

BUSINESS – to – BUSINESS



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BAHEP extends its sincere appreciation for the continued support of the *Houston Chronicle* through this monthly supplement.

IN BRIEF

EHCMA appoints Griffin to chairmanship

The East Harris County Manufacturers Association has appointed James Griffin as its chairman for 2010.

Griffin entered the petrochemical industry in 1981 as an associate engineer for the BF Goodrich chemical division following his master's degree studies at the University of Wisconsin.

Since that time, he has held positions in engineering, technology, plant management and corporate leadership. In 2005, Griffin left the PolyOne organization (formally BF Goodrich) and accepted the site manager position for DiAnal America, a wholly owned subsidiary of Mitsubishi Rayon.

Within EHCMA, Griffin has sponsored its Community Relations Committee working closely with local legislators on priority issues that have an impact on how industry operates. He also worked in conjunction with the Port of Houston Authority to establish the Security District. Both, he said, were very successful endeavors.



James Griffin

During 2010, Griffin stated that the Association will continue its outreach through local community organizations; maintain its focused efforts with local mayors and legislators; and will work closely with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality and Harris County agencies on key environmental issues. EHCMA will continue to support industry improvement in environmental health and safety while providing world class incident response as well.

Griffin said, "I'm optimistic regarding our industry due to a long history of success, best-in-class technology, a high level of efficiency, a motivated and highly qualified work force, and visionary leadership.

"I think it will be a very challenging year ahead. The world markets have a high degree of volatility, and our businesses here in East Harris County have a significant exposure to world markets.

"Locally, the state of Texas is strong, and I'm proud of that fact. We have much of which to be proud. Our safety, health and environmental results continue to lead best industry classes in the U.S. EHCMA continues to give back to our local communities through a variety of initiatives that contribute much more to the economy than employment and taxes."

BAHEP focused on the basics in 2009: Advocacy, Building Blocks and Communication

"We all felt heading into 2009 that we were going to face some tough challenges," Bob Mitchell, president of the Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership, reported to BAHEP's board of directors during a year-end presentation held Dec. 15, adding, "therefore, in a tough year, we re-focused on the basics, our ABCs."

For several years, the BAHEP organization has referred to the ABCs as representing the aerospace, biomedical and specialty chemical industry sectors. However, its initiatives throughout 2009 aligned closely with the ABCs of Advocacy, Building Blocks and Communication.

Working together for our future ... today!

The theme of the 2009 year-end presentation was "Working together for our future ... today!" BAHEP's membership actively participates in many initiatives through an extensive committee structure that includes more than a dozen committees. Areas of focus include not only aerospace, biomedical and specialty chemical, but education, healthcare, maritime, small business, political protocol and Ellington Field as well.

BAHEP credits its 93 percent membership retention rate in part to the involvement of its diversified members. Mitchell explained, "As our members work with us to foster economic development within the region, they more fully realize the effort that it takes to create and retain jobs. Relationships are at the core of what we do, and I believe that the great rapport between BAHEP and its members is basic to our success."

BAHEP acts on special projects

Throughout 2009, BAHEP was



Bob Mitchell

invited to participate in several strategic planning initiatives, which involved both its member cities and school districts. They felt it imperative in their planning to include the regional perspective that BAHEP provides.

Through a dialogue that was originally facilitated in 2008 by BAHEP's International Maritime Advisory Committee (IMAC) with the Pasadena Independent School District, a maritime studies curriculum pilot program, that began in the fall of this year, was developed for Pasadena High School's ninth and 10th grade classes. Articulation agreements are currently being finalized between PISD, San Jacinto College, Texas A&M University at Galveston and the University of Houston at Clear Lake, all members of BAHEP, that can lead to U.S. Coast Guard maritime licenses and lucrative careers within the maritime industry.

Additionally, IMAC joined with Dr. William Merrell in 2009 to advance his storm surge protection concepts. Known as the "The Dike," due to the destruction caused by Hurricane Ike in September 2008, the initiative developed momentum throughout the year as BAHEP joined Merrell

and others in making numerous presentations. This endeavor has caught national attention. A June article in *The Wall Street Journal* proclaimed, "Houston-Area Leaders Envision a 60-Mile Barrier Against Hurricane Flooding."

