



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



***JOE GRINDSTAFF
DIRECTOR
EASTERN MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT***

***July 27, 2026
The Elks Lodge
1305 West Florida, Hemet***

Dinner Reservations Are a Must!

*Social at 6 P.M.
Dinner at 6:30
Members: \$20
Non-Members: \$22
Young Adults 20 and under: \$10
Program Only: \$5*

*Please RSVP
By Thursday, July 23, 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

July, 2026

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JOE GRINDSTAFF, EMWD, TO KEYNOTE JUNE HSJCR MEETING



The Hemet San Jacinto Congress of Republicans will welcome **Joe Grindstaff**, their representative on the **Eastern Municipal Water District's Board of Directors**, as the July 27 Meeting keynote speaker. **Mr. Grindstaff** represents the cities of Hemet and San Jacinto, and the unincorporated areas of Valle Vista, Little Valley areas, Cactus Valley, Soboba Hot Springs, and Garner Valley.

Joe Grindstaff was elected to EMWD's Board of Directors in 2024 after a career that included four decades of local and statewide water management experience.

Throughout his career, he served as: General Manager of the Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority, of which EMWD is a member agency; Chief Deputy Director for the Department of Water Resources, during which time he oversaw the management of many state programs ranging from the Salton Sea in the south to the Klamath River in the north, including the State Water Project system and the Delta; Director of the California Bay Delta Authority and Deputy Secretary for Water Policy with the California Natural Resources Agency; General Manager of the Inland Empire Utilities Agency, which he retired from in 2019.

Mr. Grindstaff holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from Brigham Young University and a Master of Business Administration from the University of Phoenix. He is the Board President of the Ramona Bowl Amphitheatre in Hemet.

Mr. Grindstaff will give **HSJCR** members information on the critical water issue facing Southern California.

BRING A FRIEND TO THE JULY 27 MEETING

JUNE MEETING RECAP

The meeting was called to order on June 29 by President **Tom Wilson**. The guest speaker was **Brad Dacus, founder and CEO of the Pacific Justice Institute**. *

Members were reminded of the Celebrate America 250 on July 11 at March Field Museum. City Council updates were given.

Eric Young spoke on the candidacy of **Steve Hilton for Governor**.

***PJI** is continually fighting for Faith and Freedom pro bono. This is a national organization with offices across the United States. They welcome donations that are guaranteed to be spent upholding faith and freedom issues. The Annual **Celebration of Justice** is October 17 featuring **Emily Campagna**. For more information go to: **PJI.org**. To donate, go to the website or send a check to P.O. Box 7, Garden Grove, CA 92842.

Meeting Information

The Hemet San Jacinto Congress of Republican's July 27 meeting is at **The Elks at 1305 West Florida, Hemet**. Check-in is 6 p.m. with the program at 6:30.

The cost of the dinner is \$20 per member, \$22 for non-members, and \$10 for those 20 years of age or less. For those who attend only for the program, the cost is \$5. First time guests are complimentary.

To reserve, contact **Joanne at quiltersite2@yahoo.com or 951-663-7870**. Please reserve by **July 23, 2026**. If you reserve and are unable to attend, cancel with **Joanne**.

**Please note the meeting is the
FOURTH MONDAY
July 27, 2026**

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Please note that the **HSJCR** will be dark in August.

The next meeting after July 27 will be September 28 with November ballot candidates.

HEMET SAN JACINTO CONGRESS OF REPUBLICANS MEMBERSHIP

At this time, the **HSJCR** has 96 paid up 2026 members. The newest member is **Joel Ortiz**, who is returning to the ranks of membership. Welcome **Joel**.

Please encourage your friends and relatives to join the **Hemet San Jacinto Congress of Republicans** during this important election year.

The **HSJCR Board of Directors** voted at their June meeting to reduce membership dues for those 20 or under to \$10.

The **HSJCR** already has in place complimentary membership for those Republicans over 90.



DECLARATION TIDBITS

Thomas Jefferson and John Adams both signed the Declaration of Independence and both died July 4 on the fiftieth anniversary of its adoption. John Adams was 90 years old and Thomas Jefferson was 83.

