

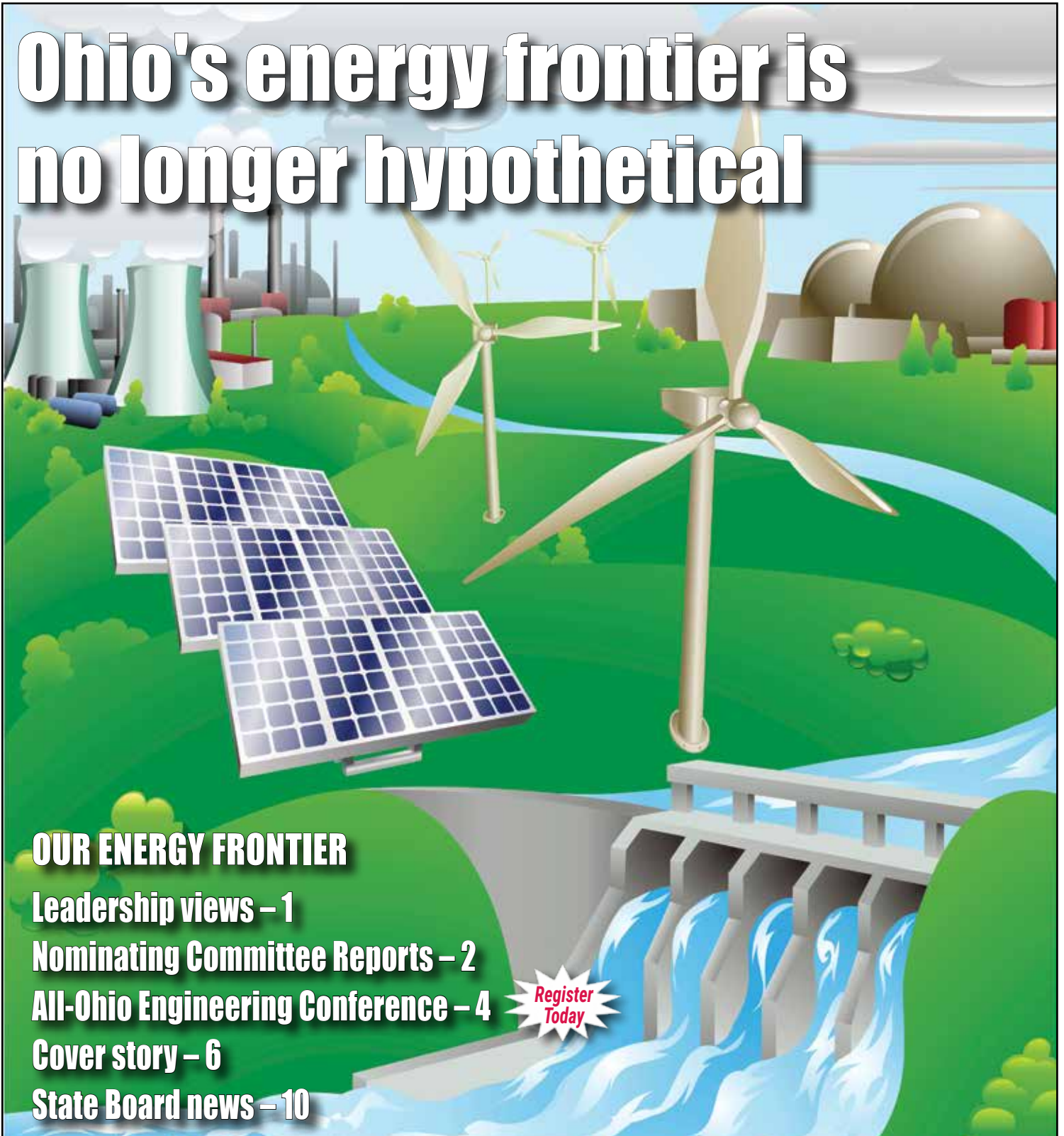
OhioENGINEER

Volume 86/Issue 1

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2026

Ohio's energy frontier is no longer hypothetical



OUR ENERGY FRONTIER

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LEADERSHIP VIEWS

*by Kevin Houser, MSME, PE, President,
Ohio Society of Professional Engineers*



Energy—from commodity to engineering constraint

Energy is no longer a background utility—it is now a primary design constraint. For professional engineers, this shift is reshaping decisions across disciplines, from materials selection and system architecture to risk management and lifecycle cost analysis.

Historically, energy was treated as an abundant input optimized mainly for reliability and upfront cost. Today, volatility in energy markets, decarbonization mandates, and grid constraints require engineers to think more holistically. Energy efficiency is no longer a “nice to have” — it is often the most cost-effective capacity addition available. A kilowatt not consumed avoids generation, transmission, and regulatory complexity.

This places renewed emphasis on fundamentals. Load profiling, demand diversity, and part-load performance matter more than peak ratings on a datasheet. Engineers who understand where, when, and why energy is used can unlock savings that no new technology alone can deliver. In many projects, operational strategy now yields greater returns than hardware upgrades.

At the same time, electrification and renewable integration are blurring traditional boundaries. Mechanical, electrical, and controls engineers must collaborate earlier and more deeply. Energy storage, power electronics, and software are becoming core competencies rather than specialties at the project margins.

Additionally, our evolving technology is putting even more emphasis on energy usage with new AI technologies driving annual energy usage from 460 TWh today to 1200 TWh by 2035. All of this requires additional generation means and its related infrastructure, as well as the minds of engineers to develop alternative and/or more efficient means of generation.

Ultimately, energy engineering is becoming systems engineering. Success will be defined by the ability to balance performance, resilience, emissions, and cost over decades—not just at commissioning. For professional engineers, this is both a challenge and an opportunity to reaffirm our role as stewards of safe, efficient, and sustainable infrastructure.