Another special initiative involved working with the Houston Airport System in the marketing of Ellington Airport for aviation, institutional, and office/industrial uses. The efforts of BAHEP's Ellington Field Task Force have been successful as the military presence at Ellington continues to expand. The U.S. Coast Guard has chosen land at Ellington Field that will be home to its new Fusion Center.

Aerospace advocacy shifts into high gear

In March, BAHEP joined representatives from NASA, regional chambers of commerce and other economic development organizations for Space Week Austin. Over 4,300 teachers and students participated in the week's activities, while 78 travelers from Bay Area Houston visited 158 legislative offices declaring, "Space Matters to Texas!"

The Citizens for Space Exploration is a very proactive BAHEP committee. May marked the CSE's 18th annual trip to Washington, DC, where 115 travelers made a record 341 congressional office visits relaying the message, "Congressional support for NASA is vital to our economy's success"

In mid-2009 the Obama Administration formed a committee to make recommendations in re-

gard to NASA and the future of human space exploration. It is informally referred to as the Augustine Committee after its chairman, Norman R. Augustine, retired chairman and chief executive officer of Lockheed Martin Corporation. To date, BAHEP has implemented 29 initiatives to advocate for the importance of maintaining NASA's leadership position in space by providing adequate funding. These included articles and letter writing campaigns through radio and television interviews, public testimony and congressional meetings.

BAHEP works with energy, chemical sectors

Throughout the year, BAHEP strengthened its relationships with the Texas Chemical Council, the Association of Chemical Industry of Texas, and the East Harris County Manufacturers Association. BAHEP continued to show strong support for the specialty chemical

During the summer, BAHEP arranged meetings between Congressman Olson and the energy and specialty chemical sectors, accomplishing another "first" according to attendees, who were impressed with the congressman's level of knowledge and concern in regard to their issues.

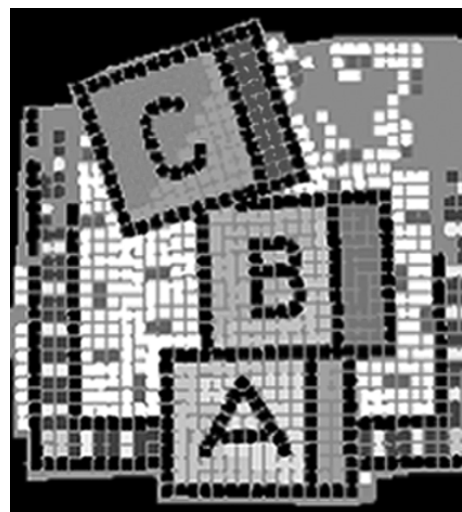
2009 emphasizes "Year of Communication"

When people, small businesses and large corporations are faced with the kind of economic adversity not experienced in decades in this nation, they need to know what is being done to help. In recognition of its leadership position within the region, BAHEP was called upon to speak at more than 90 different events in 2009.

Additionally, BAHEP's radio and television exposure throughout the year was unprecedented as was coverage of its initiatives in local, regional and national publications, both in print and online. The organization's popular newsletters, *BUSINESS BRIEFS* and *Business Development Update*, greatly expanded their readership, and BAHEP established a presence on the Twitter networking site.

2009 recapped

As Mitchell concluded his recap of BAHEP's 2009 initiatives to the organization's board of directors, he remarked, "All of these highlights exemplify that BAHEP continues to be the 'go to' organization within Bay Area Houston. However, nothing reflects that more than when Sen. John Cornyn called on us three times this year to organize meetings with industry leaders, and Congressman Pete Olson called on us to organize meetings with six different industry clusters. That is economic development."



industry by participating in Texas Chemical Day in Austin, actively seeking leads at specialty chemical shows, working with the ACIT on special projects, and coordinating discussions between U.S. Rep. Pete Olson and industry executives.

Addition of healthcare, hospitality and aerospace companies completes noteworthy year for BAHEP membership

New Dimensions Home Healthcare Plus

For the past 10 years, New Dimensions Home Healthcare Plus has been providing southeast Harris County senior and disabled citizens with skilled nursing care, physical therapy, occupational therapy, and personal care services. This Medicare certified, state licensed agency has joined the Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership.



