



Southeastern Fastener Association

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

Summer 2026

www.theseffa.com

SEFA 2026 Spring Conference

SEFA's Annual Spring Conference was held April 28–30 at the Embassy Suites Greenville Golf Resort & Conference Center. The event began with an opening reception on April 28, where members and industry colleagues connected over cocktails, dinner, and games.

The following day, attendees enjoyed a round of golf at The Preserve at Verdae, the on-site course, under ideal weather conditions. XL Screw Corp. generously supplied golf balls for participants.



Thank you to our Golf Sponsors

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- Birmingham Fastener
- Brighton Best Int'l
- DIFCO-Durable Industrial Finishing Company
- Distributor's Link Magazine
- Edsco Fasteners
- INxSQL Software
- Kanebridge Corp.
- LindFast Solutions
- Metric and Multistandard Components Corp.
- RIE Coatings
- Sems and Specials
- XL Screw Corp.

Golf Winners

1st Place

Dewey Oxner
Huyett

Bates Huffman
Huyett

Bobby Fail
XL Screw Corp.

Sean Costello
RIE Coatings

Tied for 2nd Place

(Team 1)

Lee Parker
Birmingham Fasteners

Hayden Gaston
DIFCO

Terry Windham
DIFCO

Tied for 2nd Place

(Team 2)

Christopher McCaffrey
Atlanta Rod & Mfg.

Eric Gates
INxSQL Software

T.J. McFarland
LindFast

Bryan Wheeler
Star Stainless Screw

Men's Longest Drive

Bryan Wheeler
Star Stainless Screw

Men's Closest to the Pin

Sean Costello
RIE Coatings

...Continued on Page 3



Dana Strock
Nucor Fastener

Outgoing President's Note

Looking Ahead: SEFA in 2026

As we continue into 2026, I want to take a moment to reflect on the momentum we've built together and the progress we are making as an association. One of the most encouraging signs of that progress is our continued membership growth. We are pleased to welcome three new member companies into SEFA, while also celebrating the return of two long-time members who have rejoined the association. This is a strong signal that SEFA remains a valuable and relevant resource within our industry, and we're excited to have each of you engaged.

Expanding Value Through Education

A key focus for the board has been ensuring SEFA delivers tangible value to our members beyond networking—and education is at the center of that effort. We are currently planning a fastener basics educational session in Atlanta on September 21st, designed to support both:

- **Continuing education** for industry professionals
- **Onboarding and development** for new team members

Our goal is to position SEFA as a practical tool your organization can leverage—not just for connection, but for building knowledge and strengthening your team. We believe this initiative is an important step in expanding how members engage with the association year-round.

Carrying Forward the Greenville Momentum

Following the success of our recent Greenville Spring Conference, it's clear that SEFA continues to provide a meaningful platform for connection, learning, and collaboration. The energy and participation we saw there reinforces the value of staying engaged and investing in our network.

As I wrap up my time serving as President, I want to personally thank each of you for your support, engagement, and commitment to SEFA. It has been a privilege to serve this group, and I am confident the association is well-positioned for continued growth and impact.

Thank you again for being part of our Southeastern Fastener Association.

Thank you with sincere appreciation,

Dana Strock



Hayden Gaston
DIFCO
(Durable Industrial Finishing Co.)

Incoming President's Note

Hello SEFA Members,

I'm excited to officially be back as your SEFA President for a second term! It's hard to believe it has already been 10 years since our joint SEFA/SFA meeting in New Orleans, where I had the honor of serving as the youngest SEFA president ever. NOLA has always been a special place for me. It's where my wife and I got engaged, so returning to that city feels especially meaningful.

As we look ahead, I'm energized by the new wave of SEFA members and leadership coming into our organization. The next generation is bringing fresh ideas, energy, and opportunities for growth, and I'd love to hear your suggestions for future SEFA events and ways we can continue evolving together. One of our biggest priorities moving forward is growing distributor membership, so I encourage everyone to help spread the word and invite others to get involved.

I'm looking forward to a great year ahead and reconnecting with all of you soon!

Hayden Gaston

SEFA 2026 Spring Conferencecontinued from Page 1

In addition to honoring golf sponsors and winners, the awards dinner recognized outgoing Chairperson Tony Strein of International Fasteners and outgoing President Dana Strock of Nucor Fasteners. SEFA appreciates their service and dedication.

Attendees also took part in a silent auction, gift raffle, and 50/50 raffle, with all proceeds benefiting the scholarship fund. SEFA thanks the many companies that contributed, including DIFCO, Fastener Supply, LindFast/Star Stainless Screw, Metric and Multistandard, S.W. Anderson Co., Greg Smith, Würth Industry, Embassy Suites, and The Preserve at Verdae.

The conference concluded with a full day of educational sessions designed to give attendees practical insights for their organizations. Mike McNulty, editor of Fastener Technology Int'l magazine, presented on the state of the fastener industry, covering the economy, technology, trade, trends, and related topics. He emphasized the importance of balancing company-specific priorities with a broader view of the market and shared valuable industry perspective throughout his presentation.

Robbie Gilchrist (Capital Marketing) and Bryan Wheeler (Star Stainless Screw) also shared sales strategies drawn from years of experience. Their discussion highlighted that while sales approaches may differ, the goal remains the same.

Keynote speaker Donald Monistere, CEO and President of General Informatics, presented on understanding and using artificial intelligence. He offered a clear overview of AI and demonstrated how it can generate a report on the fastener industry. He also noted that while AI can improve speed and efficiency, it introduces risks as well. He encouraged attendees to approach agentic AI—autonomous systems that can set goals, make plans, and carry out multi-step tasks independently—with thoughtful caution. His message was clear: AI is a powerful tool that should be used wisely.