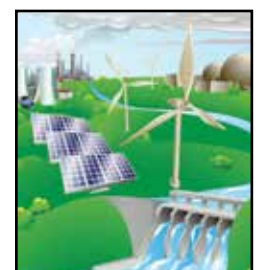


“Energy is no longer a background utility—it is now a primary design constraint.”

On the cover:

Electricity power generation. *Photo Credit: iStock.com/Chris Gorgio*

Ohio's energy system is transforming fast as data centers, factories, storage, nuclear fuel, and hydrogen projects surge, stressing transmission and demanding flexible, multi-day-reliable, cross-disciplinary engineering solutions statewide. **See “Our Energy Frontier,” page 6.**



NSPE-Ohio & EFO announce slates for June 13 elections at Annual Meetings at Embassy Suites Columbus Airport



Rodney Wilson, PE, the Ohio Society of Professional Engineers (NSPE-Ohio) Nominating Committee chair, and Scott Dilling, PE, the Engineers Foundation of Ohio (EFO) Nominating Committee chair, have announced the following slates of officers and board members as approved by their respective boards for fiscal year 2026-2027.

The NSPE-Ohio Annual Member Meeting, the EFO Annual Member Meeting, and the joint NSPE-Ohio/EFO Installation Ceremony will all take place in person on Saturday, June 13, 2026, at the

Embassy Suites Columbus Airport (2886 Airport Dr, Columbus, Ohio 43219) as part of the All-Ohio Engineering Conference.

Elections for the NSPE-Ohio positions shall be held at the NSPE-Ohio Annual Meeting on Saturday, June 13, 2026, at 1:30 p.m. All NSPE-Ohio members are invited. No registration fee is required of members to attend the NSPE-Ohio Annual Meeting.

Elections for the EFO positions shall be held at the EFO Annual Meeting on Saturday, June 13, 2026, at 2:30 p.m. All EFO members are invited. No registration

fee is required of members to attend the EFO Annual Meeting.

The NSPE-Ohio/EFO joint Installation Ceremony will be held on Saturday, June 13, 2026 at 4:00 p.m. **NSPE Vice President Leanne Panduren, PE, F.NSPE**, will install officers. Guests are welcome.

For more information about the All-Ohio Engineering Conference, including virtual CPD hours (June 11-12) and in-person activities (June 13), please refer to the registration materials on pages 4-5 or online at www.OhioEngineer.com.

NSPE-Ohio Board of Directors Slate for 2026-2027

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Rodney Wilson, PE	Tuscarawas Valley Chapter
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Vacant	Student Council President

EFO Board of Trustees Slate for 2026-2027

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Tony Grgas, Jr., PE	Southwest Ohio Chapter
Joe Cherry, PE, FNSPE	Toledo Regional Chapter
Rodney Wilson, PE	Tuscarawas Valley Chapter

DOE announces \$1.9B grid-upgrade investment

The U.S. Department of Energy’s Office of Electricity in March announced an approximately \$1.9 billion funding opportunity to accelerate urgently needed upgrades to the nation’s power grid. These investments will meet rising electricity demand and resource adequacy needs, while lowering electricity costs for American households and businesses. Projects selected through the Speed to Power through Accelerated Reconductoring and other Key Advanced Transmission Technology Upgrades (SPARK) funding opportunity will deliver fast and durable upgrades to the grid.

Selected projects will demonstrate how reconductoring—replacing existing power lines with higher-capacity conductors—paired with other Advanced Transmission Technologies (ATTs) can expand grid capacity, increase operational efficiency, lower prices for consumers, and improve overall system reliability and security of the nation’s electric grid.

“The United States must increase grid capacity to meet demand, and ensure the grid provides reliable power—day-in and day-out,” said Office of Electricity Assistant Secretary Katie Jereza. “Through this SPARK funding opportunity, we will stabilize and optimize grid operations to strengthen it for rapid growth.”

The SPARK opportunity builds on the Grid Resilience and Innovation Partnerships (GRIP) Program, which provided up to \$10.5 billion in competitive funding over five years to states, tribes, electric utilities, and other eligible recipients to strengthen grid resilience and innovation. The DOE’s announcement continues the mission of the GRIP Program under the SPARK funding opportunity, focusing on the rapid deployment of reductoring and other ATTs that expand transfer capability, strengthen reliability and resource adequacy, and reduce costs for consumers, all while making use of existing rights-of-way.

Applications are due May 20, 2026, and the DOE anticipates making selections in August.



NSPE-OH OHIO SOCIETY OF PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS

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Welcome to these new NSPE-Ohio members from January 31 through April 29, 2026:

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2026 All-Ohio Engineering Conference

Designs That Deliver

Practical Solutions for Ohio's Future



June 11-12 | Virtual CPD

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OHIO SOCIETY OF PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS

Designs That Deliver

June 11–12 | Virtual CPD Program

June 13 | Annual Meetings & Events

Embassy Suites Columbus Airport


WELCOME

...to the All-Ohio Engineering Conference, June 11–13. Earn 12 virtual CPD hours Thursday and Friday through seminars tied to our theme, “Designs That Deliver.” Join us Saturday for in-person meetings and an awards lunch celebrating connection and community.




DAY 1

THURSDAY, JUNE 11 – VIRTUAL CPD

- Large Direct Current Systems — Electrical Modeling (1.0 CPD Hour)8:30 – 9:30 a.m.
by David Nowicki, PE, Senior Lead Electrical Engineer, DLB Associates
- Board of Ethical Review: Case Review and Discussion (1.0 CPD Hour)9:45 – 10:45 a.m.
by Travis Rhoades, PE, FNSPE, Chairman, NSPE Board of Ethical Review 
- Focused Sanitary Sewer Evaluation Survey (1.0 CPD Hour) 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
by Gary Silcott, Jr., PE, ENV SP, Vice President, DLZ Ohio, Inc.
- A Field Evaluation of the Perpetual Pavement Concept (1.0 CPD Hour)12:30 – 1:30 p.m.
by Issam Khoury, PhD, PE, Director of ORITE and Associate Professor, Ohio University, and Mu'taz Al Issa, PhD, Associate Professor, Ohio University
- Geotechnical Ground Anchors (1.0 CPD Hour) 1:45 – 2:45 p.m.
by Sebastian Lobo-Guerrero, PhD, PE, DGE, Geotechnical Project Manager/ Laboratory Manager, AGES, Inc.
- Pilot Plant Protocol and Scale-Up (1.0 CPD Hour)3:00 – 4:00 p.m.
by Gregory Benz, BSChE, PE, President, Benz Technology International, Inc.

