

The Orange Peel

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

Next Meeting Friday, Nov 14, 2025

Speaker - Sheri Merrick -
Citrus Heights Chamber of
Commerce.

Greeters - Don Morris
Invocation - Bert Smith
Vocation - Phyllis
Macdonald
Prospector - Mary Shear
Raffle tickets - Steve Blair

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?**

Saint John's Program for Real Change

Brad Squires, Speaker-chair has returned from his vacation to Italy and Switzerland. Today, he introduced the speaker, **Scott Richards**, from **Saint John's Program for Real Change**.



Scott said he is a native Californian, born in Modesto. He has spent his entire career in the non-profit arena, most of his time with Teach For America which brought him to Sacramento. He joined Saint John's a year ago. He loves the Sacramento and is grateful for the community which supports Saint John's. Scott and his wife are raising his four boys ages 8, 10, 14, 20.

The Saint John's mission is to provide a safe space for women and children to start over, transform their lives and restore family relationships. Saint John's is celebrating their 40th year.

Starting in 1985 at St. John's Lutheran Church, the women's shelter provided a safe place for 90 days.

Recap of the Meeting Nov 07, 2025

Guests

Scott Richards - Saint John's Program For Real Change

Rob Green - Licia Green's better half, recovering from shoulder surgery

Derek Maldonado - President Deanna's main squeeze

Sue and Jack Frost - Sue is a former member of the club

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"**

The women slept in the church's basement. We outgrew the basement and now have a large campus but we are still connected to the church.

Today Saint John's provides resources which help women make an investment in their lives and their families. Practical skills are taught such as resume writing, practice interviews, parenting classes, etc.

The campus is a 24 x 7 sober campus that cannot be found using GPS (which is meant to protect the women, especially if they are escaping a violent environment). One woman named Monica said that staying with Saint John's was the first time she she felt safe enough to get a good night's rest.

Everything the women need is in one place - they are not referred out. They are provided with food, housing, and daycare for up to 12 months. This is not a crisis center. Each woman has their own dorm room. Women can start to thrive in this stable setting. The goal is to provide stable housing and stable employment. The campus is a sober campus and they are drug tested on a regular basis. Single women are also accepted at Saint John's.

Saint John's is a safe place to live while working on CPS cases and other legal issues. Saint John's can accommodate all family sizes - some mothers have 5 or 6 children; most women have fewer children. In one special case, a mother had 13 children - her own, her deceased brother's children, and another relative's children!

Saint John's helps women escaping a violent environment, women leaving jail, women who need post hospital care, women serving probation, and

woes who are suffering from homelessness. A family can spend a lot of their income on housing costs - sometimes 75% to 85% on rent. Having a broken car can cause a budget crisis.

They start to build life skills like making a budget. They focus on a job search right away and they get on housing lists. Saint John's strives to break the homelessness cycle with employment.

Scott said that there are many aspects of Saint John's. He focused on these four.

During a twelve month stay, the women begin their **Vocational Training**. They receive therapy case management which focuses on getting a secure income and stable housing.

The **family services** treats the entire family. There are 200 residents on campus and fifty percent of them are children. Young children are put in daycare on campus. Older ones go to school but they are given special attention. They are given after school care; they are taken on field trips, they are included in Boy Scouts, they are given bible studies, and they get to visit college campuses to inspire them to learn.

On campus, there is **Transitional Housing**. Each of the eleven houses are 1100 square feet and house two families. The women are charged \$600 per month which covers utilities, laundry, and internet. Besides housing the women, if someone in the Sacramento community needs a home for a few months, they can rent a home until they get stable housing elsewhere.

There is also a fund to help keep people in their current housing if they need a hand. Saint John's receives more requests for help paying rent than they can give but the upside is that Saint John's helps a lot of families to housed. In the last year, Saint John's has kept 200 people in housing, helped them with financial classes, and case management.

