

# Columbus Engineer

## Franklin County Chapter

A chapter chartered by the Ohio Society of Professional Engineers.

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

JUNE 2026  
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### President's Message

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



As my term as President of the Franklin County Chapter of the Ohio Society of Professional Engineers comes to a close, I want to share how truly grateful I am for this past year. It has been an honor to serve in this role, and I've deeply enjoyed the opportunity to meet so many of you, work alongside dedicated volunteers, and see firsthand what our engineering community can accomplish when we come together with purpose.

Looking back, we have a lot to be proud of.

One of the highlights of this year has been restarting the Ohio State University Student Chapter. Re-engaging with OSU is an important investment in the future of our profession, and it simply would not have happened without the leadership and persistence of Zach Wedekind, P.E., and Dr. Amy Kramer, P.E.



Zach Wedekind, P.E.



Dr. Amy Kramer, Ph.D, P.E.

Their commitment to mentoring students and building a vibrant chapter on campus will pay dividends for years to come.

We've also continued to support programs that inspire and develop the next generation of engineers across Ohio:

- **Imagine Engineering & Coloring Contest** – This initiative introduces second graders to the world of engineering at a critical age. The Engineers Foundation of Ohio (EFO) has identified this early stage as essential to forming positive attitudes toward math and science, ensuring that all children can see engineering as a real and attainable path if they choose it later in life.
- **MATHCOUNTS** – EFO's flagship program continues to thrive, now reaching nearly 2,300 middle school students statewide through local chapter math competitions. Our chapter's involvement helps nurture problem-solving skills and confidence in students who may very well become tomorrow's innovators.
- **Scholarships** – Each year, about two dozen of Ohio's brightest engineering students receive scholarships supported by EFO and the NSPE Foundation. Together, these organizations have provided more than \$1 million in scholarships over the years.

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**President’s Message, continued –**

Our chapter’s support of this effort is a tangible way we help promising students overcome barriers and advance toward professional licensure.

- State Science Day – As a long-standing program of The Ohio Academy of Science, State Science Day has, for over 90 years, given students and teachers a platform to highlight outstanding scientific, project-based learning. Our engagement with this program reinforces our commitment to fostering curiosity, rigor, and creativity in young scientists and engineers.
- Engineers Week (EWeek) – Founded by NSPE in 1951, EWeek (February 22–28, 2026) unites engineers, students, and communities across the nation to celebrate how engineering shapes our world. It is more than a week of recognition; it is a movement to inspire the next generation of innovators, spotlight the impact of our profession, and strengthen connections across our engineering community. I’m proud of how our chapter continues to support and elevate EWeek activities locally.

All of these efforts, whether focused on outreach, education, leadership, or professional connection, are only possible because of the time, talent, and passion of our members and volunteers. I am deeply thankful for each person who attended an event, mentored a student, served on a committee, or represented our chapter in the broader community. You are the reason this organization is strong.

As I step aside, I do so with extreme confidence in Zach Wedekind, P.E., our next President for the 2026–2027 chapter year. I know he will do a great job leading this chapter forward, building on what we’ve accomplished, and bringing his own vision and energy to the role.

Please join me in welcoming him and offering the same support and collaboration you have so generously given me.

I encourage each of you to continue supporting the Franklin County Chapter of OSPE—through membership, participation in events, outreach to students, or service in leadership roles. If you’ve ever considered getting more involved, now is the perfect time. Our profession and our community are stronger when more voices, perspectives, and ideas are at the table.

Thank you for the privilege of serving as your President. It has been a memorable and rewarding year, and I look forward to continuing to work alongside you as a fellow member and colleague in the years ahead.

