

The Orange Peel

2025-2026 | President Deanna Maddock | Show up, Give back, Get things done, and Have fun!

Next Meeting Friday, Oct 17, 2025

Speaker - Beth Wonson -
The Three-second Fix: How
to Stop Being the Person
Everyone Avoids

Greeters - Sean Palmer
Invocation - Bill Wagner
Vocation - Bill Wagner
Prospector - Mary Shear
Raffle tickets - Dennis
Sarkisian

The Four-Way Test

Is it the TRUTH?

**Is it FAIR to All
Concerned?**

**Will it build GOOD
WILL and BETTER
FRIENDSHIPS?**

**Will it be BENEFICIAL
to all concerned?**



National University

Don Morris filling in for Brad Squires, introduced today speaker. **Matthew Bruce** is the Associate Vice President for Academic Engagement & Support at National University. Matthew said

that this is the first Rotary meeting he has attended and he was taking really good notes! He thanked everyone for the warm welcome.

Matthew moved to Folsom with his family. His wife is a kindergarten teach and they have three children ages 11, 9 and 4. His job with National University is to bring awareness about this university experience to the community and state.

Close your eyes and think about a college campus. Many of you will envision a campus quad with 18 to 21 year olds wearing back packs. That is not always the case at National University. Forty percent of the students are non-traditional students - they work full time, many have children, and most of them attend part time.

- 40% of students in Higher Education are over the age of 22.
- 70% of students are holding down jobs while taking college courses, a 10 - percentage point increase since 2016.
- About 40% of college students are enrolled part-time.

Recap of the Meeting Oct 10, 2025

Guests

Matthew Bruce - National University - Fundraising Academy

Visiting Rotarians

None

District 5180 Governor

Megan Ellinghouse
2025-2026

Rotary International

President 2025-2026

Francesco Arezzo

The 2025-2026 Rotary International presidential theme is "Unite For Good"

- About 20% of college students have children.

National University created the term "ANDers" to describe their students. They can be a busy adult AND a successful student. A hardworking professional AND a dedicated parent AND a career climber. Our students are non-traditional, working, or military.

National University was Veteran-founded in 1971 by retired U.S. Navy Capt. Dr. David Chigos. The university is a private, nonprofit university. In the beginning the class material was provided on cassettes. Dr. Chigos created a model for active duty military to go to school. Today 50% of our undergraduate students are active-duty military, Veteran, and dependents.

Over 130,000 students are served per year; 50,000 are degree seeking students and 80,000 are workforce and professional development students. There are 2,800 students in the Sacramento region.

In California there are campuses from San Diego to Elk Grove. 85% of the classes are on-line and 15% are taught in person. There are students from all 50 states and 20 countries. Every year 9,000 students graduate.

Students can obtain an associates degree all the way up to a PHD degree. There are 125 programs available.

There are six schools of study -

- Sanford College of Education
- John F. Kennedy School of Psychology & Social Sciences
- School of Arts, Letters & Sciences
- School of Health Professions
- College of Business, Engineering & Technology
- College of Law & Public Service
- National University is the #1 provider of teaching credentials in CA, and a top provider of teaching and leadership credentials for educators in the US.

There is a large group of minority students. Fifty percent of the students are in the military. National University is one of the largest private Minority Serving Institutions (MSI) and Hispanic Serving Institutions

(HSI) in the US.

National University is an open access institution. Students don't have to pass a test to enter college. Courses are 4-week and 8-week on-line and hybrid classes. The University is the largest conferrer of graduate degrees to diverse students in the US and the #3 conferrer of doctoral degrees overall. It offers the most comprehensive degree and program offerings in the US for working and non-traditional students. Over 50% of the students received institutional aid, with nearly \$55 million awarded in scholarships and tuition reductions last year.

The university's Whole Human Education supports adult learners through prioritizing holistic educational practices to ensure that every student thrives *academically, professionally and personally* as lifelong learners.

The Academic Pillar provides Non-traditional learning models, Peer Navigator Network and an Academic Success Center, including free academic coaching, writing support, study sessions and workshops. The Financial Pillar provides financial aid scholarships or discounts. The Career Pillar helps students with career counseling. The Wellness Pillar provides 12 scheduled counseling sessions per year for managing stress and the mental health issues that arise.

When Matthew going to college he had three children, a job and was juggling life and going to school for his doctoral. He fit studying in to his day from 4am to 6am and then again at 9pm to midnight. This is why the Whole Human Education plan was developed to support students like Matthew. The academic coaches are available when the students need help the most - in the evenings and on weekends.



Matthew finished his talk by answering questions. **Licia Green** had a comment for Matthew. She uses a lot of the National University webinars facilitated by developed leaders and they have been very supportive. Matthew ended by thanking everyone for letting him present National University and the students it serves. PP Catrina thanked him and presented him with a hand crafted pen made by member Bob Kurtz.

Announcements

President Deanna Maddock was taking the day off because it was her birthday. **Past-President Catrina Womack** lead the meeting. The Rotary Bell was still absent.

She ran through a list of upcoming events -

- The Orangevale Rotary board meeting is on Monday and La Placita is catering the event.
- Next Crab Meeting, Wednesday, November 5, 6:30pm at Steve Blair's home. Steve is looking for a place to store auction items. Let him know if you have a spare room.
- The **Rotary Foundation dinner** is coming up on **November 8, 6-9pm** at the Citrus Heights Community Center.

Joni Cyr returned Rotisserie, the chicken . Catrina Womack has been away for three weeks so she gets to take the chicken home.

