

2026 SEFA Annual Conference—Nov. 11– 13, 2026

J W Marriott—Aventura, Florida



Dear Members and Industry Colleagues:

It's hip, hip hooray (both literally and figuratively) as my total hip replacement surgeries in the past two months seem to be working out quite well. Through the miracles of modern medicine I am moving about without pain and is a nice way to start 2026.

Our standard writing committees will start meeting in February and March. At the current time we have the following committee meetings scheduled:

- February 18 - SEFA-3 - Work Surfaces
- February 20 - SEFA -1 - Fume hoods
- February 26 - SEFA-11 - Liquid Chemical Storage
- March 2 - SEFA-9 - Ductless Committee
- March 3 - SEFA-10 - Adaptable Caswork

These meetings are open to all members and non-members, however, only Executive members can vote at these meetings. If you are a non-member please email barbara@sefalabs.com to receive an evite.

The Board of Directors has determined that SEFA should give at least one Lifetime Achievement Award during the Thursday night dinner at our annual conferences. This year that dinner will take place on November 12 on the majestic Biscayne Lady yacht which will cruise the stunning south Florida intracoastal.

The process to nominate a potential candidate starts with an email to me suggesting the person to be considered using the attached criteria created by the Board of Directors as the basis for that nomination. The Board will then consider the various candidates that are proposed by the members and will designate at least one person to receive this recognition at our

annual conference. We are looking forward to hearing from you about those candidates!

Lastly, the Advisory Board Membership Committee recently interviewed two candidates for admission to that Board. The Committee unanimously voted in favor of both Alex Kogan, an associate Vice President at The Rockefeller University and Isabel Mandujano a Higher Education Client Leader | Principal at DLR Group. SEFA members have 14 days from the date of this email to submit their confidential comments to me concerning these candidates.

That's all I have for now so it's time for me to hip, hop along on those new hips!

SEFA Lifetime Achievement Award Criteria

Professional Accomplishments and Entrepreneurialism

- Longevity in the Industry in a Leadership role
- Demonstrated track record of success and business growth
- Innovation in Product Development or Business Model
- Award-winning project completion (with direct participation)

Industry Presence

- Membership and Service in SEFA
- Recognized Speaker at Industry Events
- Published Author of relevant articles in Industry trades
- Participation in Industry-related governance organizations (ASHRAE, NFPA, etc.)
- Mentorship of other Industry leaders

Other Notable Achievements/Characteristics

- *For example* - Creating greater awareness of SEFA and its initiatives throughout the world