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OHIO'S PUBLIC WORKS LAWS ARE UNDER CONSTRUCTION



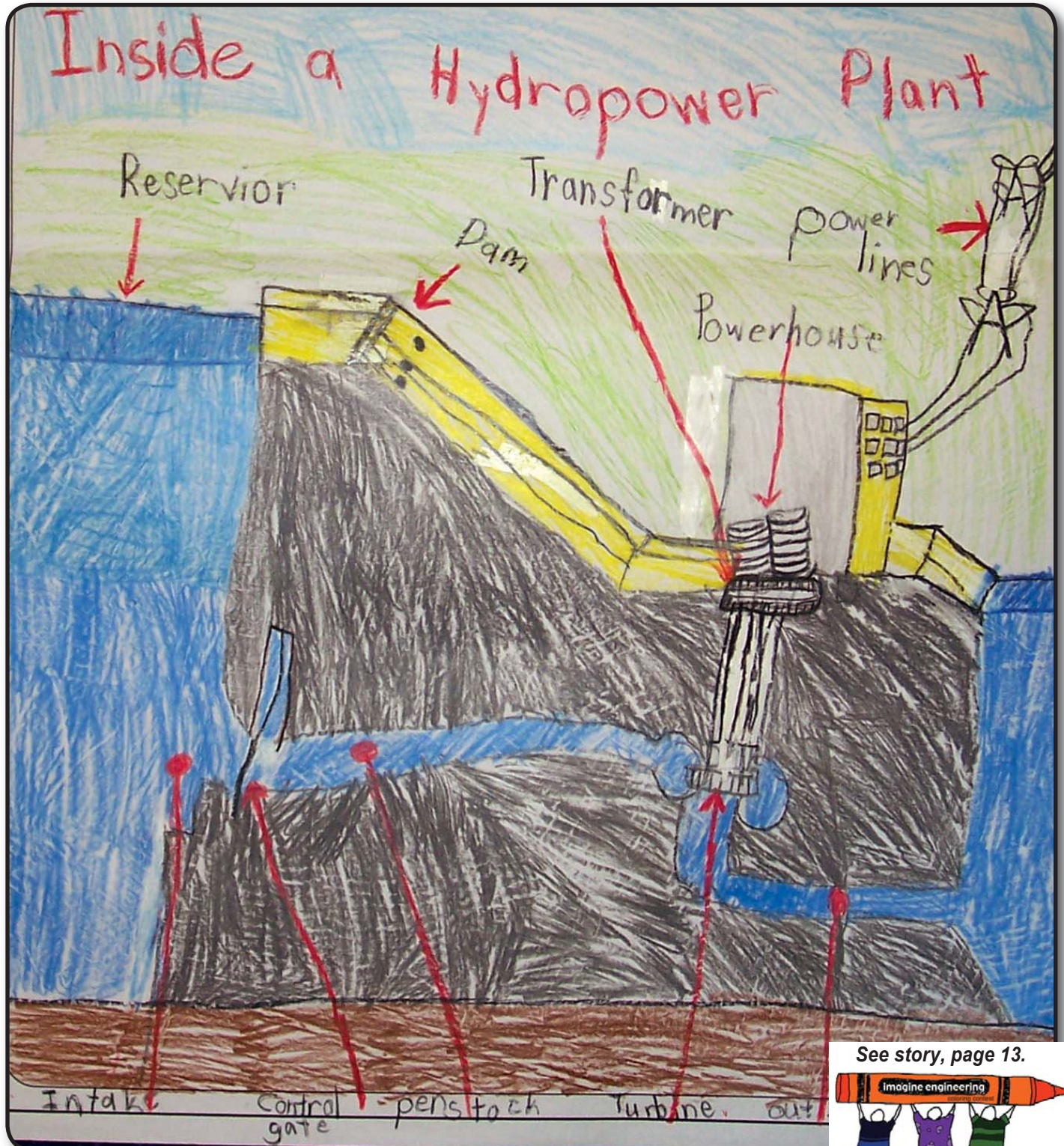
Special Ethics
& the Law
Issue



Megan Rodriguez
Immaculate Conception School,
Celina (1st place winner)

Congratulations, Megan Rodriguez!

*Miss Rodriguez is the 2012 Winner of
the 'Imagine Engineering Coloring Contest'*



See story, page 13.



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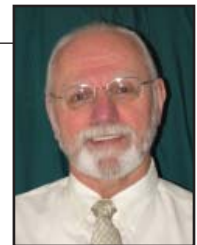
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LEADERSHIP VIEWS

by Bruce Larcomb, P.E., P.S., FSFPE, President,
Ohio Society of Professional Engineers



Should our engineering students be taught by professional engineers?

I'm old and have a difficult time even remembering my last year of college. Try as I might I can't remember my professors emphasizing the importance of becoming a professional engineer (PE). Maybe becoming a PE was not touted because I can only recall one professor out of the entire teaching staff actually being a licensed professional engineer. Nor do I recall being urged to take the Engineer in Training (EIT) exam my last year in college. That's what the Fundamentals of Engineering (FE) exam was called way back then.

It appears to me, however, that times have changed for the better in recent years. To my knowledge, more and more college professors are becoming PE's. As a reviewer of FE exam applications, I find an increasing number of colleges promoting the effort to start the process (Dean's Letter) of becoming a professional. This is truly encouraging.

Further, I find an increasing number of college professors applying for the PE exam. (We won't discuss their pass rate. Actually, I don't know if anyone has this figure.) The biggest hurdle for the professors is not the test itself, but rather the ability to show that they have at least one year of professional practice (out of the four years required after taking the FE exam) under the supervision of a PE. This is especially true if they have been in academia their entire career. They can gain experience by teaching higher level courses, doing research, obtaining a master's and/or a PhD. A professor applying to take the PE exam must still show one year of PE supervised professional practice.

So, are there really enough professors with professional licensure teaching the higher level courses? Those wanting more PE's in engineering colleges point out that lawyers, doctors, nurses and other professions are all taught by licensed professionals. Why not engineers?

A growing number in our profession are concerned about this very thing.

The incentives for professors to become licensed are not evident at most engineering colleges, thus the effort to legislate a procedure. In the previous session (128th session in 2009/2010) House Bill 592 was introduced to enact Sections 1713.53 and 3345.46 of the Ohio Revised Code, which would have required the deans of engineering colleges and professors teaching engineering design courses to become licensed. A detailed article titled "OSPE Supports Faculty Licensure Legislation," written by Nils E. Nilsson, appeared in the 2010 Volume 70/ Issue 3 of the *OhioENGINEER* magazine. (This and previous editions of the *OhioENGINEER* are available online.) In this article Mr. Nilsson presented a case for the passage of the bill.

However, House Bill 592 died for lack of action. A new version of the bill (yet to be introduced in the 129th session) would more clearly address grandfathering and limit the licensure requirement to engineering department heads and faculty teaching engineering design courses.

This issue has been discussed at length at the OSPE Legislative and Government Affairs Committee and the OSPE Board of Directors respectively. Dennis Irwin, PE, PhD, Dean of the Russ College of Engineering and Technology at Ohio University, is chair of OSPE's Professional Engineers in Higher Education professional interest group. He has presented to the members at the 2011 OSPE Annual Meeting and to the OSPE Board a reasonable approach to the issue. However, he cautions that not all of the engineering academics are on board at this point.

