



BUSINESS — to — BUSINESS

BAY AREA HOUSTON Economic Partnership

www.bayareahouston.com

March 15, 2026

Annalise Hillyard

BAHEP extends its sincere appreciation for the continued support of THE DAILY NEWS through this monthly supplement.

The Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership Hosts Annual State of the Economy

The Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership, a member-driven organization dedicated to stimulating regional economic development and employment in Southeast Texas, hosted the first General Membership Meeting of 2026 at Lakewood Yacht Club on February 18.

The meeting featured the Annual State of the Economy update from Victoria Greene. Greene is a Founder of G Squared Private Wealth – a small boutique firm based in Bryan-College Station committed to holistic wealth management by providing in-depth planning, innovative portfolios, and a deep, personalized understanding of their cli-

ents' needs, ensuring preservation and growth of wealth across generations.

Fifth Third Bank was the Platinum Sponsor for the evening. Greg Johnson, Middle Market Relationship Manager at Fifth Third Bank based in Houston, Texas, spoke briefly to the at-

tendees about their recent acquisition of Comerica Bank and becoming a new member of BAHEP.

The event brought together elected officials, business executives, community leaders, educators and legislative staff for an evening of networking, min-

gling and listening to Greene's in-depth outlook on the economic and market landscape of both the country and the Bay Area region heading into 2026. Green examined opportunities and risks in an environment increasingly shaped by advances in artificial intelligence. Following three consecutive years of above-average market returns, she assessed whether the S&P 500 can sustain its momentum amid a softening labor market and continued geopolitical uncertainty. She also gave a detailed review of current market conditions, key economic indicators, and a Houston-area economic outlook highlighting regional trends and industry sectors of interest.



Greg Johnson and City of Friendswood Mayor Mike Foreman at the VIP Reception before the February Membership meeting.



The Platinum and Gold Sponsors of the February General Membership Meeting.



Victoria Greene presenting the Annual State of the Economy at Lakewood Yacht Club.

BAHEP Partners with AIAA for 2026 ASCENDxTexas Conference

BAHEP was honored to partner with the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics (AIAA) for the fifth annual ASCENDxTexas conference held at the South Shore Harbour Resort & Conference Center.

ASCENDxTexas is an open summit bringing together a broad community of stakeholders from NASA, industry, academia, government, and private entities to help build connections into partnerships and engage in continuous discussions on strategy, development, and

implementation of our off-world exploration, national security, and commercial activities.

The 2026 conference was titled "Interlocking Orbits – Civilian, Commercial, and Defense".

Focused on the innovation and adaption necessary to navigate the evolving space economy, panels and speakers focused on policy discussions, commercial challenges and more.

The two-day conference featured various keynote speakers and panels focused on strategy, development, and implementation of our off-world exploration, national security, and commercial activities.

Chair of the Executive Committee of the Texas Aerospace Research and Space Economy Consortium (TARSEC).



(L to R) Brian Freedman, Gwen Griffin, Stephanie Murphy, and Norman Garza speaking on the Thriving in Exploration panel.

BAHEP President, Brian Freedman, moderated a panel titled Thriving in Exploration: Expanding Aerospace Synergies. The panelists were Norman Garza, Jr., Executive Director of the Texas Space Commission, Gwen Griffin, Chair of the Board of Directors of the Texas Space Commission and Stephanie Murphy,



(L to R) Brian Freedman, President of BAHEP, John Solis, Senior Vice President of Convention Center Growth & Development for Houston First, Clay Mowry, CEO of AIAA, Vanessa Wyche, Director of the NASA Johnson Space Center, Texas State Representative Dr. Greg Bonnen, Daniel Palomo, Senior Director of Global Sales and Institutional Relations at Houston First, and Kevin Tipton, Senior Director of Aviation and Aerospace at Greater Houston Partnership.

BUSINESS to BUSINESS is a monthly Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership publication in partnership with THE DAILY NEWS. BAHEP is a member-driven organization that provides the leadership to stimulate regional economic development and employment in southeastern Texas. Its members include more than 360 business partners encompassing 18 cities, Galveston and Harris counties, the Houston Airport System, and Port Houston.

For membership information, contact Membership Director Harriet Pilgrim at 832.536.3250.

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Tourism Committee Meeting Features Galveston County Fair and Rodeo

The BAHEP Tourism Committee consists of attractions, hotels, and member cities to promote the Bay Area Houston region as a destination and create opportunities for the community. By promoting the area's attractions, coordinating events, and building partnerships between industry lead-

ers, the committee strengthens the quality of life in the Bay Area region.

The committee held the February meeting at the Lone Star Flight Museum in their second-floor board room overlooking the runways at Ellington Field. Attendees were encouraged

to tour the hangars and other exhibits after the meeting.

The featured speaker for the meeting was the Galveston County Fair and Rodeo — a non-profit organization aiming to serve the youth of Galveston County by promoting youth, education, and agriculture. The fairgrounds are located in Hitchcock, Texas and the 10-day fair is held annually in the spring. The event features a myriad of family friendly activities including livestock shows, rodeo events, parades, musical entertainment, bar-b-que cook-off, seafood cook-off, carnival and more.

with President of the Rodeo, James Menotti, on this year's activities and ways to get involved.

Andy Thueme with BAHEP and Anna Hawley, CEO of Lone Star Flight Museum provided an update on Fleet Week activities at the museum and throughout

the city after being rescheduled for this spring.

A special thank you to the Lone Star Flight Museum and Anna Hawley for hosting the February BAHEP Tourism Committee Meeting.



The Tourism Committee convened at the Lone Star Flight Museum for the February meeting.



Barbara Robertson shared a presentation about the Galveston County Fair and Rodeo.

Barbara Robertson, a spokesperson from the rodeo presented along