Robert Morris was "The Financier of the Revolution." Morrisville, PA was named in his honor.

Stephen Hopkins was instrumental in created the Continental Navy—now the U.S. Navy. Also, thanks to his efforts, Rhode Island became the first colony to outlaw the importing of slaves.

DISTINGUISHED SCHOOLS

Senator Rosilicie Ochoa-Bogh recognized the Western Center Academy as one of four District 19 2026 Distinguished Schools.

San Jacinto Leadership Academy-Magnet School also received the distinction of being a 2026 Distinguished School. The SJLA is in SD 31.

The Distinguished Schools Program is California's school recognition program recognizing exceptional schools that distinguish themselves on the basis of exemplary student outcomes.



REPUBLICAN PARTY OF RIVERSIDE COUNTY

The June 25, 2026 meeting of the **Republican Party of Riverside County** was held at the Hemet **Elks Lodge** and was called to order by **Vice Chair Michael Curry**. The July 23 meeting is also at the Elks Lodge in Hemet.

The very successful **Celebrate America 250** took place on Saturday July 11. The **March Air Field Museum** was an excellent venue for approximately 130 guests. It was a sold-out night. The **RPRC Vice Chair Michael Curry** was the Emcee. **Congressman Ken Calvert** introduced keynote speaker **Sheriff Chad Bianco**, who highlighted America 250. Student **Jack Lindsay** read **The Declaration of Independence** and a toast was made by **Senator Kelly Seyarto**. It was an extremely patriotic evening with a red, white, and blue theme. Even the Silent Auction Items were in theme.

HSJCR members in attendance were **Norm and Vicki Kyriss, Pablo Hernandez, Dale Dieleman, Joe and Cynthia Males, and Charlene Stover**.

September 19 is the date for the second **Guns, Faith, and Freedom Rally** from 5 to 9 at the Peltzer Winery in Temecula. More information will be sent out later.

Pennsylvania had the highest number of signers on the Declaration of Independence—nine while Rhode Island had two.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

President Tom Wilson

Hi All,

The greatest country is now 250 years old and it feels great! At the June meeting **Brad Dacus from The Pacific Justice Institute** informed us of the good work they do on our behalf. When the World gets crazy Brad and his folks go to work to preserve the Republic.

July brings us **Joe Grindstaff** from Eastern Municipal Water District who will update us on our Southern California Water infrastructure. The **San Jacinto Valley** is an important part of the infrastructure.

It was great to hear the update on **Steve Hilton's** run to be our next Governor.

Please remember The Elk's bar is open for all types of refreshment during our meetings.

I hope to see all of you in July. Bring a friend and neighbor and please RSVP to Joanne.

President Tom

COURTESY

Members: If you know of any **HSJCR** member who is ill or who has lost a loved one, please notify **Renee Campbell** at renee@harkwy.com OR 951-442-6559. She will send the appropriate card. Also notify **Renee** when happy occasions need a card such as weddings.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING RECAP

On July 6 the **Hemet San Jacinto Congress of Republicans Board** met at the Greater San Jacinto Valley Chamber offices. Those in attendance were **President Tom Wilson, Dale Dieleman, Joanne Dieleman, Keith Meissner, Robin Lowe, Ken Campbell, Todd Stamps, and Charlene Stover**.

The following items were covered:

- Treasurer's Report by **Keith Meissner**.
- **Program Chair Dale Dieleman** reported that the speaker for July 27 is **Joe Grindstaff** from **Eastern Municipal Water District Board**.
- September Program will be a meet and greet candidates. Suggestion was made to contact **Senator Ochoa-Bogh** for January.
- Suggestion was made to have a **Republican Booth** at Community Events. Members would need to volunteer to assist.
- **The HSJCR** will be dark in August
- The **RPRC America 250 Celebration** is July 11, 2026 at March Field Air Museum.
- Reviewed that dinner cost and membership for students of 20 years or less will be \$10 for dinner and \$10 for Membership and that the dinner for first time guests will be complimentary.