DAY 2

FRIDAY, JUNE 12 – VIRTUAL CPD

- Why U.S. Manufacturing? Challenges & Opportunities for Engineers (1.0 CPD Hour)8:30 – 9:30 a.m.
by Greg Kozera, PE, MS Environmental Engineering, Director of Marketing, Shale Crescent USA
- The Ohio Ethics Law & Engineers: Building a Culture of Integrity (1.0 CPD Hour).....9:45 – 10:45 a.m.
by Susan Willeke, Training & Communications Manager, Ohio Ethics Commission 
- Applications of Acoustics in Atmospheric Environments (1.0 CPD Hour)11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
by Garth Frazier, PhD, Senior Scientist II, University of Mississippi
- Innovative Maintenance of Traffic (MOT) Strategies (1.0 CPD Hour) 12:30 – 1:30 p.m.
by Brian Toombs, PE, Interchange Specialist/Director, Transportation Systems Design & Planning, Burgess & Niple
- Safety Audit of a Constructed Smartlane Project — Lessons Learned (1.0 CPD Hour)1:45 – 2:45 p.m.
by Brian Toombs, PE, Interchange Specialist/Director, Transportation Systems Design & Planning, Burgess & Niple
- Construction Over Subsidence-Prone Karst Terrain (1.0 CPD Hour)3:00 – 4:00 p.m.
by Abdolreza Osouli, PhD, PE, Executive Director, Marino Engineering Associates

DAY 3

SATURDAY, JUNE 13 – EMBASSY SUITES COLUMBUS AIRPORT

- Awards Luncheon..... 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
- Ohio Society of Professional Engineers (NSPE-Ohio) Annual Meeting..... 1:30 – 2:30 p.m.
- Engineers Foundation of Ohio (EFO) Annual Meeting2:30 – 3:30 p.m.
- Joint NSPE-Ohio/EFO Installation Ceremony4:00 – 5:00 p.m.
- NSPE-Ohio Year-End Dinner Celebration 6:00 p.m.



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Thursday-Only CPD	<input type="checkbox"/> \$114	<input type="checkbox"/> \$164
Friday-Only CPD	<input type="checkbox"/> \$105	<input type="checkbox"/> \$151
Saturday Annual Meetings	<input type="checkbox"/> No Cost	
Saturday Awards Luncheon	<input type="checkbox"/> \$43	<input type="checkbox"/> \$50
Dinner @ Firebirds <i>(Order off menu & pay on your own)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> RSVP	<input type="checkbox"/> RSVP
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Registration for all paid events requires advance payment. The NSPE-Ohio & EFO Annual Meetings are free to their respective members.

How You Will Benefit

The All-Ohio Engineering Conference is worth up to 12 CPD hours.

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Cancellation Policy & Substitutions

Registrants may withdraw from the program with full refund less a \$75 processing fee provided NSPE-Ohio is notified in writing (ospe@ohioengineer.com or via U.S. mail) by the registration deadline. After that time, registrants are responsible for the full registration fee. Substitutions of attendees may be made by the registration deadline, although nonmember differential rates will apply if a nonmember replaces an NSPE-Ohio member.

Continuing Professional Development Hours

NSPE-Ohio programs are designed to meet the requirements for Ohio's continuing professional development (CPD) law and State Board of Registration for Professional Engineers and Surveyors (State Board of Registration) rules. NSPE-Ohio programs are also designed to comply with the law in KY, NC and WV. The program also meets CPD requirements in many additional states. Be sure to consult those states' licensing authorities. For Ohio licensees, the State Board of Registration determines the acceptance of individual courses for CPD credit. The State Board of Registration does not preapprove any courses or course providers. Professionals should only claim credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the program. In compliance with the State Board of Registration's rules, we must track participant attendance for the virtual CPD program. Be sure to respond to the attendance verification questions so your attendance may be verified in case you are audited by the State. CPD Certificates of Attendance will be emailed after the program.

Seminar Handouts

The handouts for the CPD hours will be available to you online.

Sponsorship Opportunities Are Available

For information, including details on complimentary registration benefits, download NSPE-Ohio's 2026 Sponsorship Kit at www.OhioEngineer.com.

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OUR ENERGY FRONTIER

by Toby Zeringue, Curtis Sharp and Erin Eberts,
Consulting Engineers, EDG, Inc.

Ohio's energy frontier is no longer hypothetical



For much of the last decade, conversations about the future of energy sounded safely abstract. Engineers talked about electrification curves, increased load demand, a shift to renewables, transmission constraints, and emerging technologies as if they were events scheduled for some distant planning horizon.

That distance is gone.

Across Ohio, the energy frontier is no longer theoretical. It is arriving as signed load agreements, built substations, factory construction, and transmission projects are already on the ground. The challenge now is not imagining what the future grid might look like but engineering it fast enough to maintain a reliable grid.

When demand stops being incremental

Ohio has long been a manufacturing state, accustomed to large industrial loads. What is different today is the **scale and speed** of new demand.

Data centers, semiconductor manufacturing, and advanced materials facilities are appearing not as isolated projects, but as clusters. Individually, many of these sites rival the load of small cities. Collectively, they are reshaping regional planning assumptions.

