



## President's Message

Derek Kiss, PE  
– FCC President ('25-26)

Dear Members,

Thank you for taking the time to read this message and for being a valued part of our organization. Your continued involvement and support make everything we do possible.



As the cold weather approaches, please take extra care to stay safe. Be mindful of winter hazards such as icy walkways, slippery roads, and the potential for frozen pipes in your homes. A little preparation now can go a long way toward keeping everyone safe and comfortable through the season.

## Upcoming Events

We have several exciting events coming up in the next few months — be sure to mark your calendars!

- **December 4, 2025:** FCC-OSPE CPD Luncheon
- **December 5, 2025:** Board and Committee Meetings
- **December 8, 2025:** Lunchtime Legislative Briefing
- **December 12, 2025:** December Seminar

# Columbus Engineer

## Franklin County Chapter

*A chapter chartered by the Ohio Society of Professional Engineers.*

P.O. Box 69  
Reynoldsburg, OH 43068-0069

Dec 2025  
Vol. 84 No. 1



## Get Involved

We are always looking for members who want to make a difference!

- **Imagine Engineering** – Volunteer to present to schools throughout our region and help inspire the next generation of engineers.
- **Science Day** – Join us as a volunteer and share your enthusiasm for STEM with students.
- **MATHCOUNTS** – Help mentor and encourage young mathematicians by volunteering at this rewarding event.

Your participation strengthens our organization and helps us continue to serve our community and profession.

Thank you once again for your dedication and support. Stay safe, stay warm, and we look forward to seeing you at our upcoming events!

Warm regards,  
**Derek Kiss, P.E.**  
President, FCC-OSPE



**KORDA**

## **OSPE-FCC December Luncheon Program**

Date: Thursday, December 4, 2025

Place: Schmidt's Sausage Haus 240 E Kossuth St, Columbus, Ohio

Time: Registration: 11:30 am

Lunch: 11:50 am



Speaker: 12:00 pm

Closing Remarks: 1:00 pm

Cost: Members: \$30.00 & Non-Members: \$35.00.

SPE@OSU Students: \$10.00

**Registration:** Visit [www.fccospe.org](http://www.fccospe.org). Register online with debit/credit card, pay by check or cash at the door. No access to a computer, contact Steve Day, at 614-876-7525, to help with registration.

### **Title: “A Horizontal Ground-loop Installation Technique”**

**Abstract:** We will share with the audience three recent installations, reviewing installation methodology, presenting the benefits of the system, and discussing challenges of drilling in various geologic scenarios. We will describe a better solution for retrofit installations on smaller properties than other ground-loop installation types and methods.

### **Learning Objectives:**

- 1) What is a ground source heat pump system.
- 2) Types of ground source closed loop systems.
- 3) Installation techniques.

**Presenter:** Greg Nortz, PE,  
Co-Owner Otisco Engineering Ltd.



**Biography:** Greg Nortz Bachelor of Mechanical Engineering from Cleveland State University and a Master of Business Administration from Clemson University. Mechanical engineer and HVAC contractor (40 years of experience) with a proven track record of success in both technical innovation and business leadership.

A certificate for 1 hour of Professional Development for attending the program will be emailed to the attendee.



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**Alan Riley**

Office Manager

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### **Imagine Engineering Program**

Tim McCarthy  
- Committee Chair

Imagine Engineering is a 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Program and Coloring Contest. The 2026 Program Launch by the Engineers Foundation of Ohio (EFO) was on October 28, 2025. A school invitation was mailed to principals and past participant teachers.

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### **Imagine Engineering, continued -**

This invitation encourages schools to register for the 2026 program. As the schools register EFO then updates their registration database and notifies the chapters monthly beginning in late December. As chapters are notified, we can begin contacting the schools and teachers to schedule our presentations for the program.

