



British-American Business Association Washington, D.C.

Fostering valuable UK-US trans-Atlantic business relationships for more than 30 years

Newsletter

September 2023

INSIDE

- 3 Embassy News
- 7 BABA Hosts Congressional Fly In
- 8-9 Check out These Events
- 11 New Members



On page 4

International Rooftop
Networking

Member Appreciation Reception and Annual General Meeting Hosted by Airbus

Every year BABA holds a Member Appreciation Reception in conjunction with our Annual General Meeting/Election of Directors. Held this year on June 27th and hosted by Sponsoring Member, **Airbus**, the event was well attended by members, who ranged from young professionals to seasoned BABA veterans, demonstrating the strength of the Association, now in its 36th year. Airbus provided access to its Airbus Experience Center which features a state-of-the-art interactive exhibit that explores the people, places and products of Airbus in North America.



From left to right: *Caroline Johnston, newly elected director; Randy Nuckolls, Nominating Committee Chair; Chris Fetzer, BABA President; Sheri Lauten, newly elected director; and Mark Cowan, newly elected director*

President, **Chris Fetzer**, provided an update on the health of the Association and its successes over the past year. During the AGM, four new Directors were elected: **Marc Cowan, Mark**

Cowan Homes LLC/Compass; Caroline Johnston, Greensland Bakery; Sheri Lauten, NationalGrid (who is completing the remaining term of Emily Duncan, who recently took up a new job position); and **Mary Elizabeth Taylor, Robinhood**. All four directors look forward to meeting members over the coming year.

For more photos from this event, turn to page 5.

Our Platinum Members



Mark your Calendar!
27th Gala Christmas Luncheon
Friday, December 15, 2023

Fairmont

From the President...

Dear Members and Colleagues:



I hope everyone found time to relax and rejuvenate over the summer. BABA is ready to hit the ground running, with some great programs planned for our members during the remainder of 2023.

In recent months, BABA leadership and staff have worked to revitalize our committees with the principal objective of presenting topical programs and opportunities to meet experts in our prime sectors of defense, aerospace,

transportation, security, energy and environment, financial services, health and life sciences, and trade. This effort includes the creation of a new committee—Technology, Media & Telecom. If you are interested in joining a committee, please contact LeeAnn Petersen at lpetersen@babawashington.org.

In June, we held our Annual General Meeting (AGM) and Member Appreciation Reception. Thanks to all of you who attended! It was wonderful to see so many of you and to meet so many new members. We had a record number of new members join this year, a total of 70!

During the AGM, we welcomed four new Directors to our Board – **Marc Cowan, Vice President, Marc Cowan Homes LLC/Compass; Caroline Johnston, Founder & CEO, Greensland Bakery; Mary Elizabeth Taylor, Vice President, Head of International Government and External Affairs, Robinhood; and Sheri Lauten, U.S. Director of Government Relations for National Grid Ventures**, who was elected to fill the unexpired term (2023-2025) vacated by Emily Duncan. Welcome aboard all! I also want to thank those directors whose terms ended: **Hilary Fordwich, Strelmark LLC; Jill Landefeld, Brown Advisory; and Dena Wiggins, NGS**A. I thank them for their dedication and service to BABA as Board directors for six years, and look forward to their continued participation.

The AGM was also a very fitting occasion to acknowledge our recent past Chairman, Mark Herlach, who served in the role for four years. Mark was recognized for his outstanding dedication to the Association as Chairman—always going above and beyond—tirelessly delivering resources, contacts, and expertise. He will be remembered for his constant presence at BABA events, often bringing membership prospects, as well as for being exceedingly generous with his time, budget, and advice for staff.

Please take a moment to read the Embassy News update on page three which re-affirms the U.S. and UK commitment to Ukraine; the continued trilateral security partnership between Australia, the U.S., and the UK; and the economic cooperation fostered between our two countries by the Atlantic Declaration.

