



Southeastern Fastener Association

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Summer 2025

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SEFA 50th Anniversary Spring Conference

SEFA's Annual Spring Conference took place April 29th-May 1st Saddlebrook Resort-Tampa, FL. Members kicked off the event with an opening reception, April 29th, featuring a casino (sponsored by Nucor Fastener), patio games, dinner, and beverages, providing the beginning of an event filled with great networking and reuniting with past presidents and industry friends.

The 30th was a busy day beginning with a Past Presidents Breakfast. The past presidents enjoyed sharing stories going back to the beginning of SEFA. Listening to the conversations, it was evident these presidents enjoyed their time as president with most of them still being active in the association. They even reminisced about past golf trophies. Retiring and moving on to another industry didn't stop some of them attending and reuniting with SEFA members.

Following breakfast those not golfing joined Robbie Gilchrist in "Sharing Ideas with Robbie." – Great conversation bringing together decades of leadership and legacy.

The Cypress Course, at Saddlebrook, served as the venue for the annual Golf Outing. The course woven through rolling fairways and pristine greens, offered both challenge and charm for golfers of all levels. Thank you to Brighton Best International for donating golf gloves for all the golfers!



**THANK YOU TO OUR 50TH ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE
FOR ALL OF THEIR RESEARCH, WORK, AND TIME
PUTTING THIS EVENT TOGETHER:**

Tony Strein (International Fasteners)
Joanne Bialis (International Fasteners)
Tony Nelson (Fastener Supply)
Tom Sulek (Star Stainless Screw)
Dana Strock (Nucor Fastener)

Golf Winners



1st Place

Rob Reynolds
INxSQL

Eric Gates
INxSQL

Bryan Wheeler
Star Stainless Screw

TJ McFarland
Star Stainless Screw

2nd Place

Christian Reich
Goebel Fasteners

Don Kubkowski
Angor - Tools

Andy Roach
Huyett

Dewey Oxner
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Men's Longest Drive

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Men's Closest to the Pin

Bobby Fail
XL Screw Corp.

Women's Longest Drive

Tracey Lumia
Distributor's Link

Continued on Page 4 ...

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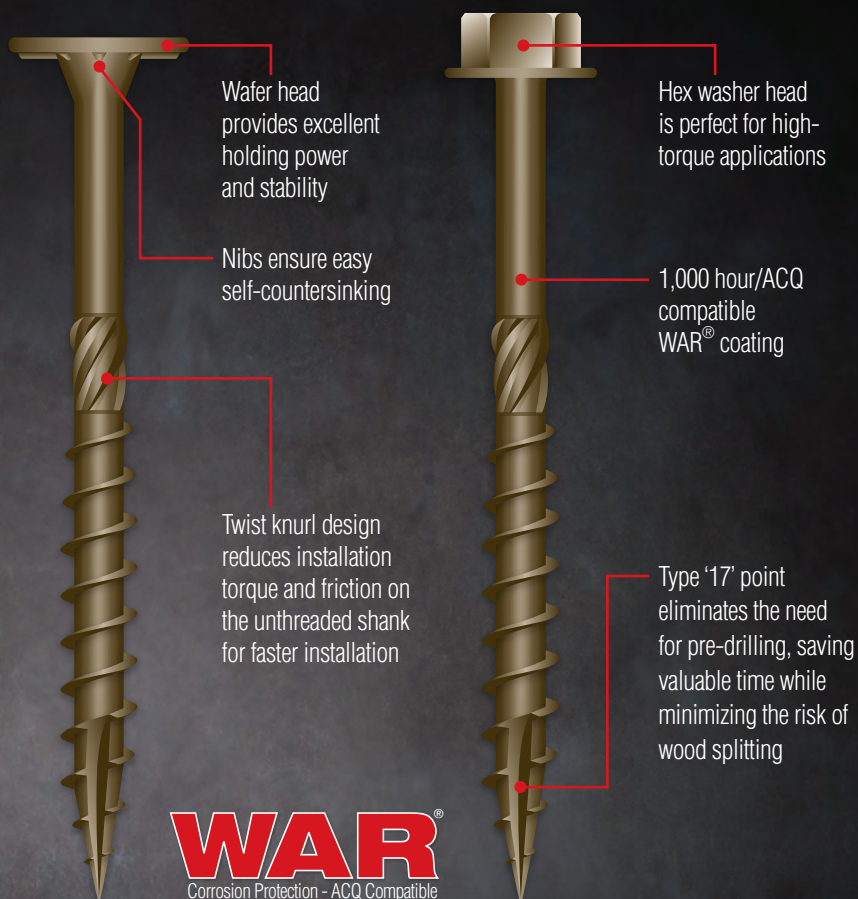


