



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

to the

***March 23, 2026 General Membership Meeting
At
The Elks Lodge
1305 West Florida, Hemet***



***Speaker: Diana Hagy
Executive Director for Valley Restart***

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, March 19, 2026
Joanne Dieleman: 951-663-7870
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

March, 2026

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DIANA HAGY, VALLEY RESTART TO KEYNOTE MARCH HSJCR MEETING



The **Hemet San Jacinto Congress of Republicans** will welcome **Diana Gathercole-Hagy, from Valley Restart** as the keynote speaker for the March 19 General Membership Meeting.

Ms. Hagy was born at Fort Hood, Texas, to a career U.S. Army sergeant and a mother who immigrated from South Korea in 1973 in pursuit of opportunity and freedom. After her father's retirement from military service, her family settled in Hemet, where she has deep roots in the community she now serves.

She studied classical piano and humanities at the university in Tulsa, Oklahoma, before returning to Hemet in 2006. For nearly two decades, Diana worked in church administration and nonprofit finance, developing a strong foundation in stewardship, organizational leadership, and community engagement.

Her involvement with Valley Restart Shelter began in 2020 through a grant-funded communications role. She later served on the Board of Directors as Secretary and then Board President before stepping into executive leadership. In October 2025, she was appointed Executive Director.

Today, she leads Valley Restart's mission to provide structured emergency shelter and stabilization services for families, seniors, and veterans in the Hemet-San Jacinto Valley — focusing on restoring dignity, encouraging personal responsibility, and building practical pathways toward long-term independence.

This promises to be an interesting and informative meeting on a topic that affects the entire **San Jacinto Valley**.

BE INFORMED AND BRING A FRIEND

FEBRUARY MEETING RECAP

Paula Hirn, Corporal Luke Tabor and Duke, representing **Hemet Police K-9 Foundation**, gave an outstanding presentation on the part K-9's play in rescue missions. They fielded interesting questions one of which addressed the life of the K-9 after retirement. A donation to the **Foundation** by the **HSJCR** was presented by **President Tom**.

Treasurer **Keith Meissner** assured everyone that we are a solvent organization.

Everyone was reminded to pay their dues to ensure that their contact information would be in the **2026 Membership Directory** to be distributed at the March meeting.

Meeting Information

The **Hemet San Jacinto Congress of Republican's** March 23 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 or 951-663-7870**. Please reserve by **March 19, 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'.

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Corporal Luke Tabor, Paula Hirn, President Tom Wilson and Duke 'the

2026 Membership Directories at March Meeting

HEMET SAN JACINTO CONGRESS OF REPUBLICANS MEMBERSHIP

Thanks to all of you who renewed memberships for 2026 and to all the new members. The **HSJCR** had 19 renewals and 2 new members in February for a total of 83 members.

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

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

- | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| Chris Engel | *+Robin Lowe |
| Tami Engel | Cynthia Males |
| Jan Fifield | Joe Males |
| Carole Gillespie | Diana Martinez |
| Harry Gillespie | Shellie Moustafa |
| Larry Hughes | Vinay Rao |
| Sandy Hughes | Stephen Siaw |
| Carol Tellis Johnston | *Todd Stamps |
| Robert Johnston | Dean Vandever |
| Virginia Lopez | Valerie Vandever |
| | Craig White |

+Past President
*Board Members



CALIFORNIA CONGRESS OF REPUBLICANS

California Congress of Republicans Endorsing Convention is Wednesday, March 18, 2026 at 7:15 p.m. via zoom. The voting delegate count is based on membership. **HSJCR** is the third largest chapter of the **California Congress of Republicans** and has seven delegate seats plus one for a District Rep and one for **Robin Lowe**, a past **CCR President**.

It is an interesting experience and an opportunity hear statewide candidates.

Leading statewide Republican candidates will be given an opportunity to speak at a CCR zoom event for all CCR members in partnership with SPARC at 6 p.m. prior to the Endorsing Convention.