The **Female Reentry Program** helps currently incarcerated women in the last two years of their sentence. (There are only six programs like this in California.) They go through the same program that the other women receive. The goal is to help them move forward and prevent homelessness. They leave at the end of their sentence with a job, savings and housing. There is a very low rate of recidivism. The last two women that finished their sentence and the program left with a savings of \$20K and \$27K! What a way to start a new life.

Saint John's has two social enterprises - **Red Door Desserts** and **Plates Catering**. Here is how you can help. Buy cookies from Red Dood Desserts. The women of Saint John's bake the cookies as part of their employment training. Plans are in the works to build a boutique bakery on the campus. The other way to help is to order box lunches for you next event from Plates Catering. It gives the ladies work! Saint John's is always looking for partnerships for hiring, so if you know of opportunities, let Scott know.

Scott finished his talk by answering questions. President Deanna thanked him and presented him with a hand crafted pen made by member Bob Kurtz.

Announcements

President Deanna Maddock - The Rotary Bell was still absent. Deanna warmly welcomed visitor Sue Frost and her husband Jack. Sue is a former member of the club. When she retired, she and Jack moved to Arkansas and this is their first visit back.

Deanna ran through a list of upcoming events -

- The **Rotary Foundation dinner** is coming up on **November 8, 6-9pm** at the Citrus Heights Community Center.
- **The Turkey Bowl** for the Food Bank will be held on Wednesday, November 12 at 8am at the Grocery Outlet. There are three teams made up of Orangevale Rotarians - Brad Squires "Squires Squawkers", Derek Maldonado's "Team Tri Tippers" and Sean Palmer and Keith Wright's "Palmer's Poultry Pummelers". The goal is to raise \$25,000 for the OVFO Food Bank.
- **Friendsgiving** will be held on Thursday, November 20th, 5:30pm at the Grange.
- The **Orangevale Rotary board meeting** is on Monday and La Placita is catering the event.

Rotisserie, the chicken will go home with **Rob Auernig** who was away for two weeks on a Hawaiian vacation.

Committee Reports

Janet Cahill said that its Food Bank Friday from 9am to 12:30pm and 12 volunteers from the club will work with the Fair Oaks Rotarians.

Editor’s note #1- Following the work at the the Food Bank, **Dennis Sarkesian** sent out this summary email:

Wow! It was a very busy day serving at the Orangevale-Fair Oaks Food Bank earlier today. Fortunately, the weather was favorable. Serving with our Fair Oaks Rotary friends, our 14 OV Rotary volunteers completed lots of prep work, sorting, bagging and boxing groceries. Starting at 10 am, we served a steady flow of Food Bank clients. With the recent increased demand, we ended up serving the most we have ever done, 118 families in need, a total of 346 people, including 14 new applicants and 5 homeless individuals who walked in. On top of that, for the first time I can recall, we loaded extra senior boxes to dozens of senior citizen clients.

Thank you for continuing to raise your hand to serve struggling families and seniors in need.

Editor’s Note #2- Here is a Comparing this month to last month:

	October 2025	November 2025	Increase
Families	68	118	74%
Children & Adults	211	346	64%
New Applicants	3	14	366%
Homeless	0	5	500%

Jim Buntin, International Chairperson, said that the club sent money to **Shelter Box** to help the people affected by the hurricane in Jamaica. He added that the last of the money in the International budget was sent to the Roseville Rotary Club’s for their **Global Grant**.

Mike McKibbin said that the next **Interact** meeting at Casa Roble will be on Wednesday and he expects 30 students. They are signing up to help with the Christmas Basket collection and distribution.

Rob Auernig thanked **Bob Kurtz** for setting up the vocational tour of the Olive Oil Ranch while he was away.

Catrina Womack filled in for Don Russell, Club Chair. She asked Rob what is yellow and black and goes “zzub-zzub”? He answered, a bee flying backwards. Catrina

said that the Dine Around has been rescheduled to Tuesday, November 11 so that the club members can visit with **Sue and Jack Frost**. The Dine Around will be at Tano's at 5:30pm.