Dialogue continues among OSPE members, led by Nils Nilsson and Dean Irwin, who have been guiding forces in the licensure issue. Their goal is to develop a compromise bill for introduction to the Ohio House of Representatives soon.

So, is it time to revisit the issue of raising the level of professionalism in the engineering colleges? What do you think?

On the cover: The new Arthur G. James Cancer Hospital and Richard J. Solove Research Institute and critical care center as photographed on March 20 (edited via PhotoShop). The main hospital tower will be 20 stories, or 293 feet, tall and will be the tallest building on The Ohio State University campus. It will be one of the 15 tallest hospitals in the U.S. and one of the 25 tallest in the world. It will encompass 1.1 million square feet. *Photo credit: The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center.*

See "Public Works Laws," page 6.



LEADERSHIP VIEWS

by Tim Schaffer, Executive Director, Ohio Society of Professional Engineers



Management Ability

The sixth in a series of reviews of NSPE's book, "Engineer Your Way to Success"

In the NSPE publication, "Engineer Your Way to Success," author Shawn P. McCarthy investigates the nature and qualities of management in the chapter titled "Management Ability."

McCarthy acknowledges the difficult responsibilities of management positions. "Until you sit in the management hot seat, it's hard to realize just how difficult management can be."

The author recognizes management skills as a unique and distinct set of skills, much like technical or communication skills. "Yet," he says, "everyone knows a good example of bad management when they see one," citing the balancing act between planning, acting as salesman and team-builder, and leaving as little to chance as possible.

McCarthy defines management in its most basic components as identifying, developing and utilizing resources. "A good manager is someone who can do all three to get a job done. A successful man-

ager must also be able to manage people, money, materials and time."

People management, he says, is the most important aspect. "If you manage your people properly, the other resources should fall into place." He quotes one manager as saying, "All people are not created equal, but they should be given an equal opportunity." He says the production of employees is a direct result of a manager's ability to guide and coach them. "As an effective manager, you shouldn't have to do everything yourself. You should be able to motivate others." He also points out that making mistakes is part of employees' learning process. "A person who has never made a mistake, most likely has not advanced very far in their career."

"Remember," McCarthy suggests, "people like praise....If you are a good manager, people will want to work in your department."

McCarthy also speaks to managing

money, material and time. Regarding time, he stresses that completing projects on time reflects one's management abilities. He says, "be aware that constant delays affect the integrity of a company."

McCarthy sums up management of time with one key word from an industry vice president: "selling." Managers sell a service, "and service is usually a high-communication area where you need to interact. You meet a lot of people. You exchange ideas....You can't be shy if you are a manager. Finally, you must create a sense of purpose and provide the means to achieve it."

Lastly, McCarthy discusses the process of building teams. "Successful teams make successful managers," one industry manager said. "You must have an ability to get along with people and build teams."

OSPE members may request a free copy of "Engineer Your Way to Success" by calling OSPE at 1-800-654-9481 (in Columbus, 614-223-1144).



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OSPE & EFO Nominating Committees announce slates for June 1 elections at Annual Meetings

Dave Dexter, PE, CPD, FASPE, the Ohio Society of Professional Engineers (OSPE) Nominating Committee chair, and Owen March, PE, the Engineers Foundation of Ohio (EFO) Nominating Committee chair, have announced the following slates of officers and board members as approved by their respective boards for fiscal year 2012-2013.

Elections for the OSPE positions shall be held at the OSPE Annual Member Meeting on Friday, June 1, 10:15 a.m., at the Columbus Airport Marriott, 1375 North Cassady Avenue, Columbus, OH 43219. All members are invited.

Elections for the EFO positions shall be held at the EFO Annual Meet-

ing at 11:10 a.m., immediately following the OSPE Annual Meeting at the Cleveland Marriott East. All members are invited.

A joint installation ceremony for both OSPE and EFO will take place at the Presidents' Party that evening at the hotel at 6:00 p.m. NSPE Vice President Robert Green, PE, FNSPE, will install the boards.

OSPE Board of Directors Slate for 2012-2013

<u>Executive Committee</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Term Exp</u>	<u>Chapter</u>
Dave Kuhn, PE	President	2013	Toledo
Fred Tito, PE	President-Elect	2013	Toledo
Bruce Larcomb, PE, PS, FSPPE	Past President	2013	Franklin Co.
Howard Jones, PE	Secretary	2014	Franklin Co.
Jim Arnold, PE	VP Membership	2014	Franklin Co.
Joe Warino, PE, PS, FNSPE	VP Education	2013	Mahoning

Chapter Directors

Mark Van Auken, PE	2013	Akron
Todd Jenkins, PE	2013	Blanchard
Jim Arnold, PE	2013	Buckeye
Rick Buchanan, PE, FNSPE	2013	Canton
Jim Montgomery, PE	2013	Dayton
Leon Winget, PhD, PE	2013	Franklin Co.
Russ Critelli, PE	2013	Lake Erie
Charles Schreck, PE	2013	Lima
Terry McClain, PE	2013	Lorain
Joe Warino, PE, PS, FNSPE	2013	Mahoning
Otto Gerdeman, PE	2013	Maumee
Ed Meixner, PE, PS	2013	N. Central
Jim Barnhart, PE	2013	S. Ohio

Voting Director

John J. Troy, PE	Chair, PAC	2013	Franklin Co.
Devon Seal, PE, MBA	Young Engineer Rep	2013	Franklin Co.

Nonvoting Directors

Agnes Benedict	Chair, State Auxiliary	2013	Franklin Co.
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EFO Board of Trustees Slate for 2012-2013

<u>Executive Committee</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Term Exp</u>	<u>Chapter</u>
Joe Warino, PE, PS, FNSPE	President	2013	Mahoning
John Banton, PE, FNSPE	President-Elect	2013	Cincinnati
Russ Critelli, PE	Imm Past President	2013	Lake Erie
Jim Montgomery, PE	Secretary	2014	Dayton
Dave Kuhn, PE	OSPE President	2013	Toledo

Chapter Trustees

Mark Van Auken, PE	2013	Akron
Todd Jenkins, PE	2013	Blanchard
Jim Arnold, PE	2013	Buckeye
Rick Buchanan, PE, FNSPE	2013	Canton
Jim Montgomery, PE	2013	Dayton
Steve Day, PE	2013	Franklin Co.
Russ Critelli, PE	2013	Lake Erie
Charles Schreck, PE	2013	Lima
Terry McClain, PE	2013	Lorain
Joe Warino, PE, PS, FNSPE	2013	Mahoning
Otto Gerdeman, PE	2013	Maumee
Ed Meixner, PE, PS	2013	N. Central
Jim Barnhart, PE	2013	S. Ohio



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Spring CPD Conference

& Annual Member Meeting

June 1 & 2, 2012

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Attend the OSPE Spring CPD Conference & Annual Member Meeting at the Marriott Columbus Airport on Friday, June 1, and Saturday, June 2.

In addition to continuing professional development (CPD) hours relating to our "Powering Ohio's Economy" theme, this two-day program is filled with fellowship and entertainment. Participants will break bread together at the Legislative Luncheon on Friday and the Awards Luncheon on Saturday. On Friday evening, they will relax at the Presidents' Party with dinner, a *cappella* entertainment by **The Alliance Chorus**, and the OSPE-EFO joint Installation of Officers Ceremony. After dinner, participants are welcome to meet in the hospitality suite for more socializing!