Grid operators have publicly acknowledged that electricity demand is growing faster than at any time in recent memory, with large computing facilities responsible for much of that growth. While at the same time, there has been a reduction in the use of fossil fuels. Unlike traditional industrial loads, these facilities operate continuously, with little tolerance for interruption and limited flexibility to shift demand.

For engineers, this changes the math.

- Peak demand is no longer a seasonal problem.

- Reserve margins are stressed by round-the-clock load.
- Transmission constraints appear earlier in the planning cycle.

In central Ohio, these dynamics are already visible. Utilities have built high-capacity substations years ahead of expected load, only to find that project timelines and customer needs shift faster than traditional infrastructure can adapt.

A substation with nowhere to go

One of the clearest illustrations is in Licking County.

A 500-megawatt substation was constructed to serve a major semiconductor manufacturing campus, designed to deliver power comparable to that used by hundreds of thousands of homes. The infrastructure was completed early, technically ready, and physically connected.

Then the manufacturing schedule slipped. Instead of sitting idle, the substation became a case study in modern grid improvisation. Utility engineers and regulators worked through how unused capacity could temporarily serve nearby data centers without compromising future commitments. The result was a short-term reconfiguration that kept assets productive while preserving long-term reliability.

This kind of flexibility would have been unusual a decade ago; however, today, it is becoming a design requirement.

Reliability now means days, not hours

As demand grows, so does the need for reliability beyond traditional definitions.

Historically, grid storage was built to manage short disturbances. Four hours of battery capacity could smooth solar ramps or provide contingency support. That model works when variability

happens within a single day.

It breaks down during multi-day events.

Extended winter storms, prolonged heat waves, and regional fuel constraints expose the limits of short-duration resources. Engineers are now planning for scenarios where renewable generation remains constrained for days, not hours, while load remains constant.

This has accelerated interest in long-duration energy storage, particularly technologies capable of discharging for 24 to 100 hours.

One of the most closely watched examples sits just outside Ohio's border, where iron-air batteries are entering commercial production. Unlike lithium-ion systems, these batteries trade power density for endurance, using abundant materials to deliver energy over multiple days.

For Ohio planners, the significance is practical:

- Multi-day storage can replace peaking resources during extended stress events.
- It can defer or reduce transmission upgrades by shifting energy across time.
- It aligns well with steady industrial and data center loads.

Long-duration storage does not replace short-duration batteries. It complements them. Together, they begin to form a reliability stack that matches real-world operating conditions.

Old geology, new purpose

Ohio's energy future is not being built solely above ground.

The state already has extensive experience with underground energy infrastructure, particularly natural gas storage in depleted reservoirs. That expertise is now prompting discussions about subsurface energy storage, including

See "Our energy frontier," page 7

ing the possibility of using abandoned coal mines or engineered caverns for fuel storage. Underground energy storage is particularly beneficial when natural gas is needed for home heating and ensures that power will be available under the worst conditions.

Researchers and national laboratories are actively studying how legacy mining infrastructure could be repurposed, examining structural stability, water chemistry, and long-term performance. While still experimental, the concept reflects a broader theme: **the next frontier often builds on previous successes.**

For engineers familiar with the region's geology, hydrology, and environmental constraints, this work feels less exotic than it might elsewhere. Ground-breaking work in the area of carbon capture and sequestration has already been successfully conducted.

A quiet nuclear milestone in southern Ohio

Another frontier is unfolding far from the data center corridors, in Pike County.

There, engineers have restarted a capability the US largely lost decades ago: domestic uranium enrichment for advanced nuclear fuels. The facility has successfully produced high-assay low-enriched uranium (HALEU), which is required by many next generation reactor designs.

This matters because advanced reactors are no longer hypothetical. Several designs are moving through licensing and demonstration phases, with specific interest from industries that need clean, continuous power.

For Ohio, the implications are unusual but important:

- A domestic fuel supply reduces geopolitical risk.
- Advanced reactors could pair naturally with large, constant loads.
- Nuclear engineering and manufacturing expertise returns to the region.

This is not a promise for new plants tomorrow. It is the reassembly of a supply chain that makes future options real.

Hydrogen, cautiously advancing

The Appalachian region has been selected as a hub for clean hydrogen

development, with planning underway across Ohio, West Virginia, and Pennsylvania. Proposed projects span production, storage, transportation, and end uses ranging from transit to industrial feedstocks.

The engineering questions are significant:

- How to manage hydrogen embrittlement in existing infrastructure.
- How to transport and safely store large volumes underground.
- How to integrate hydrogen production with an already stressed grid.

Progress has been uneven, and uncertainty remains, particularly around economics and policy. Still, pilot projects continue. For sectors that cannot easily electrify, hydrogen remains one of the few viable options.

Transmission becomes the bottleneck

If there is a single constraint uniting all of these frontiers, it is transmission.

New generation, new storage, and new load all depend on a grid that can move power where it is needed. In Ohio, utilities are investing heavily in high-voltage lines, smart grid technologies, and advanced monitoring systems.

Smart meters and automated distribution equipment may not grab headlines, but they provide something increasingly valuable: reliability. Knowing where power flows, where congestion forms, and where outages begin allows engineers to operate closer to system limits without crossing them.

Transmission planning has also become more proactive. Instead of reacting to individual projects, planners

are modeling regional load growth and building capacity in advance, even when that means infrastructure sits underutilized for a time.

What this means for engineers

Ohio's energy frontier is not defined by a single technology but rather by **integration.**

Engineers working in the state over the next decade will need to think across disciplines:

- Electrical engineers coordinating with geotechnical specialists.
- Power planners working alongside industrial designers.
- Reliability engineers modeling events that last days, not minutes.

Several practical lessons are already emerging:

- Design flexibility into infrastructure from the start.
- Assume load will arrive faster than expected.

