



THURSDAY, JULY 17, 2025
YAKIMA CONVENTION & EVENT CENTER

Unite For
Good

MICHAEL CONNELLY & SAM LAFRAMBOISE
WESTWOOD GOLF CLUB



Michael Connelly is a lifelong sports lover, participant, and coach with deep roots in outdoor recreation. With a background in waterskiing, snowboarding, mountain biking, and golf, he spent 28 years in the mountains near Sun Valley, Idaho, coaching and guiding across all seasons. A trained river guide and passionate golfer, Michael brings energy, experience, and a deep connection to nature into every endeavor. Currently Michael lives with his partner Janie Plath in Yakima and is helping get Westwood Golf Course's new world class driving range and golf experience open in the Fall of 2025. He is also a sales consultant for Inrange Golf the technology behind the new Westwood range.

Born and raised in Yakima, Washington, Sam LaFramboise has always found joy and fulfillment in the outdoors. From farming or building to golfing, Sam continually connects with nature and focuses on leading a healthy, active lifestyle whether in work or play. He believes recreation is not just a pastime, but a fundamental aspect of well-being, one that fosters community, growth, and balance.

With a strong commitment to preserving green spaces, Janie and Sam took on the revitalization of Westwood Golf Course. Their vision is clear: to secure this historic green space for the people of Yakima, ensuring that locals have a safe, accessible place to enjoy and recreate, stay active, and embrace a lifestyle integrating the outdoors. Through their efforts, Sam continues to advocate for the importance of green spaces in our ever-growing city, building a healthy and more connected community.

Whether it's working the land, constructing something new, or hitting the links, Sam's dedication to outdoor projects reflects his deep belief in the power of recreation to shape lives and communities for the better.

FOR THURSDAY'S MEETING

Greeters – Kaylene Stiles, Shawna Masters
Inspiration – Sharon Miracle
Sergeant-at-Arms – Kellie Connaughton
Program – Dana Eliason

FUTURE PROGRAMS

July 22nd – Trust All Yakima Rotary Celebration at the
Rotary Marketplace at 5:30pm
July 24th – No Meeting
July 31st – Casey Sixkiller, Ecology in Central Washington
August 7th - Master Mentalist Jay Alexander, TED Talk

PROPOSED NEW MEMBER

Unless written objection is received by the Board of Directors by Friday, July 18, 2025, the following candidate will be elected to membership:

Eugene Vigil
Independent Agent
Western Community Insurance
Classification: Insurance, Farm and Ranch
Proposed by: Connie Falon
Endorsed by: David Brown

COMMITTEE MEETING NOTICES

The Social/Sports AND Rotary Operation Harvest committees will be meeting this coming Thursday, July 17th immediately following Rotary. If you are on the committee, please mark your calendar and plan to attend.

ROTARACT CORNHOLE TOURNAMENT

Join Yakima Rotaract for their 5th annual Cornhole Tournament set for Saturday, August 30th at 1pm at Bale Breaker Brewing Company. The cost is \$40 a team (2 people) and includes one drink ticket per player. There will also be prizes for the top 3 teams along with food trucks on-site, music, and a raffle.

All proceeds will benefit Rotaract's local impact initiatives. Grab your partner and sign-up today. Spots fill up Fast!



**Scan QR code to
purchase tickets!**

**32 Team Tournament
\$40 per team**

ROTARY HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Wednesday, July 16, 2025

5:30pm-6:45pm

OIC Training Center

815 Fruitvale Boulevard (rear parking lot)

TOPIC: The Intersection of Immigration, Free Speech, Due Process and Other Constitutional Issues

Immigration enforcement has figured prominently in the headlines this year, as federal officials and civil rights lawyers square off in the courts with competing accounts of exactly what rights the United States Constitution guarantees for whom.

Join Seattle University law professor Zaida Rivera and Yakima attorney Bill Pickett for a conversation around what the Constitution says (and what it doesn't say) about the intersection of immigration and due process of law.

