campbell, Sharon Durbin, AJ Ruiz, Marcie Martinez, Stella Johnson, Carol Johnston, Eileen Guarino, Dawn Ennes**. Special thanks to **Ken** for providing the pop-up protection from the sun!



## REPUBLICAN PARTY OF RIVERSIDE COUNTY

The December Freedom Dinner in honor of Charlie Kirk was a huge success. There was live music, an excellent presentation by Turning Point USA, good food, super silent and live auctions, and camaraderie!

Now the RPRC is looking forward to buckling down for the 2026 election cycle. There are seats in Riverside County to protect and seats to take. The 2026 goal is to elect Republicans.

The January 22 meeting is in Moreno Valley at the Ayres Hotel at 6 p.m.

## CALIFORNIA CONGRESS OF REPUBLICANS

**California Congress of Republicans** Endorsing Convention is Wednesday, March 18, 2026 at 7:15 p.m. via zoom. The purpose of the March 18 meeting is:

- to Endorse Republican Candidates for Statewide Office (governor, lieutenant governor, etc.)
- to endorse Republican candidates for District Offices not covered by chapter endorsements. (Assembly, etc)

The procedure is as follows:

- Voting delegates from each chapter is based on paid CCR membership.
- The HSJCR membership will select our delegates
- Only registered delegates will be allowed to vote on March 18.
- Registration fee is \$10 per delegate
- Registration deadline is midnight on Sunday, March 15.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

**President Tom Wilson**

Hi All,

Welcome to 2026 and all the good things to come! Much of President Trump's Big Beautiful Bill will be in effect from which we all benefit.

I am looking forward to our Board of Directors gathering together to chart a path forward to successful Republican Mid-Term Elections. The work we do as an organization will help us retain the House and the Senate.

Please invite a friend or neighbor to our meeting on January 26. I look forward to seeing everyone there! Please RSVP with Joanne.

President Tom



## COURTESY

**Renee Campbell** has very graciously volunteered to serve as the courtesy person for the **HSJCR**. However, she will need the assistance of each and every **HSJCR** member!

**Renee** will be sending cards when a **HSJCR** member has had surgery or is seriously ill. Sympathy cards will go out when needed. She will also acknowledge any weddings. No, she will not send congratulation cards for divorces!!!

Your job as a member is to contact her when you know of any member who fits the above criteria. **Renee's email is** [renee@harkway.com](mailto:renee@harkway.com)

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING RECAP

The **Hemet San Jacinto Congress of Republicans Board** met at **President Tom's** home for a combined Board Meeting and Planning Session. We met for about three hours including lunch provided by **Tom** and dessert provided by **Charlene**. Those in attendance were **President Tom Wilson, Sharon Durbin, Todd Stamps, Joanne Dieleman, Keith Meissner, Ken and Renee Campbell**.

Board members each gave information on their backgrounds. Suggestions were made on welcoming guests, streamlining check in with the use of a credit card reader, follow-up on first-time guests, forming a membership committee and expanding its tasks, appointing a member to be in charge of courtesy, monthly meeting programs, fundraising, and legislative reports.

**Tom** announced that the speaker for January will be **Kim Rodrigues** from **My City Youth**.

**Keith Meissner** gave a comprehensive treasurer's report along with the 2026 budget.

**Renee Campbell** was appointed Courtesy Chair.



**HEMET-SAN JACINTO CONGRESS OF REPUBLICANS  
CALIFORNIA CONGRESS OF REPUBLICANS  
2026 MEMBERSHIP FORM**

NAME(S) \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_

ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

I AM A REGISTERED REPUBLICAN (SIGNATURE) \_\_\_\_\_

**DUES: \$20 PER PERSON/\$35 PER COUPLE**

**AMOUNT ENCLOSED** \_\_\_\_\_

**PLEASE CHECK COMMITTEE SELECTION:**

**MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: Hemet San Jacinto Congress of Republicans**

**WAYS AND MEANS  
SPECIAL EVENTS  
DINNER /HOUSE**

**PUBLICITY  
MEMBERSHIP  
VOTER REGISTRATION**

**PHONE TREE  
BY-LAWS**

**SEND MEMBERSHIP TO:**

**ROBIN LOWE**

**P.O. BOX 304**

**SAN JACINTO, CA 92581**

**Please e-mail my newsletter.**

**Please send my newsletter via U.S. Postal Service.**

## WINNERS AND LOSERS

*Every week Jon Fleishman runs a column of the ten winners and losers of the week. Following are four for this week.*

