



# Columbus Engineer

## Franklin County Chapter

A chapter chartered by the Ohio Society of Professional Engineers.

P.O. Box 69

Reynoldsburg, OH 43068-0069

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### President's Message

Dustin Doherty, P.E., CPESC  
– FCC President



I would like to thank all-of our Franklin County Chapter (FCC) corporate sponsors who have supported us this year. Without your contribution, we would not be able to continue providing the services, activities, and events that make this such a great organization. The FCC area encompasses more than Franklin County. It includes Marion, Morrow, Knox, Union, Delaware, Licking, Muskingum, Madison, Franklin, Fairfield, Perry, Pickaway, Hocking, and Ross Counties. The FCC is the largest Ohio Society of Professional Engineer's Chapters, and we provide local programs for our professional engineering members. Additionally, we provide a lot of constant outreach to the community and industry as-a-whole. These efforts include: a month engineering newsletter and publication; Engineering for a Day (EFAD) program; Imagine Engineering; monthly technical continuing education programs; MathCounts Competition; E-week and National Engineer's Week coordination; Science Day; coordination with the OSU Chapter, and many more activities.

In addition to all of these great outreach efforts, the main principal and goal of this organization is to protect the engineering licensure. OSPE protects engineers from political, legislative, administrative

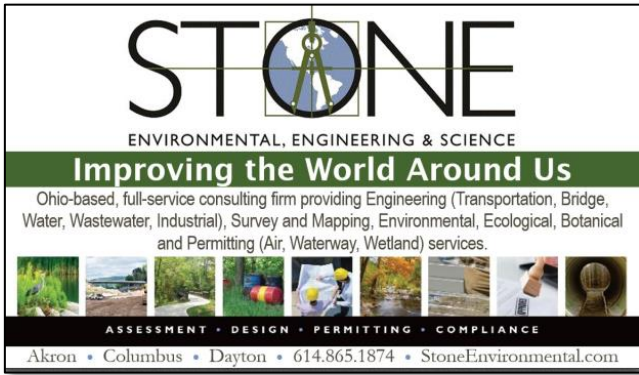
and legal challenges to Ohio's PE laws. I want to make sure that the organization's efforts are being communicated as often and transparently as possible – to the end that the Franklin County Chapter members understand how they are being served. One of our primary focus over the next year includes informing current members, potential members, and the community of OSPE's role for serving Ohio's Professional Engineers and protecting the practice of engineering, including our license.

Also, I would like to thank all those on the board, who dedicate their time and service to participate in our planning and decision-making processes. Thank you for allowing us to continue to strive through these times; and committing yourself to your position and believing in the vision of this Chapter.

We are always looking for new members to grow our OSPE Chapter and add popular activities that our members wish to attend. Please contact me at [ddoherty@cecinc.com](mailto:ddoherty@cecinc.com) if you would like to participate and grow your career, and I will connect you to the appropriate committee chairs. Lastly, is the Chapter serving you as best it can? We welcome your feedback and suggestions.

Thank you for your support, and I look forward to a successful year.





## Engineers PEI (Professional in Industry)

- By Richard Smelker, P.E.



About one third of the total non-student NSPE membership is employed in industry. The Professional Engineers in Industry (PEI) interest group thus represents one of the largest segments of the Society's membership, and its activities and leadership form a vital part of the total NSPE program.

The national PEI Interest Group is directed by the Executive Board which meets at the Annual Meeting of NSPE during the Summer NSPE Convention. It is composed of a Regional Vice Chairman (or one representative) from each recognized NSPE Region casting votes on PEI issues as determined by the PEI members at the Regional Caucus. It is imperative that the State PEI Chairmen of the Regions attend and support these Regional Caucuses in-order-to provide the "grass roots" inputs to the total PEI Interest Group.

