

RLE Chamber of Commerce and Civic League

Minutes for December 8th, 2025

Open Session: 6:30

Call to order: 6:33

Roll Call	Present	Absent
Cathy Scharf, President (exp 2026)	X	
Troy Golden , Vice President (exp 2026)	X	
Tonia Silva, Treasurer (exp2027)	X	
Dan Welch, Director(exp2025)	X	
Stacey Bastian, Director (exp 2025)	X	
Anthony Silva, Director (exp 2027)	X	
Liliette Freeman, Director (exp 2026)	X	
John Todd, Director (exp 2025)	X	
Vacant Seat (exp 2027)		

Quorum Present: Yes

Introductions:

Joe Pressnell, Daniel Williams, Amanda Ridgeway, Edwin & Andrea Bali, Steven & Susan Sheets, Meg Scheafer, Sheena McGowan, Steven Freeman, Jessica Thornihill, Andy & Robert Takar, ViAnn Todd, Jennifer Bodie

President Opening Comments:

Approval of the prior minutes: Dan motioned to approve the minutes as presented, Troy 2nd. Motion passes.

Treasurer's Report: Troy motioned to accept the report as presented, Liliette 2nd. Motion passes.

Committee Updates:

Mayor's Race- No update

Mayor's Dinner- No update

Community Champion- No update

Light Contest/Parade- Judging has taken place; winners will be announced at the parade.

Scholarship- Plan is to begin planning in January.

Mixers- Ornament exchange was well attended with approximately 25 people in attendance.

\$150 of the \$209 budget was spent.

Community Membership/Involvement- Rio Beauty Lounge joined.

County- No update

Grant Committee- County payment is delayed; Tonia has reached out. TOT Grant opens January 5 and closes February 6. Workshops are planned for the spring. Committees and chairs will be formed in January.

Old Business

1. Passports (Tonia)- Update to be provided next month.
2. Chamber Signs- Signs have been picked up. Ed Valencia and The Lions Club will install them.
3. Fundraising- Dan- Pizza Challenge Tasting. Committee meeting scheduled for Wednesday. Event to take place Friday, February 6, with the winner announced February 9 on National Pizza Day. Promotion to begin the first week of January. Request made for a budget for pizza boxes and miscellaneous items. Tonia motioned \$219.28, Anthony 2nd. Motion passes. Profits will be split 50/50 with the Grange.

New Business

1. Seat new directors- Amanda Ridgeway and Jessica Thornhill seated.
2. Nominate President- Dan nominated Tonia Silva for President; Tonia accepted. Anthony nominated Dan as Vice President; Dan accepted. Paper vote conducted. All in favor.
3. President appoints positions- Tonia asked LeeAnn to serve as Secretary; she accepted and the board approved. Tonia asked Amanda Ridgeway to serve as Treasurer; she accepted and the board approved.
4. New Business welcome- Welcome kit to include notebook pricing with logo, brochure, and application. Tonia motioned \$100 for budget, Amanda 2nd. Motion passes.
5. Email communication- Tonia motioned to print the email correspondence regarding Katherine Shermer's resignation in the following month's minutes. Beginning with the most recent email chain and moving forward, any email communication involving voting, decision-making, or formal action will be printed and attached to the meeting minutes as part of the official record. Dan 2nd. Motion passes.
6. Christmas Bazaar- LeeAnn requested \$250 for shopping for the donation bin. Dan motioned, Troy 2nd. Motion passes.

7. Facebook access- President, Vice President, and Secretary access. Additional access at the discretion of the President.

Director Comments:

Amanda- Owner of Ridgeway Construction; excited to become more involved and recommended Going Beyond School.

Anthony- Owner of Rio Java; asked where to submit payment for his portion of the porta potties.

Jessica- Owner of Tummy's; Sandwiches with Santa on Christmas Eve. Tummy's will have limited holiday hours. Legion Breakfast with Santa upcoming.

Cathy- Community Outreach Pastor at LifePointe Church; Sisters in Christ is providing gifts to 125 parents for children.

Troy- Owner of Golden Ray Solar Cleaning; looking forward to Saturday and serving as a judge.

Dan- Owner of Near You Pest Control; supported New Beginnings Fellowship with gift wrapping and shared positive remarks.

Liliette- Owner of Pittador Brews; reported week four of operating a shop in Old Sacramento and shared positive feedback.

Public comments:

Steven Freeman- Owner of Pittador Brews; thanked the community for downtown support.

Robert- Owner of Rio Linda AMPM; plans to open an AMPM locally and hopes to break ground next October.

Meg- Owner of Meg's Creamery; offering free hot cocoa after the parade. December promotion includes spending \$20 on gift cards and receiving \$5.

Susan- With The Grotto; Trivia with Abby and musicians scheduled. The December 19th theme is "Let It Glow." 24 Days of Local Delight was successful, raising \$2,500 for Sisters in Christ and \$2,500 for the food closet.

Sheena McGowan- CPAC was canceled for December; contact Troy for Christmas lights, gutter cleaning, and window cleaning.

