

# OhioENGINEER

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2022

## Increased Federal Funding Boosts Ohio's Infrastructure

Feature by ODOT Director Jack Marchbanks, PhD



Government & Infrastructure Issue

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## LEADERSHIP VIEWS

by *Travis Rhoades, PE, President,*  
*Ohio Society of Professional Engineers*

# Mentorship for our future

*Welcome, OSPE member, to the start of  
our 2022-2023 program year!*

As a member of OSPE you are integral to protecting PE licensure and engineering careers and in educating Ohio's current and future engineers alike. On behalf of the our leadership team, thank you for your support as we constantly work together to meet OSPE's mission to "... provide value to its members, the engineering profession and the public by promoting the ethical and competent practice of engineering."

As we strive to meet our mission, OSPE needs to grow and continuously refresh itself with an infusion of "new blood." This might be best accomplished by dusting off one effective (but underused) tool that has always been at our disposal: MENTORSHIP.

Serving as a mentor is a powerful thing. As we seize opportunities to share our professional and life experiences to benefit others, we influence their growth and often their most important decisions.

### **Mentorship benefits individuals, companies and larger communities**

Early on, I was fortunate to have multiple mentors that poured into my life priceless guidance and experience. From my high school industrial arts teacher (who encouraged me to pursue my talents in design) to my first engineering supervisor (who offered advice about my focus in college), their influence has been *invaluable* and has saved me from costly mistakes. My mentors allowed me to "stand on their shoulders" so I could reach new heights in my development.

I am positive that my experience is far from unique. Perhaps you, too, recog-

nize that mentorship has been a key factor in your success.

There are rewards for the mentors, as well! Besides all of the "feel goods" that come with helping another person, mentors improve their communication and supervisory skills, expand their networks, and experience self growth through reflection.

Just imagine the impact it all engineers took the time to mentor other engineers and sought out new mentors for themselves. Certainly we know that these relationships would benefit the mentors and the mentees, but by extension, they would also benefit engineering companies and communities.

### **No excuses**

I wonder, how many engineers forget to pay forward the gift they were once given or believe they are simply "too busy" to mentor someone new? Conversely, how many engineers believe they are "too seasoned" to seek out mentors as they reach the middle or late stages in their careers?

In answer to these questions, I say, "No excuses." It is my turn, and I believe *it is your turn*, to raise up other engineers – even as we continue to benefit from the support of our own mentors over the full length of our careers. Basically, everyone has a gift to share and everyone needs support, regardless of age or career stage.

Wherever you are in your career, whether you are a mentor, a mentee *or ideally both*, remember that consistent support and encouragement can quickly transform our aspirations into our achievements.

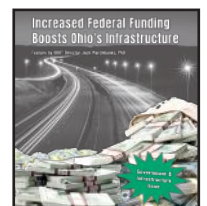
**See "Mentorship," page 3**



### **On the cover:**

ODOT Director Jack Marchbanks wrote OhioENGINEER's feature article regarding the various federal funding sources for Ohio's transportation infrastructure needs.

**See feature article, page 6.**



# OSPE Past President Chett Siefring, PE, CPESC, is appointed to NSPE membership committee

National Society of Professional Engineers President Britt Smith, PE, FNSPE, has appointed OSPE Past President Chett Siefring, PE, CPESC, to serve on the 2022-2023 NSPE Membership Committee. Siefring's term will expire June 30, 2023.

In appointing Siefring, Smith said, "I am so grateful to have your professional expertise on this committee.... Thank you again for your willingness to serve. I look forward to a productive year for the Committee and NSPE!"

An NSPE member since 2009, Siefring is highly regarded in Ohio as a champion of membership development



Chett Siefring, PE, CPESC

at both the state and chapter levels. As OSPE president he devised successful member recruitment and retention programs, and ever since he moved to Medina he has worked tirelessly towards enlarging the Northeast Chapter's membership and expanding its services.

When Siefring was named OSPE's Uncommon Engineer in 2020, OSPE Past President Devon Seal, MBA, PE, remarked, "Chett is our 'go-to' guy. Whatever is needed, he is up for the task."

Siefring is president of OSPE's Northeast Chapter, and he represents his chapter on both the OSPE Board of

Directors and the Engineers Foundation of Ohio (EFO) Board of Trustees. He is active on several state-level committees including OSPE's Legislative and Government Affairs, Political Action, and Awards Committees, and EFO's Scholarship and Professional Education Committees.

Siefring is a past president of the Engineers Foundation of Ohio through which he led efforts to raise money for scholarships and provide educational programs for Ohio youth and engineering professionals. He also previously served as a leader in OSPE's Toledo Chapter.

Siefring, who holds bachelor's and master's degrees in civil engineering from the University of Toledo, manages the geotechnical engineering department at Terracon in Parma.

# Illinois state representatives advise lawmakers to be wary of licensure reform proposals that weaken requirements

The Alliance for Responsible Professional Licensing (ARPL) coalition members continue to work on a number of state and policy activities. The National Society of Professional Engineers and the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants are among the ARPL coalition's members, which include national associations that represent highly complex, technical professions, and their state licensing boards.

