



Columbus Engineer

Franklin County Chapter

A chapter chartered by the Ohio Society of Professional Engineers.

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

Feb 2026
Vol. 84 No. 3

President's Message

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



Dear Franklin County Chapter Members,

I want to express my gratitude for your commitment to the Franklin County Chapter of the Ohio Society of Professional Engineers (FCC-OSPE). Your efforts to advance engineering excellence and support professional growth have been a key part of our success. Thank you for your ongoing involvement and for being a part of this strong community.

Highlights from the Past Month

We kicked off the year with a virtual CPD luncheon on January 8, 2026, where Shawn Smith, P.E., delivered an insightful presentation on "Horizontal Auger Bores: Geotechnical Exploration and Their Impact on Feasibility, Design, and Construction." This session provided valuable technical knowledge and sparked engaging discussions among attendees. On January 26, 2026, FCC-OSPE hosted a collaborative meeting with the OSU Chapter of OSPE to reignite our partnership. A special thank you to Zach Wedekind, P.E., for his outstanding efforts to revive the OSU Chapter. Together, we explored exciting opportunities for the OSU Chapter to plan impactful activities in the coming months, ensuring the next generation of engineers stays engaged and inspired.

Upcoming Events & Opportunities

As we move forward, we've lined up a dynamic calendar of events to engage our community and advocate engineering:

- Imagine Engineering: January 2026 – April 2026
- Ohio MATHCOUNTS State Competition: February 7, 2026
- Engineering Week (E-Week) Luncheon: February 25, 2026
- Science Day at the Ohio State Capitol: March 21, 2026
- Legislative Day: April 24, 2026

Looking Ahead

Your continued participation in these events strengthens our collective voice and ensures the chapter remains a driving force for progress. To sustain and expand our programs, we are also calling on members to consider making a donation to the Franklin County Chapter. Your support, whether through time, talent, or financial contributions, helps us provide high-quality educational opportunities, community outreach, and advocacy efforts that benefit both our members and the public we serve.

Every dollar contributes to initiatives like our CPD luncheons, student engagement programs, and legislative advocacy, ensuring FCC-OSPE remains a vital resource for engineers at every stage of their careers.

Thank you again for your passion, dedication, and support. I am proud to be part of such a remarkable community!

Sincerely,
Derek Kiss, P.E.
President, Franklin County Chapter of the Ohio Society of Professional Engineers

Registration for the March 18th, 2026 Ohio Construction Conference



**Imagine Engineering Program,
Opportunity awaits ...**
- by **Tim McCarthy, Committee Chair**

The 2026 Program is fully underway. Registrations have been received from 26 schools in the FCC area to include 1,450 students. Thirteen of these schools have requested in-class presentations by a professional engineer. These schools have 835 students! Initial presentations have already been made.

Four volunteers are lined up to present to nine of these schools. **Volunteers are still needed** to present to classes in the Horizon Science Academy, the KIPP Columbus school, Par Excellence STEM, and Ridgewood Elementary School. Additional schools may yet to register.

Volunteers who have a heart for children always benefit from this program. And so do the children involved!

Each Imagine Engineering presentation typically is scheduled for about 45 minutes.

Please consider volunteering for this year's program. Last year presentations were made by four volunteers to classes at fifteen schools.

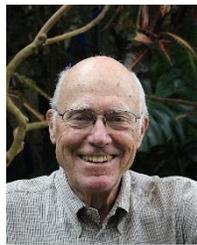
Please contact Tim McCarthy, 614-670-1175 tim_mccarthy@breezelineohio.net, for more information and to volunteer!



Roland (Ness) Nesslinger Obituary

Roland Nesslinger, P.E., long time FCC-OSPE Life Member passed away earlier this month. He was a great PE and a great man!

Roland Anton Nesslinger, always known to others as Ness, was born June 20th, 1929; a depression baby who came into the world with a big smile and a generous nature that endured his lifetime. He was ninety-six years old at the time of his death often saying he just couldn't believe he was that old! Ness, our husband and dad, grandpa and great grandpa passed away on January 4th, 2026 in Columbus, Ohio.



Ness was born on Staten Island, New York to Carla and Karl Nesslinger. He was the middle child and had an older sister, Carlita (Teri) and a younger brother, Ralph (RON). He attended public school on

Staten Island completing high school in 1947 at New Dorp High school. Later he graduated from Clarkson

College in Potsdam, New York in 1952 with a B.S. degree in Civil Engineering. Ness was drafted into the 5th Regimental Combat Team of the United States Army in 1953 and he and his brother, Ralph, deployed at the same time both serving in Korea from 1953-1954. When returned, he and Sylvia, moved to live in Delaware, Ohio where he began a long work history of civil engineering including highway land acquisition, bridge and roadway design and for many years consulting and support to other engineers in the business.