### WINNERS: JUDGE LAWRENCE VANDYKE AND JUDGE KENNETH K. LEE

#### \*Breaking News\* Ninth Circuit Strikes Down California's Open-Carry Ban—for Now

A split panel applied the Supreme Court's Bruen framework in Baird v. Bonta, which is likely to prompt a full-court review

They ruled that California's ban on open carry in most of the state violates the Second Amendment. In doing so, the panel applied the Supreme Court's Bruen framework as written, rather than inventing new tests or deferring to Sacramento's policy preferences. The opinion turned on history, not politics, concluding the state failed to justify a sweeping ban affecting nearly all Californians. That kind of judicial discipline is rare on the Ninth Circuit, even if the ruling is ultimately short-lived.

### LOSER: KAREN BASS, MAYOR OF LOS ANGELES

#### One Year After The Los Angeles Fires, And The Failures Are Still Burning

Twelve months after the Palisades and Altadena fires, the failures of prevention, response, and rebuilding are impossible to ignore

One year after the devastating Los Angeles fires, the city remains frozen in place, with rebuilding stalled and accountability nowhere to be found. Promises of urgency and flexibility gave way to bureaucratic paralysis and edited after-action reports. Instead of taking responsibility, Bass and her team are busy trying to whitewash critical after-action review documents meant to honestly assess what went wrong. Leadership is judged by outcomes, and the outcomes here are indefensible.

### LOSER: SUZANNE JIMENEZ, SEIU-UNITED HEALTHCARE WORKERS WEST

She and her union are behind a new billionaire wealth tax proposal that has intensified concerns about California's hostility to capital. Even the (continued in column 2)

(Continued from page 3 column 1) introduction of such a measure, combined with Sacramento's aggressive left-wing policy agenda, sends a clear signal to high earners to leave. Billionaires and major investors are already relocating or planning exits, accelerating capital flight and shrinking the tax base.



### LOSER: GAVIN NEWSOM

He used the recent passing of Congressman Doug LaMalfa as a political prop in his State of the State address to take a cheap jab at President Trump. Exploiting a colleague's death to score partisan points crossed a basic line of decency, even by Sacramento standards. It wasn't leadership, policy, or vision — just a tone-deaf moment that reflected poorly on the office and distracted from the serious business Californians expect to hear about, not that Newsom said anything serious.

## JEFF GONZALEZ 36AD FUNDRAISER

**Assemblyman Jeff Gonzalez** is inviting you, for a small fee, to join in his fundraiser at Monteleone Meadows on January 30. The 36AD covers a portion of Hemet. It also takes in Aguanga and reaches into the Coachella Valley. It claims part of Imperial County and part of San Bernardino County.

**Jeff** won the open seat that had been held by Democrats since 2008 in the November 2024 election. The District is majority Democrat registration; he won because he was a strong candidate and reached out to the voters. **Jeff** is the voice of the people; he is needed in Sacramento.

This fundraiser will help him retain this very important seat.



## DATES TO CALENDAR

### HAPPY NEW YEARS!

January 1: Martin Luther King Holiday

January 22: **Republican Party of Riverside County January Meeting in Moreno Valley at the Ayres Hotel.**

January 26: **Hemet San Jacinto Congress of Republicans January Dinner at the Elks Lodge in Hemet. Kim Rodriguez from My City Youth is guest speaker.**

January 28: Hemet San Jacinto Valley Chamber of Commerce Mixer. Call 951-658-3211 for information.

January 28: **Greater San Jacinto Valley Chamber of Commerce Installation Dinner. Call for Details.**

January 30: **Assemblyman Jeff Gonzalez Fundraiser Reception.**

February 2: **HSJCR Board of Directors Meeting at 5:30.**

## PRESIDENTIAL PASTIMES

(from the Epoch Times on-line version)

**Thomas Jefferson** once called being president “a splendid misery,” a description even more applicable today. The office brings perks, power, and prestige, but also delivers a 24/7 workload, crushing responsibilities, relentless criticism from the press and other critics. Following are some of the ways presidents have coped with stress.