FRANKLIN COUNTY CHAPTER OHIO SOCIETY OF PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS 2026-2027 NEWLY ELECTED OFFICERS & TRUSTEES	
<b>PRESIDENT</b>	
Zach Wedekind, PE	Kimley-Horn
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Brendan Krych	The Ohio State University
MacKenzie Kelso	The Ohio State University

# OSPE-FCC June Luncheon Program

**Date:** Thursday, June 4, 2026  
**Place:** Beer Barrel Pizza & Grill in Dublin Green  
7482 State Route 161, Plain City 43064  
**Time:** Registration: 11:30 am  
**Lunch:** 11:50 am  
**Speaker:** 12:00 pm  
**Closing Remarks:** 1:00 pm  
**Cost:** Members: \$30.00 & Non-Members: \$40.00.  
SPE@OSU Students: \$15.00  
**Registration:** Visit <http://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:** “The Franklin County Engineer’s Office - Driven by Tradition. Defined by Excellence.”

**Abstract:** This presentation will provide history of the FCEO. It will highlight financial challenges faced by Franklin County and touch on the aggressive funding strategy utilized to deliver the FCEO’s 10-Year CIP. The presentation will highlight historical impactful FCEO projects and look forward to the exciting work yet to come.



### Learning Objectives:

- 1.) History of the Office
- 2.) 10-Year Capital Improvement Program
- 3.) FCEO Finance

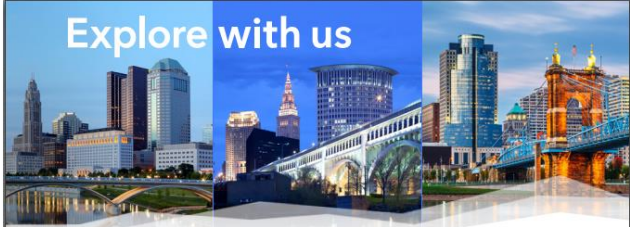
**Presenter:** Mr. W. Fritz Crosier, PE, Chief Deputy of Engineering, Franklin County Engineer’s Office

**Presenter Biography:** Fritz Crosier is a 2004 graduate of The Ohio State University and a registered professional engineer in the State of Ohio.



In his current role, he serves as Chief Deputy of Engineering for Franklin County Engineer Adam Fowler and is responsible for oversight of the Bridge, Drainage, Highway Design, Mobility, Planning & Programming, Real Estate, and Diversity and Outreach departments. He has worked full-time for the Franklin County Engineer’s Office since 2007 and has served in various roles in both Traffic/Mobility and Administration. He is the current chair of MORPC’s Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC), and he also actively assists with the advancement of the Franklin County Transportation Improvement District. Fritz resides in Jefferson Township along with his wife, Teresa, and three children (Reagan, Nash, and Quinn).

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



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## A History of Franklin County Chapter of Ohio Society of Professional Engineers

- By Leon Winget, PH.D., P.E.

Paraphrasing an old adage: “One does not know where one is going if one does not know where one has been.” Hence I thought that it might be good to revisit where the Franklin County Chapter had been and its origin. The following excerpts, greatly, from the “History of Franklin County Chapter Number 20; Ohio Society of Professional Engineers”, by Frank T. Geyer, P.E. Mr. Geyer composed the history in 1972. He supplemented the history in 1976, covering the more current events of the time. I would be remiss if I did not also include the late Mr. Frank Weimer P.E., who continued the history through the 1990’s. So I write this section in honor of Mr.’s Geyer and Weimer intense dedication to the Chapter. God bless them both.

The sentences and phrases in quotes (“ “) are direct passages from Mr. Geyer’s history. Most of the remainder is paraphrasing on my part. I have not contributed any new data to this brief introduction of Franklin County Chapter (FCC).

(The early years!) “In the autumn of 1879, a group of county surveyors met to discuss the possibility of organizing an association. A letter was sent to all county surveyors in the state describing the purpose and advantage of the organization.” A convention of the county surveyors was held in Columbus in January 1880.

Sometime previous to the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting convened in January 1883, the name of the association was designated “The Ohio Society of Surveyors and Civil Engineers.” In January 1888, a separate group known as the “Columbus Engineering Society” was granted permission by the Ohio Society of Surveyors to meet under their own charter. This organization later became know as the “Engineers Club of Columbus”.