Committee Reports

Dennis Sarkisian said that we were shorthanded at the Food Bank because of the light attendance by the Fair Oaks Rotarians and several of our club's regulars were out of town. We completed plenty of the prep work, bagging and boxing groceries, then processing and loading groceries in vehicles of **68** struggling families, totaling **211 children and adults**.

Dennis also spoke about the Crab Feed coming up in January. There are still 116 tickets available for sale. Licia Green has been doing a great job getting sponsorships. She has raised \$16,000 in donations and pledges from businesses. Catrina passed around the signup sheet for working at the Crab Feed.

Don Russel, Club Service Chair, said it is Ice Hockey Day. Why do hokey players make the best birthday cakes? They know all about icing.

The next **Dine Around** (DAR) will be on the third Tuesday of the month, October 21 at Divine Sky. It is located at 4894 San Juan Avenue in the Raley's shopping center.

Don will be hosting his annual **Halloween Bonfire** night in his front yard. It starts at dusk so dress up, bring a snack and a chair. **Friday, October 31**.

Bill Wagner wanted to thank **Diana Newman**. Before he left on his cruise, he sent her a message and asked if she would show up to a festival with her popcorn and cotton candy machine. She did that and there were long lines of children! Bill got a lot of compliments about Diana's service! Bill wanted to give a big shout out to Diana and her Rotary service! She was a big hit that day!

Vocational Talk

Sean Palmer gave his vocational talk and it was sorry time. About 20 years ago he was invited to a wedding in Mexico. A friend of his was marrying a lovely Mexican woman who worked as a dentist.

The flight to Mexico from Sacramento Airport was delayed and delayed and finally took off eight hours late. When he arrived all of his luggage was lost. It was returned a day later but a lot of items were stolen out of the luggage.

Sean picked up his rental car and started driving. It was butterfly season and the air was full of butterflies. They were striking the car and covering the windshield and making it hard to drive. Finally Sean arrived in the Cancun suburb where he would be staying.

A pre-wedding party was being held at the bride's family home and the family sent a driver to pick him up. As the driver was going through the town, Sean said that they were passing vehicles filled with guys with machine guns!

The parents home was in a large compound with a lot of property. It was a 15,000 square foot home on ten acres!

The next day, Sean was picked up again from his hotel, this time in a charter bus which picked up a lot of wedding guests. The wedding was at the compound and it was a beautiful setting. However, next door there was a noisy carnival taking place. Someone from the wedding went over to the carnival and yanked the plug stopping everything in its tracks. People were stuck on rides but the noise stopped!

When Sean was driving his rental car back to Cancun, he got on the wrong road. He stopped to buy gas. The attendant pretended to fill the car. When Sean got back on the road, he saw the gas gauge was still reading low. He drove back and the attendant came out with a machine gun so Sean took off and drove the rest of the way on fumes!

When he returned the car, there was a power outage at the rental facility. He left the car and went to the airport. Later when he looks at this bill, the rental agency charged him \$3,500!! What a wild trip it was!

Prospector

New member **Mary Shear** was at the podium as prospector and she said learning people's names is the hardest think for her to do. She asked everyone to help her. As she pointed to a table, she wanted each person to say their first name and then an animal name that starts with the same first letter. For example Patty and



a pony.

Bryan Daniel and Bob Kurtz both paid a scooter fee on the way out the door. Mary was given a cup that was left by a Rotarian last week. She doesn't like the word "fine" so she used the word Celebration instead. So she showed the cup and asked who recognized the celebration cup. Joni stepped forward and got the cup before it was auctioned off.

Mary went table to table asking fun facts about October.

What is the October birth stone? Opal or Tourmaline.

What iconic structure was opened in October? The statue of liberty in 1886.

What US state was admitted to the union in October (hint, it was the 31st)? California

In October 2001, what Apple product was introduced? The iPod.

What is the scientific term for the October full moon? The Hunter's moon.

Happy Fines

Bill Wagner was happy with his recent 18 day cruise from New York City to Los Angeles.

Keith Wright was happy that his 21 year old son won the Fair Oaks Honorary Mayor's race.

Licia Green was happy that she passed an exam. (editor's note - I was attending the meeting over zoom and I couldn't always hear what people were saying and so I didn't hear what exam Licia passed).

Diana Newman was happy to attend a one-year old's birthday party and make cotton candy. The family was the winning bidder (for a cotton candy party by Diana) at the last Crab Feed.

Rob Auernig, Tommy Penno and Catrina had happy fines but the newsletter editor could not hear what they were happy about over the zoom call.

The Orange Ball Raffle

Last week **Donna Detmers** pulled out the white ball. She was supposed to sell raffle ticket today but she was not at the meeting, so only two tickets were sold. **Dennis Sarkisain's** raffle ticket was drawn. There were five golf balls and \$79. Dennis picked the orange ball and donated the money back. Dennis will be selling raffle tickets next week



The Thought of the Day

From your president who is in Fort Bragg taking things slow:

AS THE SEASONS CHANGE, NATURE REMINDS US THAT GROWTH REQUIRES BOTH MOVEMENT AND STILLNESS. TAKE TIME TO SLOW DOWN, RECHARGE, AND FIND JOY IN LIFE'S SIMPLE MOMENTS- BECAUSE EVEN SMALL PAUSES CAN RENEW GREAT PURPOSE.

Have a Fabulous Weekend and Go out and share Rotary!

WORLD POLIO DAY

October 24 is World Polio Day. Rotarian Joe Scheimer is helping out district to raise the \$150,00 before the zone institute meeting on October 23. So far he has raised \$67,380. Please make a donation. <https://raise.rotary.org/Joe-Scheimer/fundraiser376>

Where is the Belle?

