

Wayne Rizzi to Become First US BACA President in 2009

CharterX

London-based Baltic Air Charter Association (BACA) announced the launch of its first United States chapter. In doing so, its council members voted in Wayne J. Rizzi, president and CEO of Air Royale International Inc., an air charter broker company with headquarters in both Los Angeles and London. Markham Jackson, current BACA chairman, said, "We've made a strategic and historic decision to further expand the BACA's respected legacy. Our U.S. chapter will serve as a better means to closely monitor, advise and provide a reasoned course of action regarding any adverse legislation or initiatives being discussed in the vital U.S. market..."



Left, BACA Chairman Markham Jackson congratulates Wayne J. Rizzi, president and CEO of Air Royale International Inc., as the BACA's first U.S. chapter president. Photo: BACA

Stressing the importance of the American market to the global air charter industry, Jackson said that the U.S. air charter industry is facing a series of problems between brokers and the Department of Transportation. "Within the United Kingdom and Europe, the BACA has been working to prevent the same regulatory difficulties currently stressing the U.S. air charter industry," Jackson said in a statement.

During the Oct. 16 ceremony, Rizzi stated that all charter broker companies should be transparent when conducting business with customers. "It's important that brokers do not hold out as certificated air carriers, that they state that they do not own or operate aircraft, etc. The Federal Aviation Administration, along with the DOT, has made it clear that certificated charter operators must maintain operational control at all times. Charter brokers are a valuable part of the industry, and operating in an ethical, transparent manner is what we'd like to promote working through the BACA," he said.

Although Rizzi has been voted in as the U.S. chapter president, his role becomes effective in March or April 2009. Rizzi said that he looks forward to helping "define membership criterion and the vetting process for both air charter brokers and certificated charter operators." As for new guidelines that U.S. members would benefit from, such criterion will be announced at a later date. According to the association, Rizzi was its top choice for the new position, citing his "good

reputation" and because of "his passion to promote ethical practices for the global air charter industry."

Jackson said, "We're confident that Wayne is the best person, both in his knowledge and situation, to further our interests and broaden the scope of the BACA within the U.S. "His dedication and respected profile will be of substantial benefit to our industry." The BACA said that it's the successor of the Airbrokers Association founded by members of the Baltic Mercantile and Shipping Exchange in March 1949.