STAR DRIVE WAFER HEAD w/NIBS

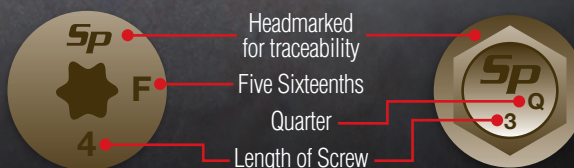
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Dana Strock
Nucor Fastener

Incoming President's Note

The Southeastern Fastener Association just celebrated our 50th Anniversary at the Saddlebrook Resort in sunny Tampa, FL at the end of April. It truly was quite the journey to see many of the past presidents faces at the event. I do believe all enjoyed the picture slide show from the past 50 years and so many stories that were told. I personally want to thank everyone who made the event a success. It takes every single person who plans, attends, and speaks of it after to make these events worthwhile.

These associations can only flourish and succeed with like-minded people within our industry that come to communicate, network, and engage. We truly get out of the associations what we invest into them. The engaging contact within the Southeastern Fastener Association does create ideas and brainstorming that keep our market thriving. I did task each member at the 50th celebration to invite and recruit customers, vendors and even their competition to join our association. Why? Our association promotes networking, education, and knowledge of what is happening in fasteners in the Southeast! As a past president and cofounder of this association shared with me, "as iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another". (Proverbs 27:17) This is what SEFA offers.

It is a privilege to be the Southeastern Fastener Association President for this year. I was mentored well by the board members that rolled off this year. I thank Stephanie Wood, Anthony Crawl, Tom Sulek and Carrie Whitworth for all your dedication to the SEFA board and know you will be missed. We have four enthusiastic new board members, and I am looking forward to what this year holds for us all within the Southeast. Please feel free to reach to me or any board member with ideas or input as we keep the traditions and this legacy that has been built for us remain and thrive.

Dana Strock



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Outgoing President's Note

Dear Members,

On behalf of the Board of Directors and myself, I would like to extend our sincere thanks to all members, past presidents, and industry partners who joined us in Tampa for the Southern Fastener Association's 50th Anniversary Celebration. Your presence and support helped make this milestone event truly memorable.

This past year has been a remarkable one for our organization. We remain committed to strengthening engagement among all members of the fastener industry, fostering collaboration, innovation, and long-lasting relationships. The energy and enthusiasm displayed at the conference reaffirmed the importance of our shared mission.

As we look ahead, we are pleased to welcome our incoming board members and are especially excited to support Dana Strock of Nucor as she begins her term as President. Dana's leadership and vision will continue to guide the Southern Fastener Association on a path of growth and relevance in an evolving marketplace.

It has been a true honor to serve as President during such a meaningful year in our association's history. Being part of this organization, and this industry, has been one of the most rewarding experiences of my career. I am deeply grateful for the opportunity to serve and for the continued dedication of our members.

Thank you again for your involvement and support. The future of our association is bright, and I look forward to seeing the continued progress we will achieve together.

With sincere appreciation,

Tony Strein

Board Chair, Southern Fastener Association



Tony Strein
International Fasteners



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...continued from Page 1 **SEFA 50th Anniversary Spring Conference**

Golf was followed with an awards dinner where several distinguished members were honored, including Outgoing Chairperson Stephanie Wood of Fastener Supply and Outgoing President Tony Strein of International Fasteners. A special award was presented to Robbie and Gina Gilchrist to honor their generosity, in awarding scholarships in the fastener industry. They have been gracious enough to award over \$100,000 over 25 years. We thank Robbie & Gina for their great support in awarding most of these scholarships to SEFA Members.