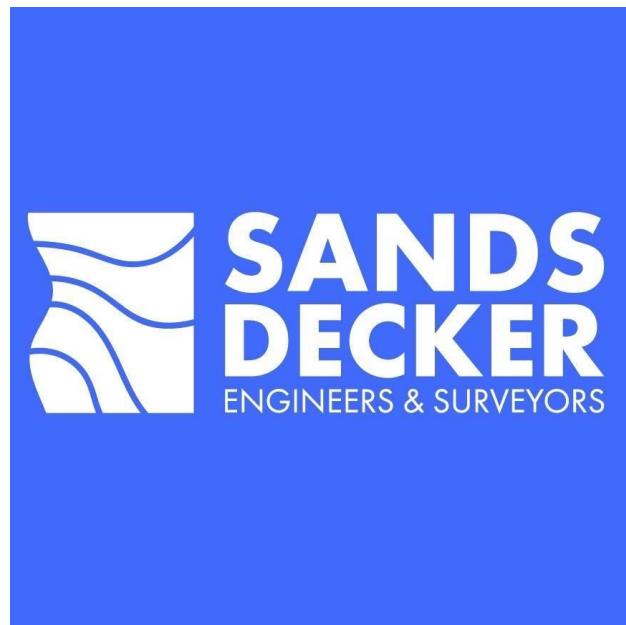
Presentations will be conducted in January, February and March. The deadline for having contest entries submitted to the chapter is April 1. We will review the entries to select the top three chapter winners and forward these on to EFO no later than April 15.

In early October I received a query from Holly at OSPE about a request to do a program at Union Furnace Elementary in the Logan-Hocking Local School District. The school wanted something to involve 150 students in the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grades and to involve a demonstration of simple machines. I spoke with Glen Deal who agreed to contact the teacher and do a program for them. Of course, the coloring contest is only open to the 2<sup>nd</sup> graders. Glen did presentations last month and said they went fine. He expects to receive photos of the presentation.

We need volunteers for this program. Last year presentations were made to over thirty classes at fifteen schools. Please contact Tim McCarthy, [tim.mccarthy@breezelineohio.net](mailto:tim.mccarthy@breezelineohio.net), for more information and to volunteer!

## **Kenneth Miller, PE Obituary**

Kenneth Maurice Miller, age 90, a loving husband, father, grandfather and great grandfather, passed away on Wednesday, May 28, 2025 at Riverside Methodist Hospital. He was the nicest man ever, very kind, generous and giving and he always helped everyone that he could. Longtime and devoted member of Saint Mary Magdalene Catholic Church, serving in nearly every volunteer capacity at both the church and school. He was also a very active volunteer at Bishop Ready High School. Ken was a retired Professional Civil Engineer and a longtime member of NSPE and OSPE-OH



*Merry Christmas!*

## 2025-2026 CALENDAR



DATE	TIME	DESCRIPTION
Aug.		No FCC Board Meeting
Sept. 9	5:45 p.m.	FCC Board Meeting @ Kimley Horn, and Virtual
Oct. 3	12:00 p.m.	OSPE Lunchtime Legislative Briefing, Zoom meeting
Oct. 21	5:45 p.m.	FCC Board Meeting @ Kimley Horn, and Virtual
Nov. 1		Imagine Engineering Begins
Nov 6-7		EFO Fall CPD Conference
Nov. 11	5:00 p.m.	FCC Board Meeting @ Kimley Horn, and Virtual
Nov. 14	5:00 p.m.	Deadline for December <i>Columbus Engineer</i>
Dec. 4	11:30 a.m.	<b>CPD Program:</b> Title: “A horizontal Ground-loop Installation Technique”: - Presenter: Greg Nortz, PE, Co-Owner Otisco Engineering, Ltd.
Dec. 5	5:00 p.m.	Deadline for January <i>Columbus Engineer</i>
Dec. 8	12:00 p.m.	OSPE Lunchtime Legislative Briefing, Zoom meeting
Dec. 9	5:45 p.m.	FCC Board Meeting @ Kimley Horn, and Virtual
Dec. 12	8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.	EFO December Seminar
Jan. 8	12:00 p.m.	<b>CPD Program:</b> Title: “Horizontal Auger Bores: Geotechnical Exploration and Their Impact of Feasibility, Design, and Construction” - Presenter: Shawn Smith, PE, Project Engineer, S&ME, Inc., Zoom meeting
Jan. 14	5:45 p.m.	FCC Board Meeting @ Kimley Horn, and Virtual
Jan. 30	5:00 p.m.	Deadline for E-Week Luncheon Flyer
Feb. 5	5:00 p.m.	Deadline for February <i>Columbus Engineer</i>
Feb. 7	8:15 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.	Regional MathCounts Competition @CSCC
Feb. 10	5:45 p.m.	FCC Board Meeting @ Kimley Horn, and Virtual
Feb. 13	5:00 p.m.	Deadline for March <i>Columbus Engineer</i>
Feb. 22-28		National Engineer’s Week
Feb. 25	11:00 a.m.	<b>Program:</b> E-Week Luncheon – Location: Villa Milano Banquet & Conference Center
Mar. 5	12:00 p.m.	<b>CPD Program:</b> Title: “TBD” - Presenter:
Mar. 7	8:15 a.m.- 4:00 p.m.	Ohio MATHCOUNTS Competition @CSCC
Mar. 10	5:45 p.m.	FCC Board Meeting @ Kimley Horn, and Virtual
Mar. 11	5:00 P.M.	Deadline for April <i>Columbus Engineer</i>
Mar. 12-13		Engineer’s Leadership Institute (ELI) - Virtual
Mar. 21	7:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	District Science Day @CSCC
Apr. 1		Imagineering Engineering Submissions to FCC
Apr. 2	11:30 a.m.	<b>CPD Program:</b> Title: “TBD” - Presenter:
Apr. 3	12:00 p.m.	OSPE Lunchtime Legislative Briefing, Zoom meeting
Apr. 9	5:00 p.m.	Deadline for May <i>Columbus Engineer</i>
Apr. 14	5:45 p.m.	FCC Board Meeting @ Kimley Horn, and Virtual