Joni Cyr, Membership, has breakfast cards which you can hand out when asking for Crab Feed auction items or if you meet someone who shares your passion for giving back to the community.

Dennis Sarkisian said that the club has received 23 classroom grants. They are being reviewed and the final recommendation will be presented at Monday's Board Meeting.

Crab Feed Preparations

Steve Blair spoke about the Crab Feed coming up in January. It's our only fundraiser of the year and from now until the event, Steve will have a Crab Feed minute every week. We need to keep focused and get prepared for the big event.

Steve sent an email with the job signups for the Crab Feed. More help is needed on the raffle table. Start bringing in your auction items. Remember that the ticket prices do not cover the cost of putting on the crab feed so the more items donated, the better. Our auctioneer has retired so that is a hole that needs to be filled.

Dennis said that the Sacramento County District #4 will provide a \$5,000 donation. Dennis acknowledged **Sue Frost** for starting the annual donation back when she was supervisor for our area. So far the club has received \$19,500 in sponsorships. Dennis is looking for more leads for donations. Send your ideas/contacts to Dennis.

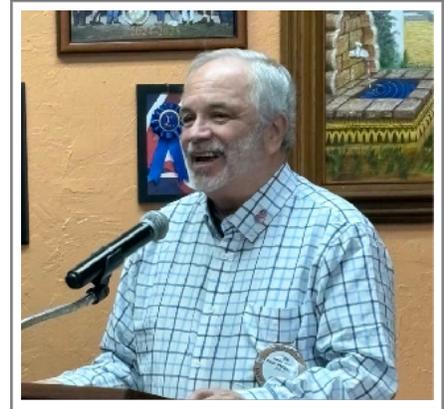
Bill Wagner is a volunteer with the Knights of Columbus. His group is making a special distribution for farm workers called a Box of Hope. Please consider donating money to help.

Vocational Talk

Don Morris is the oldest of five children. He wasn't born in Washington state but his father took an engineering job with Boeing in Seattle so Don considers that his home town. When Don was a junior in high school, he wanted to be a doctor.

Don was attending Washington State University when the Vietnam draft was being held. Don's parents met when his father was in the Air Force. That inspired Don to enroll in the ROTC (Reserve Officers' Training Corps). Meanwhile he was not making medical school grades. Don got an opportunity to fo a ride-along in a patrol car. This helped him change his major to Law Enforcement.

Don got a commission from the ROTC and he was interested in being an Air Force pilot unfortunately his eyes were not good enough. He decided to look into AF Navigation training instead. In August 1974, he took a flight from the dreary Seattle weather to the sunny hot Sacramento and that is where he began his Navigation Bomber Training. He was assigned to Mather Air Force Base for 6.5 years.



After eight years in the Air Force, Don got out. He took the LSAT exam and applied to study at the University of Pacific McGeorge School of Law. While in college, he got together with a friend at a bar. That friend introduced him to a fellow law school student. That student was Cindy and they got married in 1989.

They both graduated and went into personal injury and litigation law working for a large law firm. Dissatisfied, they decided to be independent so they set up their own law practice in Fair oaks. Don works on Wills and Trusts and Cindy handles Bankruptcies.

In 2005, Don talked to Cindy about fostering a child and she was thinking the same thing. In June of 2007, they started fostering two sisters, a 9-year old named Katlyn and a 5-year old named Abby. A couple of years later the adoption was made official. Today the daughters are ages 27 and 23. Katlyn is the mother of a darling 5-year old boy.

On the Steven Colbert show, he gives a quick quiz to his guests. The final question is "Describe the rest of your life in five words". Don's answer would be "Waiting to see what's next".

Prospector

Bill Wagner is the prospector for the month. It's his 43rd wedding anniversary so he donated \$100 to The Rotary Foundation. He decided to give each member a chance to answer either a question about Rotary or to have a Happy Fine. Almost everyone paid a Happy Fine.