Participants will also engage in meaningful activity that will shape the future of Ohio professional engineering. Through the OSPE & EFO Annual Member Meetings (free of charge) on Friday morning and OSPE practice division meetings on Saturday morning, participants will network with Society leaders and PE peers while setting direction for tomorrow.

Download a registration brochure now at <http://ohioengineer.com>. Or call OSPE at 1-800-654-9481 (in Columbus, 614-223-1144) for immediate registration processing!

Continuing Professional Development Hours Available

OSPE is proud to present two days filled with seminars designed for Ohio PE's and other design professionals. This conference includes educational seminars and tours worth up to **12.5 CPD Hours**, including bonus CPD credit for those registering for and attending the Legislative Luncheon on Friday.

Our thanks to OSPE's Franklin County Chapter for developing a top-notch program including these seminars:

- "Assessing the Opportunity - Ohio Utica Shale," presented by David Mustine, MBA, general manager for energy at JobsOhio;

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- "Sustainable Mobility, Renewable Energy, and the Future of Transportation," presented by Giorgio Rizzoni, PhD, director OSU's Center for Automotive Research;
- Legislative Luncheon Seminar on oil and gas and energy presented by Sen. Troy Balderson (R-Zanesville). (Separate registration is required for this OSPE Political Action Committee program. Call 614-223-1144 to register.);
- "Oil & Natural Gas Production in Ohio - Past & Present," presented by State Geologist Larry Wickstrom, MS Geology, and Rebecca Heimlich, director of the Ohio Energy Resource Alliance;
- "Powering Ohio's Economy, Job Growth & Energy Security With Shale," presented by Shawn Bennett of Energy In Depth - Ohio, Matthew Hammond of Chesapeake Energy Corporation, and Rebecca Heimlich;
- "An Oil & Gas Legislative & Regulatory Update," presented by Terry Fleming is executive director of the Ohio Petroleum Council and Rebecca Heimlich;

- "Ohio EPA's Oversight & Role in Shale Gas Development," presented by Brian Hall, PE, assistant chief for the Ohio EPA Division of Surface Water;
- "Bringing Shale Energy to Market," presented by Richard Dickerson, PE, CEO, and Hoby Grisct, PE, president, of Utility Technologies International Corporation;
- "Hydraulic Fracturing: Basic Hydraulics, Geometry & Proppant Selection," presented by Frank Syfan, Jr., PE, technical director of oil and gas for U.S. Silica Company; and
- "Codes & Impact on Housing for Drilling Areas," presented by Jan Sokolnicki, senior staff with the Ohio Board of Building Standards.

The Franklin County Chapter has also planned a technical tour at IGS Energy and the City of Dublin's Compressed Natural Gas Fueling Station.

Engineer's Conference Packages & Rates

The engineer's entire conference package includes meetings, seminars, on-site activities and the technical tour, as well as all meals *except* Friday's Legislative Luncheon, which is separate from the package. The OSPE member rate for the entire conference is \$330, which is a 30% savings off the nonmember rate. OSPE Enterprise members will enjoy the entire conference for only \$236 - that's 50% off. One-day packages and rates are also available. For the best conference rates, register by Friday, May 18.

Fun for Spouses & Guests

Plans for spouses and guests include trips to German Village, the Greek Orthodox Church and the North Market, as well as a jewelry-making activity, cooking class and boutique shopping in historic Granville. Thanks to the support of three OSPE practice divisions, the cost of the full conference program is only \$99, including meals. One-day packages are also available.

Overnight Accommodations

By May 11, participants should make their overnight room reservations at the Marriott Columbus Airport by calling 1-800-491-5717. Reserve your overnight room at the OSPE-discounted rate of \$109 plus tax per night; mention "The Spring CPD Conference."

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Big Benefits!



Ohio's public works laws are under construction

Beginning with three pilot projects on university campuses, Ohio entered into a new phase of public vertical construction, testing unique delivery methods in contrast to traditional competitive bidding.

In an historic change to Ohio's Public Works Construction laws, the General Assembly provided two new options to the century-old requirement to award construction contracts to the lowest-bid price, responsive, responsible (or best) contractor. Public agencies now may consider a non-competitive award to a construction manager at risk, or to a design-build firm.

But the concepts will need time and trial before embraced routinely across the state, given both the politics and complexities of the new systems.

History of Ohio's competitive bidding law

Since construction of the canals, Ohio law has required that the State advertise construction contracts in such a way "as will secure fair and general competition."¹

To provide for broader competitive bidding at the lowest price, and to create a legal remedy for construction skilled trades, in 1877 the Ohio General Assembly included the requirement that the contract "shall be awarded to the lowest and best separate bidder", including the first public sector Combination Bid Law.²

On July 1, 1993, the legislature allowed Ohio's largest public universities to "locally administer" construction projects of less than \$1.5 million, instead of going through the State Architect.³

Effective December 22, 2009, the legislature authorized three "Pilot Projects" not requiring Competitive Bidding:⁴

- University of Toledo, Biosphere Restoration, \$7.888 million;
- Central State University, Emery Hall Renovation, \$1.75 million;
- The Ohio State University Medical Center, \$658.3 million.

The new law

The new law did not become effective until the State promulgated regulations to clarify the statutes on February 2, 2012.

In addition to rules, the State drafted form front-end documents to be used on each project, available on the State's internet website.⁵

Any "Public Authority" may use the new methods, including "the state, any state institution of higher education ..., any county, township, municipal corporation, school district, or other political subdivision, or any public agency, author-

ity, board, commission, instrumentality, or special purpose district of the state or of a political subdivision [but] does not include the Ohio turnpike commission."⁶

For the Public Authority, the entire concept is permissive, choosing between three delivery systems:

- **Construction Manager at Risk**,⁷ which does not include a project's design.
- **Design-Build Firm**,⁸ which may offer both design and construction phase work.
- **Design-Bid-Build**,⁹ Competitive Bidding, traditional method.

Selection process

For traditional Design-Bid-Build, the new law raises the threshold for when Qualifications-Based Selection (Q.B.S.) is required, from \$25,000 to \$50,000 in professional design fees. The threshold only applies if the design professional submitted a statement of qualifications within the preceding year, and the parties negotiate the contract.¹⁰ As before, fee price may not be considered.¹¹

Using the QBS method,¹² a public authority must solicit proposals from at least three CM at Risk or Design-Build Firms, and rank them based on pricing:

"rank the selected [CM/D-B] based on its evaluation of the value of each pricing proposal, with such evaluation considering the proposed cost and qualifications,"¹³ then, "The public authority shall enter into negotiations for a ... contract with the [CM/D-B] whose pricing proposal the public authority determines to be the best value...."¹⁴

If a public authority cannot negotiate successfully with the proposer of "best value," then the public authority continues negotiating down the ranking with others of lesser value. At any point, the public authority may reject all proposals, or merely employ the Construction Manager for "management services."¹⁵

Pricing

A Guaranteed Maximum Price is of the essence to the concepts, and "shall include the costs of all the work, the cost of its general conditions, the contingency, and the fee payable to the construction manager at risk."¹⁶

Pricing depends on the public authority's exercise of its oversight in an "Open Book Pricing Method," in which a CM at Risk or Design-Builder provides the public authority all books, records, documents, and other data in its possession pertaining to the bidding, pricing, or performance.¹⁷

Nothing in the law requires a low-price or comparison bid award.