On the topic of programming, please check out the BABA website events page [click here](#) for important information about fall activities as they are organized. One early date for your calendars now – we hope you are able to join us on December 15, 2023, for our Annual Gala Christmas Luncheon at the beautiful Fairmont! It is our flagship event, and always a fitting and wonderful way to celebrate the end of another year.

As always, we welcome member feedback; after all, it is YOUR association. Please feel free to contact me at the below email address. I look forward to hearing from you.

Chris Fetzer
President@babawashington.org

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LeeAnn Petersen, Executive Director

P. Rugger Smith, Administrator

Embassy News

2023 continued with major moments for our shared international priorities with the US across economic and national security. Prime Minister Sunak's government remains intently focused on the UK's steadfast support of Ukraine as the UK and US are the nation's two biggest international supporters. The Prime Minister has continued strong working relations with President Biden, with the President's July 10th visit to Downing Street marking the sixth meeting between the two leaders in nine months.

In March, the Prime Minister welcomed the announcement alongside President Biden and Prime Minister Albanese of Australia in San Diego of the next phase in the AUKUS defence programme, which will see Australia build submarines supported by the UK and US. On this visit, the Prime Minister discussed with President Biden the UK's updated national security and foreign policy strategy.

The Prime Minister returned to the US in June on his first official state visit as Prime Minister to welcome the agreement of the Atlantic Declaration with President Biden, a new 21st Century approach to the economic relationship between our countries. The Atlantic Declaration will see the UK and US embark on the deepest level of economic cooperation either of our two countries have ever had with another country. On this visit, Prime Minister stressed that both economic and defence cooperation must be the two pillars of the UK-US alliance.

On this visit it was announced that US companies have committed to £14 billion (\$17.3 billion) in major new investments, creating thousands of UK jobs and enhancing our joint investment relationship now worth more than £1 trillion (\$1.5 trillion).

The Prime Minister also attended the second annual UK-US Friendship Day at Nationals Park.

The leaders' July 10th meeting ahead of the NATO Vilnius Summit discussed the first agreements under the Atlantic Declaration, which included new commitments on supporting one another's critical supply chains, developing new, clean technologies and removing barriers to the uninterrupted exchange of goods and services between our economies.

The Prime Minister and President agreed that accelerating international cooperation on safe and responsible AI development is one of the leading issues of our time. The UK will be a crucial global leader in these efforts alongside international partners. The UK will host the first ever global safety summit on Artificial Intelligence, convening international governments, leading AI companies

and industry experts on November 1st and 2nd at the iconic Bletchley Park, one of the birthplaces of computer science.

Minister of State for International Trade Nigel Huddleston further deepened UK-US trade relations in 2023, signing the UK's fourth state-level Memorandum of Understanding with a US state--Oklahoma. This MoU, signed with Oklahoma Governor Kevin Stitt, is focused on boosting green trade, specifically carbon capture, utilisation and storage (CCUS) as well as the £174.4m worth of goods UK companies exported to Oklahoma in 2022.

On this same visit, Minister Huddleston welcomed a pioneering Mutual Reciprocity Agreement (MRA), unlocking a major trade barrier alongside architecture regulation bodies, making it easier for UK and US architects to operate in markets on both sides of the Atlantic. Since then, the UK's Engineering Council and the US National Council of Examiners for Engineering and Surveying have entered discussions to allow UK and US engineers to operate in each other's jurisdictions for another ground-breaking MRA.

The Embassy celebrated His Majesty's The King's Coronation in June with a sidewalk celebration for the public, complete with British refreshments and British brands.

In July, the Foreign Secretary James Cleverly chaired first ever United Nations Security Council (UNSC) session on AI, calling for multilateral engagement and global governance of AI. The Foreign Secretary then joined Fox News' Martha MaCallum for a Fireside chat at the Aspen Security Forum on the UK's unwavering support alongside allies for Ukraine.