There were raffles for the scholarship fund along with an amazing silent auction with great sports memorabilia bringing in a great start to the 2026 scholarship fund. Thank you to all the prize donors (Martin Supply, Birmingham Fasteners, Eurolink, Difco, Fastener Supply Co., Nucor Fastener Dana Strock, Edsco Fasteners, AFC Industries, and supporters who bought tickets. Thank you to Stacey Mears/Fastener Supply who won the 50/50 raffle and donated it back to the scholarship fund.

It was great to have many of SEFA's past presidents present for dinner to celebrate 50 years of SEFA's amazing relationship with its' members and the fastener industry.

The following day featured a panel discussion by past presidents Robbie Gilchrist/Capital Marketing, Mickey Matheny/NorthStar Marketing, Jim Jones/DIFCO, and Brian Crouch/formerly of Tyson Bolt. Jim served as president in 1976, Robbie served in 1984, Mickey served in 1993, and Brian served in 2001 so quite a few years of interesting memories and knowledge was shared.

Keynote speaker Derrick Brooks closed out the event. Derrick Brooks was born and raised in Pensacola, FL. He grew up with many challenges yet reached past all his struggles and became a first-round NFL draft pick by the Tampa Bay Buccaneers in 1995. This began his 14-year, hall of fame career. He was inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame in February 2014 and the Capital One Academic All America Hall of Fame in August 2014. As driven as Derrick Brooks was to build his career, he poured himself into his family and community. Legacy is at the heart of his drive. He recognizes that life itself is a team game, the ultimate team game. And this is why his community efforts are so imperative to him.

Derrick emphasized the importance of TEAM-together everybody achieves more. This is important not only in sports but in life. When you fall short, get back up. One of the most inspiring memories of coaches he has is the one who told them they need to live by three F's-faith, family, and football-in that order. He learned to serve the community through football which led him to start foundations of his own to assist others. His secret to a good transition from football to retirement was doing things the opposite-schedule things different than during football. You are a person transitioning not a number. A thought-provoking closing remark was if attitude is contagious-is yours worth getting?

The conference provided numerous networking opportunities essential for business growth. The success of SEFA events relies heavily on the support of its members and guests. A heartfelt thank you to everyone who contributed to the success of the SEFA Spring Conference 2025 making the 50th anniversary a formidable cause to celebrate.

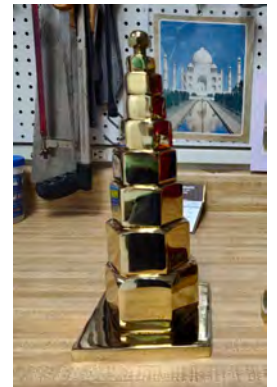
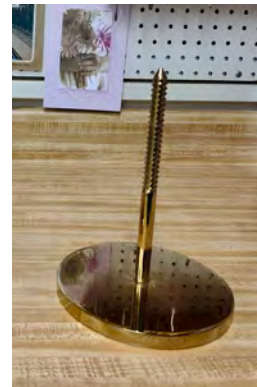
A Golf Memory Shared

By: Jim Jones (DIFCO) & Robbie Gilchrist (Capital Marketing)

Here are two photos of the golf trophies originally presented for the lowest golf score, the pyramid nuts and the highest golf score presented the Screw Up award.

These trophies were created in 1975 by a collaboration between Steve Gruenhut (Brighton Best), Jim Jones (DIFCO), and Fred Cooper (Fasteners of Georgia). They were polished by DIFCO, Brass or Gold Plated by Simmons Plating Works, Alan Rosenberg and assembled by Jim Jones.

These trophies were presented for at least 10 years. We know Robbie Gilchrist has these trophies, anyone else out there still have these? Have any special memories or pictures from the past? Share with sefa@thesefa.com so we can share in a future newsletter.