NSPE reports that an op-ed coauthored by two members of the Illinois House of Representatives — who are also both CPAs — eloquently highlighted the problems associated with some states' recent licensure reform measures. Their article, titled "The Case for Responsible Professional Licensing," was published in July by *Governing*, a publication that provides news, analysis and insights for the professionals leading America's states and localities.

The op-ed, written by Illinois State Representatives Amy Elik and Natalie Manley, can be read in full at <https://www.governing.com/now/the-case-for-responsible-professional-licensing>.

The Illinois legislators write, "Overly broad licensing 'reform' has emerged as

a popular proposal, with special-interest groups casting it as a silver bullet to solve statewide workforce and economic development challenges. These bills aim to weaken, and sometimes outright eliminate, licensing requirements across state lines." Some licensure reform proposals, the authors continue, go so far as to disregard minimum professional qualifications

*"We caution lawmakers to not rush down a path, paved by hardliners whose flawed proposals create new problems for constituents...."*

— *Illinois State Representatives Amy Elik & Natalie Manley*

while others — "consumer beware" bills — "would leave costly litigation and bad customer reviews as the only options for redress after harm has occurred."

"Unlike some proposals under consideration in our region of the country," Representatives Elik and Manley write, "Illinois' laws do not diminish rigorous qualifications for highly complex, tech-

nical professions such as certified public accounting, engineering, architecture, surveying and landscape architecture."

The Illinois legislators continue, "The truth is that many licensure models already address the most common concerns around licensure, including mobility, minimum qualifications, examination and military spousal relocation," they continue.

Their warning: "We caution lawmakers to not rush down a path, paved by hardliners whose flawed proposals create new problems for constituents and do not take into account the public perception of licensure as necessary and beneficial."

These Illinois legislators recognize that "misguided proposals jeopardize the public and disadvantage hardworking professionals, especially those who have served the public well for decades and whose qualifications will be effectively nullified if passed into law."

"Licensure is complex, and if led down the wrong path, even well-intended elected officials can cause more harm than good," Representatives Elik and Manley write. "Poorly conceived licensing bills threaten existing systems that work and serve the public and the business community well."

### The best resource for engineering mentees is OSPE membership

I can think of no better way to mentor engineers than to encourage their membership in OSPE – *the single, most powerful voice representing Ohio's professional engineers!*

While our publications show off many of our organizational assets, only you and I through OSPE can model for other engineers *true leadership*, which champions at all turns ethical and competent practice to the benefit of Ohioans.

After all, our mentees may not know the many real-world threats to both our work and the public.

### My challenge, your invitation and getting started

Regardless of your age, no matter where you are in your career, please accept my challenge: Find within the next 6-12 months another engineer to mentor *and* seek the guidance of an engineering mentor for yourself.

*I will be doing this alongside you.*

In our new hybridized work environments the personal connections can easily get lost. Therefore, be intentional about how you build relationships and help develop careers. Study upon study have shown that the single best way to involve another person (in any pursuit) is to *extend a personal invitation*. So, make the ask.

Early on in any mentor-mentee partnership, both parties need to set rules together. It is important that you agree

when and how you will meet. Meetings can be weekly, bi-weekly, monthly or quarterly. They can be in person or online. It is also crucial to clearly define goals for your partnership. However, don't forget to manage expectations so neither person has unrealistic ideas about their partner's abilities or availability.

Keys to your mutual success: Listen to each other, work together to find or create solutions to problems, and follow through. Productivity and accountability are paramount, so both parties need to be committed. Be prepared to discuss what's working and what's not and adapt.

There are plenty of publications that offer guidance on mentorship, and the National Society of Professional Engineers has some great resources to help us get started. (Visit <https://www.nspe.org/resources/career-center/mentoring-resources>.)

If each of us takes this small step, we can greatly increase that amount of shared learning and kick start a huge wave of momentum that will propel our profession into the future. We will also fulfill the pledge from the Engineer's Creed (1954) to dedicate our "professional knowledge and skill to the advancement and betterment of human welfare."

Please look for me at an upcoming Engineers Week event, OSPE meeting or chapter meeting, or email me care of [osp@ohioengineer.com](mailto:osp@ohioengineer.com). Let's swap mentorship stories. *I can't wait to hear how it is going!*



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OSPE's Professional Engineers in Industry Practice Division is pleased to announce its 2023 Ohio New Product Award Competition. If your company has developed a new process or product, it may be eligible for the state and national competition.

"The purpose of the New Product Award is to stimulate and recognize the full spectrum of benefits that come from the research and engineering of new products or processes," said Kevin Houser, PE, chairman of the OSPE Professional Engineers in Industry practice division. "These include added employment, economic development, strengthening of the nation's competitive position internationally and contribution to the public's standard of living."

New and improved products stimulate the life and growth of our country. These benefits result from research and development to which engineers make their unique contribution. This competition recognizes the results of those efforts and the foresight of the companies whose aggressive research

and development bring new products to the marketplace.

Any new product, machine, process or material that has been primarily designed and manufactured in Ohio and in use or recently on the market may be entered.

Ohio and National awards will receive significant recognition, including coverage by news media and the OhioENGINEER magazine to promote the greatest public exposure for winning products and companies.

Judging criteria includes sales and economic impact, innovative use of engineering principles, and improved function.