(Fast forward!) “The first Engineering Registration Law in the U.S. was enacted by the Wyoming legislature in 1907. A similar law was adopted in Ohio in 1933.” “The purpose of the law is: ...to safeguard life, health, and property by requiring the registration of practicing Engineers, establish minimum qualifications for registration...” The Law also included the means and needs of verifying the qualifications of the registrants.

Following the enactment of the Ohio Law, a group of Columbus engineers recognized the need to identify registered profession engineers and organized a separate section known as the “Franklin County Society of Professional Engineers” affiliated with the new and growing National Society of Professional Engineers, located in Washington D.C. The first recorded minutes available were in March 1936. The section met monthly and performed the usual functions of a local chapter of a technical society.

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**History of FCC, continued -**

In April 1937, a resolution was proposed to the effect that the Franklin County Society of Professional Engineers disband and turn over their records and funds to and combine with “The Engineers’ Club of Columbus”. This resolution failed.

In June 1940, another resolution was proposed which was based on the report of a committee created in the summer of 1937 especially for this purpose. The committee recommended the establishment of a Registered Engineers and Surveyors Section of the Engineers’ Club of Columbus. This resolution was favorable to the membership and was tentatively accepted.

Meanwhile the Engineers Club revised its constitution in October 1937, requiring all members to be registered. They also created a separate section know as the Professional Engineers’ Section of the Club. At that time there were 975 registered engineers in Franklin County. The membership in the Engineers’ Club of Columbus was 266 of which 208 were registered engineers.

An OSPE Executive Session was held on October 1940, to consider a resolution presented by the Franklin County Society of Professional Engineers. The resolution was favorably considered. The Engineers’ Club of Columbus proposed that the FCC organized as separate group under the OSPE and be known as the Franklin County Chapter of OSPE. The interested parties accepted the proposal and thus “Franklin County Chapter of Ohio Society of Professional Engineers” was brought into being.

**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/](http://www.fccospe.org/store/). Each frame requires a \$5.00 donation plus Shipping and Handling.

**2026 Regional Science Day Report**

The 2026 Regional Science Day was held at Columbus State Community College on Saturday, March 21. FCC-OSPE volunteer judges, Jim Arnold, Steve Day, Dustin Doherty, Greg Nortz, Zach Wedekind and Baba Yahaya, judged a total of thirty projects for the FCC-OSPE Sponsored Awards and the winners were:

Place	Name	Grade	School	Project Title
1st	Evan Dekay	9	Bloom-Carroll High School	The Effects of Nose Cone Angles on Model Rocket Performance
2nd	Dominic Messerly	8	St Mary, Fairfield	Effect of 3D Print Speed on Strength
3rd	Aadhav Bala	5	New Albany Intermediate School	How does the weight affect the height of a rocket?

The winners were each awarded a certificate and a check of \$150 for 1<sup>st</sup> place, \$100 for 2<sup>nd</sup> place, and \$50 for 3<sup>rd</sup> place.





### Engineers' Creed (Rev:2021)

As a Professional Engineer, I dedicate my professional knowledge to the advancement and betterment of public health, safety, and welfare.

I pledge:

To give the utmost of performance;

To participate in none but honest enterprise;

To live and work according to the highest standards of professional conduct;

To place service before profit, the honor and standing of my profession before personal advantage, and the public welfare above all other consideration,

In humility, I make this pledge.

## Imagine Engineering Program, Wrap-up

- by Tim McCarthy, Imagine Engineering  
Committee Chair 2025-2026

The 2026 Program has ended. There were 28 schools in the FCC area registered for this year's program. The classes included more than 1,500 students. Fifteen of these schools, with 900 students, had requested in-class presentations by a professional engineer.