One cost-saving idea on a Pilot Project was to eliminate the requirement of a surety bond. This led to litigation brought by the Surety and Fidelity Association of America and the American Subcontractors Association, in which the Ohio Supreme Court held that the non-bid Pilot Project did not require a bond.¹⁸ In response, the Ohio General Assembly included a bond requirement on all future projects.¹⁹

That Competitive Bidding becomes optional is confirmed in amendment of the Competitive Bidding statutes, in which full plans and specifications, "shall not be required."²⁰ Without completed plans, competitive bids cannot be compared for lowest price to the public.

Design

A licensed Architect or Engineer must provide all design services.²¹ Both design professional licensure statutes previously permitted non-design firms to offer design-build services, provided that a licensed Architect or Engineer did the actual design work.²²

Unlike a CM at Risk, the Public Authority also must consider whether the Design-Build Firm is qualified, "including the proposed architect or engineer of record."²³ The Design-Build model separates the design services into a "Criteria Architect or Engineer" and an "Architect or Engineer of Record."²⁴

Subcontracting

In the most significant system advance, the public authority and CM/D-B must prequalify Subcontractors, soliciting at least three proposals for each subcontract, unless excused by the public authority as unavailable (sole source).²⁵ The public authority can determine a Subcontractor unqualified.

In 2002, Franklin County adopted Prequalification criteria for all construction contractors, upheld by the Ohio Supreme Court.²⁶ Cuyahoga County subsequently adopted similar criteria.²⁷ Prequalified bidders may be more likely to provide a competitive price knowing that they will not be underbid artificially by an unqualified bidder.

But unlike in a traditional Competitive Bidding environment, a Subcontractor has no right to bid. Of concern is whether new, small, or minority contractors in the industry will have any opportunity to participate for public works, or whether "bid-peddling" will interfere with good-

See "Public Works Laws," page 7

faith procurement.

The CM/D-B awards Subcontracts also based on an "open book pricing method," allowing the public authority to request the information; but award is without the public authority's involvement.²⁸

Of significance, "A construction manager at risk or design-build firm shall not be required to award a subcontract to a low bidder."²⁹ Thus, Competitive Bidding requirements are eliminated.

However, competitive bidding and award to lowest, pre-qualified subcontractor is not prohibited. A public authority could require such award as a condition of its contract. Another public requirement might be the use of EDGE (Encouraging Diversity, Growth & Equity) subcontractors, to the extent that they are equally qualified.

Of particular concern is the lack of any benchmark otherwise to verify that the public authority obtained the lowest price when using taxpayer funds. And while these state laws changed, local County resolutions or City charters still may require Competitive Bidding.

Internet, notice publication

In addition to requiring a newspaper to place the government ads on the newspaper's website for free, the new law

directs the State to create a "Public Notice Web Site." Use of the web site shall be free, both for posting and for searching legal notices.³⁰

Once the government agency publishes a legal notice in its entirety the first time required, the second publication may be "in abbreviated form."³¹

Conclusion

For the first time in over a century, Ohio law requiring Competitive Bidding for Public Works Construction is not mandatory, creating the options of employing a Construction Manager at Risk or Design-Build Firm. Only experience will tell whether the law works as a better alternative to traditional construction bidding.

Luther Liggett is a shareholder with Luper Neidenthal & Logan. His practice generally includes government contracting, construction, mortgage banking, legislative advocacy, government policy formation, litigation and administrative procedure. Liggett earned his juris doctor degree from the George Washington University, Washington, D.C. He has been admitted to the bar by the State of Ohio. Liggett is a member of the American, Ohio State and Columbus Bar Associations, as well as the Union County Bar Association. He is licensed in Ohio, Federal and U.S. Supreme Courts. He may be reached via 614-229-4423 or LLiggett@LNLattorneys.com.

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- ³ House Bill 152, Revised Code §3345.50.
- ⁴ House Bill 318.
- ⁵ <http://ocr.ohio.gov/Rules.aspx>; <http://ocr.ohio.gov/Documents.aspx>.
- ⁶ R.C. §9.33(F).
- ⁷ R.C. §9.33(B)(1).
- ⁸ R.C. §153.65(F), (G).
- ⁹ R.C. 153.50, et seq.
- ¹⁰ R.C. §153.71.
- ¹¹ R.C. §153.691.
- ¹² R.C. 153.65 et seq.
- ¹³ R.C. 9.334(E); R.C. §153.693(A)(4).
- ¹⁴ R.C. §9.334(F); R.C. §153.693(A)(5).
- ¹⁵ R.C. 9.334 (G), (H), (I); R.C. 153.693(D), (F).
- ¹⁶ R.C. §9.334(F)(3).
- ¹⁷ R.C. §9.33(G).
- ¹⁸ St. ex rel. American Subcontractors Assn., Inc. v. Ohio State Univ., 2011-Ohio-2881.
- ¹⁹ R.C. 9.333; 153.70(C).
- ²⁰ R.C. §153.01(B); R.C. §153.01(B).
- ²¹ R.C. §153.65(D)(5).
- ²² R.C. §4703.182, R.C. §4733.161.
- ²³ R.C. 153.65(D)(1)(b).
- ²⁴ R.C. §153.65(H), R.C. §153.65(I).
- ²⁵ R.C. §153.502(A) & (B).
- ²⁶ State ex rel. Associated Builders & Contractors of Central Ohio, et al. v. Franklin County Board of Commissioners, et al., 2010-Ohio-1199.
- ²⁷ Council Of Cuyahoga County, Ohio, Ordinance No. 2011-0014.
- ²⁸ R.C. §153.502(C).
- ²⁹ R.C. §153.502(D).
- ³⁰ R.C. §125.182.
- ³¹ R.C. §7.16(A).

Together We Can Clear the Air



The Ohio Air Quality Development Authority (OAQDA) administers **Qualified Energy Conservation Bonds (QECB)** for the State of Ohio. Counties, municipalities, townships and public universities can use QECB financing for energy conservation and efficiency projects in buildings.



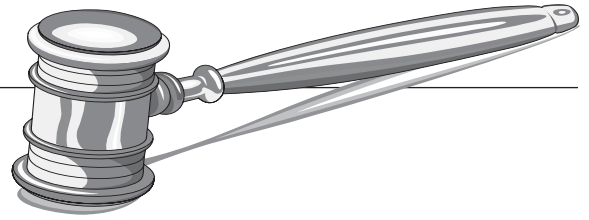
The **Clean Air Resource Center (CARC)**, a program of the OAQDA, can help small business find solutions to air quality challenges. CARC financing helps to purchase equipment to address environmental mandates of federal and state agencies.

For more information on QECB and CARC programs call 614-224-3383 or visit www.ohioairquality.org



Ohio

Air Quality Development Authority



State Board revokes one registration & accepts 10 settlement agreements

The Ohio State Board of Registration for Professional Engineers and Surveyors has revoked a professional engineer registration in one case and has accepted settlement agreements in 10 other cases.