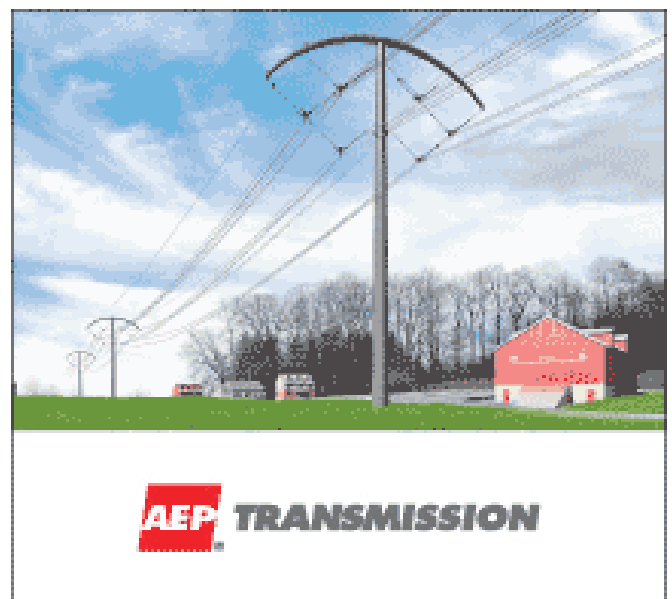
Between scheduled meetings of the Executive Board, its activities are carried out by the members of the Executive Board via telecommunication methods. The Chairman presides at meetings of both the

Executive Board; and is a member of the House of Delegates for NSPE.

The national PEI range of interests and activities is very broad, generally including employment practices, relations with industry, national and state legislation affecting engineers in industry, professional development and continuing education, ethics and assistance to state PEI divisions.

Large portions of the national PEI's energy and resources are devoted to helping state PEI divisions develop good programs which directly and indirectly benefit members in industry and the profession. This assistance is both organizational, in the form of model bylaws, and operational, with suggested programs and activities.

PEI provides value to NSPE members in industry through the promotion of professional practices and policies, including support of the licensure process for engineers in Industry. Our mission includes offerings of educational and professional development opportunities and actions to increase the public awareness of the contribution of professional engineers in Industry.



## Kansas DOT demonstrates disaster response, inspections using drones



Image: Kansas DOT via Twitter (@KDOTHQ)

The Kansas DOT's (KDOT) Division of Aviation completed a field exercise recently in Rossville to demonstrate the capabilities of drones being used for infrastructure inspections and disaster response.

Bridge inspectors, public safety officials, universities, and unmanned aerial systems (UAS) manufacturers worked side-by-side with KDOT team members on this exercise. The Capabilities

Exercise, or CAPEX, showed how drones can save time and money on transportation infrastructure inspections; allow state agencies to examine disaster sites in emergency response situations; and expand economic opportunities through transportation using innovative technologies.

“Safety is our top priority, and we seek every opportunity to employ better transportation solutions for citizens across our state,” Kansas Transportation Secretary Julie Lorenz said in a statement.

In October 2017, KDOT was selected as one of nine participants in the Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA) UAS Integration Pilot Program, a three-year program that concluded Oct. 25.

The FAA decided to continue the partnerships to tackle remaining UAS integration challenges and further drone research with the BEYOND program. KDOT is one of eight participants to continue in the research effort.

The drone demonstration in Rossville was one of the first events to take place as part of BEYOND, “which will continue to advance the safe integration of drones into our national air space,” U.S. Transportation Secretary Elaine Chao said in a statement.

There are 44 state agency, university, and technology partners that have been selected to join the KDOT team in their efforts in the BEYOND program.

*(Excerpted from NSPE Daily Designs November 10, 2020 with hyperlinks removed)*



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## NSPE Announces Senior Director of Ethics and Professional Practice

Wendel Stewart, CAE, NSPE Interim Executive Director & COO recently announced NSPE's newest staff member, **Rebecca Bowman, Esq., P.E.** Bowman will serve as senior director of ethics and professional practice beginning November 2. Currently, she is the principal of a woman-owned business in forensic, civil and structural engineering, dispute resolution, real estate, and legal services. She is experienced in boundary law issues, engineering design and forensic analysis, construction/project management, dispute resolution, real estate, and small business start-ups. Bowman is also a certified arbitrator, mediator, and Christian conciliator.