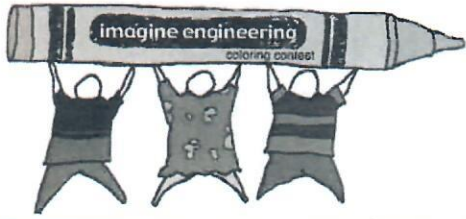
Four volunteers were lined up to present to classes at eleven of these schools. Classes at these schools totaled about 700 students.

The teachers also had the option of viewing online video presentations. Coloring contest entries received were then judged at the April FCC Board Meeting. Judging is always a challenge when reviewing "engineering" drawings from 2<sup>nd</sup>-graders! The students with the top three entries were awarded prizes of STEM learning kits. The top three entries were from students Rosalie Anderson at St. John's Lutheran in Marysville, Cohen Cornelius at Mill Valley in Marysville, and Davinica Carlock at Columbus Adventist Academy. Results of the state-level judging has not been announced.

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

A new program chair is needed to coordinate the program next year.





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**Directions to enter contest:**

- 1) Neatly print your name, school and city, and teacher's name here. →
- 2) Draw and color your idea of an engineer working.
- 3) **Submit your entry by April 15.** Email a scan of your entry to [efo@ohioengineer.com](mailto:efo@ohioengineer.com) or return your original entry to EFO, 400 S. Fifth Street, Suite 300, Columbus, Ohio 43215.

Name: Rosalie Anderson  
School and City: St. John's Lutheran Marysville  
Your Teacher's Name: Mrs. Bowsher

**Prizes:** The statewide winners will win:

- 1st place -- Telescope (\$260 value) & art published in OhioENGINEER
- 2nd place -- Digital Microscope (\$100 value)
- 3rd place -- Mega Science Lab (\$60 value)

**Thanks for participating  
and HAVE FUN!**

**Top of Coloring**





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- 3) **Submit your entry by April 15.** Email a scan of your entry to [efo@ohioengineer.com](mailto:efo@ohioengineer.com) or return your original entry to EFO, 400 S. Fifth Street, Suite 300, Columbus, Ohio 43215.

Name: Cohen Cornelius  
 School and City: Mill Valley, Marysville  
 Your Teacher's Name: Mrs. Melish

**Prizes:** The statewide winners will win:

- 1st place – Telescope (\$260 value) & art published in OhioENGINEER
- 2nd place – Digital Microscope (\$100 value)
- 3rd place – Mega Science Lab (\$60 value)