Ness married Sylvia Barbara Pfeiffer on January 24, 1953 in New York. They met years before while he was a counselor at Camp Aquebogue and she was a vacationer staying across Half Moon Lake in Narrowsburg, NY. Upon his return from Korea, they moved to Delaware, Ohio for Ness's first engineering job with the Ohio Department of Transportation. He worked with ODOT for many years as an Engineer-in-Training (EIT), in various staff positions, as Bureau Chief, an assistant Deputy Director, then served as the Superintendent of Public Works for the State of Ohio (1973). Ness worked with six different Ohio State governors and was always able to be diplomatic and congenial with all persons. He served as an engineer with Parsons Brinkerhoff and retired as an engineer/consultant for Burgess and Niple. Ness was an active member and instructor in the American Society of Highway Engineers and The American Right of Way Association having been named Person of the Year in 2000 by The ASHE national committee. Ness was a licensed professional engineer in eight states living in Ohio, Louisiana and New Mexico and working in those states and many others throughout his career.

▪ Continued on page 4

Nesslinger Obituary, continued

Born to Ness and Sylvia during the time they lived in Delaware were three children, Martha Lee Nesslinger (Mark Bittner), Karl Alan Nesslinger (Victoria Hackman) and Diana Elizabeth Nesslinger (Don Fisher).

Even with the many demands of being an involved dad, beginning a career and being an enthusiastic Boy Scout Troop leader for Troop 93 in Delaware, Ohio and Troop 156 in Worthington, Ohio. Ness, like his father, had interest in one of his most notable pastimes as a weekend gardener who would go on to create lovely outdoor spaces in all their many homes.

In addition to gardening and scouting, Ness loved to hike on the weekends, always took long walks nightly, loved camping, loved to play bridge with the “Delaware gang” and most often enjoyed attending church beginning with William Street Methodist Church in Delaware, Ohio and was an involved member of many other churches throughout his lifetime. Ness always enjoyed good music and a great hymn and would sing with gusto given the opportunity. While at Trinity United Methodist Church, Ness would begin serving with Stephen Ministries. At Northwest Evangelical Christian Church he met Pastor Russ Clark who would then go on to be one of Ness’s dearest friends. Escaping to the outdoors, spending time with people that he loved, hiking and exploring outdoor spaces was central to Ness’s life until late in his eighties. Into his early nineties, Ness would still walk the neighborhood two or three miles a day. Ness was a college hockey player and great speed skater and an avid tennis player as a young adult. Later in life, he would enjoy golfing with his good friends, Ginny and Bruce Roberts and often his children and grandchildren when they were able.

When asked over the years to describe his service in the military or his work, Ness was always most humble and most appreciative of the people he met along his life path and the scenery and places he saw. Asked to describe “How was it in Korea?”, Ness’s answer was “It was a beautiful country; I enjoyed the hiking.” When asked to talk about a project he was working on, Ness would respond with “We had a lot of good help.” or “It went smoothly.” never illuminating either himself nor the difficult parts of his experiences.

Ness is survived by his wife of nearly seventy-three years, all three of his children and their spouses, ten (10) grandchildren he enjoyed immensely and five great grandchildren who were just beginning to know all the wonderful things about their great grandpa. So many very good friends have preceded Ness in death and are undoubtedly waiting eagerly for this generous, kind, fun loving man to share in the next piece of the journey.

A Memorial Service was held in Columbus, Ohio at Shaw-Davis Funeral Homes, 4341 North High Street 43214 on February 7th, 2026.

In lieu of flowers, the family is requesting donations be made to National Church Hospice at <https://www.nationalchurchresidences.org/donate/hospice/>



PROUDLY DISPLAY YOU ARE A PROFESSIONAL ENGINEER

Frame your license plate with a black frame and raised white letters. The frames are ideal gift for newly licensed Professional Engineers, or for a spouse, an associate, friend, son or daughter who is a Professional Engineer. This is also a great way to recognize the new Professional Engineer in your organization by presenting them with a Professional Engineer License Plate Frame.



These frames are available through the Franklin County Chapter of the Ohio Society of Professional Engineers, web site: www.fccospe.org/store/. Each frame requires a \$5.00 donation plus Shipping and Handling.

Don't miss "The Engineer As Leader," March 12–13, from 9 a.m.–3 p.m. (ET) daily. Earn 10 CPD hours for your Ohio PE license renewal in an interactive, virtual format!