## 2025-2026 CALENDAR

*Continued*



DATE	TIME	DESCRIPTION
Apr. (TBD)	TBD	Ohio Engineers Legislative Day
May 7	12:00 p.m.	<b>CPD Program:</b> Title: "TBD" - Presenter:
May 10 – 11		National MATHCOUNTS Competition
May 12	5:45 p.m.	FCC Board Meeting @ Kimley Horn, and Virtual
May 14	12:00 p.m.	Deadline for June <i>Columbus Engineer</i>
May (TBD)	6:30 p.m.	Chapter Officer Installation & Awards Dinner – Location: <b>TBD</b>
June 4	12:00 p.m.	<b>CPD Program:</b> Title: "TBD" - Presenter:
June 9	5:45 p.m.	FCC Board Meeting @ Kimley Horn, and Virtual
June 11-12		All Ohio Engineering Conference
June 13		EFO/OSPE Annual Meetings & Awards Luncheon
June 29	12:00 p.m.	OSPE Lunchtime Legislative Briefing, Zoom meeting
July TBD	TBD	FCC Budget Meeting - Location to be announced

**THE FCC BOARD MEETINGS**  
***will be held at:***

***Kimley-Horn***  
***7965 North High Street, Suite 200,***  
***Columbus, Ohio 43235***

### WHERE DO I GET MORE INFORMATION?

FCC-OSPE President E-mail & Phone:

[derekckiss@gmail.com](mailto:derekckiss@gmail.com)

FCC-OSPE WEBSITE

[www.fccospe.org](http://www.fccospe.org)

OSPE WEBSITE:

[www.ohioengineer.com](http://www.ohioengineer.com)

NSPE WEBSITE:

[www.nspe.org](http://www.nspe.org)

To volunteer to help with MATHCOUNTS:

[benjamin\\_brown@yahoo.com](mailto:benjamin_brown@yahoo.com)

(614) 519-8978

To volunteer to help with Science Day:

[baba.yahaya@terracon.com](mailto:baba.yahaya@terracon.com)

(614) 328-5209

To volunteer to help with OSU Student Chapter:

**TBD**

To volunteer to help with Imagine Engineering:

[tim\\_mccarthy@breezelineohio.net](mailto:tim_mccarthy@breezelineohio.net)

(614) 670-1175

FCC Luncheons / Programs:

**TBD**

New Members / Membership Application

[www.nspe.org](http://www.nspe.org) or [www.ohioengineer.com](http://www.ohioengineer.com)