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Paige Benson



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Grace Benson - AFC Industries

GianLuca Minichino - BMB Fasteners

\$2,000 SEFA Scholarships

Ava Schach - Birmingham Fastener

Ellie Shaw - Brighton Best International

\$1,000 SEFA Scholarships

Kristopher Ryan Dominguez - Birmingham Fastener

\$500 SEFA Scholarships

Emalie Thomas - AFC Industries

Larry Keith "Trace" Grantham III - Edsco Fasteners



Kristopher Ryan Dominguez



Larry Keith "Trace" Grantham III



Emily Kovatch



GianLuca Minichino



Ciara Nolan



Lola Rivera



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Emalie Thomas

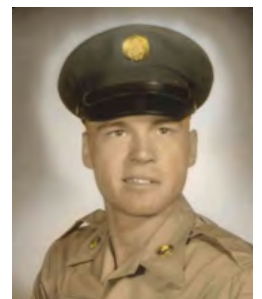
In Memory of Don West

February 18, 1949 – March 26, 2025 - Statesville, NC

Don was a huge supporter of the Southeastern Fastener Association in his career. He attended many events and conferences and was very engaged in the Southeast Fastener market. Don was a character with always a witty comment to share. This gruff yet kind southern gentleman had his way of making an impact wherever he was. Those who knew Don understood his nature of being brutally honest, yet listened when he spoke knowing there was merit to his words. His industry knowledge from years of experience in the fastener market allowed him to teach, mentor and be a resource for many. He represented himself and employers with integrity and class. He was known by his Nucor teammates as a good man who made everyone around him better. His contagious laugh and desire to always dress sharp will be remembered.

He was part of the first graduating class of North Iredell High School, and he served as a Staff Sergeant in the US Army, from April 1968 until February 1974.

He worked in sales before becoming Regional Sales Manager for Nucor Fastener Division for 22 years, until his retirement in 2018. He enjoyed golfing and watching his great grandson dance and play.



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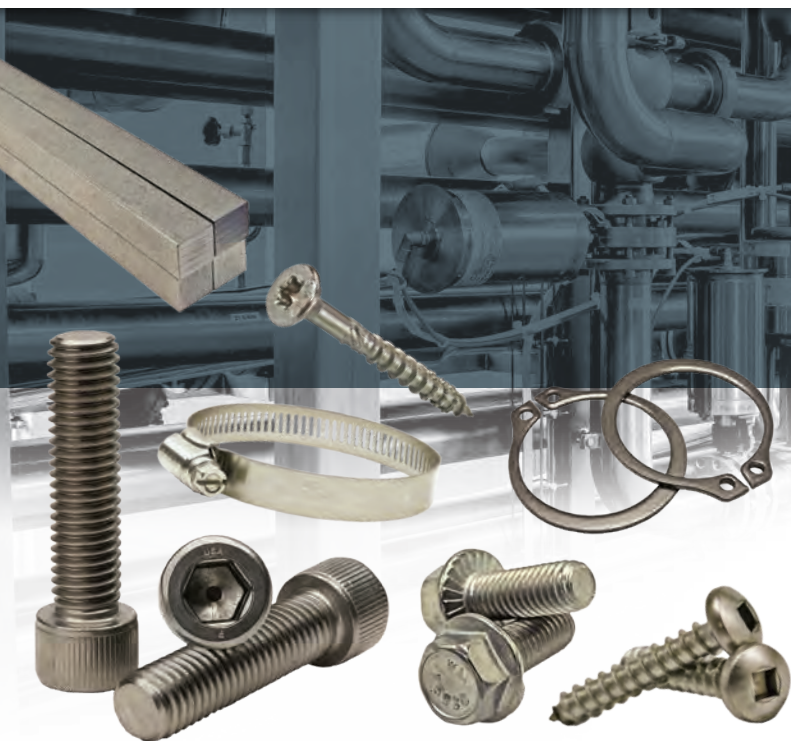
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July 24th

SEFA Summer Social
Good Game - Atlanta, GA
SEFA Room Block at Aloft, Contact Nancy:
sefa@thesefa.com for more information

December 4th

SEFA Holiday Social
Location TBD

2026

April 28th - April 30th

Spring Conference
Embassy Suites Greenville Golf
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- Greenville, SC



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Note to SEFA

I am honored to be the recipient of such generosity. The company's support means the world to me and my education journey.

Thank you again,

Grace Benson

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SEFA 50th Anniversary Spring Conference!



OVER

SEFA 50th Anniversary Spring Conference!



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