

# The Orange Peel

2026-2027 | President Steve Blair | Rotary Creates a Lasting Impact!

## Next Meeting Friday, Sept 18, 2026

**Speaker** - Greg Dewey -  
Effie Yeaw Nature Center: 50  
Years of Wonder.

**Greeters** - Derek  
Maldonado

**Invocation** - Bert Smith

**Vocation** - Deanna Mattock

**Raffle tickets** - Audrey  
Smith-Wiberg

## 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?**

## Helping Hands OV



**Speaker-chair Licia Green** introduced **Sydnie Anderson** who is the the President and Founder of **Helping Hands OV – Orangevale-Fair Oaks**, a 100% volunteer nonprofit dedicated to connecting the community one hand at a time. What began as a small idea has grown into an organization making a meaningful difference for families, seniors, veterans, individuals with disabilities, and neighbors in need throughout the community.

When she's not leading Helping Hands OV, Sydnie is a proud boy mom, dog mom, and a full-time working professional, all while dedicating countless hours to volunteering, organizing programs and events, building community partnerships, fundraising, and making sure Helping Hands OV continues to grow.

Sydnie believes that you don't need a huge organization or a big budget to make a big impact. Sometimes, all it takes is one person willing to step up, lend a hand, and bring people together. Her passion is simple: connecting people who want to help with people who need a helping hand./..

Helping Hands OV began in the very end of 2019 with something simple— Sydnie was a tired single mom with a son. She had an overgrown lawn and needed help. On her way back from picking her son up from Tee Ball, she discovered that a kind neighbor stepped in to mow her lawn.

## Recap of the Meeting Sept 11, 2026

### Guests

**Sydney Andersen** - Orangevale Times

**Ernie Womack** - husband of Past-President Katrina Womack

### Visiting Rotarians None

**District 5180 Governor  
Dave Veden  
2026-2027**

**Rotary International  
President 2025-2026  
Olayinka Hakeem Babalola**

**The 2025-2026 Rotary  
International presidential  
theme is "Create Lasting  
Impact"**

She was grateful and wondered, what if we helped other in their moment of need? From that day, Helping Hands OV was born with a clear mission: to connect our community, one hand at a time.



**Helping Hands OV**  
CONNECTING OUR COMMUNITY  
ONE HAND AT A TIME

We're 100% volunteer-run nonprofit that brings people together to lend a hand where it's needed most—whether that's delivering food, creating holiday magic for kids and seniors, or helping with small household tasks that make life easier. Because sometimes, the biggest impact comes from the smallest act of kindness. You don't need a lot to give, you just have to have a lot of heart.

Looking at local statistics - who we are impacting in Orangevale (based on the 2020 census)?

Population in Orangevale - 35,569

Low Income Families - 640

Low Income Seniors - 546

Low Income Veterans - 233

The total we can assist based on these stats is 1,409 people.

In 2025, Helping Hands OV received 25 requests for small job assistance. To date in 2026, Helping Hands OV has had 85 requests, proving the need is growing and the word is spreading. Only 48 of those jobs have been able to be completed. Most of those we assist are elderly on a very low to extremely low income according to California income standards. In January - August 2026, Helping Hands OV has provided over \$15,800 in services.

During COVID, she started the program "Valentines for Seniors". The local community was asked to hand-make valentines and drop them off at small businesses who collected them. The 2021 goal was to collect 400 cards and Sydney received 4,204 cards! This year 12,400 cards were collected. The cards are distributed to seniors in Orangevale and senior home all over Sacramento County.

Other programs Sydnie has started at Helping Hands are “Easter Baskets for Kids in Need” (187 children received baskets this year) and “Let it Snow Toy Drive” (135 Children received gifts in 2025). Helping Hands also has started a scholarship program for Blue Collar Trade School training. The scholarship amount of \$1000 supports local students and adults

Sydnie wrapped up her talk by talking about volunteer opportunities. For more information, visit [HelpingHandsOV.org](http://HelpingHandsOV.org). President Steve thanked Sydnie for her work in the community and presented her with a handcrafted pen made by member Bob Kurtz.



## Announcements and Committee Reports

**Dennis Sarkisian** said that the classroom grant applications have been sent out to all of the Orangevale Schools. The grants range from \$250 to \$1000. Its like a Make-A-Wish program for school teachers who want special items for their classrooms. Dennis has received three applications so far. They are due October 2, 2026. Alone with the \$2,000 Rotary District Grant, the total grant money available is \$17,000.