The UK looks ahead to a busy Autumn in anticipation of the UN General Assembly in New York, with the UK Delegation being led by the Deputy Prime Minister Oliver Dowden and the Foreign Secretary.



British Embassy
Washington

International Rooftop Networking at the Wharf

Over 200 Members and guests from the British-American Business, the French-American Chamber of Commerce, the Swedish-American Chamber of Commerce and Mer's Event Group gathered on a beautiful April evening. Guests were treated to views that capture the historic Washington Channel, U.S. Capitol, National Mall, and the Tidal Basin from the District's first waterfront trophy office building on Maine Avenue, SW and to network with new friends and colleagues. Networking is a core element of non-profit organizations and BABA provides extensive networking opportunities at all events.



Members and guests enjoy the "Penthouse" on the Wharf and the beautiful Spring evening.



(l to r) Eamonn Cooney, Steve Hamrick, Caroline Johnston and Elizabeth Quinn



Plenty of food and refreshments for all!

Continuous Delivery: Producing Code for the Nation's Next ICBM Interceptor

How Lockheed Martin's Next Generation Interceptor Program Enables Mission-Driven Transformation

Lockheed Martin's Next Generation Interceptor (NGI) program recently achieved a programmatic milestone: the first official flight software release. Lockheed Martin developed this within their Lockheed Martin NGI Software Factory, which enhances reliability and allows for faster development time. The delivery of this first incremental flight software to the Missile Defense Agency (MDA), and subsequent progress in development, marks a critical step on the path to flight testing and fielding. This is one way Lockheed Martin is accelerating capabilities through their mission-driven transformation program called 1LMX.



Lockheed Martin's NGI Software Factory automates software activities, enabling fast development and continuous deployment of software to advance customer missions. The factory utilizes people, processes, and tools to move ideas and requirements to high quality products at the speed of relevance, while reducing costs.

To read the complete article [click here](#).

Members' Appreciation Networking Reception & Annual General Meeting

Hosted by

AIRBUS

June 27, 2023



Left to right: Hilary Fordwich, outgoing Director; Mark Herlach, BABA Past Chairman; Chris Fetzer, President; Dena Wiggins, outgoing Director



Annual General Meeting of the Members



Chris Fetzer summarizes BABA's past year



BABA Member, Joe Kalmin enjoying one of the Airbus exhibits



L to R: Cate Sadler, Airbus; Ashly Abbott Cowan, Booz Allen Hamilton; and Marc Cowan, Mark Cowan Homes LLC



L to R: Ali McGuigan and Brenna Recny, both with National Grid and Laurent Myers, Savills



L to R: Two outgoing Directors, Dena Wiggins and Hilary Fordwich with Neil Agate, Georgie Wilkinson and Jean Foster.



Pauline Thompson and Thu Stubbs, 7 Benefit

BABA Hosts Congressional Fly In and UK Caucus Reception

Earlier this year BABA hosted its first ever Congressional Fly In for our members and those of other chapters. Participants gathered in D.C. to meet with their elected representatives to talk about challenges and opportunities facing US/UK Trade policy. Some groups also carried a region-specific message to Congress, like the Ohio group pictured here. After a day of meetings with elected of-

ficials the group enjoyed a reception in honor of the UK Caucus that was attended by James Roscoe, DHM of the British Embassy, Congressman Joe Wilson co-chair of the caucus, Chris Fetzer, President of BABA and Nancy Ziuzin Schlegel, Chair of BABA.

More Reception photos [here](#)



Members of the BABC- Ohio



Left to right: Chris Fetzer, BABA President; Nancy Ziuzin Schlegel, BABA Chair; Congressman Joe Wilson, Co-Chair, UK Caucus; and James Roscoe, DHM British Embassy



WOMBLE
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Best Lawyers Recognizes 280 Womble Lawyers, Including 20 as “Lawyer of the Year”

Best Lawyers® has recognized 280 Womble lawyers in its 2024 editions, including 204 in *The Best Lawyers in America*® and 76 in *Best Lawyers: Ones to Watch*™ in America. Notably, 20 lawyers were named “Lawyer of the Year” in their respective practices and locations. The “Lawyer of the Year” distinction is awarded to the attorney with the highest overall peer feedback in a specific practice and location.

