



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

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*

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



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 . Register on-line 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:

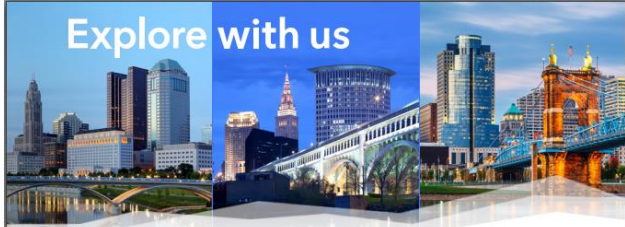
- 1) What is a ground source heat pump system.
- 2) Types of ground source closed loop systems.
- 3) Installation techniques.

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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Imagine Engineering Program

Tim McCarthy
- Committee Chair

Imagine Engineering is a 2nd 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 2nd, 3rd and 4th 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 2nd 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, 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. | CPD Program: 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. | CPD Program: 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. | Program: E-Week Luncheon – Location: Villa Milano Banquet & Conference Center |
| Mar. 5 | 12:00 p.m. | CPD Program: 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. | CPD Program: 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. | CPD Program: 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: TBD |
| June 4 | 12:00 p.m. | CPD Program: 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:

FCC-OSPE WEBSITE:

OSPE WEBSITE:

NSPE WEBSITE:

To volunteer to help with MATHCOUNTS:

To volunteer to help with Science Day:

To volunteer to help with OSU Student Chapter:

To volunteer to help with Imagine Engineering:

FCC Luncheons / Programs:

New Members / Membership Application

derekckiss@gmail.com

www.fccospe.org

www.ohioengineer.com

www.nspe.org

benjamin_brown@yahoo.com

baba.yahaya@terracon.com

TBD

tim_mccarthy@breezelineohio.net

TBD

www.nspe.org or www.ohioengineer.com

(614) 519-8978

(614) 328-5209

(614) 670-1175

(614) 223-1144



2025-2026 OFFICERS, TRUSTEES & COMMITTEE CHAIRS

| TITLE | NAME | PHONE # (w) or (h) | MOBILE # | EMAIL ADDRESS |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------|---|--------------------------------------|--|
| President | Derek Kiss, PE | | | derekckiss@gmail.com |
| Vice President | Zach Wedekind, PE | | 380-215-1810 (m) | zwedekind@gmail.com |
| Vice President | Nathan Abele, PE | 614-793-2226 (w) | 614-746-7243 (m) | Nabele@smeinc.com |
| Chapter Secretary | Anthony Wong, P.E. | | 614-209-6781 (m) | anthony.c.wong99@gmail.com |
| Treasurer | Steve Day, PE, F.NSPE | 614-876-7525 (w) | 614-531-2858 (m) | lday1@columbus.rr.com |
| Past President | S. Rao Chitikela, PhD, PE | 614-818-4900 (w) | 412-310-9452 (m) | rao.chitikela@rcweesolutions.com |
| Administrative Assistant | Dawn Morrison | 614-328-5148 (w) | 614-313-3814 (m) | dawn.morrison@terracon.com |
| | FCC-OSPE Website | | | www.fccospe.org |
| OSPE | | | | |
| OSPE Executive Director | Tim Schaffer, PE | 614-223-1144 (w) | | exec@ohioengineer.com |
| OSPE/EFO Staff | Pam McClure (ret., part-time) | 614-223-1144 (w-OSPE) | | admin@ohioengineer.com |
| | Holly Ross | 614-223-1177 (w-EFO) | | pr@ohioengineer.com |
| | JoAnn Finke (part-time) | 614-223-1144 (w-EFO) | | admin@ohioengineer.com |
| VICE-PRESIDENT | TRUSTEE/COMMITTEE | CHAIRPERSON | TELEPHONE | E-MAIL |
| Zach Wedekind, PE | Vice-President | Zach Wedekind, PE | 380-215-1810 (m) | zwedekind@gmail.com |
| | Programs/CPD/Activity | TBD | | |
| | Membership | Richard Irwin | 614-885-9016 (h) | |
| | Young Engineer Trustee | Zach Wedekind, PE | 380-215-1810 (m) | zwedekind@gamil.com |
| | Retired Engineers Trustee | Bob Fuller, P.E. | 614-886-2020 (m) 614-880-9221 (h) | barbarafuller6438@att.net |
| | PEHE Trustee | S. Rao Chitikela, PE Tim McCarthy, PE | 412-310-9452 (m) 614-670-1175 (m) | srao.chitikela@gmail.com tim_mccarthy@breezelineohio.net |
| | Science Day (District) | Baba Yahaya, PE | 614-328-5209 (w) 614-517-7864 (m) | Baba.Yahaya2@terracon.com |
| | Scholarship | Joe Sullivan, PE | 614-898-7100 (w) 614-561-5447 (m) | jsullivan@msconsultants.com |
| | Columbus Engineer - Editor | Howard Jones, PE, F.NSPE | 614-209-3289 (m) 614-209-3289 (h) | hjones63@yahoo.com |
| | Engineers Week | CR Weaver, PE | 614-645-7100 (w) 614-946-2961 (h) | CRWeaver@columbus.gov |
| | Engineer For A Day | TBD | | |
| | PEG Trustee | CR Weaver, PE | 614-645-7100 (w) | CRWeaver@columbus.gov |
| Nathan Abele, PE | Vice-President | Nathan Abele, PE | 614-746-7243 (m) | Nabele@smeinc.com |
| | OSU - Student Chapter Liason | Zach Wedekind, PE | 380-215-1810 (m) | zwedekind@gmail.com |
| | MATHCOUNTS Co-Chair | Ben Brown, PE | 614-519-8978 (m) | benjmn68@gmail.com |
| | MATHCOUNTS Co-Chair | Joseph Bolzenius, PE, PS | 614-354-4933 (h) | joseph.bolzenius@hotmail.com |
| | Awards/Citations | Derek Kiss, PE S. Rao Chitikela, PhD, PE | 412-310-9452 (m) | derekckiss@gmail.com rao.chitikela@rcweesolutions.com |
| | Legislative | Steve Day, PE | 614-876-7525 (w) 614-531-2858 (m) | lday1@columbus.rr.com |
| | PEI Trustee | Richard Smelker, PE | 614-267-9610 (m) | rdsmelker@att.net |
| | EFO Liaison | Steve Day, PE | 614-876-7525 (w) 614-531-2858 (m) | lday1@columbus.rr.com |
| | Imagine Engineering Contest | Tim McCarthy, PE | 614-670-1175 (m) | tim_mccarthy@breezelineohio.net |
| | OSPE Director | Mehrdad Rowhani, PE, PMP | 614-389-4132 (w) | mehrdadrowhanipe@gmail.com |
| | Constitution & By-Laws | Baba Yahaya, PE | 614-328-5209 (w) | Baba.Yahaya2@terracon.com |
| | PEPP Trustee | Greg Nortz, PE | 614-790-0029 (m) | gregnortz@otisengineering.com |
| | PEPP Trustee | Eric Bates, PE | 614-674-3441 (m) | ebates1019@gmail.com |
| | PEC Trustee | Yogesh Rege | 304-951-7874 (m) | yogesh.rege@terracon.com |





OHIO SOCIETY OF
PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS
Franklin County Chapter
P.O. Box 69
Reynoldsburg, Ohio 43068

FIRST CLASS