Dennis also gave a run down of our service day at the **OV-FO Food Bank**. Ten Rotarians showed up to help last Friday. Seventy-nine families representing 223 people were served. Friday, October 2 will be our next opportunity to serve.

**Licia Green** said that it's Crab Feed time and she is holding a kick off meeting at her home on Monday. Her address is 8262 Niessen Way, Fair Oaks. Check her email for more information. Tickets go on sale at the beginning of October.

**Janet Cahill** has delayed our planned American River Clean up because next weekend there will be a large community wide American River Clean Up spearheaded by the Friends of Folsom and the Aquatic Center at Lake Nimbus.

**Jim Buntin**, International Chair, is looking for a Rotary Global Grant that the club can help with this year.

**Don Russell** said that it's National Make Your Bed Day. What do you get when you cross a snowman with a vampire? Frostbite!

This week Don got stuck in the Highway 50 shutdown. He took a positive stance and was grateful that he would get to go home. And he thought of all the good things we get to do for the community as a Rotary Club.

Last Friday the club was dark and he schedule a coffee meet up that day. Only Patty showed up but they had a nice visit. Last Wednesday, there was a Dine Around and ten people showed up at Fair Oaks Brewing.

The next social event will be on Saturday, September 19, 5pm. It will be a backyard BBQ at Don Glover' home located at 7701 Greenridge Way, Fair Oaks.

## Our Last Speaker's Follow up

**Lisa Montes** the editor of the **Orangevale Times** wrote an article for the paper about her visit to our club last week.

### A MORNING OF WOWS, SERVICE AND COMMUNITY

On August 28, I had the pleasure of speaking to the Orangevale Rotary Club about the Orangevale Times -why our community newspaper exists, the importance of telling local stories, and how we can work together to keep Orangevale informed and connected. Our mission is to celebrate the people, non-profits, schools, clubs and businesses that make our community strong.



But what stayed with me most wasn't my presentation. It was the people in the room. From the moment I arrived, I was struck by how positive and welcoming this group was. I

especially enjoyed their celebration of "WOWs." The WOWs came in all sizes from simple moments of gratitude and plenty of Dad jokes to meaningful accomplishments and major life milestones. No matter how big or small, everyone embraced each person's moment with genuine enthusiasm.

There was laughter, encouragement and a wonderful sense that what matters to one person matters to the group.

It was heartwarming to witness an organization whose members clearly enjoy one another's company while remaining focused on something much bigger than themselves: supporting and serving their community.

During my presentation, I talked about the Orangevale Times' goal of strengthening community connections by sharing stories that might otherwise be missed. As I listened to the Rotary members celebrate one another that morning, I realized I was watching that same philosophy come to life.

Sometimes community isn't created through one enormous act. It is built through the little WOWs - the thank yous, the laughter, the recognition, the helping hand and the willingness to show up for someone else.

Thank you, Orangevale Rotary, for welcoming me and reminding me once again why I love this community and why telling its stories matters.

**Lisa Montes, Editor, Orangevale Times**

## Happy Fines

**Jim Buntin** was happy to be playing with a Big Band downtown.

**Phyllis Macdonald** was happy to be going to the Orangevale Black and White Ball at the Orangevale History Center.

**Ernie Womack** was happy to be with Katrina for 20 years.

**Sean Palmer** was happy that he went on a fishing trip with ten friends to West Port, Washington where he caught albacore tuna and salmon.

**Dennis Sarkisian** was happy to working with his wife Robbie to finish cleaning out a family home so it can be sold.

**Mairy Droese** was happy to be spending a week at Donner Lake with her husband's family.

**Licia Green** was happy that her trip to Hawaii landed between the two big storms that hit the islands.

**Mike Mckibbin** was happy to celebrate his 36th wedding anniversary to Celeste. And its his Rotary anniversary.

**Bert Smith** was happy at how much she has learned about car insurance from Audrey Smith Wiberg and Rob Auernig. She recently got her car back from Rob's shop and it looks great.

**Patty Wolff** was happy to be at the meeting.

**President Steve Blair** was happy to be going to Lake Tahoe with his grandchildren.

## The Orange Ball Raffle

There were eight balls and \$79. **Jim Buntin** had the winning ticket and he pulled the white golf ball out of the basket! Too bad, so sad. That means that Jim will be selling raffle tickets at the next meeting.

## Thought for the day

In remembrance of 9/11: "Heroes are made in the moments we choose to act, not the moments we're prepared for."

