



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 ... January 14, 2026
Minutes

Attending: Jessica Souza, Kris Hartley, Peter Jennings, Shane Whitmore, Janae Boyer, Joe Cataldo, Erin Halstead, Lori Wellbaum, Chris Anders, Kathleen Callahan, & Chris Porter.

Staff: Doug Izzo - Executive Director (via phone)

Absent: Julie Beatty, Francine Finucan.

Call To Order: 8:03 am

MOTION: Boyer, 2nd Callahan. To accept and approve the minutes from December Board meeting. **Motion passed.**

President’s Report: Souza thanked the Board and expressed her appreciation for our service throughout the year. She wished the best for the two exiting Board Members (Kathleen Callahan & Chris Porter) for their years of service to the Chamber & the community. Annual Banquet & Installation Awards is at The Hills on February 3rd.

Committee Reports:

1. **Leadership:** The Leadership Class of 2026 completed Sarasota Day Wednesday 1/7. They had only four stops, but a long day. Starting their day at Englewood Fire Department Training Center, Sarasota Emergency Operations Center, Sarasota National Cemetery, and ended at Cool Today Park with a great tour, snacks, and beverages.

2. **Junior Leadership:** Junior Leadership will have their Arts & Culture Day on Monday 1/19/26 touring by golf cart the various museums and cultural organizations etc.
3. **Ambassador Program:** The ambassador committee met on Friday 1/10/26 to plan the year of events: Brew Crew, Biz At Noon, and Fun After 5, as well as our FAM Days, and visiting Milestone members.
4. **Government/Advocacy:** Izzo called into the meeting from 2026 Chamber of Commerce Legislative Fly-in held in Tallahassee where he attended several breakout sessions with legislators and gave a brief update to next year's Florida budget cuts, etc.
5. **Fundraising/Events:** The last fundraising event of 2025 was the Wagon of Cheer. The End Zone and a few Board members graciously donated; State Farm donated the wagon again this year. Congrats to the winner. Not as successful as some wagons; Only brought in \$800. An increase in the dues was discussed. It hasn't happened in many years, and we are lower than surrounding Chambers. It was requested that Izzo should provide the Board, at the February meeting, with a breakdown of who pays what as a member at the different levels, and what the related benefits are at those levels.
6. **Leads Group:** Cataldo updated the Board with numbers from the group. There have been some drops for various reasons. We touched on the fact that many members are also part of other similar groups, which begs the question of where those members alliances lie. They've attempted several options to track referrals without success. The North Port group created a free APP that will be used by them. As it has only been a year, and several of the founders have stepped back, the group continues to evolve and grow.
7. **Financial Updates.** Cataldo gave his year-end financial report. Year-end P&L looks very healthy. Although expenses increased, so did revenue, bringing the net income to the Chamber a gain of \$21,000.
8. **Executive Director's Report, Doug Izzo:**
 - a. **Facebook Post:** Izzo reminded everyone to share Chamber posts on Facebook.
 - b. **Member Dashboard:** December saw triple the drops: 10 added, and 3 dropped. Total active members 845, up from 838.
 - c. **New Member Cards:** Signed by BOD attendees
 - d. **Upcoming Events:** Fun After 5 happening tonight at Right At Home on the Access Rd in E. Englewood. Biz@Noon Wednesday 01/21 at Landy's. Annual Meeting is February 3rd. New Officer Installations.

Unfinished Business:

FROM DECEMBER'S MEETING (as this was duplicated at today's meeting)

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.

Doug & Kim Self-evaluation: Doug's evaluation was in the packet as he was not physically present. Kim gave her evaluation and recap of the year regarding membership trends, social media posts, comments, and interactions.

New Business:

MOTION: Callahan, 2nd Hartley. To approve the Presidential Board Appointees, Dee Dee Quinn Hussey & Dana Lutz. **Motion passed.**

MOTION: Hartley 2nd Whitmore. To approve the 2026 Executive Board of (President-elect) Chris Anders (Treasurer) Joe Cataldo and (Vice President) Lori Wellbaum. **Motion passed.**

Break to Executive Session. Approx 8:30 am -Staff salary increases.

Return to Regular Session: Approx. 8:47 am

Leadership 2026 Legacy Project Presentation, by Chris Elliot & Grace Robidoux.

This year's class will again focus on helping the community without a huge push to raise funds. Their project, in cooperation with Lemon Bay Sunrise Rotary and an Eagle Scout troop, will consist of rebuilding and repairing the pergola, fence, benches, landscaping, and possibly a flagpole at the Lemon Bay Cemetery on Indiana adjacent to the Green Street Church. They have a small budget, and have already gained some monetary, as well as, material donations.

MOTION: Whitmore, 2nd Boyer. To approve LE 2026 legacy Project. **MOTION PASSED**

Meeting adjourned at 9:47 am. Motion to Adjourn: Whitmore. 2nd Callahan.