



## Meeting Minutes

**Meeting Date:** 9/10/25 (better late than never....have a great week!)

### Upcoming Hosts/Speakers

9/17: Dave Lombard / Guest Speaker

9/24 (@ Ruth Chris): Brad Gough/Marlin Stutzman (We'll figure out biz meeting)

8/1: Rick Schuiteman @ Zoo

8/8: Scott Hinderman

8/15: Wendy Davis

### Highlights:

- **John Urbahns gave a great presentation (summary below / presentation attached) on Greater Fort Wayne Inc. and economic updates**
- **Tip Highlights:**
  - **Attend STAR Economic Forum on November 6!**
  - **Suites going fast @ Fort Wayne FC Park....get 'em while hot**

- **Tentative Forum meeting @ GM on October 22nd (Lassus hosting); more to come**
- **Market having a great year!**

## **Summary**

**Business Forum member and President/CEO of Greater Fort Wayne Inc John Urbahns presented on the region's economic status. Below are a few highlights, but you can also find John's more comprehensive and insightful presentation (not supported by AI summary) attached.**

- **Greater Fort Wayne Inc was named the national "Chamber of the Year" among 7,500 chambers....incredible accomplishment John!**
- **Allen County remains the fastest-growing big city in the Midwest with eight consecutive years of positive domestic migration.**
- **This local momentum contrasts with a national slowdown in job creation and downward revisions from the Bureau of Labor Statistics, including 1 million fewer jobs created between March 2024–March 2025 than first reported.**

## **Key local metrics:**

- **100% increase in small business starts over five years, outpacing state and national averages**
- **\$3.66 billion in building permits issued last year, with 2024 on track for a similar pace**
- **Average county wage: \$60,000 vs. national average of \$74,000 (national skewed by high-wage metros)**
- **New job creation efforts driving higher wages:**
  - **2023 projects: 1,050 jobs averaging \$72,000**
  - **2024 projects: new jobs averaging over \$82,000**

## **Major initiatives highlighted:**

- **Air National Guard base modernization**
- **Successful attraction of Google / significant investment in Southeast Fort Wayne**

### Tip Session:

First	Last	Business	Tip
Dan	Arnold	UBS Financial	great year so far; markets are up; AI is moving the market....gurus say
Andy	Brooks	Brooks	
Dan	Copeland	BP Promos + Airport Advertising	Thanks to many!
Mark	Daniels	Fort Wayne Community	Thanks to Chris Lambert...ready for daughter's wedding
Brad	Gough	Bradley Gough	
Jim	Kelley	Kelley Automotive	Biz with FW Football Club (suite)
Hank	Kloha	PC Networks	
Chris	Lambert	Christopher James Menswear	Thanks to Brad for coming in
Todd	Lassus	Lassus Handy Dandy	Tentative arrangements for GM plant tour on October 22 meeting; meet at UAW, more details to come
Tad	Levy	Hoover the Mover	Thanks for biz
Dave	Lumbard	The Pointe Church	Thanks to Kelley / new volvo for daughter; thanks to Hoover for
Jim	Marcuccilli	STAR Bank	Biz with Kelley and Hoover
Kristi	Marcuccilli-	STAR Bank	STAR Economic Forum November 6;
Kyle	Martin	Ferguson Agency	Business with Hoover
Jim	Matthews	Copy Solutions	usual business
Dave	McComb	DO McComb & Sons, & Eagles	
Jim	Morlan	New Venture Development Corp	
Mike	Motter	Retired / Topikos	Biz with Tad if move doesn't kill him; working with Hank K.
Jim	Nash	Retired	Thanks to Star

Elliot	Newbauer	Retired	Biz with Copy Solutions and
Gary	Probst	Retired	usual business
Kathy	Rogers	KB Search Team	Biz with Tony, Guadalupe's and
Conn	Ruby	NA Holding Corp.	Thanks to Scott
Morri	Sanderson	Retired	
Jimmi e	Schindler	Guadalupe's Mexican Grill	Wife pregnant with 6th; signed a lease in SB for new location
Don	Schmidt	Retired	
J. Kurt	Schmidt	Antique Clock Restore/	Biz with Lassus;
Scott	Sproute	Fort Wayne FC	Stadium suite opportunities available; providing prizes at golf
Kurt	Stark	Preston Allen	
Brent	Stoller	Workspace	Biz with Gary Probst and Fritz Eichle
Phil	Terrill	Leonard Hammond Thoma	3rd party tip to Chris L. from partner; biz with STAR
John	Urbahns	Greater Fort	Economic Development Summit
Gary	Voirol	MSKTD &	Business with Coliseum and shout
Dan	Votaw	Votaw Electric	Usual Business
Kim	Ward	Northeastern Group	Usual Business
Andr	Wartenbe	Titan Title Services	
Steve	Zacher	The Zacher	
Bill	Zielke	Retired	