Four registrants failed to meet continuing education requirements

The State Board of Registration revoked the professional engineer registration of Robert F. Keller of Apopka, Florida. According to the State Board of Registration, Keller was charged in January 2012 with violations of the Ohio Revised Code and the Ohio Administrative Code for failing to complete 15 hours of continuing education for 2010 and for falsely reporting on his annual renewal that he had completed the annual continuing education requirement. The State Board of Registration said it found Keller guilty of the charges and revoked his professional engineer registration.

In three separate cases, William Bruce Ingram of Amanda, Yog Paul Singhal of Huber Heights, and Daniel Walch of Toledo, were selected for the State Board of Registration's continuing professional development audit. The State Board of Registration said that the registrants contacted the Board and reported that even though they had indicated on their renewal forms that they had met the continuing education requirement, they had not met it prior to renewing their registrations for 2011. Ingram and Walch both completed their continuing education and offered to enter into settlement agreements wherein they agreed to pay \$2,000 fines and receive reprimands for violations of Ohio law. Singhal offered to enter into a settlement agreement wherein he voluntarily surrendered his professional engineer registration for violating Ohio law.

Used term "engineering" without Certificate of Authorization

According to the State Board of Registration, Beech Engineering & Manufacturing located in New Philadelphia entered into a settlement agreement wherein the firm agreed to permanently remove "engineering" from its name on or before June 1, 2012, and will not offer or provide engineering services until the firm has been granted a certificate of authorization from the State Board of Registration. Beech Engineering & Manufacturing was using the term "engineering" in the firm's name in violation of Ohio law which regulates the use of the term "engineering."

Two PEs charged with plan stamping

In two separate cases, the State Board of Registration said, Jason Kabbara, PE, of Clinton and Frederick Hargrove, PE, of Cincinnati applied their seals and signatures to engineering plans for which they did not have personal professional knowledge and direct supervisory control and responsibility. The State Board of Registration accepted settlement agreements from Kabbara and Hargrove wherein the registrants each agreed to pay fines of \$2,000 and receive reprimands for violations of Ohio law.

PS guilty of felony OMVI & excessive crop damage while performing survey

According to the State Board of Registration, James Geeslin, PS, a resident of Coldwater, Ohio, pled guilty to a felony OMVI in Mercer County Clerk of Common Pleas Court and was found by the Celina Municipal Court to have caused excessive crop damage to an adjoining land owner while performing a survey for the adjacent property. The State Board of Registration accepted a settlement agreement from Geeslin wherein he agreed to a one year suspension, pay a \$1,000 fine and receive a reprimand

for violations of Ohio law. The suspension shall be stayed provided Geeslin does not commit further violations of the registration act.

PE failed to respond to State Board's request and provide documentation

Lynn Congos, PE, a resident of Columbus, was selected for the State Board of Registration's continuing professional development audit. According to the State Board of Registration, Congos failed to respond and provide documentation as required. After repeated requests Congos submitted the documentation and entered into a settlement agreement wherein Congos agreed to pay a \$500 fine and receive a reprimand for violations of Ohio law.

Firm continued to offer surveying services with expired CoA

Browne & Associates, Inc., located in Lisbon, failed to renew their certificate of authorization (CoA) to practice surveying in Ohio which expired on June 30, 2009. The State Board of Registration said the firm continued to offer and provide surveying services while the certificate of authorization was expired. The State Board of Registration accepted a settlement agreement from Browne & Associates, Inc. wherein the firm agreed to pay a \$5,000 fine and receive a reprimand for violations of Ohio law.

PS practiced unlicensed engineering

The State Board of Registration said Paul Boeshart, PS, a resident of Hebron, Ohio, engaged in the unlicensed practice of engineering when he designed a storm sewer system and parking lot improvements for a project located in Newark. Boeshart is not licensed as a professional engineer. The State Board of Registration accepted a settlement agreement from Boeshart wherein he agreed to pay a \$1,000 fine and receive a reprimand for violations of Ohio law.

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LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

by Jeff Kennedy, P.E., Vice President, OSPE Legislative & Government Affairs



The close proximity between ethics & professional competency

During a recent meeting of the Ohio Society of Professional Engineers' Legislative and Government Affairs Committee, the close proximity of professional ethics and competency was discussed. Nearly every committee member attending the meeting had an opinion to add regarding the discussions of House Bill 169 and House Bill 230, as well as other legislative and regulatory issues that also hinged on the subject of ethics.

House Bill 169, sponsored by Rep. Sandra Williams (D-Cleveland), proposes to prohibit state professional licensing agencies from disallowing professional licensure based on past felony convictions, unless those convictions were directly related to their area of professional practice. She has also sponsored House Bill 230 which seeks to prohibit prospective employers from asking any question about whether a job applicant had previously pleaded guilty to or been convicted of a felony. These two bills seek to remove the criminal background of an individual being considered for employment or professional licensure.

Increasingly in legal questions regard-

ing felony convictions or criminal wrongdoing, legal authorities are distancing professional competency from criminal wrongdoing unless the wrongdoing is directly related to their professional duties. Traditionally and according to current Ohio law, a professional engineer can be prevented from being licensed or lose his license to practice as such if found guilty of crimes involving moral turpitude. Edition 2 of West's Encyclopedia of American Law gives the definition of "moral turpitude" as:

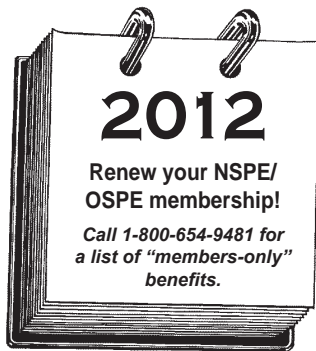
"Crimes involving moral turpitude have an inherent quality of baseness, vileness, or depravity with respect to a person's duty to another or to society in general. Examples include rape, forgery, robbery and solicitation by prostitutes."

Many jurisdictions impose penalties, such as deportation of aliens and disbarment of attorneys, following convictions of crimes involving moral turpitude."

I see this trend away from a requirement for high ethics in one's personal and professional life as inherently dangerous to the profession and unwise. Professional engineering licensure applicants have been required to prepare a written treatise on ethics as part of their application to sit

for the Principles and Practices test. An understanding of and a personal and professional commitment to live and practice our profession in an ethical manner is important in at least two ways. First, professional engineers are required to safeguard public health, safety and welfare in our work. This safeguards the public, our clients, because they must be able to trust that the professional engineer working for them is professionally competent and can be relied upon to practice their profession safely and responsibly. Second, professional engineers in Ohio are legally bound to practice only in those disciplines within which they have extensive experience. The practitioner's personal honesty in this matter is of paramount importance to the public. Our responsibility to our clients is fundamentally based upon trust – that we can perform those services that we say we can. Client trust and the professional engineer's credibility are seriously damaged when that professional's personal background includes felony convictions or other crimes involving moral turpitude.

Should there be some way to license individuals who made serious mistakes in their youth but who have since paid the price to society and have changed their lives such that they are worthy of the public trust? Yes, and this is why we have a licensing board composed of licensed professionals selected to fairly and competently judge these matters and decide upon the merits of the particular case. Rep. Williams' legislation would require the State Board to approve applicants with felony convictions not directly related to their area of engineering practice and thus remove the Board's discretion to decide such matters. This change, in my view, would seriously compromise the trust the public currently has for members of our profession, as well as dangerously diminish the very necessary role of the State Board. Public trust in our personal and professional integrity and not just our professional competence safeguards our profession. Therefore current law should be maintained, for the protection of the public and our profession.



