

The Orange Peel

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

Next Meeting Friday, Feb 20, 2026

Speaker - Jenny Roberts -
Big Brothers Big Sisters

Greeters - Dennis Sarkisian

Invocation - Audrey Smith-
Wiberg

Vocation - Dennis Sarkisian
and Don Glover

Prospector - Steve Blair

Raffle tickets - Licia Green

The Four-Way Test

Is it the TRUTH?

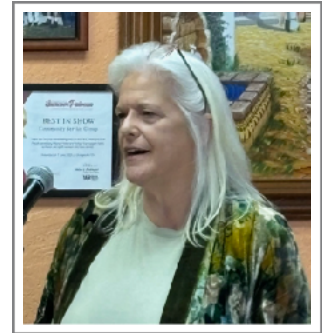
**Is it FAIR to All
Concerned?**

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

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

Peacemakers Love Foundation - Good Cause Sacramento

Colleen McCusker is the Director of Operations for **Peacemakers Love Foundation - Good Cause Sacramento** (PLFGCS), where she has served in a dedicated volunteer capacity since 2015. She brings more than a decade of hands-on experience in recovery housing, trauma-informed care, and program operations.



Before joining PLFGCS, Colleen spent over five years as Director of Housing for a nationwide recovery organization, overseeing detox, residential treatment, and transitional housing programs. Her earlier career includes eight years in product and business management at Visa International and five years as an independent advocate helping small businesses navigate merchant services.

In 2020, Colleen led the opening of PLFGCS's Women's Home in Orangevale, where she continues to foster a safe, structured, and empowering environment for women rebuilding their lives. Her work reflects a blend of operational excellence, compassion, and deep commitment to community healing.

After her introduction Colleen math that she had never received such a warm welcome at a meeting. She complimented the amazing energy of the group. She is new to the Orangevale community and in 2020 she opened a house for women. She love how people look put for each

Recap of the Meeting Feb 13, 2026

Guests

Colleen McCusker - Good Cause Sacramento

Collette Palmer - wife of Sean Palmer

Kathleen Massae - Realtor and FFA advisor

Visiting Rotarians

Ryan Jantzen - Folsom Club. District 5180 Assistant Governor for Area 5. He will be the District Governor is 2028-2029.

Dr Brian Gladden - Roseville Club. He will be the District Governor is 2027-2028

Samantha Davidson - Folsom Rotary

**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"**

other in this community, coming together to help.

Good Cause Sacramento started in 2011 helping men who were recently behind prison walls and needed help rejoining the community. The first men's home was in Del Paso. The man who originally started this program had himself been in prison for four years. After serving his time he was released in the county where he committed the crime and given \$200. That was it. There was no one to help him change his habits, etc.

That man is Malcolm Johnson, the founder and CEO of Peacemakers Love Foundation/Good Cause Sacramento and creator of Men's Empowerment Process. He wanted to make a change, not just to provide housing for ex-inmates but to help with the issues such as drinking, drugs, violence, etc. He wanted to build a community.

After ten years in Del Paso Heights, he wanted to move to a better environment and he found a large home in Citrus Heights which can house 18 men in the reentry program.

Colleen was working with Malcolm since 2013 but she kept wondering - what about the women? There was no place for them to go. Women are different than men and have different needs. But it became a passion of hers to help them.

The right home came along and it was in Orangevale. As soon as she walked in, she knew that this was a place where people could heal. That was five years ago and it couldn't happen in a better place. She partners with Divine Savior, St Vincent dePaul, the Last Ministry Boutique and Jake's Journey Home. Jake's advocates for the homeless individuals and empowers women. For example they help transport women for court services.

The homes provide sober living for an average of 18 months. There are classes that the women must go through for twelve weeks - Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 9am to 12noon. The classes are led by volunteers who teach courses on intentional living, non-violence, communication, job readiness, etc. The focus is on awareness.

Life in the house follows "The Four Agreements", a book by Don Miguel Ruiz. It's a practical guide to Personal Freedom.

The book is organized via explorations of the four agreements:

- "Be impeccable with your word"
- "Do not take anything personally"
- "Do not make assumptions"
- "Always do your best"

How this comes into practice in the house is that you can't assume women know how to clean a house. Another situation is that the women have trust issues but they are expected to do their best.

Upon entering the home, the women must be still for 30 days. This means no phones and they go crazy for one week but they sit through it. They hate it but they do it and they say they got more done in 30 days than in 10 years.

They build trust and they start to believe in themselves. They get a new belief system, day by day. It is such a beautiful home and environment and it's kept positive. If a women can't be positive while staying there, then this may not be the right home for them.

These women come from domestic violence, trafficking, prison and they find their authentic self. The Family Justice Center works with them. They are interviewed before being accepted into the women's house. They can't be using mind altering drugs or alcohol. They can stay up to 18 months. Grow or go.