Nominations are grouped according to the size of the manufacturing company. Winners will be selected in four firm size categories: small (50 or fewer employees), medium (51-200 employees), large (201-9,999 employees), and mega (10,000 or more employees).

Download the Ohio New Product Award application at <https://ohioengineer.com/>, and apply by March 31, 2023.



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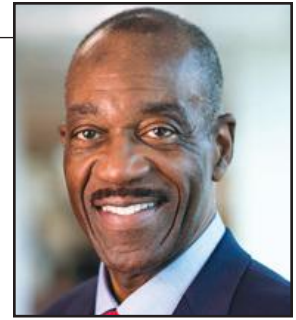
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by Jack Marchbanks, Ph.D., Director, Ohio Department of Transportation



# Increased federal funding boosts Ohio's infrastructure

The most-recent federal infrastructure law was signed into law in November of 2021 and was funded by Congress in March of this year. This legislation includes up to \$550 billion in new federal spending over a five-year span (2022-2026).

However, the vast majority of the revenue provided to Ohio in the most recent federal transportation funding law is not new and was not unexpected. This is because Ohio has always received large annual allocations from the federal government for highways, transit, and airports. Currently it is estimated that only about 30 percent of the overall funding coming to the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) over the next five years could be considered "new."

The difference between previously planned federal funding levels ODOT anticipated receiving prior to the laws' enactment and the subsequent increase in revenues needs to be understood to know the expected benefit.

At this point Ohio's anticipated federal infrastructure revenue increase over five years is about \$1.6 billion. In addition to that, ODOT will receive \$480 million in new bridge-specific funds. This increase will help advance future major new projects, enhance maintenance and preservation efforts, and enable the department's local governmental partners to speed up their work.

The additional federal funding is a welcome influx after the pandemic-induced reduction in vehicle traffic caused motor fuel tax receipts to drop about

\$460 million below pre-pandemic estimates. The federal pandemic stimulus program funds helped fill about \$332 million of the state's revenue shortfall to keep projects on track and funding for local programs steady and whole. Although revenues have trended upward recently, they are still below pre-pandemic estimates. Over the two-year pandemic period, despite the federal stimulus funding, that shortfall is still about \$120 million.

ODOT was projecting a shortfall beginning in fiscal year 2024 even before the pandemic shifted revenue estimates downward. The primary causes include state revenue basically not growing because of increased fuel efficiency, electric vehicle growth, and rapid increase of inflation particularly over the last year. In fiscal years 2024, 2025, and 2026 nearly two-thirds of the "additional" revenue will fill the projected shortfall.

With an unwavering focus on the number one priority of Governor Mike DeWine, ODOT will continue to keep the infrastructure network safe, first and foremost – and in a state of good repair as it invests these dollars to fill the projected shortfalls. This federal funding will also allow local partners to maintain their share of the surface transportation network. While much of the increase will fill the projected shortfall – especially those dollars that will be available in the last three years of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act – the overall news is still very good for Ohio. Important, needed projects will be accelerated in Ohio using this unanticipated funding increase.

The Infrastructure Law provides a once-in-a-generation opportunity for the DeWine-Husted Administration to dramatically invest in the Ohio Heartland. The large-scale discretionary grant programs contained in it will allow us to fund the \$3 billion Brent Spence Bridge Corridor Project, as well as other transformational infrastructure improvements. The Brent Spence Bridge Corridor Project has local, regional and national significance in that it will improve



## WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS

Welcome to these new NSPE-Ohio members from July 23 through December 16, 2022:

### Akron District Chapter

Maci Michelle Devenport  
Camden Schmidt  
Jared Scott

### Dayton Chapter

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## GUEST COLUMN: GOVERNMENT & INFRASTRUCTURE

the mobility, economic fortunes and quality of life for the millions of Americans traveling between southwest Ohio, northern Kentucky and beyond. For the better part of 2022, Ohio and Kentucky have been collaborating on a weekly basis to ensure the project, which involves rebuilding eight miles of Interstates 71 and 75 and adding a companion bridge spanning the Ohio River, is ready to advance when funding is secured.

Questions are still being clarified by the U.S. Department of Transportation and the Federal Highway Administration regarding funding distribution and other parameters governing the new law, especially its many new discretionary grant programs. ODOT has been working on understanding the new revenue allocation process and working with local governmental partners to

ensure funding continues to reach all corners of Ohio. Additionally, ODOT is identifying and preparing projects that can move forward quickly once spending authority materializes.

The top priorities for the DeWine-Husted Administration and ODOT continue to be safety and improving Ohioans quality of life. The men and women of ODOT understand the state's vast transportation system impacts the lives of every Ohioan, every day.

ODOT's mission is critical to the safe travel, welfare, and prosperity of the state's citizens and cities, counties, villages, and townships. The expected increased resources will expand the ability to maintain and improve Ohio's vital transportation system and expand the state's economic development opportunities. When all is said and done, we are

dedicated to making sure our transportation system is safe, well-maintained, accessible, and position for the future benefit of all Ohioans.

We need the equally dedicated professional engineering community's leadership, best ideas and efforts to realize this mission. So, we thank you for your ongoing partnership and contributions to this mission.