**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
AMOUNT ENCLOSED**

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: Hemet San Jacinto Congress of Republicans

PLEASE CHECK COMMITTEE SELECTION:

**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.

SACRAMENTO HAS FINALLY GOTTEN OUR GOAT

Jon Fleishman, Flashreport, July 11, 2026

Leave it to California lawmakers to find a business using goats to reduce wildfire danger and decide the real crisis is that the herders are not making nearly a quarter-million dollars a year.

A new state law requires goat herders to be paid as though they are working 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Green Goat Landscapers in Gilroy says that would take annual compensation from about \$64,000 to \$240,000 per herder.

The company says it cannot absorb the increase. Other grazing businesses are warning they may go bankrupt, lay off their herders and sell their goats for slaughter. Sacramento's latest effort to "protect" workers could leave the workers unemployed, the businesses closed and the goats dead.

Quite an achievement.

The herders already receive salary, housing and other benefits under arrangements they agreed to. Does anyone honestly believe they would prefer a theoretical \$240,000 job that disappears over a real \$64,000 job that pays the bills?

You do not need an economics degree to figure that one out. Apparently, though, you do need to explain it to the California Legislature.

And then there is the wildfire issue. These goats clear brush in terrain where machinery can not go and where crews would struggle to work safely. At a time when California should be encouraging more vegetation management, Sacramento may regulate one of the most practical tools right out of existence.

This is the problem with politicians dictating contractual terms between private parties. They imagine they are improving the deal. In reality, they often destroy it.

The employer loses the business. The employee loses the job. The public loses a useful service. And Sacramento holds a press conference about how much it cares.

BALLROOM 'GIFT TO AMERICA'

Newsmax July 2026, page 18

President Donald Trump defended construction of the new White House ballroom as both a long overdue modernization project and a critical national security upgrade destined to protect future presidents and the nation's capital.

"This is a room that's been wanted for 150 years by presidents," **Trump** said in a news conference broadcast live on Newsmax.

The president stressed taxpayers are not funding its construction, calling the project "a gift to the United States of America" financed largely through private donations and his own contributions.

Congress is considering separate funding for security enhancements, including Secret Service upgrades, anti-drone technology, military infrastructure, and hardened defensive systems beneath the ballroom.

NOTE

The **HSJCR** is a member of both the Hemet San Jacinto Valley Chamber and the Great San Jacinto Valley Chamber; therefore, members are invited to attend all function of either Chamber.

DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE

In 1776, members of the Second Continental Congress gathered in Philadelphia had already made a decision the impact of which would be felt around the world for centuries to come: the collective colonies agreed to declare their independence from Great Britain, at the time the most powerful nation on the planet. The document, written by a young and upstart Thomas Jefferson, was officially approved by the Continental Congress.

Its adoption reignited the political tensions felt everywhere at the time between loyalists and the patriots clamoring for independence.

Few people know about the personal intrigues, motives, and political aspirations of the 56 men who ultimately affixed their name to the document, pledging: "Our Lives, our Fortunes, and our sacred Honor" to a cause that, at the time, may have seemed nearly hopeless.

(continued on Page 4, column 1)

DATES TO CALENDAR



July 4:

Independence Day

July 11:

Celebrate America 250

July 16:

Multi-Chamber Mixer, Golden Era Golf Course from 3 to 6 p.m.

July 22:

Hemet San Jacinto Valley Chamber of Commerce Mixer at Shooters Sports Bar and Grill, 121 East Florida, Hemet, 5:30.

July 23:

Republican Party of Riverside County July General Membership Meeting at the Elks Lodge in Hemet.

July 27:

Hemet San Jacinto Congress of Republicans July Dinner Meeting at the Elks Lodge in Hemet with Joe Grindstaff, EMWD Board of Directors.

(continued from page 3 column 3)

When people think about the **Declaration of Independence**, they may think of a room of elder statesmen.

In point of fact, the average age of the 56 delegates gathered in Philadelphia in 1776 was just 44 years old. That included a broad range of ages, from 20-somethings to a septuagenarian.