Joni - happy that her daughter closed on a new house.

Dennis - happy that the Dodger Baseball team won the World Series.

Keith - happy that people want to try new things

Patty - happy that Sue and Jack are here.

Jim - happy that the Rotary theme is Gratitude.

Steve - happy that Katherine is visiting her family in southern California for 2 weeks.

Diana - happy that she bought 5.02 acres of land in Concow, California.

Rob - happy to spend two weeks in Hawaii.

Phyllis - happy to spend time in Scotland but very happy to be back home.

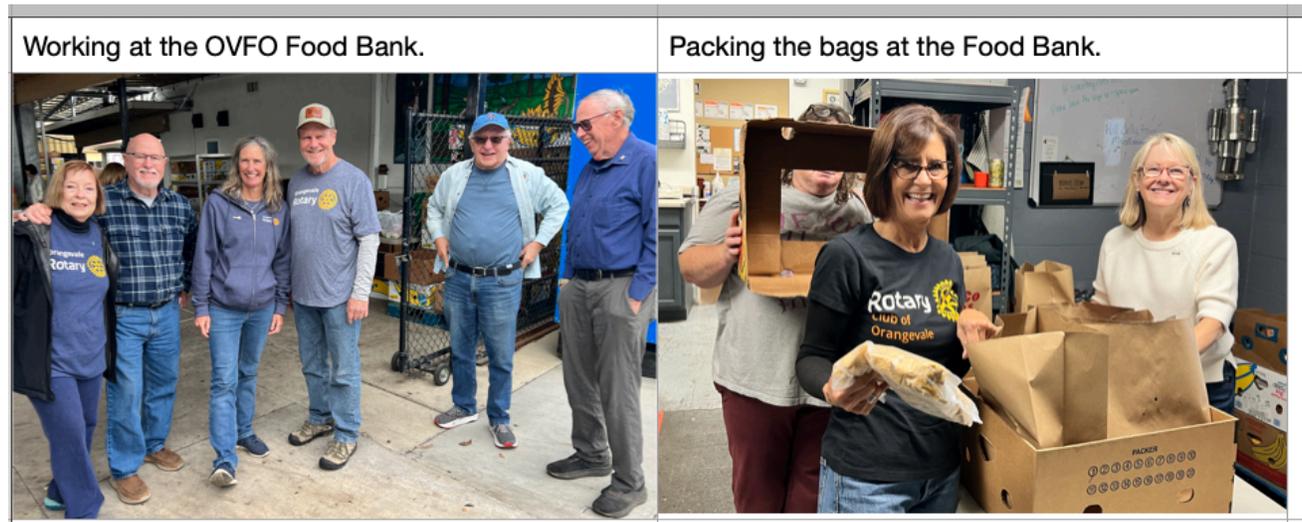
Mairy - Happy to trade 1,110 miles on the rivers from Budapest to Amsterdam.

The Orange Ball Raffle

Steve Blair's raffle ticket was drawn. There were eight golf balls and \$90. Steve pulled the orange ball out of the basket!! Congratulations!! He will be selling raffle tickets at the next meeting.



Photo Gallery - here and on the next pages



The Rotary Foundation dinner.



PP Catrina with Polio Plus recognition.



Where has Belle been now?!?



Belle helped with Trunk or Treats. The kids, and adults, loved the poparts.



Max and Lily Sue with Belle!

Kisses at the Turkey Toss with Belle



Belle wishing luck to all the raffle participants.



Fellow conspirators in on hiding Belle at Turkey Toss.



Belle wishing luck to all the raffle participants.



Fellow conspirators in on hiding Belle at Turkey Toss.



Belle brought us luck in the Turkey Toss Raffle!



If the turkey could see straight see straight, it would have run off with our sweet Belle.



Big Turkey likes Shiny & Belle



Trying to look innocent.