## PROGRAMS: PE DAY

### OSPE leaders share why they are proud to be PEs

For Professional Engineers Day, August 3, 2022, OSPE leaders shared across social media brief videos highlighting the importance and value of the PE license and demonstrating their PE pride.



OSPE President **Travis Rhoades, PE**, a senior bridge engineer with Tetra Tech, said, "I love my career as a civil engineer. I choose to be a registered professional engineer because it gives the public peace of mind that my designs will improve their journey while protecting their health, safety and welfare."



Uncommon Engineer Award Winner (2022) and OSPE Past President **Fred Tito, PE, FNSPE**, credits his license with giving him many opportunities to advance his career and to improve his relationships with clients and the public. Tito is retired from The JDI Group, Inc., based in Maumee, where he was an owner and served as senior project manager.



The CEO of SSOE and a leader in OSPE's Toledo Chapter, **Vince DiPofi, PE**, said becoming a PE was one of the most important goals that he accomplished in his career, and it has opened many doors for him. As he became a PE, he said, he realized the responsibility the PE has for the safety and the public welfare and for the integrity of the engineering design.



OSPE President-Elect **Dennis Irwin, PhD, PE, FNSPE**, dean emeritus of Ohio University's Russ College of Engineering & Technology, offered this wisdom: "Careers these days are as long as 50 years with as many as 15 employer changes. The likelihood that you'll need the PE is very high."

### Share Your Story: #IamNSPE



**Not Yet a Member?  
Join Now and Add Your Story**

### OSPE & EFO are looking out for your future



At annual membership meetings and quarterly board meetings, OSPE and EFO conduct business and set direction for their respective organizations. While meetings during the pandemic were largely virtual, we are now getting back to in-person annual meetings and board meetings, as prudent safety standards allow. Regardless of meeting format, these organizations remain invested in the Ohio PE with both organizations providing quality education to keep engineers current and with OSPE looking after the PE's career in everyday business matters and in the halls of the Ohio Statehouse.

# Akron & Canton chapters host new PEs & EIs at 'Engineering Professional Recognition Ceremony'

Members from OSPE's Akron District and Canton Regional Chapters welcomed new Ohio PEs and EIs into the ranks of professionalism during a late-summer ceremony at the University of Akron. The Engineering Professional Recognition Ceremony, the successor to the Ohio Engineering Certificate Ceremony, was a family-friendly event that enjoyed tremendous support from these chapters and celebrated the professional achievements of a number of local engineering registrants.

Chapter leaders introduced each new registrant in turn with a brief biography, and family and friends applauded their hard work in becoming Ohio-registered

PEs and EIs. The new Ohio registrants received a certificate in recognition of their hard work and dedication on the path to professional licensure. Together they recited the Engineers' Creed, through which they promised to "give the utmost of performance," "participate in none but honest enterprise" and "place the public welfare above all other considerations."

OSPE extends special thanks to the following leaders for making this a successful event honoring new Ohio registrants: Event Chair **Jeff Kennedy, PE**, Canton Regional Chapter President **Scott Dilling, PE**, Akron District Chapter Pres-

ident **Jared Alexander, EI**, OSPE President **Travis Rhoades, PE**, OSPE

President-Elect **Dennis Irwin, PhD, PE, FNSPE**, State Board of Registration for Professional Engineers and Surveyors representative and OSPE Past President **Bruce Larcomb, PE, PS**, and Canton Regional Chapter President-Elect **Jennifer Kelley, PE**. Thank you also to the many chapter members who supported the program.



OSPE President **Travis Rhoades, PE**, congratulates the new Ohio PEs and EIs at the University of Akron.



Following a special recognition ceremony, new Ohio PEs and EIs pose together at the University of Akron.



^ The Engineers' Creed was an important part of the ceremony for these new PEs and EIs.



< OSPE leaders **Bruce Larcomb, PE, PS**, **Travis Rhoades, PE**, **Dennis Irwin, PhD, PE, FNSPE**, & **Jennifer Kelley, PE**, congratulate the new Ohio PEs & EIs.

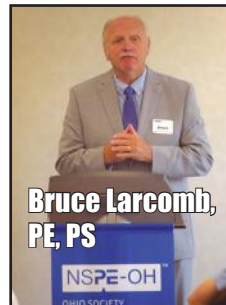


It was a family-friendly event enjoyed by every generation.

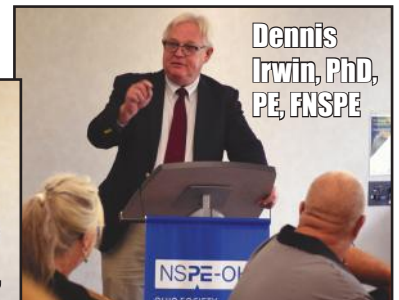


Special thanks to **Scott Dilling, PE**, (left) of Canton Regional Chapter and **Jared Alexander, EI**, (above) of Akron District Chapter for successfully planning the chapter-based ceremony.