Colleen helps them get their own place when they are ready, it's section 8 housing. There are several men who have successful left the Men's House and are now homeowners. The job readiness includes hands on work such as landscaping and demolition work. They go out in teams and learn to work so they can eventually get jobs.

Colleen told a story about a young, homeless woman. In the Orangevale View, Colleen advertised about the home. Something inside this woman told her to call the number even though she had no funds. Colleen interviewed her and decided to let her in the home. She had been banded from the food bank and the free showers. She had a bad demeanor and really rough but when she walked through the door, she shed the armor she had built up to survive.

She began taking advantage of every opportunity from the classes, Jake's Journey and the Boutique. She was able to get her paperwork take care of so she could get a job. Today she has a job at Walmart. Soon she will get to have her children back. The Orangevale community circled around her to make her successful.

To learn more about the Peacemakers Love Foundation - Good Cause Sacramento visit the website GoodCauseSac.org It is a very nice website with lots of good information. President Deanna thanked Colleen for sharing about this special effort and presented her with a handcrafted pen made by member Bob Kurtz. She stayed after the meeting to answer questions.



Our Newest Member

Joni Cyr, Membership chairperson, started by saying, Fellow Rotarians and Guests, this morning we have the honor to participate in a unique membership induction ceremony. Today the Rotary Club of Orangevale welcomes longtime Honorary Member Bert Smith as a new member with full privileges and opportunities to serve within our club. At this time I would like Bert and her sponsor Lorie Rheams to join me at the podium. Lorie, as Bert's sponsor please share a bit about who Bert Smith is and how she came to Rotary.



Bert's husband **Laird Smith** was a Past President of the club and he had a dynamic influence on the club. When he was diagnosed with cancer, the club members rallied around him. After he passed away, then **President Robert Guthleben** made Bert an honorary member and that honorary membership has been renewed year after year. In addition, Bert has been a longtime and devoted member of Inner Wheel. In the past year Bert has expressed interest in become a Rotarian instead of an honorary Rotarian and today we are inducting her into Rotary. Lorie pinned a Rotary Pin on Bert's blouse.

Joni thanked Lorie and she turned to Bert and said - You have been chosen for membership in the Rotary Club of Orangevale. This is because the members of this club believe you to be a leader in your community and because you possess the qualities of head and heart for imparting your wisdom of Rotary to those you come in contact with.

Joni continued by saying - I now ask all members and guest to please stand. Members of Orangevale rotary, do you pledge your support of Bert as a new member of our club? If so, indicate by saying "we will".

Bert, in the name of the Rotary Club of Orangevale, we now formally admit you to membership in this club with full benefits and opportunities to serve. Fellow Rotarians, I present to you our newest member Bert Smith. At that moment, everyone gave Bert a warm applause and welcome.



Bert was given a few minutes to talk and she remembered that someone once told her to be "keep the sermon snappy!" Bert said that the Laird was an Independent CPA and he loved this community. He worked for himself and he missed out on having a water cooler conversation with co-workers. The rotarians became his water cooler gang. The trust and love given by this club when he was ill was special and Bert is joyful to be the newest member of this club.

A Visit by the In-Coming District Governors

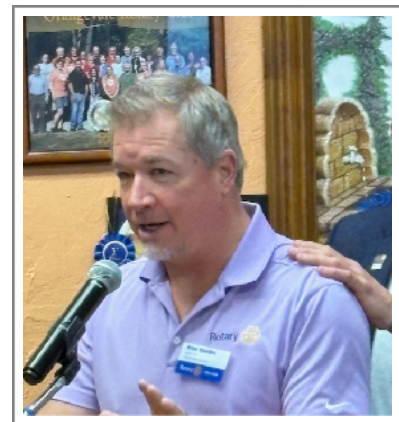
Ryan Jantzen and **Dr. Brian Gladden** were two of our visiting Rotarians today. Brian is the District Governor Nominee for the years 2027-2028 and Ryann is the District Governor Designate for the years 2028-2029.

Ryan spoke first. He complimented the Rotarians for having so much energy at 7am in the morning! He was pleased the Don Russell spoke about giving blood. Ryan is Blood Donation Chairperson for the Rotary District. He thanked Don on behalf of the Vitalant Community Council on which Ryan serves. He was happy to learn that we are holding the Rotary speech contest in two weeks. He's in charge of the contest in our area.



Ryan invited the rotarians to come to the **Rotary District Conference on May 1 through May 3**. It will be held at Lake Tahoe at the former Harvey's Casino that is now becoming the Caesar Republic. Ryan is the conference chairperson and he has scheduled entertainment such as inspirational speakers, comedians, dueling pianos and a Plunge for Polio (all presidents are encouraged to jump in). There is more information on the District website **Rotary5180.org**.

