

# The Orange Peel

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

## Next Meeting Friday, Feb 27, 2026

**Speaker** - Andrew -  
Manufacturing Production,  
Folsom High School  
**Greeters** - Don Glover  
**Invocation** - Jm Buntin  
**Vocation** - Bob Kurtz  
**Prospector** - Steve Blair  
**Raffle tickets** - Patty Wolff

## 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?**

## Big Brothers Big Sisters of The Greater Sacramento Area

**Brad Squired** introduced the two speakers - **Jacob Petersen** and **Jenny Roberts**. He met Jenny when she worked on the Orangevale Community Board and now she works for Big Brothers Big Sisters.

Jacob started out by saying “You are a fun group and he appreciated the club for having us out to talk about Big Brother Big Sisters (BBBS). “So, what do we do? Think of the mentors you have had in your life.” Several Rotarians answered - neighbors, coaches, teachers.



Jacob told his story of having an impactful mentor when he was growing up in West Roseville. His was a traditional family but unfortunately, the family fell on hard times. When he was five years old, his dad left the family. Around that time, his mother was diagnose with cancer and given six months to live.

Luckily a church member took he and his sister under their wing. This mentor told him that better times were ahead and that he was going to go to college. This changed Jacob’s life and ever since then he has wanted to give back.

In college he found Big Brothers Big Sisters (BBBS) and he signed up to volunteer. He was paired with Xavier, a six-year old boy with a challenging home life. Jacob encouraged him and taught him important things.

## Recap of the Meeting Feb 20, 2026

### Guests

**Jacob Petersen and Jenny Roberts** - Big Brothers Big Sisters

**Ernie Womack** - Rotarian  
Catrina Womack's husband

### 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"**

Seventeen years later, they are still close friends.

At Jacob's wedding, Xavier was his groomsman and the person who mentored Jacob as a boy was the person who performed the wedding ceremony. Relationships created in Big Brothers Big Sisters are very impactful.

Big Brothers Big Sisters has been around for a long time. It is a national organization that was started in 1904 as a diversion program for children. Boys who were put into juvenile hall kept ending back there. An idea was tried that made a difference. The young boys were paired with community leaders and it was incredibly impactful. There was a need for positive, consistent guidance in their lives.

Today, many of the children come from underserved, single parent, low income



homes. Some children are foster children. BBBS serves the greater Sacramento area covering ten counties. It was founded in 1964. The ages of the children in the program are 8 to 21 years old. There is no age limit for the mentors. Some mentors are in their 80s and 90s. Being a mento is very impactful and rewarding.

There is a process for selecting mentors. BBBS recruits, vets and train adults to prepare them to work with youth. They are trained on how to a "Big".

A potential mentor is interviewed by staff to get to know them in person to learn how they feel about mentoring and what their interests are. The vetting process is a federal background check. When accepted, there is a lot of training and orientation.

A child that has been accepted by BBBS is enrolled and the pairing process begins. The parent/guardian and the child decide on their goals so the best match can be made. The chipped is referred to as the "Little".

The introduction is a slow process and the first outing is an icebreaker. With each meeting, the BBBS gives on-going support and keeps checking with both the mentor and the

child. Activities are suggested or set up by BBBS with a goal is to serve the matches so they can be successful.

All of the activities are approved by the parents/guardians; and the child. The match making is taken very seriously. This is a vulnerable population and safety is a primary concern. The mentor is trained on the mandated reporting process - if you see harm to a child, they need to know how to handle it.

After being matched with a child, the mentor meets with the child and the parent/guardian. The mentor is tough tips and tricks to break the ice with the child and the start of a foundation begins.

Impact - 74% of children show a mental health improvement. Some children only have the mentor that they can open up to and tell their problems to because of their home life. If a child has been missing school, they may confide in the mentor that they have been experiencing bullying at school. The mentor tells BBBS and the staff will contact the school.

Education and career success - 95% of the children graduate from high school with a career plan. When a child is mentored, they are 55% more likely to go to college, 78% more likely to volunteer in their community, 90% more likely to mentor others, and 130% more likely to pursue leadership positions.

Researchers found that after 18 months of spending time with their Bigs, the Littles, compared to those children not in our program, were:

- 46% - less likely to begin using illegal drugs
- 27% - less likely to begin using alcohol
- 52% - less likely to skip school
- 37% - less likely to skip classes
- 33% - less likely to hit someone

From the BBBS of Greater Sacramento website, Jacob played a video of a six-year matching story between a sports-caster and a young boy. (Editor note - There are several more videos on the website that show the impact of mentoring.)