The youngest signatory of the document was South Carolina's **Edward Rutledge**, who was just 26 years and 8 months old.

Another South Carolina signatory, **Thomas Lynch Jr.**, was three days shy of his 27th birthday. A plurality of the signatories, meanwhile, were in their 30s with many others in their early 40s. Only seven of them, including 70-year-old **Benjamin Franklin**, the oldest signatory of the declaration, were 60 years of age or older.

While independence may seem in retrospect to be a foregone conclusion, that wasn't necessarily the case. Several members of the Continental Congress were skeptical of independence and many founders initially took a more moderate stance toward grievances with the home island and some moderates—led by **John Dickinson**—remained skeptical about independence until the eleventh hour.

These included **Robert Livingston**, one of the most powerful names in New York who later served a variety of diplomatic roles for the fledgling U.S. government, and **John Jay**, who later became the first chief justice of the **Supreme Court**.

The divides were even more pronounced among the people: After the war, **Mr. Adams** was famously quoted as saying: "One-third of the [American] people were for the Revolution, one-third were against it, and one-third were neutral."

Of all the signatures attached to the **Declaration of Independence**, **John Hancock's** is perhaps the most famous.

Mr. Hancock was famously unfazed by the risk of being hanged for treason, affixed his name in large characters to the bottom of the Declaration. His background? At the age of 27, **John Hancock** was left a fortune by his uncle **Thomas Hancock** and became one of the richest people in Massachusetts. He enjoyed his wealth. He drove about in a fancy carriage and gave parties that were the talk of Boston. He also used his money for the public good, which contributed to his popularity. He later became **President of the Continental Congress**.

Another of the 56, **James Wilson** was born in Scotland. **Wilson** helped create the U.S. constitution in Philadelphia. One of the most democratic of the forty signers, he insisted that the government should serve the people and that the people should elect their lawmakers directly. **James Wilson**, who had done so much for his country, died in poverty in North Carolina in 1798, a month prior to his 56th birthday.

After the last signature was affixed in August 1776, the document itself remained in the custody of Congress in Philadelphia, only one of several important documents at the time. It wasn't until **Jefferson** became **President Jefferson** in 1800—the "Revolution of 1800"—that the document, written by him, began to take pride of place in Americans' hearts and minds. That year, the document was moved to the new seat of government in Washington.

But since 1952, the document has been prominently displayed in the National Archives, where it remains one of the capital's most famous attractions.

WHY I STAND

by Meredith Looney LaMirande

I don't do it out of obligation,

I don't do it because I'm told.

I don't do it because I was trained,

I don't do it to be bold.

I stand for our National Anthem, because I'm forever grateful to be free.

I stand for the Anthem to respect, those before me.

We have wounded warriors who would return, if only they could,

Doing more for this country, than any single person should.

Heroes have fallen, their caskets draped in red, white and blue.

Stand up, sing along, their lives were given for you.

So as long as the star spangled banner, yet wave.

I stand for the land of the free, and the home of the brave.

QUOTABLE QUOTES

"Work and family are at the center of our lives, the foundation of our dignity as a free people."

President Ronald Reagan

"This Nation has no mission of mediocrity. We were never meant to be second-best. The spirit that built our country was bold, not timid. It was a spirit of pride, confidence, and courage that we could do anything."

President Ronald Reagan 1982

"I have never had a feeling politically that did not spring from the sentiments embodied in the Declaration of Independence."

President Abraham Lincoln

"We must all hang together."

Benjamin Franklin

"Perfection is not attainable, but if we chase perfection, we can catch excellence."

Vince Lombardi

TRIVIA

Spelling?

For the past three years, I have volunteered as a candy stripper in our local hospital.

During peek season, the beach is covered with hundreds of bikini-clad beauties.

U.N. Peacekeepers land in Liberia to reign in violence.

On Thanksgiving, I could smell the foul cooking.

Women seek births on U.S. track team.

Raisin: A grape with a sunburn.

I was just wondering...Does anyone else get road rage from pushing a cart through Walmart...or is it just me?

Instead of cleaning house, I just watch an episode of Hoarders and think "Wow, my house looks great!"