See "Our energy frontier," page 8



The advertisement features a blue background with a pattern of white and blue hexagons on the right side. The EDG logo, consisting of a stylized 'E' made of horizontal lines and the letters 'EDG', is positioned on the left. Below the logo, the text 'ENGINEERING WHAT'S NEXT' is written in large, white, sans-serif capital letters. Underneath, a paragraph in white text describes EDG's services: 'EDG, Inc. delivers high-quality, customized engineering and project solutions that help clients navigate the evolving energy landscape—supporting pathways to net zero efficiently, responsibly, and with confidence.' Below this is the slogan 'Quality Work Today. Creating Partnerships for Tomorrow.' in white. A QR code is located in the bottom right corner. At the very bottom, the website 'WWW.EDG.NET' and the phone number '614-918-2480' are listed in white.



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From "Our energy frontier," page 7

- Plan for multi-day reliability, not just peak hours.
- Treat legacy infrastructure as an asset, not a constraint.
- Federal funding influences clean energy programs.
- Fossil fuels may have resurgence for enhanced reliability.
- Consider support needs for community engagement of new projects.

The frontier is already here

Ohio's energy frontier is here today. It is local, immediate, and already under construction.

Substations are built ahead of schedule. Factories wait for power. Storage technologies move from pilot to production. Fuel supply chains reappear where they once vanished.

The challenge for Ohio's engineering community is not to predict what comes next, but to deliver systems that work while everything else is still changing.

That is no longer a future problem. It is today's work.

Toby Zeringue, Curtis Sharp and Erin Eberts are consulting engineers at EDG, Inc. Toby Zeringue is a business development and market analysis leader. Curtis Sharp, PE, is a process engineer experienced in new power generation technology assessments. Erin Eberts, PE, represents EDG's Westerville office and is experienced in system integration and evolving technology strategies. EDG operates globally with a wide range of engineering and project support, including electrical generation and grid assessment.



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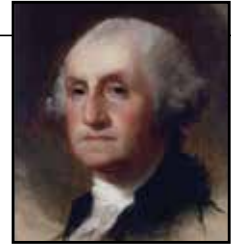
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Awards Luncheon celebrates engineering achievement and America's 250th with a special program and flag auction



George Washington, America's first engineer

As the United States marks its 250th anniversary, the Ohio Society of Professional Engineers (NSPE-Ohio) and the Engineers Foundation of Ohio (EFO) are proud to celebrate this historic moment by honoring the people who advance our profession. The 2025–2026 NSPE-Ohio & EFO Awards Luncheon—held Saturday, June 13 at the Embassy Suites Columbus Airport during the All-Ohio Engineering Conference—will recognize outstanding engineering professionals and exceptional student achievers.



Individuals whose leadership and innovation reflect the engineering spirit that has shaped our nation from its earliest days. Honorees from NSPE-Ohio, EFO, Imagine Engineering, Ohio MATH-COUNTS, and EFO's scholarship programs represent both the strength of the profession and the promise of its future.

To mark America's 250th anniversary, **attendees are encouraged to wear patriotic colors**—red, white, and blue. The luncheon will also feature special touches that reflect the significance of this milestone year.


This year's program highlights indi-

A highlight of the event will be


EFO's auction of an **American flag flown over George Washington's Mount Vernon**—fitting, as Washington is often remembered as America's first engineer and a prominent surveyor. The auction supports EFO's mission of advancing engineering education in Ohio *and* underscores how engineering has been central to our nation's story from its founding to today. Also being auctioned off are flags flown over the U.S. Capitol and the Ohio Capitol. Watch for details about the EFO auction in upcoming emails!

The America 250 Awards Luncheon promises to be a meaningful blend of recognition, reflection, and celebration. Join us as we honor Ohio's engineering leaders, support future innovators, and commemorate 250 years of American progress.


Register for the NSPE-Ohio and EFO Awards Luncheon as part of your All-Ohio Engineering Conference registration at <https://ohioengineer.com>.




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America 250 Awards Luncheon

Celebrate America 250 & Ohio engineering excellence!

 Saturday, June 13
 Embassy Suites Columbus Airport

Join us as we celebrate outstanding engineering professionals and exceptional student achievers.

Special EFO Fundraiser
EFO will auction an American flag flown over George Washington's Mount Vernon in 2026!
Watch for details.

Add your lunch registration when you register for the **All-Ohio Engineering Conference** at <https://ohioengineer.com>.

State Board issues final orders in five cases

Licenses revoked, suspension stayed with fine & application denied

The Ohio State Board of Registration for Professional Engineers and Surveyors issued final orders involving four people in five cases.

Each of two 'aiding & abetting' cases brought against a Columbus PE lead to the revocation of his license

A Columbus PE was the subject of two State Board cases. In the first, he was charged with violations of Ohio Revised Code Sections 4733.20(A)(2), (3), (5) and Ohio Administrative Code Section 4733-23-01. The State Board said he aided and abetted an individual and a firm to offer and provide engineering services in Ohio at a time when neither the individual nor the firm were licensed to provide engineering in Ohio. The State Board said, the Columbus PE was also found to have authorized the individual to affix his PE seal and signature to work product that failed to have an electronic authentication process attached to or logically associated with the electronic document and for failing to utilize an electronic signature that is unique to the person using it; capable of verification; under the sole control of the person using it; and linked to a document in such a manner that the electronic signature is invalidated if any data in the document is changed. The State Board conducted an adjudication hearing on April 29, 2025, in accordance with Ohio Revised Code Section 119. The State Board voted to accept the Hearing Examiner's Findings of Fact and Conclusions of PE Law and revoked the registrant's PE license.

In the second case against this



Columbus PE, he was charged with violations of Ohio Revised Code Sections 4733.20(A)(2), (5), 4733.16, 4733.22 and Ohio Administrative Code Sections 4733-35-02 and 4733-35-09. The State Board said he aided and abetted a firm to unlawfully offer and provide engineering services in Ohio at a time when the firm did not possess a certificate of authorization, in violation of Ohio Revised Code Sections 4733.16 and 4733.22. According to the State Board, he was also found to have engaged in professional misconduct when he refused to fulfill his contract to provide engineering services. The State Board conducted an adjudication hearing on April 29, 2025, in accordance with Ohio Revised Code Section 119. The State Board voted to accept the Hearing Examiner's Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law and revoked the registrant's PE license.