A mentor is asked to make a one-year commitment (but naturally people want to continue). The Big and Little get together 2 to 4 times a month. Most mentors are working professionals so the get togethers are on weekends and they don't have to be a big event - shop at Costco together, cook a meal together, play in a park, etc. Mentors can do simple things and the child will still be impacted.

**Jenny Roberts**, the Chief Development officer spoke about fundraising events that BBBS holds each year. On Monday, May 18, there will be a golf tournament at the Del Paso Country Club - Golf For Kids Sake; 9AM to 5PM. Jenny is looking for sponsors and foursomes. Jenny passed out information about the scramble gold tournament - a flyer and details about event. On October 3, there will be a Masquerade Ball at the California State Railroad Museum.



Today there are 130 active matches. The wait list is over 100 children. The challenge is finding volunteer mentors and funding for recruitment and training.

To learn more about the Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Greater Sacramento area, visit the website <https://www.bbbs-sac.org/> President Deanna thanked Jacob and Jenny for sharing the Big Brother Big Sister impact on children and presented them with a handcrafted pen made by member Bob Kurtz.

## Announcements and Committee Reports

**President Deanna Maddock** said that the **Blood Drive** at Mode Brewing & Kitchen is a two-day event - **Saturday, February 28 and Sunday, March 1**. The appointments for Saturday are full. but there are still slots available on Sunday. Deanna is giving blood on Sunday at 2:45pm.

Deanna said that **Licia Green** has been invited to be a guest speaker at the **Folsom Rotary Club** to talk about the **CCHAT Center** where she works. Please support her by attending the Rotary meeting on **Thursday, March 19, 6:30pm at the Robert H. Miller Rotary Clubhouse in Lew Howard Park**. Doors open at 6:00pm.

**Janet Cahill**, Community Chairperson, asked everyone to mark their calendar for our next work party at the **Orangevale Fair Oaks Food Bank on Friday March 6**. The **Rotary House** work party will be **Saturday, March 14**. The last Saturday of March will be the next **American River Trail clean up** - mark you calendar for **Saturday, March 28**.

Last Wednesday, **Mike McKibbin** distributed the “tip” checks to the Casa Roble clubs whose members participated as servers at the crab feed. The students are out of school this week for Spring break. The speech contest will be held on Friday March 6 and lots of Rotarians signed up to help with the contest. Mike will hold a ten-minute training session next Friday after the Rotary meeting. Please plan on staying after the meeting.

**Bill Wagner** gave a big thank you to the members who helped the Knights of Columbus build lunches for the **VIP Basketball Tournament**. Over 550 meals were made for the athletes and volunteers. It was a hear warming event. **Audrey Smith-Wiberg** also said thank you to Bill and the Rotarians that helped her with timing and scoring. “Rotary did good!”

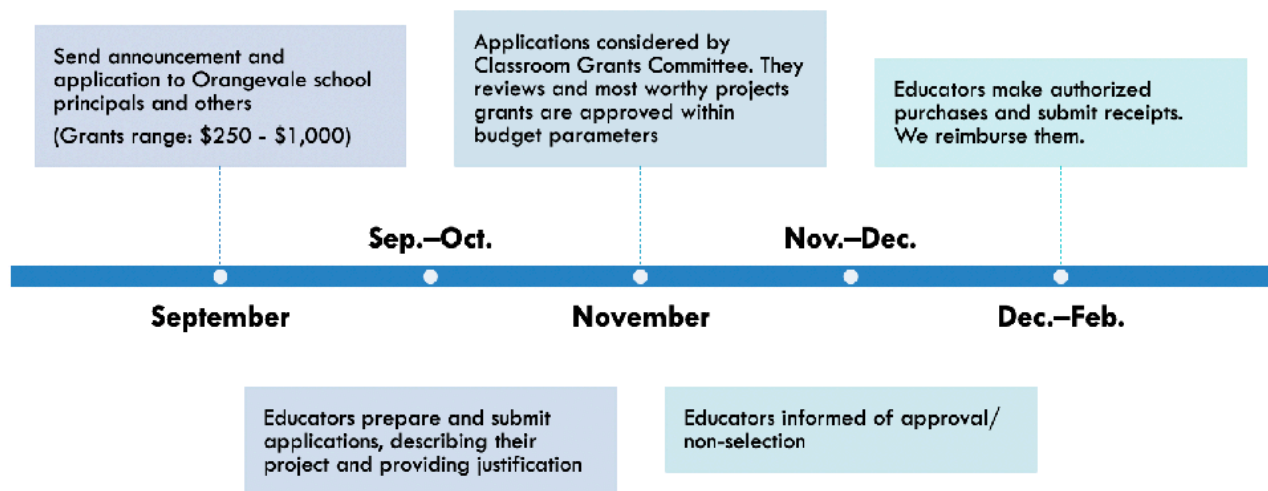
**Don Russell**, Club chair, said that today is Muffin Day. Two muffins are in the oven and the first muffin says “Boy, it’s hot in here!” and the send muffin says “Wow, a talking muffin!”.