(614) 223-1144



**2025-2026 OFFICERS,  
TRUSTEES & COMMITTEE CHAIRS**

TITLE	NAME	PHONE # (w) or (h)	MOBILE #	EMAIL ADDRESS
President	Derek Kiss, PE			<a href="mailto:derekckiss@gmail.com">derekckiss@gmail.com</a>
Vice President	Zach Wedekind, PE		380-215-1810 (m)	<a href="mailto:zwedekind@gmail.com">zwedekind@gmail.com</a>
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OSPE				
OSPE Executive Director	Tim Schaffer, PE	614-223-1144 (w)		<a href="mailto:exec@ohioengineer.com">exec@ohioengineer.com</a>
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	Holly Ross	614-223-1177 (w-EFO)		<a href="mailto:pr@ohioengineer.com">pr@ohioengineer.com</a>
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VICE-PRESIDENT	TRUSTEE/COMMITTEE	CHAIRPERSON	TELEPHONE	E-MAIL
Zach Wedekind, PE	Vice-President	Zach Wedekind, PE	380-215-1810 (m)	<a href="mailto:zwedekind@gmail.com">zwedekind@gmail.com</a>
	Programs/CPD/Activity	<b>TBD</b>		
	Membership	Richard Irwin	614-885-9016 (h)	
	Young Engineer Trustee	Zach Wedekind, PE	380-215-1810 (m)	<a href="mailto:zwedekind@gmail.com">zwedekind@gmail.com</a>
	Retired Engineers Trustee	Bob Fuller, P.E.	614-886-2020 (m)	<a href="mailto:barbarafuller6438@att.net">barbarafuller6438@att.net</a>
			614-880-9221 (h)	
	PEHE Trustee	S. Rao Chitikela, PE	412-310-9452 (m)	<a href="mailto:srao.chitikela@gmail.com">srao.chitikela@gmail.com</a>
		Tim McCarthy, PE	614-670-1175 (m)	<a href="mailto:tim_mccarthy@breezelineohio.net">tim_mccarthy@breezelineohio.net</a>
	Science Day (District)	Baba Yahaya, PE	614-328-5209 (w)	<a href="mailto:Baba.Yahaya2@terracon.com">Baba.Yahaya2@terracon.com</a>
			614-517-7864 (m)	
	Scholarship	Joe Sullivan, PE	614-898-7100 (w)	<a href="mailto:jsullivan@msconsultants.com">jsullivan@msconsultants.com</a>
			614-561-5447 (m)	
	Columbus Engineer - Editor	Howard Jones, PE, F.NSPE	614-209-3289 (m)	<a href="mailto:hrjones63@yahoo.com">hrjones63@yahoo.com</a>
			614-209-3289 (h)	
	Engineers Week	CR Weaver, PE	614-645-7100 (w)	<a href="mailto:CRWeaver@columbus.gov">CRWeaver@columbus.gov</a>
			614-946-2961 (h)	
	Engineer For A Day	<b>TBD</b>		
	PEG Trustee	CR Weaver, PE	614-645-7100 (w)	<a href="mailto:CRWeaver@columbus.gov">CRWeaver@columbus.gov</a>
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	PEI Trustee	Richard Smelker, PE	614-267-9610 (m)	<a href="mailto:rdsmelker@att.net">rdsmelker@att.net</a>
	EFO Liaison	Steve Day, PE	614-876-7525 (w)	<a href="mailto:lday1@columbus.rr.com">lday1@columbus.rr.com</a>
			614-531-2858 (m)	
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	OSPE Director	Mehrdad Rowhani, PE, PMP	614-389-4132 (w)	<a href="mailto:mehrdadrowhanipe@gmail.com">mehrdadrowhanipe@gmail.com</a>
	Constitution & By-Laws	Baba Yahaya, PE	614-328-5209 (w)	<a href="mailto:Baba.Yahaya2@terracon.com">Baba.Yahaya2@terracon.com</a>
	PEPP Trustee	Greg Nortz, PE	614-790-0029 (m)	<a href="mailto:gregnortz@otiscoengineering.com">gregnortz@otiscoengineering.com</a>
	PEPP Trustee	Eric Bates, PE	614-674-3441 (m)	<a href="mailto:ebates1019@gmail.com">ebates1019@gmail.com</a>
	PEC Trustee	Yogesh Rege	304-951-7874 (m)	<a href="mailto:yogesh.rege@terracon.com">yogesh.rege@terracon.com</a>





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