Guilty plea & felony convictions lead to revocation of PE license for Munroe Falls man

According to the State Board, a PE from Munroe Falls, pled guilty in the Columbiana County Court of Common Pleas to one count of specification for forfeiture of property (an unclassified felony), one count of possessing criminal tools (a felony of the fifth degree), and one count of attempted unlawful sexual conduct with a minor (a felony of the fourth degree). As a result of respondent's guilty plea, the PE received a ten-month prison term and must register as a tier 2 sexual offender.

The State Board conducted a hearing and after reviewing all the evidence voted to find the PE guilty of violating

Ohio Revised Code Sections 4733.20(A)(4) and revoked his Ohio professional engineer registration.

Dual registrant in Maumee receives stayed suspension on PS license & fine for minimum standards violation

A PE-PS registrant residing in Maumee, Ohio, was charged with providing a survey that failed to meet the Minimum Standards for Boundary Surveys by setting boundary monuments that were shorter than the thirty inch requirement, which is a violation of Ohio Administrative Code Section 4733-37-03(C)(2), the State Board said. The State Board conducted a hearing and after reviewing all the evidence voted to find the dual registrant guilty of the charges referenced above and suspend his Ohio PS registration for two years. The suspension was stayed provided that the registrant pays a \$1,000 fine within 45 days of receiving the State Board's order.

State Board denies PE license because applicant failed to report Kentucky action

A resident of Mount Juliet, Tennessee, was charged with failing to report disciplinary action taken against his PE license in Kentucky on his Ohio application for registration, said the State Board. Failing to report prior disciplinary actions on an Ohio application is a violation of Ohio Revised Code Sections 4733.20(A)(1) and 4733.22. The State Board conducted a hearing and after reviewing all the evidence voted to find the PE guilty of these charges and denied his Ohio PE license application.



State Board accepts seven settlement agreements in professional-practice and licensing-compliance matters

The Ohio State Board of Registration for Professional Engineers and Surveyors accepted settlement agreements in seven cases.

PE from Toledo enters settlement agreement for aiding & abetting unlicensed engineering activity

A Toledo PE was charged with aiding and abetting an unlicensed firm to unlawfully offer and provide engineering services in Ohio, in violation of Ohio Revised Code Sections 4733.20(A)(2), (3) and 4733.22, the State Board said. In order to avoid further administrative action for violations of Ohio Revised Code Chapter 4733, the PE entered into a settlement agreement, which included paying a \$1,000 fine.

Valley View PE fined for failing to properly seal engineering work

A PE living in Valley View was charged with failing to affix an Ohio PE seal and signature to engineering work product, in violation of Ohio Revised Code Sections 4733.14, 4733.20(A)(2), (3) and Ohio Administrative Code Section

4733-23-01, according to the State Board. To avoid further administrative action for violations of Ohio Revised Code Chapter 4733, the PE entered into a settlement agreement, which included paying a \$250 fine.

Failing to report prior disciplinary action leads to fines for Alabama PE & Wisconsin firm

In separate and unrelated cases, a Killen, Alabama PE and a Milwaukee, Wisconsin firm were each charged with failing to disclose disciplinary actions on Ohio applications in violation of Ohio Revised Code Sections 4733.20(A)(1) and 4733.22. The State Board said the Alabama PE failed to report disciplinary actions taken against his Alabama PE license on his 2022 Ohio PE license application while the Wisconsin firm failed to report prior disciplinary action taken against the firm on a 2025 certificate of authorization application submitted to the State Board.

To avoid further administrative action for violations of Ohio Revised Code Chapter 4733, the Alabama PE entered into a settlement agreement that included paying a \$500 fine, and the Wisconsin firm entered into a separate settlement agreement that included paying a \$1,000 fine.

Alabama & Connecticut engineering firms are fined for offering engineering services without a certificate of authorization

In separate and unrelated cases an engineering firm located in Birmingham, Alabama, and another located in Centerbrook, Connecticut, were each charged with offering and providing engineering services in Ohio at a time when the firm did not possess an Ohio engineering certificate of authorization (CoA), in violation of Ohio Revised Code Sections 4733.16 and 4733.22, the State Board said.

To avoid further administrative action for violations of Ohio Revised Code Chapter 4733, each firm entered into its own settlement agreement with the State Board, which included paying a \$1,000 fine.

Milford woman enters settlement agreement to reinstate revoked PE registration

A woman residing in Milford, Ohio, entered into a settlement agreement to reinstate her PE registration that had been revoked in May 2024, the State Board said. According to the State Board, the revocation resulted from falsifying a PE renewal application by falsely attesting that the continuing professional development (CPD) requirements in accordance with Ohio Revised Code Section 4733.151 had been completed. The State Board also said that she failed to cooperate with the Board by not responding to an audit and request for information and documents. Failing to obtain CPD in accordance with Ohio Revised Code Section 4733.151 and failing to cooperate with the State Board are violations of Ohio Revised Code Sections 4733.151(A), 4733.20(A)(1), (2), (5), 4733.22 and Ohio Administrative Code Section 4733-35-09. To reinstate the Ohio PE registration, she entered a settlement agreement, which included paying a \$2,000 fine, completing all missing CPD, and providing evidence of completed CPD in future renewals.

The Ohio State Board of Registration for Professional Engineers and Surveyors is the state agency that regulates and licenses the professions of engineering and surveying in Ohio. The Board licenses approximately 30,000 registered professional engineers and professional surveyors, 3,700 registered engineering and surveying firms and evaluates more than 2,200 licensing applications yearly. The Board's mission is to safeguard the health, safety, property, and welfare of the citizens of Ohio by providing effective licensure and regulation of professional engineers, professional surveyors and engineering and surveying firms.