It was Brian's turn to speak next. He said he was blown away by the Orangevale's enthusiasm at 7am! He explained that Ryan and he are touring the Rotary clubs in the district before they become District Governors. Every Rotary year, the current District Governor visits all the clubs to see how they are doing. He and Ryan want to visit before their year as DG so they can get a head start on helping the club presidents and the clubs. And they want the Rotarians to help them at the District level.



Announcements and Committee Reports

Licia Green gave everyone a Valentine's Day card when they walked through the door. Thank you for the cute cards!

Dennis Sarkisian thanked the members who helped at the food bank last Friday. We served 77 families, totaling 227 children and adults. We also assisted with processing 7 new applicants.

Mike McKibbin said that on Wednesday, that he will **distribute the \$5,900** made in the tip jars at the Crab Feed to the student servers from the clubs at Casa Roble High School. The amount tip amount per student is \$59.

Interact	\$118.00
FFA	\$1239.00
Soccer	\$944.00
AVID	\$1593.00
Drama	\$885.00
ROTC	\$1121.00

The **Rotary Speech Contest** will be held at the March 6th Rotary meeting instead of having a speaker. The **Interact Advisor Cathy Carlson** has been very active in getting students to enter the contest. Mike passed around a signup for the speech contest. He needs 13 people to help out with jobs such as timers, judges, etc.

David Shepard, Treasure, sent out breakfast meal invoices to members who have balances due.

Rob Auernig, Vocational Chairperson, said that the **Laurie Martin**, the basket lady ([A Perfect present.net](http://APerfectpresent.net)) made him a basket which he gave to **Janet and Mike Cahill** for hosting the **best Vocational tour** ever (Siemens Railcar).

Bill Wagner, Rotary Foundation chair, handed out checks to the winners of the **Super Bowl Football Pool**.

- \$75 for the first quarter score - **Bert Smith**
- \$100 for the second quarter score - **Licia Green**
- \$125 for the third quarter score - **Catrina Womack**
- \$200 for the final score - **Mairy Droese**
- and \$500 to **The Rotary Foundation**

Mairy and Licia donated their winnings to the **Rotary Foundation**.

Bill shared this good news. At the beginning of President Deanna’s year, three goals were set for The Rotary Foundation.

- To be an **EREY club** (Every rotarian Every Year) - this goal was reached.
- **Polio Plus** - the goal was \$2,500 and \$7,300 was donated so the goal was reached.
- **Annual Giving** - \$10,000 goal and so far \$10,124 has been raised.

Audrey Smith-Wiberg reminded the members that the **VIP Baseball Tournament** will be on Sunday, Feb 15 from 9am to 5:30pm. She needs people to be timers and scorers. The **Knights of Columbus** will be helping in the kitchen to make meals for the participants. If you will be working in the kitchen, send your name to **Bill Wagner**. He needs 60 people to help starting at 7:30am in the kitchen to make 550 bag lunches for volunteers and athletes. It will be held at the La Sierra Community Center.

Don Russell, Club chair, said that it was World Radio Day. What is football players favorite ice cream? Any given Sunday. Last Wednesday, the Dine Around was held at Fair Oaks Brewing and 14 Rotarians turns out. Don told everyone that if they give a pint of blood this weekend at

Vitalant, they will receive \$25. What do you call a group of Killer Whales playing instruments? An Orca-star.

There was so many events this morning, that the Vocational talk was postponed. Dennis Sarkisian and Don Glover will both give their talks next week.

Member Moments - Celebrate, Connect, Contribute.

You will notice one small update to our meeting today. What we traditionally called Prospector will no be called Member Moments - it will be our time to Celebrate, Connect and Contribute.

- **Bert Smith** was happy that Mairy Droese's deceased husband, Robert guthleben, invited her to be an honorary member after her husband died. The money she donated today will go to the Laird Smith scholarship.
- **Licia Green** is happy that this is her one-year anniversary as a Rotary member.
- **Bill Wagner** was happy that a woman who got Bill's business card 25years ago recently reached out to him for help and is his newest client.
- **Janet Cahill** (with the help of **Mairy** Droese and **Horacio** Oropeza) recycled the water bottles and cans from Crab Feed. She got \$10 from the 200 containers and she donated the money to the club.
- **Derek Maldonado** was happy to see the sun shining because he knows the rain is coming.

The Orange Ball Raffle

This week, there were five golf balls and the pot of money was \$138. One of our guests pulled out the ticket and it was **Licia Green's ticket**. She pulled out the winning orange golf ball. Winner-winner! She'll be selling raffle tickets at the February 20th meeting!

Thought of the Week

Progress doesn't require big changes - just small intentional steps in the right direction.

