



2025 Annual Meeting & Plant Leadership Conference

AGENDA

January 30, 2025

“Celebrating 55 Years of Innovation”

GBRIA’s Annual Meeting & Plant Leadership Conference will celebrate how the organization has driven industry progress since its founding in 1970. Join us as we honor our past and look toward the future of innovation and growth.

[Click here to register](#)

10:30 a.m. **Annual Membership Meeting** – Plant Managers/Plant Representatives (**Plant Members Only**) Camellia Room

- **Welcome, Introductions, Anti-Trust** – Tom Yura, COO, UBE, GBRIA Chair
- **2024 Annual Meeting Minutes Approval**
- **2024-2025 Budgets and Financials** – Steve Ledoux, Director of Engineering, Orbital Engineering, GBRIA Secretary/Treasurer
- **Board of Directors Nominations & Vote** – Tom Yura
- **Board of Directors Remarks and GBRIA Business** – Tom Yura
- **Plant Leadership Conference and Education Expo Introduction** – Tim Harris, CEO, RES Contractors

11:30 a.m. **Plant Leadership Conference Plenary Session** – (Members, Partners & Guests) Le Grand Salon

- **Welcome, 2024 in Review and 2025 on the Horizon** – Connie Fabre, President and CEO, GBRIA, and Tom Yura
- **Lunch and Keynote Speaker, “2025 Economic Outlook”** – Dr. Anirban Basu, CEO, Sage Policy Group and National Chief Economist for Associated Builders and Contractors (ABC)
- **Plant Leadership Conference & Innovation Expo Introduction** – Doug Knittig, Director of Operations Geismar & Digital, Westlake

1:00 p.m. **Break & GBRIA’s Innovation Expo** – Foyer

Visit with committee members to learn about their innovation over the years and how you can get involved.

1:30 p.m. **Plant Leadership Conference Breakout Sessions**

- **“Global Warming and the Push Toward a Circular Economy /CO2 Utilization”**– Salon I

Speaker Introduction – Christy Blanchard, Plant Manager & Director of Operations, Rubicon

Dr. John Flake, Professor, Cain Department of Chemical Engineering, Louisiana State University

Dive into how new automation technologies and advanced process controls are optimizing plant operations, reducing downtime, utilizing CO₂, and improving safety in chemical and petrochemical facilities.

- **“Innovations in Energy: Examples from BASF and CF Industries”** – *Salon II*

Speaker Introductions – Jared Wimberley, Refinery Manager, PBF Chalmette Refining

“First Steps Producing Low Carbon Hydrogen and Ammonia” Eugene Britton, Director, Technical Services, CF Industries

Explore the growing role of hydrogen production and utilization in the chemical and petrochemical sectors, including advances in electrolysis and the development of hydrogen infrastructure.

“BASF – Journey to a Sustainable Future” Amy Odom, Site Development & Strategy Leader, BASF – Learn how industry is moving towards a future where an entire plant site will be powered by electricity.

- **“Community Outreach - Developing Employee Champions”** – *Salon III*

Speaker Introduction – Steve Welch, Plant Manager, Oxychem

Presenter: Laura Eiklor, Board Chair, Industry Makes and Plant Manager, ExxonMobil

Engage your employees in sharing positive industry messages with our new toolkit.

2:30 p.m. **Break & GBRIA’s Innovation Expo**

3:00 p.m. **Closing Plenary Session** – *Le Grand Salon*

- **Speaker Introduction** – Steve Ledoux, Engineering Director, Orbital Engineering
- **“A Resilient Future for Louisiana’s Energy Industry”** – **Mike Mazzola, Executive Director, Future Use of Energy Louisiana (FUEL)**

4:00 p.m. **Adjournment and Introduction of GBRIA’s Young Professionals Network and Cocktail Hour** – *Jeff Romig, Group Manager, Baton Rouge Asphalt, Barriere Construction*

Please join us for networking and introducing **all ages** to our new Young Professionals Network.