In addition, she writes the "Risky Business" column for PSPE's PE Reporter, and her book, Residential Construction and Remodeling in Pennsylvania: Working with Homeowners and Small Contractors, is going into its second edition. She is a frequent CPE lecturer for a variety of providers. She received her B.S. degree in civil engineering from the University of North Dakota, an M.B.A. from Oklahoma University, and J.D. from Duquesne University.

Bowman is involved with NSPE, the American Arbitration Association, the Institute for Christian Conciliation, and the American Bar Association. She volunteers with MATHCOUNTS and has been the recipient of the 2014 PSPE President's Distinguished Service Award.

Please join me in welcoming someone who will have a lasting impact on NSPE and the engineering profession.

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## Managing Clients' Expectations During COVID-19

At the end of the day, it does not matter how good someone is at their job if they do not know how to effectively communicate with clients. Having clear communication can make or break a business, and is the key to fully understanding and managing expectations.

When it comes to ensuring clear communication, everyone's idea is slightly different, and COVID-19 has presented its own set of unique obstacles to deal with. Determine how clients like to communicate,

- Continued on page 5



Managing Client's - Continued

what methods they prefer and how often they would like to hear from the contractor. A client that wants updates daily is going to require much more time and attention than one that only wants to hear if something important comes up.

One of the most frustrating things for a client is not knowing the correct point of contact in their construction team or a lack of communication between members of that larger team. There are typically several people involved in a project and by choosing one point of contact, contractors avoid any miscommunication between themselves and the client. Once this contact is established, it is important to remember that every industry has its own list of industry jargon that is used during day-to-day communications. Using industry jargon can result in misunderstandings and differing expectations between the contractor and the client. Adjust language to effectively communicate. Sometimes clients might be too shy or embarrassed to ask for clarification, so never assume that they understand.

Technology is there so that the industry can use it to its advantage, which has become especially pertinent during COVID-19. While sketches and blueprints used to suffice, clients' expectations are much higher now. Provide 3D renderings of the project in the beginning to really "wow" the client and help secure the project. This little touch will be what sets a contractor apart and ensures the client fully understands how everything is going to look. Following this, seek feedback from the client on things they liked and things they want to see changed. This will show them the contractor is open to feedback and what they have to say.

During the job, take photos as things progress or consider a real-time video walkthrough as an added bonus to update the client. This will give them the opportunity to speak up about something before

getting too far into something and also provides the contractor with proof of work through the end. This

is especially great if your clients are not in the area and lets them see firsthand how things are going. Due to COVID-19, fewer people are on jobsites at one time, and this includes clients. The client might not feel comfortable coming by the jobsite to check on the progress, so don't leave them in the dark by assuming they will come by when they want to.

The pandemic has impacted the construction industry in a variety of different ways from increased cost of supplies to adjusting the size of teams on a jobsite. As things continue to change, the best thing contractors can do is remain in constant and clear communication with clients. Remain transparent about the challenges. Oftentimes, these challenges will push out completion dates and, in turn, cost the client more money. If contractors do not communicate these hurdles to the client, they will be in for a nasty surprise when the client sees the timeline extended again and the invoice higher than expected. The last thing contractors want to do is end up in a lawsuit over something that could have been easily avoided, tarnishing their reputation.

While the construction industry has been changed by COVID-19, the most important thing to remember is to not leave clients in the dark. With evolving information from government officials and organizations regarding safety protocols in the industry, construction companies and subsidiaries have had to adjust how they operate in every aspect. During a time when we are physically distant, remaining in communication with clients is more important than ever before. Contractors never know who will refer them to a friend or which project will be the start of an incredible partnership. Word of mouth is everything these days, showing that the power of communication extends far beyond the completion of a project.