Moderator: CWU Dean Rodrigo Rentería-Valencia

REVIEW



It was a very special first meeting for President Sheri. The room was full of friends, family and Rotarians to welcome her into her new role. The Rotary Board served as our greeters. Past President Jimmy opened the meeting with one last Good Afternoon. Sunny Cameron provided a beautiful message celebrating Sheri and how she inspires the people around her through her friendships and service. Announcements included a pitch for the Trust All-Rotary Celebration coming up on July 22nd at 5:30pm at the Rotary

Marketplace. RSVPs are due Saturday to elizabethmarie.lemon@gmail.com. An invitation was also extended for the next Historical Perspective set for Wednesday, July 16th from 5:30pm to 6:45pm at the OIC Training Center on Fruitvale Blvd. The topic is *The Intersection of Immigration, Free Speech, Due Process and Other Constitutional Issues*. John Baule and Margaret Filkins combined sergeant-at-arms and the introduction of President Sheri with a medley of hats for every part of her life and loves – Northwest Harvest, television media, Camp Prime Time, the Buffalo Bills and WSU.

With a rousing ovation, Past President Jim presented President Sheri with the president's pin. Sheri disappeared immediately from the room – thankfully she came back wearing a Rotary #107 jersey with a gift of a #106 jersey for Jim. Her first comments were of gratitude to her family and friends for coming and to Mary-beth Bradley as her Rotary sponsor. Her journey to the day started with a year and ½ ago on January evening with a bunch of cars showing up, and members of the Rotary board asking her to be our president – she had no choice but to say yes. Over the past year she has traveled to the Large Club Conference in Memphis, President Elect Learning in Seattle, and the RI Convention in Calgary – all allowed her to learn, grow, and network with Rotarians all around the world. If you know Sheri, you know that she loves football and the Buffalo Bills. It seemed only right that her theme for the year was unveiled as Team Rotary. She shared a quote from past Bill's Coach Marv Levy used for his players and fans to embrace the moment and the opportunities that the moment holds: *Where else would you rather be than right here, right now?* Teams are not limited to sports. Rotary is a team. Every week it's game time and a time to make a difference. On Thursdays at noon, there is nowhere else that President Sheri wants to be. The message for Rotary International this year is Unite for Good. It is a simple but powerful message. We sometimes disagree or don't see eye to eye but as Rotarians we are called to something greater. We leave disagreements and judgements outside the door when we unite each week as a team. "Together, we see a world where people unite and take action to create lasting change – across the globe, in our communities, and in ourselves."

One by one, we heard about Rotary's areas of Focus and what it means for us:

1. Increased Impact – For programs we will continue to secure speaker sponsors for Hispanic Heritage Month, Native American Heritage Month and Black History Month.

It's important to recognize, respect, and value our unique backgrounds, perspectives, and experiences – to learn about them and learn from them and to share with the community. We will also have a special speaker on September 11th who was at the Pentagon during the attack.

2. Membership – Our meetings will include more of an experience by getting team members involved. Music and sergeant-at-arms will look different at times. Membership is something that we will continue to work on – the goal for the team is 30 new members. You are invited to look at who is in your circle that to be a part of *Team Rotary*.

3. Engagement – We will be hosting special membership events including ideas from last year's Fireside Dinner discussions to increase personal and professional connections. Evening socials, coffee chats in the morning, and business or member hosted socials are examples of what you may see. In addition to Bridge and the Book Club, they are thinking about cribbage, bunco or game night, hiking or biking.

4. Ability to Adapt – Sometimes the game changes and you need to call in an audible. We need to welcome innovation and take risks. If it doesn't work, we don't do it again. We also need to be able to adapt financially to ensure club sustainability.

Community service is part of our playbook. We will be partnering with Southwest and Sunrise Rotary on a three-club project to furnish and decorate two playrooms at the new YWCA Domestic Violence Shelter: one on the second floor and one on the third floor. The facility, projected to open June 2026, will be housed in the historic St. Elizabeth's School of Nursing building and will include 41 rooms providing an additional 112 beds for women and children, and a separate men's suite. A Rotary Foundation Grant was secured to help with the project. We will also be providing school backpacks stuffed with supplies for every student at McClure Elementary, a school near and dear to Sheri – it's her alma mater! Classroom teachers will also be provided with kits. We will be assembling the backpacks during our meeting on Thursday, August 14th. We got a \$500 grant from JCPenney's to help with that project.

Every team has a starting lineup. We ended with a professional video introducing President Sheri's starting lineup of her board members. It was awesome! (it's on our Facebook page). She thanked her teammates, aka Committee Chairs, who will be calling the plays this year and each of us as members. With her second standing ovation of the day, she presented the President-Elect pin to John Cooper and shared a list of upcoming programs. It's going to be a GREAT year!