Edwin- Owner of Rio Pub; multiple December events scheduled. Opened a restaurant in Sacramento Airport Terminal B. Planning for spring 2026.

Daniel Williams- Owner of Daniel Williams Flooring; provides residential and commercial flooring services.

Joe Pressnell- Going Beyond School released the spring schedule.

Adjourn: 7:44pm

Notes-

Future Agenda Items-

The next meeting is January 12th, 2026, at 6:30 P.M.

Location- 7813 Rio Linda Blvd, Elverta, CA 95626

Re: Board resignation

From Anthony <anthony.silva12680@gmail.com>
To kaileesmom2001@yahoo.com
CC bestbookkeeper<bestbookkeeper@pm.me>, Daniel Welch<dan@riolindapest.com>, John Todd<johntodd@gmail.com>, Cathy Haskill<community@lifepointenaz.com>, Leeann Williams<lulubell1707@gmail.com>, GOLDENRAYSSOLARCLEANING@GMAIL.COM<goldenrayssolarcleaning@gmail.com>, Stacey Bastian<stacybastian@yahoo.com>, Cathy Scharf<kidsdirector2015@gmail.com>, Stacey Bastian<bastian4trusd@gmail.com>, sales<sales@pittadorbrews.com>
Date Saturday, November 15th, 2025 at 5:33 PM

Reality is real...that is everything, perception is the way somebody views something. Sometimes the way we view things is not a reality and can be an opinion

On Sat, Nov 15, 2025 at 11:24 AM Kathy Shermer <kaileesmom2001@yahoo.com> wrote:

This response is directed more at Tonia than anyone else here and I do appreciate all the responses so far. This was not a personal attack on you Tonia. As I stated in my email perception is everything. That's all I'm going to say on that. I was not on the board when the race started or was talked about prior to starting or I would've brought it up then that I thought it was a conflict of interest. Think about this though, I should not have had to bring it up. This is something that should've been understood and known by the board. You are not correct in thinking that Rocco knew about your sales because she did not. She was never told how much you were selling. Again I say it's a win-win for everyone so we are not sore losers and I'm not accusing you of cheating. I am aware that she turned in a large amount on that Friday and you would have no idea how much that was going to be.

I wish the chamber the best in the future, and only hope that you will consider some of the things that I've said going forward in the best interest at the community.

Katherine
Sent from my iPhone

On Nov 15, 2025, at 10:59 AM, Tonia Silva <bestbookkeeper@pm.me> wrote:

Good Morning all.

While I am not surprised to see this email today, I am disheartened. It is my personal belief that a board needs to be diverse, which is why, three years ago, I invited John and Stacey to a November board meeting and nominated them both from the floor. While we don't agree on everything, if we are able to unite in our love for community and passion for entrepreneurship, we can still be effective for the community. John and I have had private conversations and have agreed to disagree, and I absolutely respect him for that. We know where each other stands, and we find friendship in the common places.

I feel like your resignation contains a bit of a personal attack against me, and given the nature of my industry, when someone calls out my integrity, I am obligated to respond.

If you felt that it was a conflict of interest for me to run for the race, you should have voiced that opinion in May or June at a board meeting where it could have been discussed, rather than via email in September. You state that I was privy to what Rocco was selling the whole time, and I would respond that the same was true for Rocco. You said it yourself, it was in black and white each month at a public meeting. I don't know how much more transparent the board could have been with the numbers. Given that you had a copy of those records, and even asked me to send the September report to you just days before the race was over (to which I complied) since you were not at the meeting, then you had access to the same numbers that I had access to and could have easily shared them with Rocco. I will note that I turned in the bulk of the money that was turned in to me on 10/15 around noon. Between noon and 5pm, another \$93 came in, which I turned in on Friday, 10/17. Rocco turned in over \$6,000 on 10/17. I had no way of knowing that was coming and I could not have guessed that she would turn in as much in one day as she had for the entire five months preceding. Furthermore, I had a community member approach me on the 15th in my parking lot and offer to give me *whatever I needed* to secure the race. While I thanked them for their kind generosity, I declined the offer, stating that the race was not about winning, but about serving my community and raising money for my charity. The entire conversation is on my camera system should anyone want to see it.

With regards to your comment about transparency, I do believe that this board is transparent about all we do. Each month, we come together and have public conversations about what we are doing, and where our money has gone. The email that was sent regarding grant funds came during a barrage of other emails, and should have been brought up at the next board meeting by those who were concerned. I can only speak for myself when I say I was not concerned, given that the grant proposition was finalized in February of last year and the funds are restricted to what we told the county we would spend them on. Each month, I report to the county how we used the funds. You're right...it was not brought up in a meeting to answer the question, because the interested party failed to ask the question at the meeting when the appropriate time was offered. These grant funds have been an agenda item every month, so plenty of opportunity has been given to anyone to comment during a public meeting. There is full transparency with regards to the grant money and I reject your accusation otherwise.