CALIFORNIA REPUBLICAN PARTY CONVENTION

The Spring Convention for the California Republican Party this year is at the Sheraton Hotel and Resort in San Diego. The registration for delegates is \$160.

If you wish to attend as a guest, visit the CRP convention website. More to follow in April.



REPUBLICAN PARTY OF RIVERSIDE COUNTY

The February 26, 2026 meeting of the **Republican Party of Riverside County** was held at the campaign headquarters of **Congressman Ken Calvert**.

Grace Suchowski reported on the September 26 **Liberty Dinner**. **Samantha Sobarzo** reported on the **250 Year Celebration** scheduled for July.

The **RPRC** is working on voter guides.

Art Hodges, Republican Candidate for SD 18 and **Don Wagner**, Republican Candidate for Secretary of State spoke briefly. **Ben Johnson II**, candidate for Riverside County Office of Education Area 2 and **Denis Bilodeau**, candidate for Board of Equalization, District 4 were endorsed.

The March 26 General Membership meeting will be at the Elks Lodge in Hemet.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

President Tom Wilson

Hi All,

Welcome to March and the beginning of Daylight Saving Time!

We had a great presentation by Hemet's K-9 Program in February. The **HSJCR** made a donation to further those efforts. The March program will be **Diana Hagy, Executive Director of the Valley Restart Center**. April will bring a Candidate Forum Program to present Republican candidates.

We are putting a float in the San Jacinto Valley Fourth of July Parade and possibly having a BBQ at the conclusion.

Please plan to attend the March meeting and, as always, bring a guest or two. Remember to RSVP.

Thanks to all.
President Tom.

250 ANNIVERSARY

This is the year that will showcase multiple celebrations across our country. Of course, Philadelphia and Washington DC will have ongoing events. In Riverside County, Republican groups are planning events and the **Republican Party of Riverside County** has a celebration scheduled for the first week of July. Locally, the **HSJCR** will enter a float in the **Annual Fourth of July Parade**. It is truly a cause to celebrate.

When the authors of the Declaration of Independence wrote this pivotal document 250 years ago, they had no idea how influential it would become. In the two-and-a-half centuries since, America's formal statement announcing its separation from Great Britain has become a blueprint of freedom directly inspiring revolutions and serving as a charter for the oppressed. It's also sparked debates on topics including equality and individual rights.

More than 100 nations have adopted the ideals of the Declaration of Independence into their own fights for freedom.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING RECAP

The **Hemet San Jacinto Congress of Republicans Board** met at the Greater San Jacinto Valley Chamber offices. Those in attendance were **President Tom Wilson, Sharon Durbin, Dale Dieleman, Joanne Dieleman, Keith Meissner, Ken and Renee Campbell, Marcie Martinez, Todd Stamps, Charlene Stover**.

The following items were covered:

- Treasurer's Report by **Keith Meissner**; the donation to the **Hemet K-9 Foundation** was approved.
- **Program Chair Dale Dieleman** indicated the speaker for March is the Executive Director of Valley Restart.
- The **Membership Directory** was discussed. No dues paid and no contact with **Charlene** equals no contact information in the **Directory**. Those who have not renewed have been contacted via email.
- An update was given on the **RPRC** February meeting.
- The state **California Congress of Republicans** state Endorsing Convention via zoom was discussed (see article).
- A float in the July 4 Parade was discussed.



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

NAME(S) _____
 ADDRESS _____ ZIP _____
 E-MAIL _____ PHONE _____

I AM A REGISTERED REPUBLICAN (SIGNATURE) _____

DUES: \$20 PER PERSON/\$35 PER COUPLE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: *Hemet San Jacinto Congress of Republicans*
 AMOUNT ENCLOSED _____

PLEASE CHECK COMMITTEE SELECTION:

WAYS AND MEANS	PUBLICITY	PHONE TREE
SPECIAL EVENTS	MEMBERSHIP	BY-LAWS
DINNER /HOUSE	VOTER REGISTRATION	

SEND MEMBERSHIP TO: **ROBIN LOWE** _____ Please e-mail my newsletter.
P.O. BOX 304 _____ Please send my newsletter via U.S. Postal Service.
SAN JACINTO, CA 92581