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Thank you, OSPE-Political Action Committee donors!

Thank you to the following people who donated to the OSPE Political Action Committee (PAC) in calendar year 2011.

A-G – John Banton, PE, FNSPE; Richard Buchanan, PE, FNSPE; G Kenneth Copella, PE; David Dexter, PE; Ralph Fegley, PE; Henry Frank, PE; Billy Friar, PhD, PE; and Robert Fuller, PE, FNSPE.

H-J – Charles Hammontree, PE; Thomas Hay, PE; John Heese, PE; Richard Henry, PhD, PE; Stephen Herwat, PE; Dennis Irwin, PhD, PE; Rich Irwin, PE; Howard Jones, PE; and Paul Junk, PE.

K-P – Owen Karickhoff, PE; James Kearns, PhD, PE; Randy Keitz, PE; Jeffrey Kennedy, PE; Raymond Knapp, PE; Roger Kolloff, PE; Bruce Larcomb, PE, PS, FSFPE; Tom Lendrum, PE; Bill Lhota, PE; Gary Long, PE; Owen March, PE; Jan Menuetz, PE; James Montgomery, PE; and Nils Nilsson, PE.

Q-Z – Doreen Rhineberger; Edward Schlaack, PE; James Simler, PE; Gale Sipe, PE; Fred Tito, PE; John Troy, PE; Thomas Uhler, PE; Jorge Villacres, PE; Joseph Warino, PE, PS, FNSPE; and Leon Winget, PhD, PE.



Legislative Directories

for the 129th Ohio General Assembly . . . available **FREE**

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LEGISLATIVE UPDATE: 129TH OHIO GENERAL ASSEMBLY

To follow is a summary of Ohio Statehouse legislation OSPE is monitoring in the 129th Ohio General Assembly:

CONTAMINATED SITE REMEDIATION, House Bill 10 (Sears)	To authorize refundable tax credits through 2017 for the completion of a voluntary action to remediate a contaminated site & to return such sites to productive use.	Status: Last hearing, House Ways & Means, 3/2/11.
SEWAGE PLANS, House Bill 32 (Amstutz)	Exempts from the Professional Engineers & Surveyors Law the preparation of plans or drawings for a sewage treatment system that is necessary to comply with the Household & Small Flow On-site Sewage Treatment Systems Law.	Status: Signed by Governor, 2/21/12. Effective in 90 days. OSPE opposed.
TURNPIKE COMMISSION, House Bill 40 (Damschroder)	To make the Ohio Turnpike Commission responsible for major maintenance & repair & replacement of grade separations at intersections of any turnpike project with county & township roads.	Status: 3rd hearing, House Transportation, Public Safety & Homeland Security, 3/2/11.
PERFORMANCE BUDGETS, House Bill 81 (Snitchler, Rosenberger)	To require performance budgeting by most state agencies.	Status: 2nd hearing, House State Gov't & Elections, 2/22/11, no testimony.
LABOR REQUIREMENTS, House Bill 102 (Young)	To prohibit state agencies from requiring or prohibiting certain labor requirements as a condition of performing public works & to prohibit the appropriation of state funds for public works when political subdivisions require or prohibit certain labor requirements.	Status: Amended bill reported from House Commerce & Labor, 5/11/11.
TRANSPORTATION BUDGET, House Bill 114 (McGregor)	Appropriations for transportation & public safety programs for the biennium.	Status: Signed by Governor & effective 3/30/11.
OIL & GAS LEASING, House Bill 133 (Adams, J.)	Creates the Oil & Gas Leasing Commission.	Status: Signed by Governor, 6/30/11. Effective in 90 days.
TRANSPORTATION PARTNERSHIPS, House Bill 151 (McGregor)	To authorize ODOT to enter into public-private partnership agreements.	Status: Ref. to House Transportation, Public Safety & Homeland Security, 3/15/11.
BIENNIAL BUDGET, House Bill 153 (Amstutz)	Operating appropriations for the biennium (July 1, 2011-June 30, 2013) & to provide authorization & conditions for the operation of state programs.	Status: Signed by Governor, 6/30/11. Engineers & surveyors board is now on biennial renewal.
PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE, House Bill 169 (Williams, S.)	To revise the laws governing issuance of certain professional licenses.	Status: 1st hearing, House State Gov't & Elections, 4/5/11.
PUBLIC CONTRACTS, House Bill 176 (Beck)	To limit the magnitude of change orders on public improvements required to be competitively bid.	Status: 2nd hearing, House Commerce & Labor, 6/8/11.
EMPLOYMENT APPLICATIONS, House Bill 230 (Williams, S.)	To prohibit employers from including on an employment application any question concerning whether an applicant has pleaded guilty to or been convicted of a felony.	Status: Hearing, House Commerce & Labor, 6/1/11.
BUILDING STANDARDS, House Bill 306 (Pilllich)	To require a building or structure constructed using state capital budget monies to adhere to certain energy efficiency & building standards.	Status: Ref. to House State Gov't & Elections, 9/13/11.
DRILLING BACKGROUND CHECKS, House Bill 474 (Goyal)	To require a background check of an applicant for an injection well, to establish recycling & treatment requirements for wastewater from oil & gas drilling & production operations, to revise the procedures & requirements governing the application for & issuance of a permit for a well to inject such wastewater, & to establish requirements governing ground water monitoring related to that injection.	Status: 1st hearing, House Ag & Nat'l Resources, 4/18/12.
MID-BIENNIAL REVIEW, House Bill 487 (Amstutz)	To make operating and other appropriations, to levy taxes and provide for implementation of those levies, and to provide authorization and conditions for the operation of state programs.	Status: Passed House, 4/25/12.
COLLATERAL SANCTIONS, House Bill 524 (McGregor), Senate Bill 337 (Seitz, Smith)	Collateral Sanctions Reform Legislation.	Status: HB 524, 1st hearing, House Criminal Justice, 4/25/12. SB 337 hearing, Senate Judiciary, 5/1/12.
SMALL BUSINESS RULES, Senate Bill 2 (Hughes)	To adopt a new small business rule review procedure.	Status: Signed by Governor, 3/4/11. Effective in early June.
PERFORMANCE AUDITS, Senate Bill 4 (Schaffer)	To require performance audits of most state agencies.	Status: Signed by Governor & effective, 4/5/11.
COLLECTIVE BARGAINING, Senate Bill 5 (Jones)	Collective bargaining legislation.	Status: Signed by Governor, 3/31/11. Voters defeated in referendum, 11/8/11.
GOV'T REGULATIONS, Senate Bill 11 (Cafaro)	To enact the Common Sense Regulation Act.	Status: Ref. to Senate Gov't Oversight & Reform, 2/2/11.
SMALL BUSINESS, Senate Bill 12 (Kearney)	To generally require that state agencies set aside a certain amount of purchases for which only small business enterprises may compete.	Status: Ref. to Senate State & Local Gov't & Veterans Affairs, 2/2/11.
LABOR REQUIREMENTS, Senate Bill 89 (Jordan)	To prohibit state agencies from requiring/prohibiting certain labor requirements as a condition of performing public works & to prohibit the appropriation of state funds for public works when political subdivisions require/prohibit certain labor requirements.	Status: Ref. to Senate Insurance, Commerce & Labor, 3/8/11.
WATER REPORTS, Senate Bill 96 (Stewart)	To require a community water system's annual report to its customers to include info re the amount of water lost by the system during the transmission of water between the source waters and the consumers.	Status: 1st hearing, Senate Ag, Environment & Nat'l Resources, 4/5/11.
OIL & GAS DRILLING, Senate Bill 212 (Skindell)	To establish requirements governing well stimulation, brine disposal, & water that is used in the drilling & operation of oil & gas wells on state land.	Status: Ref. to Senate Ag, Environment & Nat'l Resources, 9/20/11.
OIL & GAS DRILLING, Senate Bill 213 (Skindell)	To establish a moratorium on horiz. stimulation of oil & gas wells until the US EPA & the Chief of Oil & Gas Resources Management publish their reports.	Status: Ref. to Senate Ag, Environment & Nat'l Resources, 9/20/11.