New • Dimensions
HOME HEALTHCARE PLUS

"Agencies such as New Dimensions Home Healthcare Plus provide much-needed and valuable services. Their expertise will be a great addition to that of our other healthcare partners," stated Bob Mitchell, BAHEP president.

This Pasadena, Texas, based agency is a bi-lingual agency, filling the needs of Spanish-speaking seniors. Its Senior Services Department provides community education on Medicare coverage, prescription plans, assistance with completion of forms for other state provided health benefits and has become a resource for other services available to seniors.

Josie Lightfoot is the president/CEO of New Dimensions Home Healthcare Plus. She over-

sees a staff of 185 and commented, "We offer a comprehensive range of services much like BAHEP itself. Quality of life for every citizen is important to the growth of all communities. As BAHEP works on regional economic development, we will work together to ensure excellent home care for southeast Harris County residents."

New Dimensions Home Healthcare Plus offers specialized services as well as service packages to include post hospital care and in-home sitter services. For additional information, visit www.ndhhp.com or call 281.998.9611.

Staybridge Suites Houston NASA-Clear Lake

Staybridge Suites Houston NASA-Clear Lake, an upscale, extended stay hotel, has joined the Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership. Bob Mitchell, BAHEP president, stated, "Staybridge Suites fills a unique and valuable niche within the region. It addresses the needs of a wide variety of clients, several of which are already members of our organization. I look forward to working with Staybridge Suites Houston NASA-Clear Lake toward the contin-

ued development of the Bay Area Houston economy."

The hotel offers both daily and longer term lodging accommodations along with meeting space available for daily rental. Newly opened in April 2009, it has several innovative features including LCD televisions with 24 HD channels in every suite, an executive club level fitness center, an outdoor putting green, a salt water pool, and a plush home theater. A free breakfast, seven days a week, and complimentary Tuesday-Thursday dinner with beer and wine are standard fare. Rahul Bahl, Staybridge Suites Houston NASA-Clear Lake owner, noted, "Our base clientele includes smaller and larger companies from the aerospace, petrochemical, and medical industries that call Bay Area Houston home. Not only are networking opportunities within BAHEP plentiful, but BAHEP members and the region also benefit from the initiatives that develop through such interaction."

Staybridge Suites Houston NASA-Clear Lake is located at 501 West Texas Avenue in Webster, TX, and can be reached by calling 281.724.6230 or

281.338.0900. Kristi Amiri is the general manager, and Amy Zelenka serves as director of sales.

McCormick Stevenson

McCormick Stevenson (MCCST) has become the newest member of the Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership. The small, woman-owned company serves the aerospace and defense industry with an emphasis on the mechanical packaging of electronics systems intended for harsh environments.

"McCormick Stevenson fills a very important niche in an industry that requires the utmost in precision and reliability of both its products and the personnel who supply those products. I look forward to working together in support of this important Bay Area Houston industry sector," stated Bob Mitchell, BAHEP president.

Diana Light, MCCST regional director, said, "McCormick Stevenson believes in the power of effective relationships and seeks opportunities, such as BAHEP, where those who share common goals can gather together to ultimately achieve positive results for everyone involved. We believe that by combining the expertise of all BAHEP members we will highlight the strength of our region and bring further opportu-

nities to the Gulf Coast."

MCCST provides mechanical design, project management and engineering analysis with emphasis on leadership and technical expertise. McCormick Stevenson has successfully supported numerous military and commercial programs, including



the AH-64 Apache, the Boeing 787 and the Airbus A350. The company's electronics packaging skills help to ensure the durability necessary to meet the most challenging requirements on land, in the sea or air.

Light explained that MCCST is advantageously positioned to support the NASA community. She stated, "Our size and culture afford us the ability to rapidly respond to our customer's needs. Our small team is comprised of bright and eager members with a quest for results and the ability to change with the evolution of a project or program."

For more information, go to www.mccormickstevenson.com.

BUSINESS to BUSINESS is a monthly Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership publication in partnership with the *Houston Chronicle*. BAHEP is a member-driven organization that provides the leadership to stimulate regional economic development and employment in southeast Texas. Its members include over 260 business partners encompassing 13 cities, Galveston and Harris counties, and the Port of Houston Authority.

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