WINNERS AND LOSERS

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

WINNER: LETICIA CASTILLO, RIVERSIDE ASSEMBLYWOMAN

For years, the progressive supermajority in Sacramento has pushed California law further and further into ideological territory on gender issues, with almost no one willing to challenge the orthodoxy. Assemblywoman Leticia Castillo is doing exactly that. Her bill, AB 1998, would require bathrooms, locker rooms, and similar intimate spaces to be separated based on biological sex. The legislation will face long odds in the State Capitol, but Castillo deserves credit for saying something many Californians still believe: biological sex is real and privacy in sex-segregated spaces matters.

LOSER: KAMALA HARRIS, FORMER VICE PRESIDENT

California taxpayers are footing the bill for security while Kamala Harris travels the country promoting her new book — a private, profit-making venture. Reports indicate California Highway Patrol officers are accompanying Harris on the tour, even as the total cost to taxpayers remains undisclosed. Security for a former vice president is understandable. But asking Californians to subsidize protection for what is essentially a commercial book tour raises serious questions about priorities and accountability in a state already struggling with massive budget challenges.

LOSER: SHAKIR KHAN, FORMER LODI CITY COUNCILMEMBER

Tampering with elections is about as serious a political offense as it gets — and this former Lodi councilman has now been sentenced to three years in jail after pleading no contest to a staggering list of election fraud charges tied to the 2020 election. Prosecutors said he registered fictitious voters, filed false election documents, and attempted to vote multiple times. Investigators found dozens of suspicious voter registrations connected to him, and witnesses said he pressured people to vote for him or even signed ballots himself. The conviction is a reminder that voter fraud does happen — and carries serious consequences.

REFORM CALIFORNIA VOTER ID UPDATE

Reform California Chairman and State Assemblymember **Carl DeMaio** announced that proponents of the California Voter ID Initiative have officially submitted more than 1.3 million signatures across all 58 counties to qualify the constitutional amendment for the November 2026 ballot — the result of a nearly five-month grassroots drive powered by more than 18,000 volunteers.

Democrat politicians and allied activist groups are already organizing a campaign to block the measure, which would require voter ID, verify the citizenship of registered voters, and maintain accurate voter rolls.

SAVE AMERICA ACT (H.R. 7296)

H.R. 7296 requires nationwide voter ID for federal elections, requiring photo ID for in-person voting and requiring mail/absentee voters to submit a copy of acceptable ID with their ballot materials.

- Requires documentary proof of U.S. citizenship to register for federal elections.
- Sets acceptable proof documents and provides a process to submit other evidence of citizenship.
- Requires states to take ongoing steps to identify noncitizens on voter rolls and remove ineligible registrations.
- Allows citizens to sue if officials register applicants without required proof.



AN IRISH BLESSING

May the road rise up to meet you.
 May the wind be always at your back.
 May the sun shine warm upon your face;
 the rains fall soft upon your fields
 and until we meet again,
 may God hold you in the palm of His hand.

DATES TO CALENDAR

- March 17: **St. Patrick's Day**
- March 23: **Hemet San Jacinto Congress of Republicans**
March Dinner at the Elks Lodge in Hemet.
- March 25: **Hemet San Jacinto Valley Chamber of Commerce Mixer at the Ramona Bowl at 5:30 p.m.**
- March 26: **Republican Party of Riverside County March General Membership Meeting**
- March 29: **Palm Sunday**
- April 6: **HSJCR Board of Directors Meeting at 5:30.**



MEMORABLE MARCH DATES

March 4, 1681 - King Charles II of England granted a huge tract of land in the New World to William Penn to settle an outstanding debt. The area later became Pennsylvania.

March 4, 1830 - Former President John Quincy Adams returned to Congress as a representative from Massachusetts. He was the first ex-president ever to return to the House and served eight consecutive terms.