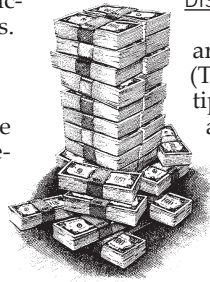
MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Get money back for recruiting; save on CPD, products & services

Membership renewals and new member recruitment continue to look strong! To date this fiscal year, OSPE has recruited 106 new members. OSPE's two Certificate Ceremonies continue to be successful in recruiting new members.

Money for Recruiting Members

Be part of the OSPE Rewards Program. Receive \$50 off the price of an OSPE or EFO program by recruiting one new member. Benefits increase with the number of new members you recruit: Earn free NSPE dues with two



recruits and free NSPE and Ohio dues with three recruits. See form (below) for program details.

Discounts on CPD Hours in Three Cities

This fiscal year, OSPE and EFO are offering 54.0 unique CPD hours. (Two seminars are repeated in multiple cities, bringing the total available CPD hours up to 64.) Member discounts are available on fees and select programs are free! Upcoming programs include: Legislative Day (4.0 CPD hours) on May 2 in Columbus; a free seminar

titled "Who's Protecting Our Profession?" (2.0 CPD hours), which is touring three cities – Perrysburg on May 11, in Springboro on May 18, and in Columbus on June 8; and the Spring CPD Conference (12.5 CPD hours) on June 1-2 in Columbus.

Discounts on Products & Services

Take advantage of OSPE's member discount programs including: OfficeMax; Oswald insurance; CompManagement workers' compensation insurance; UPS shipping; and Sequent professional employer services. For details, call OSPE at 1-800-654-9481 (in Columbus, 614-223-1144).

Welcome to Team OSPE, new members!

OSPE is pleased to welcome these 41 new members from January 10 through April 2, 2012:

Akron District Chapter

William Croasmun, PE
Benjamin Musci
Kevin Stewart

Buckeye Chapter

Andrew Davis, PE
Ellen Stone, PE

Canton Regional Chapter

Andrea Adams
Dylan Peoples
Terry Varn, PE

Cincinnati

Christopher Larison, EI

Dayton Chapter

Jacob Bench
Dustin Brown, EI

Dayton Chapter (cont'd.)

Aaron Carstens, PE
Brietta Carter, EI
Lisa Helmstetter, EI
Austin Herman, EI
Benjamin Lambers, PE
Jason Smith, PE

Franklin County Chapter

David Bryant Jr, PE
Carlos Casablanca, PE
Hin Tat (Phillip) Cheung, EI
Jesse Hurlow, EI
Ryan Mayberry, EI
Frank Miller, Jr., PE
William Nguyen
Dean Panik, EI
Keith Rice
Michael Russ, EI
Tylar Shapaka
Cory Shoup

Franklin County Chapter (cont'd.)

Zachary Stilp
Andrew Taris

Lake Erie

Richard Miller, PE

Mahoning Valley Chapter

Robert Kruppa, PE

Northeast Chapter

Regis Geisler, III, PE
Sathaporn Lek-udom, PE

Out-of-State

Daniel Bookman
Kurt Kramer, EI

Toledo Chapter

Prince Appiah
Troy Brehmer, EI
Travis Rhoades, PE
Robert Williams, PE

OSPE Rewards Program Membership Recruitment Campaign

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2 New Members	\$100 off OSPE/EFO programs & services + FREE NSPE dues (up to a \$140 value **)	\$240
3 New Members	\$150 off OSPE/EFO programs & services + FREE NSPE & Ohio dues (up to a \$260 value **)	\$410

ELIGIBLE DISCOUNTED PROGRAMS & SERVICES

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 OSPE Spring CPD Conference
 EFO December Seminar
 OSPE Legislative Day
 PE Stamp or Embosser
 Gift to Engineers Foundation of Ohio

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Company _____ E-Mail _____

* For new, full-paying "Licensed Members" or "Members" (excluding Life, Retired, Student, Enterprise & Graduated Dues members) submitted to OSPE by June 30, 2012. Voucher can not be used for new members gained from the Certificate Ceremony voucher or in combination with any other voucher offer by OSPE. ** Amounts listed above reflect total dues savings for Licensed Members and Graduate/EI Members. Recent graduates should call 1-800-654-9481 (or 614-223-1144) for discounts.

'Engineer As Leader' participants study a systematic approach to leadership & leveraging values

In February, practicing engineers from around the state and engineering students from the Ohio State University participated in "The Engineer As Leader," a course held in Columbus and sponsored by the Engineers Foundation of Ohio (EFO).

Participants evaluated "The Engineer As Leader" at 4.7 on a scale of 1-5 in which 1 represents "poor" and 5 represents "excellent." A 4.7 out of 5 points is a 94 percent or a solid "A" grade. Participants called the presentation "captivating" and "very relevant."

In a dynamic, multifaceted presentation, preeminent engineering leadership expert James Dalton used his unique insight to inspire participants to explore and develop their range of leadership skills. Professional engineers earned 10.5 CPD hours for engaging in the full two-day leadership training course.

Also, this year, EFO promoted a small number of participants to register for a 3.0 CPD hour segment of the course, in which they learned a systematic approach to leadership. The three-hour participants developed an invaluable working knowledge of the various leadership styles, the

theoretical application for each style, and four categories of leadership capabilities.

Meanwhile, those registering for the full two-day course garnered that same knowledge, as well as a broader leadership education including three schools of thought on leadership, the differences between leadership and management, executive level leadership (also known as "level 5 leadership"), leverage values, and organizational culture.



Participants called the presentation "captivating" and "very relevant."

The values discussion was of particular interest in that it included an analysis of the various values of different cultures or communities, including Americans, landscape architects, professional engineers, and Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC) engineers. This analysis developed into further discussions on how three modes of persuasion may be used to leverage the values of a particular group or community.

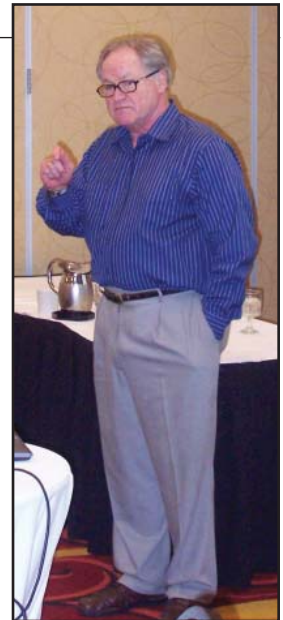
Over the two day course, Dalton introduced several topics for small group

discussions, a hallmark of The Engineer As Leader. Traditionally, participants have said that these interactions bring about a deeper understanding of the course material.