NSPE-Ohio Year-End Dinner Celebration

Join Us for a Relaxed Evening Together

June 13 @ 6 p.m.

Firebirds Wood Fired Grill—Westerville

Join NSPE-Ohio President Kevin Houser, MSME, PE, for a casual, celebratory dinner. Enjoy great food and conversation while we cap off another successful program year!

Dinner Details

Participants will meet at the restaurant and order directly from the menu.

RSVP to Save Your Seat

Please RSVP for seating as part of your All-Ohio Engineering Conference registration at <https://ohioengineer.com>.

Ohio engineers celebrate their community



Every February, NSPE-Ohio carries messages of praise from the State of Ohio's top leaders to Engineers Week events statewide, ensuring engineers see their profession recognized at the highest levels of state government. Pictured, **NSPE-Ohio President-Elect Richard Springman, MSME, PE**, presents an Ohio Senate commendation—along with House and Governor's commendations—at the Central Ohio E-Week Luncheon at Villa Milano. Springman also delivered these commendations at Canton's E-Week Banquet.



Engineering leaders and attendees gather for an Engineers Week event at La Pizzeria in Canton. Left to right are **EFO Past President Scott Dilling, MSME, PE**; **University of Akron Civil Engineering Chair David Roke, PhD**, a past president of the Akron-Canton Area ASCE Chapter; **NSPE-Ohio Past President Rodney Wilson, PE**; **Candie Wilson**; and **NSPE-Ohio President-Elect Richard Springman, MSME, PE**.



NSPE-Ohio Vice President of Education **Joe Cherry, PE, F.NSPE**, presents state commendations during the Toledo Engineers Week Banquet, joined by E-Week Committee Chair and emcee **Laurie Adams, PE, PTOE, PTP**, of DGL Consulting Engineers.



Inset Photo: IEEE leaders **Richard Smelker, PE**, **Helen Winfrey**, and **Bob Walston**.

Above, NSPE-Ohio Franklin County Chapter leaders at the Central Ohio lunch. L-R: **Nathan Abele, PE**; **Rao Chitkela, PhD, PE, F.ASCE**; **Howard Jones, PE, F.NSPE**; **Tina Sutermeister, MBA, PE, F.NSPE**; **Tim McCarthy, PE**; and **Richard Smelker, PE**.



Engineers Week presenters in Columbus and Canton help lead the celebration. In the photo on the left, ASCE member **Carlos Vazquez, PE**, chair of the 2026 Central Ohio E-Week Committee, welcomes guests to the local luncheon. In the photo on the right, at the Canton E-Week Banquet, **Rick Buchanan, PE, F.NSPE**, presents four Canton Joint Engineering Council (CJEC) Scholarships — three to Stark State College engineering technology students and one to a University of Akron chemical engineering junior.



A panel discussion "Transform the Future — Bridging Academia & Industry" during the Central Ohio E-Week Luncheon in February featured insight from engineering deans across Ohio on emerging academic priorities, industry needs, and opportunities for collaboration. Left to right are the panel moderator **Nicholas Mill**, President at ADR & Associates; **David Tomasko, PhD**, Associate Dean for Academic Projects and Student Services, College of Engineering, Ohio State University; **Gül Kremer, PhD**, Dean of the School of Engineering, University of Dayton; **JD Yoder, PhD**, Dean of the TJ Smull College of Engineering, Ohio Northern University; and **David Juedes, PhD**, Associate Dean of Academics, Ohio University.

H2Ohio wetland project is completed to improve quality of water flowing in Lake Erie

As part of Governor Mike DeWine's H2Ohio initiative, the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) celebrated the completion of the H2Ohio Mallard Club Wildlife Area Wetland Connection and Restoration project.

The project enhances 43 acres of coastal marsh into high-quality wetlands that will treat nutrient runoff. The project will divert nutrient runoff into a wetland, where natural processes will reduce sediment, phosphorus, and nitrogen before the water returns to

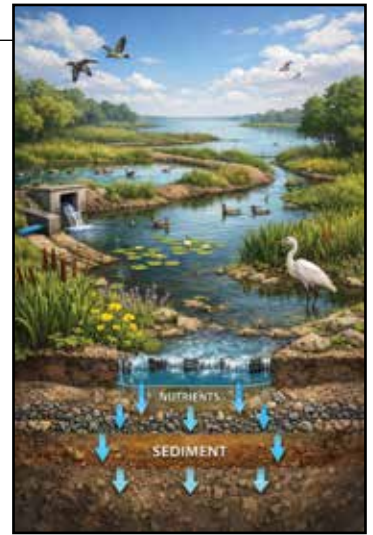
nearby ditches and ultimately flows to Lake Erie.

The completed wetland also connects to four existing wetlands located nearby, using a pump system, allowing the water to flow through all the wetlands to maximize filtration of nutrients and sediment.

Through H2Ohio, ODNR has 499 wetlands either complete or in progress across the state.



Ohio Governor Mike DeWine



H2Ohio is Governor DeWine's statewide water quality initiative designed to address complex issues impacting Ohio's waters. Launched in 2019, H2Ohio uses a comprehensive approach guided by science and data to reduce algal blooms, stop pollution, and improve access to clean drinking water by supporting best farming practices, road salt runoff reduction, litter cleanup, dam removal, land conservation, and water infrastructure revitalization. For details, visit <https://h2.ohio.gov>.

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AROUND OHIO: MEMBERS ON THE MOVE

Wooster City Engineer John Rice, PE, shows young visitors engineering materials at open house



At a City of Wooster Engineering Division open house event this winter, City Engineer and NSPE-Ohio member John Rice, PE, explains to a group of children about the various engineering construction materials on display.