## OSPE & Chapter Presenters ...



**Bruce Larcomb, PE, PS**



**Dennis Irwin, PhD, PE, FNSPE**



**Jennifer Kelley, PE**

## PROGRAMS

# Jiahe Liu of Beachwood wins written competition at MATHCOUNTS finals

*Mathletes from Northeast Ohio & Central Ohio represent the Buckeye State in Washington, DC*

Ohio eighth grader **Jiahe Liu** of Beachwood Middle School won against 239 other middle school competitors — representing all 50 states and U.S. territories — in the written competition at the National MATHCOUNTS finals held in Washington, DC, this past May. As the written competition winner, Liu is the recipient of a \$2,500 scholarship. He was also a quarterfinalist in the Countdown Round at the national finals.

Liu traveled to the District of Columbia over Mother's Day weekend as a member of the Ohio MATHCOUNTS championship team. Of the 143 pupils who advanced from regional competitions to the state-level virtual competition in March, it



was Liu and three other students — Eversole Run Middle School's **Reese Zong**, Olentangy Orange Middle School's **Devin Zhao** and Worthingway Middle School's **Suvam Konar** — who earned positions on the state team. The Ohio team was coached by Amy Hazelton, a math teacher at Beachwood Middle School.

"We are so proud of Ohio's top four students and for Jiahe's big win in DC," said EFO Past President Rod Wilson, PE. "They worked hard, and they had fun with math and their peers from around the country in our nation's capital."

The state's top four students — like more than 1,200 of their Ohio peers —



Ohio eighth grader **Jiahe Liu** won the written competition at the 2022 National MATHCOUNTS Competition in Washington, DC.

*Photo credit: Doug Kapustin*

worked since the start of the 2021-2022 academic year for their chance at the state and national math titles.

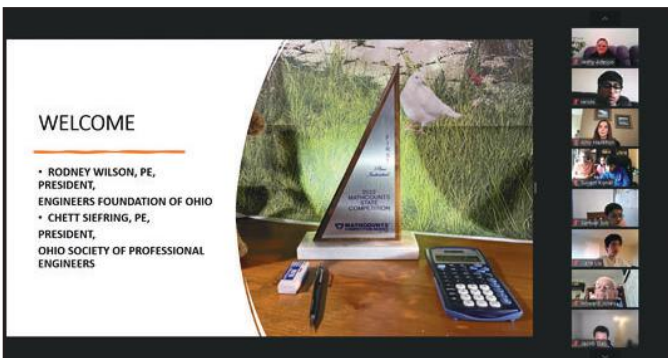
Wilson said all Ohio mathletes are winners: "MATHCOUNTS helps young students develop and hone their math skills. Our pride extends to all of the competitors at the local and state competitions."



Ohio mathletes (left to right) Suvam Konar, Jiahe Liu, Reese Zong & Devin Zhao tour our nation's capital.



Ohio competitors (left to right) Suvam Konar, Devin Zhao, Reese Zong (foreground) & Jiahe Liu get ready for the National MATHCOUNTS Competition.



EFO held a virtual Awards Celebration in honor of the Ohio program's winners, who received trophies, gift cards and team t-shirts.



The Ohio team, including Jiahe Liu (far left), Reese Zong (second from left), Suvam Konar (third from left), Devin Zhao (second from right) and Coach Amy Hazelton (far right) enjoyed meeting others competitors and coaches from around the United States.



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# Engineers raise money for education & scholarships at EFO golf outing

Ohio students — from second grade through college — and emerging engineering leaders are reaping the rewards following EFO's 29th Benefit Golf Outing. Thanks to 13 teams of golfers and generous sponsors, the 2022 charity event raised funds for EFO educational programs, including Imagine Engineering, Ohio MATHCOUNTS, scholarships, and the Engineers Leadership Institute. The outing, held at New Albany Links Golf Club on its July rain date, was a great success. Watch [www.OhioEngineer.com](http://www.OhioEngineer.com) for 2023 program plans, and please consider golfing or making a donation in support of EFO's work.



# Golf outing sponsors help EFO benefit 13,000 lives annually

Every year, EFO benefits 13,000 Ohioans with quality educational programs. We could not reach so many Ohio students and professionals without the loyalty of our sponsors. Thanks to these generous individuals and companies, EFO funds scholarships, introduces second graders to engineering through the Imagine Engineering program, and delivers managerial training to practicing professionals through the Engineers Leadership Institute. With support from dozens of sponsors, the EFO Benefit Golf Outing is the Foundation's premier fundraising event.



Wells Fargo Advisors was the primary sponsor for the 29th EFO Benefit Golf Outing. Special thanks to Greg Ruff of Wells Fargo Advisors. Ruff, based in Dublin, Ohio, is a recipient of the 2022 EFO President's Award.

**2022 SPONSORS & DONORS**

The Engineers Foundation of Ohio thanks these companies & individuals for their generous contributions to the EFO Benefit Golf Outing:

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Ottinger & Associates CPAs, a recipient of the 2022 EFO President's Award, was a major sponsor for EFO's Benefit Golf Outing. Thanks to Cathy Ottinger, CPA.



Thanks to American Electric Power Foundation, a major sponsor for the EFO Benefit Golf Outing. AEP retiree and EFO volunteer Howard Jones, PE, F.NSPE, (inset) helped at the betting hole.



Thanks to Franklin County Engineer Cornell R. Robertson, PE, PS, a major sponsor for EFO's Benefit Golf Outing.