Though not a skillful player, **Lincoln** “was a self-proclaimed ‘billiards addict,’ ” which he described as a “health inspiring, scientific game.” He even had a billiards table installed in the presidential home.

**Richard and Pat Nixon** were both avid bowlers, and three admirers built a single-lane bowling alley in the White House, which the Nixons frequently enjoyed.

Of the many presidents who enjoyed poker and found diversion in a deck of cards, **Harry Truman and Warren G. Harding** hold first place as the most ardent in their love of the game.

Other more energetic pastimes have also provided a means for blowing off steam. Noted for his strength, which he developed in his early years of surveying and military service, **George Washington** was, as **Thomas Jefferson** said of him, “the best horseman of the age.” and equestrian **Ulysses Grant** received similar compliments.

**Calvin Coolidge** was so enamored of riding as exercise that he had an “electronic horse,” a gift from a friend, installed in the White House.

**Theodore Roosevelt** continued to put on the gloves and spar while in the White House, and his cousin **Franklin**, left paralyzed by polio, enjoyed the White House swimming pool.

**John Kennedy** was on a swim team at Harvard, a skill that served him well during World War II when he rescued crew members from drowning after the Japanese sank his PT boat.

**Ronald Reagan** was well-known for splitting wood on his California ranch, **Harry Truman** was a walker, **George Bush** was a jogger, and **Barack Obama** liked to shoot hoops.

For more than a century, however, the king of presidential sports has been golf. **Joe Biden and Donald Trump** have found a change of pace and relaxation on the links, as did 17 other presidents. **William Howard Taft**, the first on this list to tee off, gave so much time to the game during his presidential run that **Theodore Roosevelt**, his predecessor, told him that he needed to give up the game and focus on politics.

As **George W. Bush** once said, “In this job, there are some simple pleasures that really help you cope. One is books.” Though some in the press once regarded **Bush** as an intellectual lightweight, we now know that he was an inveterate consumer of books, particularly of history and biography. For four years of his two terms, he and **Deputy chief of Staff Karl Rove** competed against each other to see which of them could read the most books. Though **Rove** won, **Bush** read about two books a week.

**Theodore Roosevelt** was known to read a book a day. **Lincoln**’s speeches reveal his deep reading of Shakespeare and the King James Bible. When **Eisenhower** wanted a break from his many duties as president, he added Westerns to his poker and golf.

## QUOTES TO LIVE BY

“We will always remember. We will always be proud. We will always be prepared, so we may always be free.”

President Ronald Reagan

“Our nation’s history is defined by individuals who had the courage to stand up for their beliefs, just as our Founding Fathers did when they signed the Declaration of Independence.”

President Ronald Reagan

“What I’d really like is to go down in history as the president who may Americans believe in themselves again.”

President Ronald Reagan

“Of the four wars in my lifetime, none came about because the U.S. was too strong.”

President Ronald Reagan

“In my many years, I have come to the conclusion that one useless man is a shame, two is a law firm, and three or more is a congress.”

John Adams

“My God! How little do my countrymen know what precious blessings they are in possession of, and which no other people on earth enjoy!”

Thomas Jefferson

“Our great modern Republican. May those who seek the blessings of its institutions and the protection of its flag remember the obligations they impose”

Ulysses S. Grant

“A person without a sense of humor is like a wagon without springs. It’s jolted by every pebble on the road.”

President Martin Van Buren

“Better to remain silent and be thought a fool than to speak out and remove all doubt.”

## TRIVIA

From Newspaper Headlines:

“Something Went Wrong in Jet Crash, Expert Says”

“Red Tape Holds up New Bridges”

“Local high School Dropouts Cut in Half”

Question: What is the common term for someone who enjoys work and refuses to retire?

Answer: NUTS!!!

Reporters interviewing a 104-year old woman: ‘And what do you think is the best thing about being 104? She simply replied, ‘no peer pressure.’

Two cannibals were eating a clown. One says to the other: “Does this taste funny to you?”

Two peanuts walk into a bar and one was a salted.

Inflation: Cutting money in half without damaging the paper.

Committee: A body that keeps minutes and wastes hours.

Raisin: A grape with a sunburn.