Join David Bayless, PhD, PE, to supercharge your leadership skills and learn to:

- Conduct an honest self-assessment & improve your skills
- Develop emotional intelligence
- Lead based on the situation
- Influence others, motivate followers, and lead peers
- Improve team performance and cohesion
- Listen effectively
- Deal with a "problem child"
- Handle tough conversations
- Make difficult decisions
- Embrace risk taking
- Tackle ethical dilemmas
- Apply this training

Dr. Bayless is an engineering leadership expert. He brings extensive experience from Ohio University, where he directed the Russ College's Robe

Leadership Institute and graduated from the Executive Leadership Program at the Voinovich School for Leadership and Public Policy. He is currently chair and professor of mechanical and aerospace engineering at Missouri University of Science and Technology.



Level up and lead your team to success. Don't miss out—register now!



Registration Deadline: March 5

Tuition* \$175: NSPE-Ohio members | \$250: nonmembers

* State of Ohio exempt employees are eligible for reimbursement on conference, seminar and training events through the Employee Development Fund. Inquire with your agency's HR or training coordinator.



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Office Manager
alan.riley@terracon.com | (614) 328-5134

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2026 Regional MATHCounts Results

The Franklin County Chapter Regional Competition was held at Columbus State Community College on Saturday morning February 7, 2026.

We had another successful competition with nearly 300 "mathletes" competing. This was one of the smoothest competitions we've ever had and speaking on behalf of the regional competition planners, we sincerely appreciate your help. The results are shown in this issue.

TEAM WINNERS



OLENTANGE ORANGE 1st PLACE



HASTINGS (US) 2nd PLACE

TEAM WINNERS



OLENTANGE LIBERTY 3rd PLACE



DUBLIN EVERSOLE 4th PLACE



DUBLIN KARRER 5th PLACE



2026 Franklin County Chapter Regional Competition Results

Teams and Individuals advancing to State Competition of March 7, 2026:

Top Scoring Teams

- 1st - Olentangy Orange
- 2nd - Hastings (UA)
- 3rd - Olentangy Liberty
- 4th - Dublin Eversole
- 5th - Dublin Karrer

Teams Not advancing to State:

- 6th - Olentangy Hyatts
- 7th - Dublin Grizzell
- 8th - Olentangy Berlin
- 9th - Columbus Academy

Top Scoring Mathletes (not on a Top 5 Team)

- Sophie Jiang (Dublin Grizzell)
- Aiden Feinberg (Columbus Academy)
- Anbu Adaikappan (Olentangy Berlin)
- Anirudh Sunand (Olentangy Shanahan)
- Noah Meng (Dublin Karrer)
- Sai Karthik Maddimsetty (Olentangy Liberty)
- Darin McCormick (Kilbourne)
- Kevin Feng (Dublin Grizzell)
- Kavith Wijeratne (Olentangy Hyatts)
- Hanish Sai Yasa (Olentangy Shanahan)
- Andres Martinez (Olentangy Liberty)

Top Scoring Mathletes

- 1. Kate Luo (Olentangy Orange)
- 2. Sophie Jiang (Dublin Grizzell)
- 3. Olesya Gogwoleva (Olentangy Liberty)
- 4. Atharv Singh (Dublin Eversole)

Countdown Round Winners

- 1. Anirudh Sunand - Olentangy Shanahan
- 2. Zexi Chen - Olentangy Orange
- 3. Kate Luo - Olentangy Orange
- 4. Belinda Zhu - Olentangy Liberty

Competition Date: 2/7/26

Location: Columbus State Community College

Sponsor: Franklin County Chapter OSPE
(Ohio Society of Professional Engineers)

Regional MATHCOUNTS Coordinator: Ben Brown, PE



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 *WEDNESDAY	11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.	Program: E-Week Luncheon – Location: Villa Milano Banquet & Conference Center Title: “Transform the Future – Bridging Academia & Industry”
Mar. 5		No CPD Program
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:	derekckiss@gmail.com	
FCC-OSPE WEBSITE:	www.fccospe.org	
OSPE WEBSITE:	www.ohioengineer.com	
NSPE WEBSITE:	www.nspe.org	
To volunteer to help with MATHCOUNTS:	benjamin_brown@yahoo.com	(614) 519-8978
To volunteer to help with Science Day:	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	(614) 670-1175
FCC Luncheons / Programs:	TBD	
New Members / Membership Application	www.nspe.org or 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			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
	<i>Columbus Engineer</i> - Editor	Howard Jones, PE, F.NSPE	614-209-3289 (m) 614-209-3289 (h)	hrjones63@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@otiscoengineering.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

FIRST CLASS

OHIO SOCIETY OF
PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS
Franklin County Chapter
P.O. Box 69
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Geotechnical
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