*(Excerpted from NSPE Daily Designs November 20, 2020)*



## 2020-2021 CALENDAR

DATE	TIME	DESCRIPTION
Sept. 4	10:00 a.m.	Deadline for September <i>Columbus Engineer</i>
Sept. 8	5:30 p.m.	FCC Board Meeting @ CEC, Inc. (Virtual)
Oct. 5	5:00 p.m.	Deadline for October <i>Columbus Engineer</i>
Oct. 6	5:30 p.m.	FCC Board Meeting @ CEC, Inc. (Virtual)
Oct. 15	11:30 a.m.	Program: <b>No Program</b> (Virtual)
Nov. 5-6		EFO Fall CPD Conference
Nov. 9	5:00 p.m.	Deadline for November <i>Columbus Engineer</i>
Nov. 10	12:00 p.m.	FCC Board Meeting @ CEC, Inc. (Virtual)
Nov. 19	11:30 a.m.	Program: <b>No Program</b> (Virtual)
Dec. 5	5:00 p.m.	Deadline for December <i>Columbus Engineer</i>
Dec. 8	5:30 p.m.	FCC Board Meeting @ CEC, Inc. (Virtual)
Jan. 11	5:00 p.m.	Deadline for January <i>Columbus Engineer</i>
Jan. 12	5:30 p.m.	FCC Board Meeting @ CEC, Inc. (Virtual)
Jan. 21	11:30a.m.	Program: <b>TBD</b> (Virtual)
Jan. 30	5:00 p.m.	Deadline for February <i>Columbus Engineer</i>
Feb. TBD	8:00 a.m.	Regional <b>MathCounts</b> Competition – (Virtual)
Feb. 8	5:00 p.m.	Deadline for March <i>Columbus Engineer</i>
Feb. 9	5:30 p.m.	FCC Board Meeting @ CEC, Inc. (Virtual)
Feb. 21-27		National Engineers Week (see <a href="http://www.eweek.org">www.eweek.org</a> )
Feb. 24	8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.	Engineer for a Day Program
Feb. 25	11:30 a.m.	Program: E-Week Luncheon ( <b>TBD</b> )
Mar. TBD	8:15 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.	Ohio <b>MathCounts</b> Competition (OSPE, see <a href="http://www.ohioengineer.com">www.ohioengineer.com</a> )
Mar. 9	5:30 p.m.	FCC Board Meeting @ CEC, Inc. (Virtual)
Mar. 18	11:30 a.m.	Program: <b>TBD</b> (Virtual)
Mar. 30	5:00 p.m.	Deadline for April <i>Columbus Engineer</i>
Mar. TBD		District Science Day @ CSCC
Apr. 13	5:30 p.m.	FCC Board Meeting @ CEC, Inc. (Virtual)
Apr. 14	5:00 p.m.	Deadline for May <i>Columbus Engineer</i>
Apr. 15	11:30a.m.	Program: <b>TBD</b> (Virtual)
May 11	5:30 p.m.	FCC Board Meeting @ CEC, Inc. (Virtual)
May 20	6:30 p.m.	Chapter Officer Installation/ Awards Dinner
May 24	5:00 p.m.	Deadline for June <i>Columbus Engineer</i>
June 8	5:30 p.m.	FCC Board Meeting @ CEC, Inc. (Virtual)
July TBD	(TBA)	FCC Budget Meeting - Location to be announced

### Civil & Environmental Consultants, Inc.

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## WHERE DO I GET MORE INFORMATION?

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NSPE WEBSITE:	<a href="http://www.nspe.org">www.nspe.org</a>	
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To volunteer to help with Imagine Engineering:	<a href="mailto:devonseal1@gmail.com">devonseal1@gmail.com</a>	(614) 221-0678
FCC Luncheons / Programs:	<a href="mailto:ebriedis@cecinc.com">ebriedis@cecinc.com</a>	(614) 468-6222
New Members / Membership Application	<a href="http://www.nspe.org">www.nspe.org</a> or <a href="http://www.ohioengineer.com">www.ohioengineer.com</a>	(614) 223-1144



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