Included in the list are two attorneys familiar to many BABA members, **Elizabeth Lee** - Real Estate Law. Elizabeth is a BABA Board member and **Jeffrey Tarkenton** - Bankruptcy and Creditor Debtor Rights / Insolvency and Reorganization Law; Litigation – Bankruptcy.

Check out these fantastic Fall events!

FOURTH ANNUAL POLO CLASSIC

September 16, 2023 2pm - 5:30pm

Join Habitat for Humanity Metro Maryland, AGNC Investment Corp and the British American Business Association on September 16th for tailgating and divot stomping at Congressional Polo Grounds in Poolsville, MD. The event features 2 polo matches and prizes for best hat, best dressed and best tailgate party! General admission available OR join BABA leaders for a special tailgate. Contact lpetersen@babawashington for details.

REGISTER



BABA BACK TO SCHOOL NIGHT Happy Hour

September 19, 2023 6pm-8pm

Did you study in the UK? Would you like to connect with others who did to reminisce about your days at University and share your love of British culture? Join BABA for this Fall networking event. All ages over 21 are welcome. We have a private bar overlooking the Wharf at Kirwan's and the modest registration fee includes open bar and hors d'oeuvres. We are expecting 100 people to attend so don't wait, register today! Wear some schweg from your Uni and be entered to win Apple earbuds!

REGISTER

JOIN BABA FOR A BACK TO SCHOOL NIGHT HAPPY HOUR!

September 19, 2023
6pm-8pm
Kirwans on the Wharf
Washington, D.C.

DID YOU STUDY ABROAD IN THE UK? DO YOU KNOW SOMEONE WHO DID?

MEMBERS AND NON-MEMBERS OF ALL AGES WELCOME!
Come one, come all to share stories and relive the good old days at University. Alumni and former exchange students from several UK colleges will be in attendance. Wear gear from your school for a chance to win a pair of Apple AirPods!

ABOUT US

BABA is a leading forum for British and American companies, organizations and business professionals, supporting UK-US trade, investment and relations. Our members exchange valuable information, establish networks, and pursue mutual business interests. Contact lpetersen@babawashington.org for details

REGISTRATION FEES:

- \$20 YPs
- \$25 Public Sector
- \$30 Private Sector

Includes open bar and hors d'oeuvres.

Check out these fantastic Fall events!

BABA UK-US FALL CLASSIC Charity Golf Tournament

October 6, 2023 8am-3pm

Join BABA along with the Congressional Golf Association and the Women's Congressional Golf Association for this fun and casual event in honor of the UK Congressional Caucus and benefiting the ACS International Schools British Summer Studies Programme. Special thanks to BMW Group for sponsoring the MINI Electric hole in one prize and Diageo for sponsoring the beverage cart! All golf levels welcome. Sponsor-ships available.

Contact lpetersen@babawashington.org for details.

REGISTER



12th Annual Black Tie Spies & Heroes Benefit

October 7, 2023 6pm

His Majesty's Secret Service, MI6, cordially invites you to the 12th Annual Spies and Heroes Black-Tie Gala. Your task is "Dress to Impress" and enjoy socializing with VIPs, celebrities, and international secret agents to raise critical funds to reduce Veteran and Active-Duty suicides.



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We are one of the largest digital print fulfillment businesses in the world, with over 1m sq ft of manufacturing space at 8 worldwide locations. Predominantly in the US and UK, we serve many household brands, fulfilling their POD and Personalisation printing in a B2B2C structure.

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International public relations consultancy - corporate communications agency founded by Alex Foley, a dual British American citizen who loves to represent companies both sides of the Atlantic

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