**Thanks for participating  
and HAVE FUN!**

**Top of Coloring**





## 2026-2027 OFFICERS, TRUSTEES & COMMITTEE CHAIRS

TITLE	NAME	PHONE # (w) or (h)	MOBILE #	EMAIL ADDRESS
President	Zach Wedekind, PE		380-215-1810 (m)	<a href="mailto:zwedekind@gmail.com">zwedekind@gmail.com</a>
Vice President/Pres Elect	Bill Riehl, PH.D., J.D., P.E.			
Vice President	Nathan Abele, PE	614-793-2226 (w)	614-746-7243 (m)	<a href="mailto:Nabele@smeinc.com">Nabele@smeinc.com</a>
Chapter Secretary	Patrick Campbell, P.E.			
Treasurer	Steve Day, PE, F.NSPE	614-876-7525 (w)	614-531-2858 (m)	<a href="mailto:lday1@columbus.rr.com">lday1@columbus.rr.com</a>
Past President	S. Rao Chitikela, PhD, PE	614-818-4900 (w)	412-310-9452 (m)	<a href="mailto:rao.chitikela@rcweesolutions.com">rao.chitikela@rcweesolutions.com</a>
Administrative Assistant	Dawn Morrison	614-328-5148 (w)	614-313-3814 (m)	<a href="mailto:dawn.morrison@terracon.com">dawn.morrison@terracon.com</a>
	FCC-OSPE Website			<a href="http://www.fccospe.org">www.fccospe.org</a>
<b>OSPE</b>				
OSPE Executive Director	Tim Schaffer, PE	614-223-1144 (w)		<a href="mailto:exec@ohioengineer.com">exec@ohioengineer.com</a>
OSPE/EFO Staff	Pam McClure (ret., part-time)	614-223-1144 (w-OSPE)		<a href="mailto:admin@ohioengineer.com">admin@ohioengineer.com</a>
	Holly Ross	614-223-1177 (w-EFO)		<a href="mailto:pr@ohioengineer.com">pr@ohioengineer.com</a>
	JoAnn Finke (part-time)	614-223-1144 (w-EFO)		<a href="mailto:admin@ohioengineer.com">admin@ohioengineer.com</a>
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	TBD		
	Membership	Richard Irwin	614-885-9016 (h)	
	Young Engineer Trustee	Brendan Krych MacKenzie Kelso		
	Retired Engineers Trustee	Bob Fuller, P.E.	614-886-2020 (m) 614-880-9221 (h)	<a href="mailto:barbarafuller6438@att.net">barbarafuller6438@att.net</a>
	PEHE Trustee	S. Rao Chitikela, PE Tim McCarthy, PE	412-310-9452 (m) 614-670-1175 (m)	<a href="mailto:srao.chitikela@gmail.com">srao.chitikela@gmail.com</a> <a href="mailto:tim_mccarthy@breezelineohio.net">tim_mccarthy@breezelineohio.net</a>
	Science Day (District)	Baba Yahaya, PE	614-328-5209 (w) 614-517-7864 (m)	<a href="mailto:Baba.Yahaya2@terracon.com">Baba.Yahaya2@terracon.com</a>
	Scholarship	Joe Sullivan, PE	614-898-7100 (w) 614-561-5447 (m)	<a href="mailto:jsullivan@msconsultants.com">jsullivan@msconsultants.com</a>
	Columbus Engineer - Editor	Howard Jones, PE, F.NSPE	614-209-3289 (m) 614-209-3289 (h)	<a href="mailto:hrjones63@yahoo.com">hrjones63@yahoo.com</a>
	Engineers Week	CR Weaver, PE	614-645-7100 (w) 614-946-2961 (h)	<a href="mailto:CRWeaver@columbus.gov">CRWeaver@columbus.gov</a>
	Engineer For A Day	TBD		
	PEG Trustee	Amy Kramer, Ph.D., P.E.		
Nathan Abele, PE	Vice-President	Nathan Abele, PE	614-746-7243 (m)	<a href="mailto:Nabele@smeinc.com">Nabele@smeinc.com</a>
	OSU - Student Chapter Liason	Zach Wedekind, PE	380-215-1810 (m)	<a href="mailto:zwedekind@gmail.com">zwedekind@gmail.com</a>
	MATHCOUNTS Co-Chair	Ben Brown, PE	614-519-8978 (m)	<a href="mailto:benjmn68@gmail.com">benjmn68@gmail.com</a>
	MATHCOUNTS Co-Chair	Joseph Bolzenius, PE, PS	614-354-4933 (h)	<a href="mailto:joseph.bolzenius@hotmail.com">joseph.bolzenius@hotmail.com</a>
	Awards/Citations	Derek Kiss, PE S. Rao Chitikela, PhD, PE	412-310-9452 (m)	<a href="mailto:derekckiss@gmail.com">derekckiss@gmail.com</a> <a href="mailto:rao.chitikela@rcweesolutions.com">rao.chitikela@rcweesolutions.com</a>
	Legislative	Steve Day, PE	614-876-7525 (w) 614-531-2858 (m)	<a href="mailto:lday1@columbus.rr.com">lday1@columbus.rr.com</a>
	PEI Trustee	Bill Riehl, Ph.D., J.D., P.E.		
	EFO Liaison	Steve Day, PE	614-876-7525 (w) 614-531-2858 (m)	<a href="mailto:lday1@columbus.rr.com">lday1@columbus.rr.com</a>
	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>
	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>
	PEC Trustee	Yogesh Rege	304-951-7874 (m)	<a href="mailto:yogesh.rege@terracon.com">yogesh.rege@terracon.com</a>

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