

## Conference Chair Report for the 45<sup>th</sup> Stationary Source Sampling and Analysis for Air Pollutants Conference

Dear Attendees,

It has been an honor and a privilege to serve as your conference chair. I have been attending this conference for over twenty years. I've presented as well as served as a session chair over the years. It is my opinion this is the most important conference in our industry. Prior to my retirement I explained the conference format to my senior leadership and explained that not only the technical information presented but the networking portion makes it the absolute best conference. I hope each of you was able to make these connections as well.

It was great to see so many new faces. This year approximately one half of our attendees were either first- or second-year participants. Also, we had more retirees than any conference I attended. The weather failed to cooperate for our golfing and volleyball this year, but we were able to have abbreviated friendly competitions. As for shooting we had the best weather for the week and had the most participation we've ever had with 40 shooters.

Our conference again sold out as it has in past years. This year was in January, a little later than in previous years. I attribute this to budget constraints many organizations are facing and the consolidation of many testing companies. As in the past there were a few last-minute cancellations. I encourage you to get your registration forms submitted early for the 46<sup>th</sup> conference. I expect accommodation will continue to be provided if payments cannot be made until January of 2025, but that decision will be at the discretion of Tom Graham, Conference Chair.

This year we had 218 attendees with 75 being "first timers" and eleven internationals. The highest percentage attending this year were consultants / testing firms. Below are some tables with the demographic breakdowns.





**SES, PO Box 12124, Research Triangle Park North Carolina 27709**



SOURCE  
EVALUATION  
SOCIETY

Thursday evening, I was humbled to be inducted into the SES Hall of Fame. To be considered was a tremendous honor but I was truly shocked when I was notified of the honor. I want to again thank the SES Nominating committee as well as the members for this recognition. To be recognized with the previous recipients is beyond my belief. I want to again thank my mentor, two-time conference chair and HOF, Bill Mullins. Without his guidance this would never have happened to me. I also want to thank Mike Hutcherson for organizing the roast and the Blue Testees for coming out of retirement and entertaining us again.



Thank you to the STA (our sister organization in the UK), NACAA and the US EPA for their endorsement of our conference. Their support continues to strengthen and build value and credibility for our conference. Also, a big thanks to all our sponsors. Your support of our socials, extracurricular activities, and dinners helped make this a tremendous event.

In closing, the feedback I received exceeded my goal of information exchange and networking. None of this would have been possible without you as attendees, our speakers, and our session chairs. A special thank you to Antoinette Chartier and her Hospitality Management Systems staff, the resort staff at MeadowView, Angela Hansen, and Wade Bice. These people guided me through the past year and enabled us to have a great week. Also, thanks to the SES Board of Directors and Conference Steering Committee for giving me this opportunity. Lastly, a sincere thank you to my co-chair, Tom Graham. He developed the conference app and was my sounding board and advisor throughout the entire process. I know that Tom and Josh will put together a great conference for 2025 and I encourage you to make plans to attend.

Respectfully submitted,

*Tommy*

Tommy Leach  
2024 Conference Chair  
4/18/2024

