Englewood Chamber Mission Statement:

"Dedicated to Leading Economic Growth with a Balanced Voice between Local Businesses, Residents, and Tourism that Creates Opportunities for our Community."

Board Meeting … Wednesday … July 9, 2025

Minutes

Attending: Jessica Souza, Kris Hartley, Peter Jennings, Julie Beatty, Shane Whitmore, Janae Boyer, Kathleen Callahan, Francine Finucan, Chris Porter, Chris Anders, Joe Cataldo, and Lori Wellbaum.

Staff: Doug Izzo - Executive Director

Absent: Erin Halstead.

1. **Call To Order:** 8:01 am

2. **Approval of the June minutes**: **Motion**: Hartley, 2nd Porter. Motion Passed

3. **President's Report**: Souza didn't have a lot to report but wanted to thank us all for not just showing up for meetings, but for promoting the Chamber whilst in the community. I think most people agree, the more we engage others the more people realize what we do, and why.

4. **Committee Reports:**

   Leadership: As Leadership 2025 has concluded, Izzo took the reins and stated we have 31 applications for Leadership 2026! These will be reviewed by the 3–5-person panel by the end of July/ early August.

   Junior Leadership: We had a special guest today, Addison Morey, who has spearheaded the Junior Leadership Program from the outset. The class has the 20 students they were hoping for, as well as sponsorships for EVERY student.

They have all the days planned out. Breakfast & Lunch sponsors secured.

Our panel-style interviews are scheduled for **July 23rd** in the **community room**. Interviews will run from **9 AM to 2 PM**, with **20 sessions at 15 minutes each.**

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5. **Ambassador Program:** Board members, as well as Ambassadors, now receive the emails for ribbon cuttings, etc. Thanks Doug. The next FAM DAY is Friday September 12th. No scheduled Ribbon Cuttings currently. Members really enjoy talking about their businesses, and we enjoy learning more about them as well.

6. **Government/Advocacy:** Nothing new on the government side. The south end of the beach parking lot did re-open, and some progress is being made. Dates of completion range from mid-august to late September.

   Izzo stated that part of the advocacy the Chamber provides is supporting members dealing with local governments, and/or potential customers of members, by penning letters of recommendation.

7. **Fundraising/Events:** Our Annual Golf Par-Tee Tournament will be held at the Long Marsh Course in Rotonda West on the last Saturday in July (7/26/25). Souza mentioned there are still sponsorships available. Souza again requested that board members provide an auction item for the silent auction at the tournament. Next golf committee meeting date TBD.

8. **Leads Group:** Cataldo updated the Board that the Power Partners Group has added quite a few new members; maybe to the point where another day per month would be added to hold meetings. YTD the group has generated 38 referrals, resulting in 11 sales with a value of $624,000. Great progress for a program still in its infancy. They meet on the 2nd & 4th Thursday of each month.

9. **Financial Updates.** Cataldo gave his financial report. Income for June was down considerably from this month last year. It was noted that All Star dues are the driving factor. Izzo stated he is working towards a better billing schedule so the need to chase members down all year is not necessary.

10. **Executive Director's Report, Doug Izzo:**
    a. **Facebook Post:** Izzo reminded everyone to share Chamber posts on Facebook.
    b. **Member Dashboard:** June saw a flurry of new members and quite a few drops; 13 added, and 24 dropped. Total active members 830.
    c. **New Member Cards:** Signed by BOD attendees

d. **Upcoming Events:** Golf Par-Tee July 26th at Long Marsh in Rotonda, Let's Eat Englewood 9/11/25 – 9/24/25, Manasota Mystique Saturday 10/4/25

11. **Old Business:**

MOTION: Whitmore, Hartley 2nd. To dissolve the title of V.P. of Leadership and transfer that title/role to handle other duties as a Vice President of the Board. Motion Passed.

FROM JUNE: It was also discussed, and decided (no motion necessary), for Doug to prepare another survey to the Chamber members, possibly with an embedded video for more pizazz, to inquire as to the percentage of lost business compared to 2024, and the total of their 1% County Tax year over year. Without using names, we would gather that information to present facts on just how much the parking being closed has impacted not only businesses, but the county as a whole.

12. **New Business:** No New Business.

13. **Open Discussion:** Whitmore asked that the Quarterly Membership updates be put back on the agendas going forward. Whitmore also brought forth an idea to promote food truck members; Possibly utilizing the newly acquired lot adjacent to the Chamber as a venue.

Also to be brought forward in the next meeting: Chamber Fashion Show, and LE22 Mural/LE23 Sculpture fund raising event or such to clear coat the mural (material cost only) and to repair & restore the Chadwick Park sculpture. Souza suggested possibly tying the two together. We're getting quotes on clear coat, and someone (when it's open) needs to inspect the sculpture to determine the needs there.

Jennings did go to take photos (June 27th) and did a cursory inspection of the LE23 sculpture. Looks like the fishing pole is the only real damage. Remarkable!

Meeting adjourned at 8:48 am. Motion to Adjourn: Callahan. 2nd Boyer