Out on the course, on a warm July day, golfers enjoyed refreshments from the beverage cart, sponsored by Sands Decker.



# The 'players' who made it happen ...

The Engineers Foundation of Ohio applauds the leaders, sponsors, golfers and volunteers who made the 29th Benefit Golf Outing a tremendous success. Benefit Golf Outing Chairman L. Steve Day, PE, FNSPE, planned the day at New Albany Links Golf Club and recruited teams, while several county engineer co-chairs helped generate additional participation. EFO volunteer Howard Jones, PE, helped at registration and took wagers for EFO at the "betting hole." Sponsors and golfers were generous in their efforts to raise money for scholarships and EFO educational programs. The first place team at EFO's 29th Benefit Golf Outing was registered by Kamran Ali, and it included Craig Lockwood, Xin Liu, Matt Gauss and Bart Taberner!



Above, EFO President Aurea Rivera, PE, PMP, PMI-ACP, center, welcomes golfers to the 29th Benefit Golf Outing and thanks players for supporting EFO's educational programs. She is joined by Golf Outing Chairman L. Steve Day, PE, FNSPE, left, and Cathy Ottinger, CPA, right, of Ottinger & Associates, CPAs, a major sponsor.



< Pictured is Kamran Ali's first place team, including Bart Taberner, Matt Gauss, Xin Liu and Craig Lockwood.

Chairman L. Steve Day, PE, FNSPE, left, poses with EFO's 29th Benefit Golf Outing second place team, which was registered by Terracon. The team including Stanley Fuller, Aaron Call, John Enderle and Jonathan Grimm. >>>



# Golfers 'follow through' on raising money for EFO



A great action shot: Look at Dr. Lindsey Dohse's ball in motion!



< Chairman L. Steve Day, PE, FNSPE, makes the morning announcements before a fun day of play. Successful golf outings are made in the execution of the details, and Day knows that a great golf outing chairman (just like any great golfer) *always follows through!*

EFO Benefit Golf Outing Chairman L. Steve Day, PE, FNSPE, left, and OSPE Past President Chett Sieftring, PE, CPESC, prepare for a beautiful day at New Albany Links. >>>



Les Thompson, PE, of Moody Engineering makes his analysis.



< Eric Ottinger, Cathy Ottinger, CPA, and Deena Foley – all of Ottinger & Associates CPAs – buy raffle tickets from EFO volunteer Howard Jones, PE, FNSPE.

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**EFO offers scholarships!**

< EFO Golfers take it easy and enjoy the beautiful July day outside.



These EFO golfers have great form. But regardless of your skill level, the EFO Benefit Golf Outing is always a friendly event centered around raising money for scholarships and helping Ohio students obtain technical education – from second grade through college.





# Be your own greatest advocate

## Grassroots lobbying for Ohio PEs

In this era of term-limits, the membership of the General Assembly is always changing. As a result, our efforts to educate the legislators about the role of professional engineers takes on more urgency. One of the most important educational and advocacy tools we have is grassroots lobbying.

Grassroots lobbying can take several forms: personal meetings, letter writing, phone calls to legislators, testifying before public hearings and publicity efforts with local media sources. All these efforts have the same goal: to convince legislators to pursue the agenda for the benefit of the Ohio Society of Professional Engineers. Lawmakers must understand that aiding your cause is good for your communities and supported by their constituents.

It is the people who get to know their legislators and who gain their trust who are successful at grassroots lobbying. A legislator's decision-making process is like anyone else's – if you know a person to be trustworthy and you know them to be an expert on the issues they are discussing, you will be much more inclined to believe them and act upon their suggestions.

For this reason, before any large-scale grassroots lobbying campaign is undertaken, we encourage members of the Ohio Society of Professional Engineers to try to meet your State Senator and State Representative. This effort should not prove difficult because these legislators want to meet you; their jobs depend on it!

The grassroots lobbying effort becomes immensely more successful and much easier when it is performed by people who have made themselves

known to their legislators before they contact them with a specific request.

*The time to begin is **now!***

Due to the results of the 2020 census, 2022 is a year with new legislative district maps, which also coincides with the typical term limiting of legislators that may have represented your House or Senate Districts for eight years or longer. While you may not have moved in the past two years, your home or your business may have been "redistricted" – shifted to a different current member or assigned a new district number that is a completely open seat.

Use this URL for the Ohio Secretary of State's office to determine your district: <https://findmydistrict.ohiosos.gov/>. Additionally, you can use this URL: <https://www.sos.state.oh.us/elections/voters/> for many other election-related items, including election results.

*It is the people who get to know their legislators and who gain their trust who are successful at grassroots lobbying.*

As an example of the volume of changes occurring, there are going to be 28 first-time members out of 99 total seats in the Ohio House and seven new senators out of 33 seats in the Ohio Senate. All 99 House members were on the ballot and, to put this in perspective, **more than one quarter** of the Ohio House in 2023 will be people that are not currently serving in the legislature! In the Senate four of the new Senators are current House members and one is a former House member, making the relationship-building process easier. In the Senate, 17 of the 33 seats stood for election in 2022.

