

**Board of Directors:**

**Chairman**  
**Michael Houston**  
*Houston Cuozzo Group, Inc.*

**Vice Chair/Chair Elect**  
**Jody Bond**  
*Just Gold Jewelers, Inc.*

**Vice Chairperson**  
**Melissa Corbett**  
*The MilCor Group, Inc.*

**Vice Chairman**  
**Gordon Proctor**  
*Proctor, Crook & Crowder, P.A.*

**Past Chairman**  
**Elliot Paul**  
*Elliot Paul & Company*

**Directors:**  
**Michael Dadko**  
*UBS Financial Services, Inc.*  
**Renee Doss**  
*Renar Fine Homes*  
**Rick Hartman**  
*Hartman Real Estate*  
**Robin Hicks-Connors**  
*Elliott Museum/Historical Society*  
**Peter Kemp**  
*Hustons Office Supplies & Commercial Interiors*

**Cathy McKenzie**  
*AT&T Florida*  
**John O'Brien**  
*Gulfstream Aluminum & Shutter Corp.*

**Shaun Plymale**  
*Chapman & Plymale Law, P.A.*  
**Kevin Powers**  
*Indiantown Park of Commerce & Technology*

**Stacy Ranieri**  
*The Firefly Group*  
**Patty Small**  
*Shelter Structures, Inc.*

**James Stedham**  
*Costco Wholesale Corporation*  
**Brian Torello**  
*Carrabba's Italian Grill*

**Thomas Vokoun**  
*Boyle Engineering Corporation*  
**John Yardley**  
*Massey-Yardley Chrysler Dodge*

**Ex-Officio Directors:**  
**Dan Hudson**  
*Stuart City Manager*

**Doug Smith**  
*Martin County Board of County Commission*

**Lorie Shekailo**  
*Martin County School Board*

**Jose Farinos**  
*Indian River State College*

**Joseph A. Catrambone**  
*President/CEO*

**Upcoming Events:**

**Treasure Coast Home & Garden Show**

**Martin County Fairgrounds**

**Business After Hours**  
 Friday, March 6th  
 5:30 - 7:30 PM

**Show Open to the Public**  
 Saturday, March 7th  
 10:00 am - 5:00 pm

Sunday, March 8th  
 11:00 am - 4:00 pm

FREE ADMISSION & PARKING

**Chamber Luncheon**  
 Wednesday, March 11th  
 11:45AM  
 Sponsored by Fifth Third Processing Solutions at Sandhill Cove  
*reservations are required*

**Networking Breakfast**  
 Tuesday, March 24th  
 7:45 AM  
 Sponsored by Forest Hills Funeral Home / Young & Prill Chapel at Chamber Office



**ACCREDITED**

**TREASURE COAST HOME & GARDEN SHOW**  
*The area's largest, most comprehensive showcase of local businesses.*  
**March 7-8, 2009**  
*Martin County Fairgrounds*

- Pools, Patios, Screens and Fencing
- Kitchen Cabinetry & Garage Organization
- Product Giveaways, Raffle Prizes and More!

**Shop and Compare! Purchase & Plan!**

presented by  
 Martin County Fair Association &  
 Stuart/Martin County Chamber of Commerce

**Scripps Treasure Coast Newspapers**  
*News • Tribune • Press Journal*

**EVENTMAKERS**  
*EXTRAORDINARY*

**MONEY MAILER**  
*"Like Getting Money in Your Mailbox"*

**Cove Gardens**

**DreamMaker Bath & Kitchen**  
*BY WORLDWIDE*

**wstu 1450**

**Moneysaver**  
*moneysavermag.com*

*Free Admission & Free Parking!*

**HOURS**  
 Saturday, March 7, 10AM - 5PM  
 Sunday, March 8, 11AM - 4PM

More information at [goodnature.org](http://goodnature.org) or 772.287.1088



Audrey Allen, National City; Chairman Michael Houston, Houston Cuozzo Group; Amber Scobie and Josh Harris, National City, sponsors of February's luncheon at Manero's Restaurant. (photo courtesy of [Out2martincounty.com](http://Out2martincounty.com))



Chairman Houston; Jack Burns, Small Business Development Center at Indian River State College, guest speaker at February's luncheon; Ron Bunch, Executive Director, Business Development Board of Martin County and Joe Catrambone, Chamber President/CEO.



Ginger Featherstone and February Student of the Month, Lysa Vola, Jensen Beach High School and Chairman Houston at February's luncheon.



Chairman Houston presents Ambassador of the Month Award to Dick Hall, [Out2martincounty.com](http://Out2martincounty.com) (left).



**Ken Ferguson**  
*Director of Business Services*

**Money Is Out There, But Where?**

In one of my recent articles, I spoke of the amount of cash in the hands of Americans is currently over \$8.85 trillion dollars. Private equity firms that helped the last Mergers & Acquisitions boom have over \$250 billion at their disposal, according to Business Week.

M & A are usually utilized to either buy out or eliminate competition. Deals are a critical tool for eliminating weaker players or wringing out excess capacity, which increases the value of the items being produced or sold. This is also a signal of confidence that encourages other buyers and

investors to jump back into the market.

Some recent activities in 2009 indicate that it is beginning to happen. Ducommun paid \$46.5 Billion for DynaBil Industries a producer of titanium for defense industries. Pfizer's bid of \$68 Billion for Wyeth in the Health Care segment.

**Example:**

In 2005, Joe Blow bought 1,000 shares of XYZ Stock at \$1.00 per share. (\$1,000). By early 2008, it had appreciated to \$10.00 per share (\$10,000).

Due to private jet purchase and excessive CEO pay, the stock is now back to \$1.00 per share. How much did Joe Blow lose?

I would like to repeat what I have said before. A lot of the blame lies with the negative reporting of the News Media. The normal 30 minute segment of National News is 18 minutes of bad news, 2 minutes of good news and 10 minutes of commercials.

The news media would probably put Joe Blow in the Bad News category. If he had sold when it hit \$10 per share, he would have made money, but (greed?) he held on and it went down, so (bad news) he lost \$9,000. (TRUE news) he is still even. There are similar examples in the housing area. A house was purchased for \$200,000 and in two years the "boom" took it to \$350,000, then the "bust" dropped

it back to \$275,000. You draw your own conclusion.

Are we in critical situations? Yes, but we have to have faith, that even with government bungling and spending more than they take in, the American people will knuckle down and we will survive.

Having said this, maybe the following will put you in a better frame of mind.

- CLOSING HUMOR:** Haven't done oxymorons in a while.
- (1.) Government Intelligence.
  - (2.) Honest convict.
  - (3.) Huge Shortage.
  - (4.) Major Crisis.
  - (5.) Non-stop Flight.
  - (6.) Strangely Familiar.
  - (7.) Terrific Headache.
  - (8.) Realistic Fantasy.
  - (9.) Rubber Cement, and
  - (10.) Smaller Half