Participants provided acclaim for the Engineer As Leader saying:

- "I am thrilled to have attended his seminar."
- "Kept my interest for the entire two days. I would attend the class again."
- "Riveting illustrations. Held my attention the whole time. Soul-reaching questions."
- "Best leadership speaker and great perspective and view on the world."
- "Mr. Dalton brings the material alive with his explanations and stories."
- "This was my first leadership conference, and I feel it has greatly impacted the way I'll approach the work force."
- "Captivating. Excellent speaker."
- "Great speaker. I can tell you have never allowed yourself to stop learning."
- "Extremely good speaker, very relevant."
- "James Dalton is very knowledgeable on the subject. Fluid and sound."
- "It was well organized."

Impact your engineering business for the better by investing in leadership training for yourself, your colleagues or your employees. Watch for details about the 2013 program, which will be held in Columbus next February.



Jim Dalton presents "The Engineer As Leader," which earned the equivalent of an "A" grade on evaluations.


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Eric Klintworth, PE, Melissa Frederiksen, PE, and Michael Akpan, PE, discuss leadership styles.

Look for the EFO dues check-offs on your NSPE/OSPE membership renewal.



Megan Rodriguez of Celina wins 2nd grade coloring contest

Over this past winter, OSPE members taught an estimated 7,500 second grade students what engineering is via the 14th annual Imagine Engineering Coloring Contest. OSPE members visited local classrooms and engaged students in discussions about Ohio's engineers. Afterward, the second graders were asked to draw and color original pictures of engineering work. Drawings were evaluated at the state level for prizes.

Megan Rodriguez, a second grader at Immaculate Conception School in Celina, placed first in the state coloring contest. Rodriguez will receive a telescope as the prize for her winning entry. She won the contest by depicting and labeling the components of a hydropower plant. (Rodriguez's photo and winning entry are inside the front cover of this issue.)

Rodriguez's mother, Beth, said, "I

am just so proud of her. She did it on her own. She understands how [the hydro-power plant] works. When she was drawing it, she was such a perfectionist."

Luke Clune, a second grader at Bishop Leibold School in Dayton, placed second in the contest and he will receive a big screen microscope. His picture was captioned "Civil Engineers plan streets for traffic flow" and he drew four street intersections complete with traffic lights, stop signs, road surface markings (center lines), and pedestrian and automotive traffic.



Luke Clune
Bishop Leibold School,
Dayton (2nd place)

Cameron Gulley of Our Lady of Grace School in Cincinnati placed third and will receive a MathShark skill-building game and calculator. He drew a civil or structural engineer wearing a hard hat while reviewing his plans (complete with notations and measurements) at the site of the completed bridge, which spans a river.



Cameron Gulley
Our Lady of Grace
School, Cincinnati
(3rd place)

Second Grade Coloring Contest Chair Rich Irwin, PE, led a panel of nine judges from the Ohio Department of Transportation in selecting the top three entries for the contest.

Certificate Ceremonies host 600 guests including 150 recipients

The Ohio Engineering & Surveying Certificate Ceremony attracted 300 guests this past August and another 300 guests this past March. Between the two ceremonies,

150 newly registered professionals and interns came to the Ohio Statehouse for their certificates. The events attracted people from as far away as Florida, Illinois, Indiana, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, and Ontario, Canada.

Thank you to M.C. Steve Day, PE, and keynote speaker Joe Litvin, PE, PS, FNSPE, a past president of OSPE. Thank you also to the leadership of the State Board of Registration: Former Chair Ted Hubbard, PE, PS, made remarks at the August ceremony and current Board Secretary Frank Snyder, PS, made remarks in March.

During the ceremony, the registrants received their official state certificates from Ohio engineering and surveying leaders: Hubbard (August); Snyder (March); OSPE President Bruce Larcomb, PE, PS (both ceremonies); PLSO President Donald Pickenpau, PS (August); PLSO President Dana Parsell, PS (March); Engineers Foundation of Ohio President Russ Critelli, PE (both ceremonies); and OSPE Franklin County Chapter President Devon Seal, PE (both ceremonies). Certificate recipients also recited the Engineer's & Surveyor's Creed.

OSPE extends its gratitude to these ceremony sponsors: **American Electric Power** (both ceremonies), **Experis ManpowerGroup** (March), **OSPE** (both ceremonies), and **PLSO** (March).



In March 2012, Ohio's newest class of PE's and PS's proudly display their registration certificates and recite the Creed.

Birchwood School wins Ohio MATHCOUNTS for second year in a row!

Two Cleveland students & two Mason students (brothers) advance to national finals in Orlando

For the second consecutive year, Birchwood School (Cleveland) students earned first place team trophies at the Ohio MATHCOUNTS competition. The winning team included Clive Chan, Kavya Ravichandran, Dhweejah Dasaraty and Nate Calabrese. Sixth, seventh and eighth grade teams from around the state have been working since the beginning of the academic year for their chance at the state math title. Forty-three teams competed at the state competition in March.

In other news at the state competition, two teammates from Birchwood – Chan and Ravichandran – and brothers Peter and James Zhu of Mason schools, took the top individual honors over nearly 200

other sixth, seventh, and eighth grade students. These four students will represent Ohio at the national competition May 11 in Orlando, Florida. Their national competition coach is Charles Debelak, coach of Birchwood's team.

Ohio MATHCOUNTS benefits more than 13,000 students annually. Thank you to our sponsors: **Columbus State Community College**; **Leon Winget, PhD, PE**; **Tai**

C. Wong, PE; and **Ohio University Russ College of Engineering & Technology**.



The winning team from Birchwood School. Left to right are EFO President Russ Critelli, PE, Kavya Ravichandran, Assistant Coach Ravichandran Annaswamy, Nate Calabrese, Clive Chan, Coach Charles Debelak, and OSPE President Bruce Larcomb, PE, PS, FSFPE. Team member Dhweejah Dasaraty is not pictured.

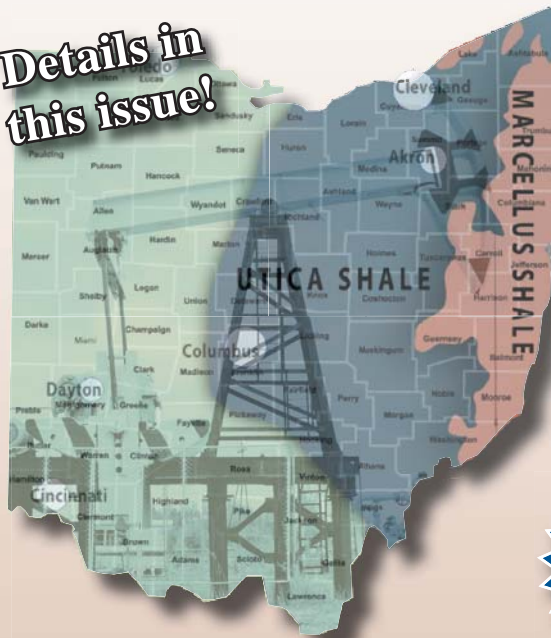
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