Among the 2022 candidates and sitting legislators, there is **only one**

**professional engineer, Senator Louis W. "Bill" Blessing, III**, who is also a member of OSPE. However, there are two new degreed engineers joining the General Assembly, **Adam Mathews** in Warren County and **Thaddeus Claggett** in Licking County.

*All of this equates to opportunity and work for OSPE members!*

With this volume of turnover, the new session convening in 2023 is an ideal time to build relationships and introduce yourself as a resource for all the new and returning members of the General Assembly. Now is the time to cultivate your relationships!

As a start, we suggest that you identify your state senator and state representative to schedule a meeting with them in order to build a foundation of knowledge on the issues impacting OSPE. In this way, both the Society and its individual members can easily begin to build stronger credibility with their state legislators. To arrange a meeting with your current senator or representative, you can access their specific contact information at <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/>. New members take office and the 135th Ohio General Assembly starts on January 3, 2023.

It's also extremely important to stay well-informed on engineering issues. As you might imagine, it's difficult to advocate if you're not familiar with the issues of the day. The primary way that the OSPE communicates these issues is through legislative and regulatory updates. You will also see articles in this fantastic publication, *OhioENGINEER*. By whatever means you get your updates, make sure to review legislative changes and upcoming issues, as they may affect your profession or business.

Once those individual relationships are cultivated, the Society will rely on your contacts to inform and influence those legislators when a specific issue arises. We must all work together to establish a system in which each Society member becomes a trusted advisor to his or her legislators on engineering related issues.



by Joseph V. Warino, PE, PS, FNSPE, Vice President,  
Legislative & Government Affairs, Ohio Society of Professional Engineers



# Advocate for the engineering profession by applying to serve

With all that is going on in the legislative arena – at both the federal and state levels – concerning the practice of engineering and licensure, I cannot help but wonder why more engineers are not volunteers serving on boards or technical advisory committees.

I've witnessed an absolute wealth of expertise among OSPE's members. Surely there is a state or local board, commission or committee that could benefit from your knowledge and your credentials as a registered professional engineer.

Engineers are clearly problem solvers. I believe that they can help considerably as team players and even to fix any systems that may be under stress or strain. Our members can contribute their knowledge and benefit Ohio and their communities at many levels.

By getting involved, a professional engineer can make a positive difference in policy and practice.

In the spring of 2021, an opening on the Ohio Sewage Treatment Technical Advisory Committee became available and I jumped at the chance to serve. After all, having been involved with the treatment and distribution of water and wastewater throughout my engineering career, I felt I was a perfect fit. Quickly throwing together a brief résumé of my experience, I submitted my name, a letter of interest, and my credentials for consideration.

I was flattered and honored to later find out that I was appointed to serve a two-year term on this important committee. My being involved has allowed me to keep up to date with the newest technology in wastewater treatment and in tune with the changing board of health rules and regulations with reference to home treatment systems.

I volunteered to serve on this committee as I look to the future of the engineering profession.

If it were not for OSPE's unwavering leadership and advocacy, the engineering profession very well might not survive the challenges being unnecessarily forced upon it by policymakers.

PE licensure was established to protect the public. Serving on the Ohio Sewage Treatment Technical Advisory Committee gave me a voice, as a PE, to help assure that Ohio's household septic systems are constructed to protect important waterways downstream – and in the most effective and efficient way possible with the least cost to the homeowner. Through my service to this committee I was able to provide a level of assurance to the public that Ohio's many household septic systems function properly and that household wastewater is treated properly before it is returned to the environment.

But also, my serving on this state-level committee helped protect Ohio and bolster the engineering profession by demonstrating to the public the importance of the PE license.

*PEs must be seen in action to be believed. That's why we need higher profiles in Ohio.*

"How," you ask?

My very presence and the work I did for this committee were persuasive, public reminders that PEs are highly-educated, trained and tested individuals who are qualified to both serve and protect the public.

PEs must be seen *in action* to be believed. That's why we need higher profiles in Ohio.

Furthermore, the public needs to be reminded of the numerous disasters that befell our nation before PE licensure. They also need to be told about the many costly failures that have occurred in the U.S. much more recently because various companies thought they would save a buck, here or there, by employing

unlicensed individuals to do engineering work. (Spoiler alert: These companies saved *nothing* by circumventing the law and the PE's expertise. In fact, they cost the public a great deal. If you would like more information, shoot me an email care of [ospe@ohioengineer.com](mailto:ospe@ohioengineer.com).)

Frankly, Ohio's policymakers likely do not fully understand the value of professional engineers or the service we provide in safeguarding the public.

As Ohio-registered professional engineers, we need to get inspired and become immersed in championing our profession. Yes, it is critical to our livelihood, but more so it is critical to Ohio's citizens.

Championing the PE profession can only be accomplished by being active advocates for it.

A full list of vacancies on Ohio's various boards, committees and commissions is available by contacting your OSPE legislative and government affairs team. I urge all OSPE members to review the list to see if there's a good fit for you.

**Be willing to share your expertise!** OSPE would be honored to assist you with the application process. *And you may just end up appointed to serve!*

While there is no guarantee that your application will result in you being appointed, the process will at least get your name and interest "out there." You will become known as somebody who is willing to serve and as an advocate for the engineering profession.

