

# Columbus Engineer

## Franklin County Chapter

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

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

**Jan 2026**  
**Vol. 84 No. 2**



### President's Message

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

As we wrap up 2025, I want to once again extend a sincere thank you to all of our board members, trustees, and volunteers who have helped make our activities and efforts a success this year. Your time, energy, and dedication are the foundation of everything we do, and our organization is stronger because of you.

As we move into the holiday season, please remember to stay safe and keep a few simple safety tips in mind for you and your family:

- Home heating safety
  - Turn off portable heaters in your home when not in use
  - Utilize a timer if the heater is equipped with one
- Preventing frozen pipes during extreme cold
  - Open cabinets beneath sinks to allow warm air to circulate
  - Drip a slow trickle of cold water from faucets
  - Disconnect and cover outdoor hose bibs
- Travel and electrical safety
  - Drive slowly during bad weather—slow down early and assume your car may slide

- Do not overload electrical outlets with Christmas lights or other decorations

I'm also excited to share that our OSU chapter is now officially registered with The Ohio State University! A big thank you to Zach Wedekind, P.E. with FCC-OSPE and Dr. Amy Kramer, P.E., Ph.D., with the Department of Engineering Education in the College of Engineering at The Ohio State University for their work in making this happen. This is an important step in expanding our reach and engaging the next generation of engineers.

Looking ahead, we have several important 2026 events on the calendar. I encourage everyone to attend and/or volunteer if they are able:

- Imagine Engineering – January 2026 through April 2026
- CPD Luncheon – 1/8/26
- Ohio MATHCOUNTS – 2/7/26
- E-Week – 2/25/26
- Science Day – 3/21/26
- Legislative Day – 4/24/26

I look forward to working with all of you in 2026 as we continue our excellent programs and maintain strong advocacy for Professional Engineers and the engineering profession. Donations are vital to our organization's ability to continue these programs, and I encourage you to consider donating to support them. Thank you all for your time and commitment, and for continuing to be strong role models representing the engineering profession.



## **OSPE-FCC January Virtual Program**

**Date:** Thursday, January 8, 2026

**Location:** Zoom Meeting, 12:00pm -1:00pm

**Registration** – Registration closes at 5:00 pm, January 6, 2026.

Visit [www.fccospe.org](http://www.fccospe.org), to register online. Be sure to include your membership number.

After registration is closed and prior to the presentation, a Zoom link will be sent to the registrants.

**Cost:** Free to members of NSPE-OH, members OSPE/FCC, and SPE@OSU Students.

**Title:** “Horizontal Auger Bores: Geotechnical Exploration and Their Impact on Feasibility, Design, and Construction”

**Abstract:** Shawn Smith has worked on many trenchless projects throughout Ohio since 2022. He will discuss his experiences with geotechnical explorations, feasibility studies, design, and installation of horizontal auger bores.

### **Learning Objectives:**

- Overview of the HAB installation process;
- Goals and best practices for geotechnical explorations for HAB projects;
- Understanding of subsurface conditions' effect on HAB feasibility;
- Basic understanding of HAB design requirements and process;

**Presenter:** Shawn Smith, PE – Project Engineer, S&ME, Inc.



**Biography:** Mr. Smith is a Project Engineer in S&ME's Columbus office, with more than twenty years of experience, covering a wide variety of fields including geotechnical, trenchless crossings, pavement design, soil stabilization, roadway reclamation, materials testing, environmental, and drinking water engineering. Shawn has served as S&ME's project engineer for the geotechnical investigation, design, and construction of numerous trenchless crossings within Ohio. Shawn also supports the geotechnical exploration of transportation projects, with a particular focus on northeast Ohio. He is a registered professional engineer in Ohio.

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

## Imagine Engineering Program

- by Tim McCarthy, Committee Chair

Update on the Imagine Engineering 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Program and Coloring Contest.

The 2026 Program is underway. Initial registrations have come from sixteen schools in the FCC area. Five of these schools have requested in-class presentations by a professional engineer. Volunteers are still needed to present to a class of 22 students in the Columbus Adventist Academy, 55 students in the KIPP Columbus school, and 100 students in the Ridgewood Elementary School in Hilliard, Ohio.

Each Imagine Engineering presentation typically is scheduled for about 45 minutes. Presentations will be coordinated to fit the teacher's schedule as well as the volunteer's schedule.

We will be needing additional volunteers as more schools register 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!



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## News: NSPE's People On The Move

FCC-OSPE Chapter Members and a Past Board Member, **Steve Koch, P.E.** made the news on the NSPE Web site. For those of you who attend the FCC-OSPE monthly luncheons, Steve is a frequent attendee at many of our luncheons.



*Congratulate Steve on this new position the next time you see him!*

Steven Koch, P.E., MBA, has joined GAI Consultants' Ohio River Valley team as the Central Ohio market lead based in the Columbus office. He has more than 43 years of engineering consulting experience with specialties in roadway, utilities, and traffic engineering designs. He is also proficient with traffic planning and design, parking studies, pedestrian and wayfinding reviews, and access studies for new developments.

Koch holds an MBA from Franklin University and a bachelor's degree in civil engineering from Ohio Northern University. He is a licensed engineer in Ohio, Indiana, Michigan, and Florida.



# 2026 Engineers Week Luncheon

## Save the Date!

February 25, 2026, 11:30 AM – 1:30 PM

Location:  
**Villa Milano**  
1630 Schrock Rd  
Columbus, OH 43229



### Transform the Future – Bridging Academia & Industry

Panel Discussion: Deans' Perspectives on Programs & Partnerships

Join us in celebrating Engineer's Week 2026! Hear directly from Engineering Deans from across Ohio's universities as they share insight into their programs and how they are preparing the next generation of engineers and responding to the evolving industry needs and technologies. This session offers a look at the future of engineering programs, emerging academic priorities, opportunities for collaboration, and how universities are equipping graduates to succeed. Gain valuable insight into the future of engineering and how you can help shape it.



## 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 <b>*WEDNESDAY</b>	11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.	<b>Program:</b> E-Week Luncheon – Location: Villa Milano Banquet & Conference Center Title: “Transform the Future – Bridging Academia & Industry”
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 ADRESS
President	Derek Kiss, PE			<a href="mailto:derekckiss@gmail.com">derekckiss@gmail.com</a>
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<b>OSPE</b>				
OSPE Executive Director	Tim Schaffer, PE	614-223-1144 (w)		<a href="mailto:exec@ohioengineer.com">exec@ohioengineer.com</a>
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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@gamil.com">zwedekind@gamil.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>
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	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>
Nathan Abele, PE	Vice-President	Nathan Abele, PE	614-746-7243 (m)	<a href="mailto:Nabele@smeinc.com">Nabele@smeinc.com</a>
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	Imagine Engineering Contest	Tim McCarthy, PE	614-670-1175 (m)	<a href="mailto:tim_mccarthy@breezelineohio.net">tim_mccarthy@breezelineohio.net</a>
	OSPE Director	Mehrdad Rowhani, PE, PMP	614-389-4132 (w)	<a href="mailto:mehrdadrowhanipe@gmail.com">mehrdadrowhanipe@gmail.com</a>
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	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>

FIRST CLASS

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