



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 ... December 10, 2025

Minutes

Attending: Jessica Souza, Kris Hartley, Peter Jennings, Shane Whitmore, Janae Boyer, Joe Cataldo, Erin Halstead, Lori Wellbaum, Chris Anders (via Phone) and Kathleen Callahan (via Zoom).

Staff: Doug Izzo - Executive Director

Absent: Julie Beatty, Francine Finucan, Chris Porter

Call To Order: 8:06 am

MOTION: Hartley. 2nd Boyer. To accept and approve the minutes from October & November Board meetings. **Motion passed.**

President’s Report: Update from Attorney Christine Sensenig... no further contact from member, nor the member’s attorney.

As a result of reviewing the Chamber’s By-Laws and Articles of Incorporation (from the only records available) it was determined by Gulf Coast Community Foundation that many amendments and changes to the by-laws were not made in compliance with the Articles of Incorporation; This may possibly have been happening for decades. Because of these findings, an email was sent out to the members notifying them that the By-laws will be amended to comply with the articles and that it needs to be a membership vote.

Committee Reports:

1. **Leadership:** The Leadership Class of 2026 completed their Local Economy + Arts & Culture Day on Wednesday 12/3. They started the day with local public figures speaking at the Chamber. Congressman Gregg Stube even Zoomed in for a chat. They then made their golf cart journey to various arts & culture stops.
2. **Junior Leadership:** Junior Leadership had their second full day on Saturday Dec 6th at the Chamber. This was Career & Economy Day. Thanks to the members that helped. It was noted that more “adult leadership” was needed as many students showed up late with zero remorse. Addison Morey did a great job, but we all know how it is corralling your peers. Being on time is leadership 101.
3. **Ambassador Program:** Instead of a meeting we are lucky to be going to Sunseeker for a tour on Friday 12/12. We’d love to have them as members! Thanks Kim!
4. **Government/Advocacy:** Izzo presented his request and budget for the 2026 Legislative Fly-In in Tallahassee on January 13th & 14th 2026.
5. **Fundraising/Events:** The last fundraising event of 2025 is the Wagon of Cheer. The End Zone is again graciously donating all the beverages, and State Farm donated the wagon again this year.
6. **Leads Group:** Cataldo again updated the Board with numbers from the group. There have been 69 referrals YTD. I was determined the best way to track referrals and compare apples to apples is to record the Gross Sale of the referral, and not the earnings.
7. **Financial Updates.** Cataldo gave his financial report. Although it was noted again that income is down YTD, Izzo stated December had an influx of dues.
8. **Executive Director’s Report, Doug Izzo:**
 - a. **Facebook Post:** Izzo reminded everyone to share Chamber posts on Facebook.
 - b. **Member Dashboard:** November saw almost an even number of dropped members vs. new ones added; 9 added, and 7 dropped. Total active members 838, up from 836.
 - c. **New Member Cards:** Signed by BOD attendees
 - d. **Upcoming Events:** Fun After 5 tonight happening at Thoroughbred Golf Carts. Biz@Noon Wednesday 12/17 at Mango Bistro. Annual Meeting is February 3rd. New Officer Installations.

Unfinished Business:

MOTION: Wellbaum. 2nd Halstead. To approve the nominations for 2 new board members as voted on by the general membership. **Motion passed.**
Welcome Erica Raymond of D Martin Plumbing, and Nicole Killian of SUP Englewood.

Break to Executive Session. Staff bonuses.

Return to Regular Session:

New Business:

MOTION: Whitmore. 2nd Cataldo. To move the Crews Bank \$100,000 CD to Lake Michigan Credit Union for their 7-month CD at 4.3% APY. Executive Director Doug Izzo, and President Jessica Souza, to be the signers on the account. **Motion passed.**

MOTION: Wellbaum. 2nd Boyer. To approve Izzo's trip and expenses for room, car, and attendance to the 2026 Florida Legislative Fly-In in Tallahassee Jan 13th & 14th at the cost of \$1,080. **Motion passed.**

Meeting adjourned at 9:07 am. Motion to Adjourn: Callahan. 2nd Boyer