The next **Dine Around** will be **Wednesday, March 11** at **Bodega Biondi** at 7984 California Ave, Fair Oaks. Don told everyone that if they give four pints of blood this spring at **Vitalant**, they will receive an ice cream pack. What do you call any with a cough? A little horse.

## Vocational Talk

**Dennis Sarkisian’s** vocational talk about the club’s Classroom Grants Program, which is in alignment with Rotary Focus Area: Basic Education and Literacy. The program supports the Orangevale school educators with items requested for enhancing student engagement and learning. Items have included books, materials, equipment, tools, field trips, and furniture which the teachers may not have been able to acquire through other sources. The program also promotes Rotary with school administrators and educators.

The process has several steps:



This Rotary year the budget for Classroom Grants was \$13,500. A total of 20 grants were awarded and ranged from \$2500 to \$1000. As of February 11, 16 of the grants has been reimbursed for a total of \$11,294.54. Four grants are pending reimbursement. Dennis described and showed pictures of items purchased with the grants.

A student supply station (cart on wheels with drawers) at the Casa Roble Library helps the students who come from low income homes. Having supplies such as dental, hygiene, grooming and first aid supplies readily available in the library relieves their anxiety.

A tiny “teacher” was purchased for a classroom at Oakview Community Elementary school. The teacher wanted to get the 4th grade classroom a pet. She purchased a turtle, and aquarium and supplies. The turtle provides hands-on science learning. Many students can’t have pets at home so the students can take part in caring for an animal.

At Casa Roble, a Food Hydrator was purchased for the Food & nutrition classes. This is the third year a grant has been giving to the ever-popular program. Besides buying a food dehydrator, the

money was used to buy a flat-top grill, a vacuum sealer & storage bags, immersion blenders, micro planers and more.

Twin Lakes Elementary School is supporting a foundation of focus for young learners with Autism. Grant money was used to buy a new indoor swing, a trampoline, white boards, games, puzzles and more.

Dennis wrapped up his talk by sharing some of the teachers' feedback regarding the grants. He said that the feedback is consistently positive. The teachers appreciate that there is very little red tape.

- From Pasteur MS Special ED teacher, for \$500 granted to buy healthy snacks for behavior reinforcement: **“Wow, that’s great - it will really help our kids. This should get us through the year.”**
- From a Twin Lakes Elementary teacher, for \$1000 to furnish and equip her K-2nd Autism classroom: **“Oh my goodness! This is absolutely AMAZING! It makes a huge impact on our Autism Program.”**
- From a Casa Roble HS Food & Nutrition teacher, for \$1000 granted for technology and equipment for enhancing their classroom: **“This is going to be a huge boost for the Foods & Food Science curriculum.”**



## Member Moments - Celebrate, Connect, Contribute.

What we traditionally called Prospector will now be called Member Moments - it will be our time to Celebrate, Connect and Contribute.

- **Lorie Rheams** - we are leaving Monday for a four week trip to Florida and then a two-week cruise in the Caribbean. When they return, **Russ** is scheduled to have hernia surgery. See you in eight weeks!
- **Patty Wolff** is happy to be with friends.
- **Phyllis Macdonald** like the lovely energy this morning.
- **Catrina Womack** started by saying that she is not leaving Orangevale Rotary. She and **Ernie** are going to inspect a five-acre property near Pilot Hill.
- **Steve Blair** was happy that Jack Buckley stayed at his Tahoe cabin. Besides checking out Steve’s heater while he was there, he also shoveled the driveway several times!

## The Orange Ball Raffle

This week, there were ten golf balls and the pot of money was \$34. **Patty Wolff’s** ticket was drawn so she got a chance to pull a golf ball out of the basket. Unfortunately it was white so she will be selling tickets at the next meeting!