SEFA members can view both Mike's and Donald's presentations by logging in to the members-only section of the SEFA website and visiting the Education tab.

A special thank you to our conference sponsors for their continued support in helping elevate this event.

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Congratulations to this Year's SEFA Scholarship Recipients

Lindfast Solutions/Star Scholarship - \$3,000
Charlotte McPhearson - *sponsored by Huyett*

Brighton Best International Scholarship - \$3,000
Frank Stafford - *sponsored by Stafford Nut and Bolt*

International Fasteners Scholarship - \$2,000
Nathan Kominsky - *sponsored by Hanger Bolt & Stud*

Kanebridge Scholarship - \$1,500
Robert McPhearson - *sponsored by Huyett*

Gilchrist Foundation Scholarship - \$1,000
Noah Cooper

Birmingham Fastener Scholarship - \$1,000
Alyssa McFarland - *sponsored by LindFast Solutions*

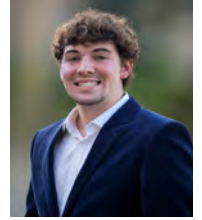
Goebel Fasteners Inc. Scholarship - \$500
Luke Veech - *sponsored by Nucor Fastener*



Charlotte
McPhearson



Frank
Stafford



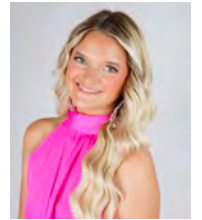
Nathan
Kominsky



Robert
McPhearson



Noah
Cooper



Alyssa
McFarland



Luke
Veech

Notes to SEFA

Dear SEFA Scholarship Committee,
I am deeply grateful for the scholarship you have awarded me. Your generosity and support mean the world to me, and I feel truly honored to have this opportunity. Receiving this scholarship is more than just financial assistance; it's a powerful encouragement as I navigate my educational journey and work toward my future aspirations.

I cannot express enough how much I appreciate your confidence in me and your commitment to uplifting students like myself.

Thank you once again for granting me this incredible opportunity.

Sincerely,
Alyssa McFarland

Thank you so much for giving me this opportunity. I am so grateful and will make the most of this scholarship.

Best Regards,
Luke M. Veech

I am writing to express my sincere gratitude for awarding Noah the Gilchrist Foundation Scholarship, from the Southeastern Fastener Association. Thank you again for your kindness and generosity.

Sandi King

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Member News

Intercorp Named 2025 Sphere1 Supplier of the Year at Sapphire Echelon Level

Marco Island, FL — Intercorp is proud to announce it has been named the 2025 Sphere1 Supplier of the Year during the Sphere1 Annual Conference in Marco Island, Florida. The honor was presented at the cooperative’s prestigious Sapphire Echelon level, marking Intercorp’s first-ever Supplier of the Year recognition within the Sphere1 network.

The award recognizes outstanding supplier performance and highlights Intercorp’s continued commitment to growth, partnership, training, and service excellence throughout the construction and industrial supply industries.

“This award is an incredible honor for our entire organization,” said David Harlan, Director of Marketing at Intercorp. “Being recognized by Sphere1 members and fellow suppliers is especially meaningful because it reflects the strength of the relationships we’ve built and the dedication our team brings every day. We’re grateful for the support of our distributor partners and customers who continue to believe in the Strong-Point® brand.”

Supplier of the Year recipients are evaluated on several key performance metrics, including sales volume, year-over-year growth, program participation, engagement within the cooperative, and S1 University training completions. Customer nominations from Sphere1 members also played an important role in the selection process.

Intercorp credits the achievement to the collective efforts of its employees, distributor partners, and customers, whose continued trust and collaboration have helped drive the company’s success.

About Intercorp:

For more than 37 years, Intercorp has delivered premium fastening solutions through its Strong-Point® brand. With nine distribution centers across the United States, Intercorp continues to set the standard in fastening technology and customer support, serving construction professionals nationwide.



DarLoc Corporation of Long Grove, Illinois is now offering a free sample kit of their products

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AI Is Already in Your Building – The Question Is Whether You're in Control

By Don Monistere, CEO & President – General Informatics

Here's the reality: 43.2% of U.S. workers are already using AI tools at work (MIT/Stanford, 2024). That means right now, someone on your team is using a free AI tool to draft an email, summarize a supplier document, or move through an RFQ faster.

They're not trying to create a problem. They're trying to get work done.

But that convenience comes with risk. Supplier pricing, customer-specific terms, inventory positions, spec sheets, and contract language are exactly the kinds of business details that should not be floating into consumer AI platforms without clear safeguards.

Here's what most business leaders don't want to hear: blocking AI entirely doesn't work. It just drives usage underground.

The better approach is governance: give employees a safe, approved way to use AI so productivity doesn't come at the expense of proprietary data.

AI doesn't have to be disruptive or expensive to be valuable. But it does need to be managed. For the fastener industry, that means finding tools with real security standards, clear data protection policies, and practical use cases that actually save time.

The good news is that AI doesn't have to feel overwhelming. It starts with asking the right questions and setting the right standards. In the full article, we break down what safe AI looks like for the fastener industry, the risks of shadow AI, and how to move from experimentation to a structured approach that supports your business.

To read the full article, visit General Informatics at <https://itstrategy.tech/ai-is-already-in-your-building/>

More Photos from The SEFA 2026 Spring Conference



See more photos at: www.theseffa.com



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Upcoming Events

2026

- July 16 SEFA Summer Social
Nashville, TN
- September 21 Fastener Basics and Beyond Class
Westin Atlanta Perimeter | Tampa, FL

2027

- April 27-29 2027 Spring Conference
Joint Conference - Southeastern Fastener Association
& Southwestern Fastener Association
New Orleans, LA



SEFA Welcomes New Members

All Electronics Hardware
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