Birthday - Renaissance genius Michelangelo (1475-1564) was born in Caprese, Italy. He was a painter, sculptor, architect, poet and visionary best known for his fresco on the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel and his sculptures *David* and *The Pieta*.

March 15, 44 B.C. - Julius Caesar was assassinated in the Senate chamber in Rome by Brutus and fellow conspirators. ("Beware the Ides of March")

March 23, 1775 - Patrick Henry ignited the American Revolution with a speech before the Virginia convention in Richmond, stating, "I know not what course others may take; but as for me, give me liberty, or give me death!"

WHO WAS ST. PATRICK???

The following is for the enjoyment of all **HSJCR** members but particularly for those of Irish heritage. (editor's note: Aren't we all a little bit Irish on March 17?)

Much of what is known about St Patrick comes from the *Declaration*, which was allegedly written by Patrick himself. It is believed that he was born in Roman Britain in the fourth Century, into a wealthy Romano-British family. His father was a deacon and his grandfather was a priest in the Christian church. According to the *Declaration*, at the age of sixteen, he was kidnapped by Irish raiders and taken as a slave to Gaelic Ireland. It says that he spent six years there working as a shepherd and that during this time he 'found God.' The *Declaration* says that God told Patrick to flee to the coast, where a ship would be waiting to take him home. After making his way home, Patrick went on to become a priest.

According to tradition, Patrick returned to Ireland to convert the pagan Irish to Christianity. The *Declaration* says that he spent many years evangelizing in the northern half of Ireland and that he died on 17 March and was buried at Downpatrick.

There are many legends associated with St. Patrick. A popular belief is that he banished the snakes from Ireland. While St. Patrick was fasting, snakes attacked him, so he chased all snakes into the ocean. However, there have never been snakes in Ireland during the post-glacial period. Another legend has St. Patrick sticking a walking stick into the ground while evangelizing, which turned into a tree.



The symbol of the shamrock used for St. Patrick's Day comes from the story of St. Patrick using the shamrock to illustrate the Holy Trinity. The three-leafed plant coincided with the Pagan religion's sanctity of the number three and is the root of the green color theme.

QUOTABLE QUOTES

"I pledge loyalty to only one special interest group—"We the people."

President Ronald Reagan

"We live in a world that's torn by a great moral struggle—between democracy and its enemies, between the spirit of freedom and those who fear freedom."

President Ronald Reagan

"I first learned the concepts of non-violence in my marriage."

Mahatma Gandhi

"Travel is fatal to prejudice, bigotry, and narrow-mindedness, and many of our people need it sorely on these accounts."

Mark Twain

"We cannot intervene in the Muslim world ever again. What we can do is bomb the living daylights out of them."

Bill O'Reilly

"Lots of people want to hurt me. That's the price you pay for being a big mouth."

Bill O'Reilly

IRISH BLESSINGS

May the Irish hills caress you. May her lakes and rivers bless you. May the luck of the Irish enfold you. May the blessings of Saint Patrick behold you.

May the luck of the Irish lead to happiest heights, and the highway you travel be lined with green lights.

Here's to a fellow who smiles when life runs along like a song. And here's to the lad who can smile when everything goes dead wrong.

May your blessings outnumber the shamrocks that grow, and may trouble avoid you wherever you go.

May love connect us, faith direct us and God protect us.

In heaven there's no beer. That's why we drink ours here.

I've drunk to your health in pubs, I've drunk to your health at home. I've drunk to your health so many times that I've nearly ruined my own.

May the light always find you on a dreary day. When you need to be home, may you find your way. May you always have courage to take a chance, and never find frogs in your underpants.

When we drink, we get drunk. When we get drunk, we fall asleep. When we fall asleep, we commit no sin. When we commit no sin, we go to heaven. So, let's all get drunk, and go to heaven!

If you're lucky enough to be Irish...You're lucky enough!

May neighbours respect you, trouble neglect you, the angels protect you, and Heaven accept you



Everyone's Irish
On March 17th.