I am not sure how you feel 'the board' could have done a better job with regards to the open director seats. It was the job of the committee to turn in the names of three individuals that we thought would be a good fit for the board. It was then the responsibility of those who wanted someone else to be seated to offer up their name at the appropriate time in our meeting. Three years ago, I did just that thing for Stacey during a public meeting held at LifePointe Church. And while I cannot speak for the entire board, I can assure you that if someone had nominated Stacey, even in her absence, I would have certainly pushed for her acceptance to be noted in the previous meeting when she did not object to being re-seated. Given the compassion the board had during a previous time of turmoil in her life after she first accepted the position, I am confident that this board would have extended the same compassion to her during her emergent situation. Unfortunately, no one nominated her. I would see that as a failure of those who wanted her to be re-seated, not a failure of this board. The board handled the situation as the bylaws require.

To answer your question about what the Chamber does, I would invite you to the corner of M Street and Rio

Linda Blvd, to the extensive piece of art that the Chamber helped bring to our town. I would point you to the \$27k that was just raised for charity in our community, and the \$13k from last year. I would point you to the portapotties at the Christmas Parade or to the light competition. I would invite you to ask the students who received scholarships this year for their resumes, or last year for their business report after FFA and 4H competitions at the County Fair. I would also point you to the great mixers done over the past few years, like the lunch and learn at the Rio Pub, or the Marketing Workshop we had at the Community center, bringing entrepreneurs from Rocklin, Folsom, Sacramento and more, or the educational seminar at Tummys regarding tax credits available to business owners. I could go on.

It is my strong opinion that the board must be diverse in order to effectively serve our community. Yet, in that diversity, we need to be unified by what the Chamber stands for: The Rio Linda Elverta Chamber of Commerce is dedicated to strengthening local businesses by encouraging community involvement in order to stimulate growth and confidence within our local economy.

I am grateful to be a part of this organization and have spent countless hours over the past five + years working to improve the business climate in our community.

I wish you the best and I am sure you will continue to do great things in the community.

Kind Regards,

<image1763233135009>

Sent with [Proton Mail](#) secure email.

On Saturday, November 15th, 2025 at 10:05 AM, anthony silva <anthony.silva12680@gmail.com> wrote:
I am more than happy to sit down and talk about this but will not do so over email. Negative perception can be taken in explanation with no emotion. Just my thought.

Anthony

On Sat, Nov 15, 2025 at 9:35 AM Daniel Welch <dan@riolindapest.com> wrote:

I am so sad to hear this, I am just getting to know you and thought you brought a different point of view to the chamber. if I can buy you a coffee sometime please drop me a line.

Dan - Owner
Near You Pest Control
The near you pest control professionals
916-992-0912 www.nearyoupest.com

From: Kathy Shermer <kaileesmom2001@yahoo.com>

Sent: Saturday, November 15, 2025 9:18:25 AM

To: John Todd <johntodd@gmail.com>; Anthony <anthony.silva12680@gmail.com>; Cathy Haskell

<community@lifepointenaz.com>; Tonia Silva <bestbookkeeper@pm.me>; Leeann Williams <lulubell1707@gmail.com>; Troy Golden <goldenrayssolarcleaning@gmail.com>; Stacey Bastian <stacbastian@yahoo.com>; Daniel Welch <dan@riolindapest.com>; Cathy Scharf <kidsdirector2015@gmail.com>; Stacey Bastian <bastian4trusd@gmail.com>; sales <sales@pittadorbrews.com>

Subject: Board resignation

Good morning:

After much thought and reflection I have made the decision to step down from the Chamber Board.

When I attach myself to such entities it is with the hope and belief that integrity and transparency are vital traits of the organization. I was honored to be asked, and proud to become part of our town CofC but have become disheartened and disappointed at recent situations and observations.

For instance, the Mayor Race. It is a total conflict of interest for somebody on our board to run and in addition be the Treasurer on said board. I know from personal experience that each candidate is not supposed to know how much the other is selling during the race. That was not the case in this race. Tonia was privy to what Rocco was selling the whole time. In fact it was in black-and-white on our treasury reports in the meetings by line with their names and how much was being brought in. I had two people from the community come to me after the race ended and asked me how somebody on the board could be running and wouldn't that be a conflict of interest. I think it would be a very good idea for this board to create a set of rules for the Mayor race in writing. Possibly make it an attachment to the bylaws because it is a big fundraiser for the Chamber. Now, the American Legion is not a sore loser. Everybody wins in this race as far as getting their 75% of what they sell, but perception is everything.

I also believe that more transparency is needed when a question is asked about where Grant monies are going. This was asked in an email and never responded to. Nor was it brought up in a meeting to answer the question.

Lastly, more consideration, should've been given to a sitting board director (Stacey Bastian), and a little compassion shown due to her current emergency situation when it came time for nominations. She stated her interest earlier, John Todd also heard it. In fact if you look at the minutes from the October meeting under old business, it says "all except John interested in keeping positions". I am actually embarrassed that we as a board did not do a better job of handling this part.

Another question I have been asked recently is "what does the chamber do for the businesses in our community?". That is a very good question and something I was not able to answer with a clear and concise response as my experience with the chamber has not shown me much other then advertising for them on our Facebook page if requested. Again, perception is everything.

Thank you for the opportunity and the lesson.



Katherine Shermer

Sent from my iPhone