By virtue of making an application you will find yourself on the radar of Ohio's administrative decision makers. Even if they don't find a seat for you now, they may keep you in mind for future appointments or other opportunities!

Make it your mission to advance our profession! The preservation of the PE license will best be accomplished by you.

*Will you do your part? Contact OSPE today at [ospe@ohioengineer.com](mailto:ospe@ohioengineer.com) to request the list of open seats on Ohio boards, committees and commissions.*

# OSPE bill tracking summary \*

<b>DEREGULATE CERTAIN EPHEMERAL WATER FEATURES, House Bill 175 (Hillyer)</b>	To deregulate certain ephemeral water features, make other changes to various water pollution control laws, to authorize a property tax exemption for certain private wetlands, and to make an appropriation.	<u>Status:</u> 4/21/2022 - SIGNED BY GOVERNOR; eff. 90 days
<b>LICENSURE THROUGH APPRENTICESHIP, House Bill 181 (Powell)</b>	To require a licensing authority to issue an occupational license to an applicant who completes a registered apprenticeship program and meets other requirements. <i>(Note: PEs are not impacted.)</i>	<u>Status:</u> 4/5/2022 - House Commerce and Labor, (Fourth Hearing)
<b>REQUIRE OCCUPATIONAL LICENSE IF EXPERIENCED IN OTHER STATE, House Bill 203 (Powell)</b>	To require an occupational licensing authority to issue a license or government certification to an applicant who holds a license, government certification, or private certification or has satisfactory work experience in another state under certain circumstances. <i>(Note: Amended House bill includes OSPE-approved language.)</i>	<u>Status:</u> 11/15/2022 - Referred to Senate Workforce and Higher Education <u>Position:</u> Support
<b>BUILDING INSPECTION LAWS, House Bill 372 (Ray, Roemer) &amp; Senate Bill 196 (Roegner)</b>	To make changes to the law relating to building inspections. <i>(Note: As introduced, the House and Senate bills are similar in language, but not identical.)</i>	<u>Status:</u> 5/25/2022 - HB 372, Referred to Senate Small Business and Economic Opportunity. 5/17/2022 - SB 196, Referred to House Commerce and Labor.
<b>PROPERTY DEVELOPMENT, House Bill 430 (Cross)</b>	To amend sections 153.64 and 3781.27 of the Revised Code relating to property development and protecting underground utility facilities during construction. <i>(Note: Requires county/city engineers to gather data about the locations of pipelines. Prohibits county/city engineers from giving final approval to a development until the requirements of the bill have been satisfied by the developer.)</i>	<u>Status:</u> 6/24/2022 - SIGNED BY GOVERNOR; eff. 90 days
<b>REVISE OCCUPATIONAL REGULATIONS, House Bill 509 (John, Fowler)</b>	To revise and streamline the state's occupational regulations.	<u>Status:</u> 11/30/2022 - Senate Workforce and Higher Education, (Third Hearing)
<b>NATIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE BANK, House Resolution 19 (Sobecki, Stephens)</b>	To urge the United States Congress to create a National Infrastructure Bank to finance urgently needed infrastructure projects.	<u>Status:</u> 2/24/2021 - House Infrastructure and Rural Development, (First Hearing)
<b>REDUCE REGULATIONS, Senate Bill 9 (McColley, Roegner)</b>	To limit regulatory restrictions in administrative rules. <i>(Notes: This bill does not directly impact the State Board of Registration for Professional Engineers &amp; Surveyors, but it does impact agencies where PEs work. There is an exemption for rules incorporated by reference, such as a reference to a federal rule. However, if the Ohio rule is more stringent than the federal rule, then Ohio's rule may be invalidated. Another provision would allow the state agency to show cause why its required reduction in regulatory restrictions should be lessened.)</i>	<u>Status:</u> 3/10/2022 - SIGNED BY GOVERNOR, statutory language eff. 90 days <u>Position:</u> Interested party with concerns
<b>PAYMENT ASSURANCE-DESIGN PROFESSIONALS, Senate Bill 49 (Hottinger, Sykes)</b>	To establish a payment assurance program for registered design professionals.	<u>Status:</u> 7/1/2021 - SIGNED BY GOVERNOR, eff. 90 days
<b>INDEMNITY-DESIGN CONTRACTS, Senate Bill 56 (Blessing)</b>	To regulate the use of indemnity provisions in professional design contracts related to public improvements.	<u>Status:</u> 12/13/2022 - SIGNED BY GOVERNOR, eff. 90 days. <u>Position:</u> Support
<b>LICENSURE RECIPROCITY BILL, Senate Bill 131 (Roegner, McColley)</b>	To require an occupational licensing authority to issue a license or government certification to an applicant who holds a license, government certification, or private certification or has satisfactory work experience in another state under certain circumstances.	<u>Status:</u> 12/15/2022 - Ohio Senate concurred with Ohio House amendments. <u>Position:</u> Support

\* This is a partial list of the bills that the Ohio Society of Professional Engineers is tracking.

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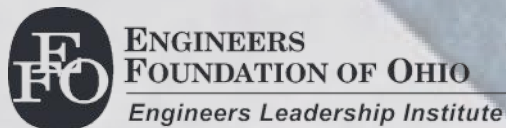
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