



Southeastern Fastener Association

...in an industry which "holds the world together"

Summer 2021

www.theseffa.com

It Was Time!

SEFA Holds First In Person Industry Event in Over a Year!

Someone had to break out of lockdown and start in person meetings again. SEFA took the plunge and recently held its Spring Conference at the Sandestin Golf and Beach Resort. Set up may have looked different, but it was apparent by the enthusiasm of the attendees that they were ready to see their industry peers again! COVID locked down events for over a year but thankfully due to better control of the virus and the vaccines, group meetings have been allowed again. Registration may have looked a little different with a thermometer on hand, facemasks and personal bottles of hand sanitizer available. The venue, as well as attendees, was very conscious of everyone's comfort level.

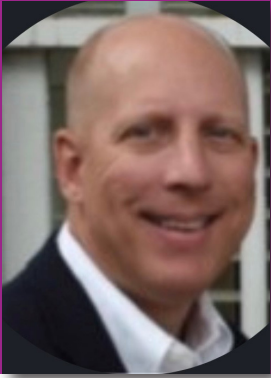
This event created great networking opportunities. The event began with an opening reception where members could have a relaxing casual atmosphere to catch up with each other while enjoying dinner and cocktails. The reception fun then moved on to the arcade where attendees got to be kids again and forget their worries and play games. They really enjoyed reverting for a little while!! Terry Windham-Difco and Carrie Whitworth-Edsco Fasteners were the arcade champs scoring the most points for the night.

The next day was a perfect golf day allowing golfers a great afternoon on the scenic Baytowne Golf Course (one of four courses at Sandestin). Evening brought the awards dinner where there was recognition of outgoing officers in 2020 (Rodney Holms-outgoing Chairman and Matt Dyess-outgoing president) and outgoing officers in 2021 (Tom Sulek-outgoing president and Matt Dyess outgoing chairman) for their outstanding contributions. SEFA Boards as well as Boards across the industry have had a challenging past year but we commend all of them for taking it in stride and adapting to conditions.

Mr. Sulek, president, also took this opportunity to thank Robbie and Gina Gilchrist for their generosity in supporting students in the fastener industry through their scholarship fund. The Gilchrist's established the fund 21 years ago awarding over \$80,000 to 70 applicants. The industry appreciates Robbie and Gina for their kindness in their support to our industry. Robbie addressed the group, especially the young people, attending extending his appreciation that they are getting involved in the association as associations are great for industry. Those new to the industry have an opportunity to learn from others and enjoy the benefits especially networking through the association.



....Continued on Page 3



Lee Parker
Vulcan Steel Products

Incoming President Note

Thank you to the members of SEFA for allowing me to serve as your President for the 2021-2022 year. The organization's leadership throughout the years has been incredible and I hope to follow their lead. I look forward to working with the current SEFA board and figuring out what the "new normal – post COVID" will be for our association and business.

SEFA will continue to work to put together classes and socials throughout the next year. These events will help get the next generation involved in our great industry and build relationships that hopefully will last a lifetime.

A special thanks goes out to all the members that were able to attend the Spring SEFA Conference in Destin, FL. We had a great turnout under the circumstances. The accommodations and weather were wonderful. Also, a special thanks to Nancy Rich and the SEFA board for putting together and executing the spring conference. I hope this time next year everyone will be able to travel and we can assemble again at our spring conference in Nashville, TN.

Stay safe and thanks again for allowing me to be your President,
Lee Parker



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Outgoing President Note

It was my pleasure to serve as the President of the Southeastern Fastener Association this past year. Many thanks go out to the Board Members and Executive Director for helping me in 2020. Like you, we did the best we could during the most unpredictable year of our lives.

I'd like to thank all the members that supported SEFA and those who attended our Florida meeting in April.

I know that Lee, our new President is excited and eager to face the challenges of the upcoming year. Lee's positive attitude and strong leadership will guide to a very successful 2021. I strongly encourage all members to get involved with SEFA this year. The members that participate make this association special. Please support SEFA by attending our Nashville event next spring.

Thank you,
Tom



Tom Sulek
Star Stainless Screw

It Was Time! (continued from page 1)

The final day of the event provided informative sessions beginning with a panel discussion consisting of Tom Sulek/Star Stainless Screw, Anthony Crawl/Birmingham Fastener, and Matt Dyess/Nucor Fastener.

Discussions revolved around the challenges of business including overseas issues, pricing, inventory issues, changes in procedures since 2020, supply chain challenges, hiring issues, and opportunities. Business has been challenging but the challenges have also come with rewards.

Following the panel discussion Scott Brindisi, VP Client Solutions for Unique Logistics International addressed the group. He began by apologizing he had no good news. Logistics have been a challenge for quite some time; however, past circumstances have never caused issues like COVID has. Between flights stopping during COVID, containers taking much longer to get back overseas, container losses, health related issues, Chinese New Year, and the Suez Canal shut down logistics have been a nightmare. Pricing and lead time have increased beyond any expectations. Unfortunately the logistics industry does not expect to see things back to normal for the rest of this year.

Adrienne Slack, VP and Regional Executive at the New Orleans Branch of the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta also addressed SEFA members. Adrienne spoke of the challenges of businesses finding employees. While we have had in a very low inflation rate, inflation is expected to increase to above 2%. Consumer prices are escalating as the shortage of products continues. This trend has also greatly affected the real estate market.

Unemployment benefits have allowed some of the work force to remain unemployed longer than normal. Unemployment rates had been dropping since 2017 until COVID surfaced in mid March 2020. Jobs are plentiful; those willing to work are limited. Wage wars have caused those working to move from company to company. Personal consumption dropped dramatically in 2020 but is now on the rise. Government has offered aid to companies and individuals but it may have to stop before we see the work force go back to normal. While in town, Adrienne had the opportunity to speak with many local businesses as well as attendees regarding our industry to discuss the various factors affecting the shortage of employees for businesses.

There is no doubt the economy has been erratic since Mid March 2020. The public has the option to stay up to date with the EconomyNow app providing current info on economic issues.

The meeting closed out with a drawing for a complimentary (sponsored by SEFA) Certified Fastener Specialist Class conducted by Fastener Training Week. Matt Dyess of Nucor Fasteners was the recipient of this class.

See the Golf Winners on Page 6!



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Golf Winners Announced

1st Place

Edsco Team

Jamie Whitworth
Jamison Baker
Tanner Skinner
Trey Gary



2nd Place

Rex Crawford (*Vertex Distribution*)
Mike Robinson (*Vertex Distribution*)
Dewey Oxner (*G. L. Huyett*)
Andy Roach (*G.L. Huyett*)



Closest to the Pin (Women) Tina Windham

Closest to Pin (Men) Dewey Oxner

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Longest Drive (Men) Dewey Oxner

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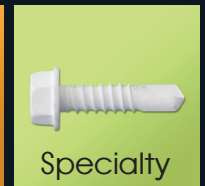
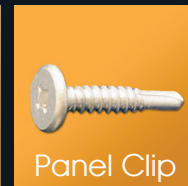
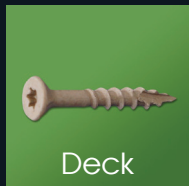
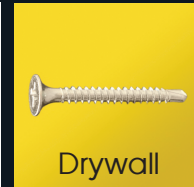
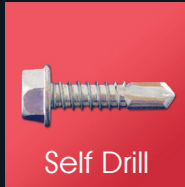
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meet in Nashville
spring of 2022 so be
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for updates!

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American Specialty Products and Machine

SEFA Scholarships \$2,000

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