City of Wooster Engineering Division open house guests also had the opportunity to learn more about Wooster's upcoming construction projects. Pictured, Maribeth Burns of the Wayne Economic Development Council reviews the map showing the project locations. >>>



Mahoning Valley, Northeast & Toledo Regional Chapter leaders serve



"Mahoning Valley MATHCOUNTS volunteer leaders at their local competition in February. Left to right are: **Benjamin Kroeck** (ENBRIDGE), Youngstown State President **Bill Johnson**, MVPSE MATHCOUNTS Chairman **Rick Deschenes PhD, PE**, **John Lapinski, PE**, of Buckeye Civil Design, and **Dave Ritter** and **Mary Ritter**, MATHCOUNTS Co-Chairs." — Submitted by MVSPE Secretary N.E. Nilsson



At the Toledo MATHCOUNTS Competition in February, NSPE-Ohio Toledo Regional Chapter Board members and MATHCOUNTS leaders pause to smile for the camera. Left to right are: **Jim Burtnett-Grigsby, PE**, and **Adrienne Taylor, PE**, both of SSOE Group; NSPE-Ohio President-Elect **Richard Springman, MSME, PE**, of the University of Toledo; and **Bernadette Caris** of TTL Engineering Services. Taylor and Caris are the co-chairs of the local program.



"The Mahoning Valley Chapter Board of Directors met in April at Steamers in Youngstown. From left to right are chapter leaders, including **Dr. Rick Deschenes**, a professor in the Rayen School of Engineering at Youngstown State University; **John Lapinski**; **Joe Warino**; **Bernie Petro**; **N.E. Nilsson**; and **Joe Gonda**. Congratulations go to John Lapinski, who recently wed, and to Dr. Deschenes — the new father of Sebastian." — Submitted by MVSPE Secretary N.E. Nilsson



"Youngstown State University President **Bill Johnson** and MVSPE MATHCOUNTS Chairman **Rick Deschenes, PhD, PE**, kick off the 2026 local competition in February." — Photo submitted by Mahoning Valley Chapter Secretary N.E. Nilsson

Northeast Chapter will bring state leaders to Cleveland



Sen. Antonio



Sen. Patton

The NSPE-Ohio Northeast Chapter's final spring seminar will be a May 15 bipartisan legislative briefing with **State Senator Nickie J. Antonio**, Democratic Leader and Ranking Member of the Senate Transportation Committee, and **State Senator Thomas F. Patton**, Chair of the Senate Transportation Committee.



Toledo Regional Chapter MATHCOUNTS co-chair **Adrienne Taylor, PE**, of SSOE Group shares team scores with teachers at the local competition in February.

Northeast Chapter hosts economic update for PEs



Chett Siefing, PE, F.NSPE, President of the NSPE-Ohio Northeast Chapter, introduces the March economic development program, setting the tone for another strong chapter event in Northeast Ohio.



Team NEO CEO **Matt Dolan's** seminar at the NSPE-Ohio Northeast Chapter program in March equipped engineers with a grounded understanding of how these developments may impact project planning and professional opportunities across the region.



Matt Dolan, CEO of Team NEO, presents the latest data on Northeast Ohio's economic landscape at the NSPE-Ohio Northeast Chapter's March program. His presentation covered industry growth, workforce trends, major investments, and regional initiatives that are shaping the future of engineering work.

Sneak Preview

The Ohio State University hosts the 2026 State MATHCOUNTS competition

A Glimpse of the Excitement

Fourth-place Ohio MATHCOUNTS finalist **Julian Hsiao** — a sixth grader from Hastings Middle School in Upper Arlington — and his coach **Lauren Piuanno** share a celebratory moment with Brutus at The Ohio State University's College of Engineering.

This fun snapshot is just a taste of the energy from this year's state competition — with full coverage, more photos, and all top-four highlights coming soon in an upcoming issue of *OhioENGINEER*.



Right: Ohio MATHCOUNTS Co-Chair **Mark Bloom, PE**, presents a special State Honorable Mention Award to **Ethan Hogan** of Brady Middle School for his merits at the Ohio competition in March. Bloom is also chair of the Northeast Chapter competition.



Left: EFO Past President and Ohio MATHCOUNTS Co-Chair **Scott Dilling, PE**, (center) NSPE-Ohio's Canton Regional Chapter runs the scoring room with his wife **Marcia Dilling** and **Jon Wheeler, PE**, of NSPE-Ohio's Dayton Chapter.

by Sydney Sanders, Director of Policy and Communications,
Governmental Policy Group, Inc. & RH Resources



The importance of political advocacy

For several years, we at Governmental Policy Group, Inc. & RH Resources (GPG-RHR) have been fortunate to be the lobbying firm representing the Ohio Society of Professional Engineers in and around the statehouse every day.

As a registered lobbyist in Ohio, advocating on behalf of our clients isn't just part of my job, it's what I do every day. That vantage point makes one thing very clear: advocacy matters.

As a member of NSPE-Ohio, it may feel like advocacy happens behind the scenes. You pay dues, receive updates, and trust that your organization is representing your interests. And to be clear, that work is happening. Advocacy is most effective when it's driven not just by lobbyists, but by the professionals who are directly affected by those policies.

Every day, policymakers are involved in decisions shaping your profession by enacting policies that impact how you do your job. While elected officials are tasked with serving their constituents, it would be impossible for them to understand every single complex issue that comes before them.

As a lobbyist, I can communicate these policy decisions, analyze legislation, and build relationships with lawmakers. What I cannot do as a lobbyist, however, is feel the direct impact that some of those decisions may have on your life as a professional engineer.

Furthermore, lawmakers want to hear from the people they represent, not just contract lobbyists. We consistently hear that policymakers want to rely on the expertise of the people who are really doing the work. They want to understand how a policy decision impacts real life—not just on paper.

Clearly, you can see where this is going. Getting involved with political advocacy is crucial to the protection of your profession.

You don't need to be a policy expert or a seasoned advocate to make a difference. Simply taking the time to send an email or make a call sharing your professional experience or opinion adds a level of authenticity that cannot be replicated. It helps reinforce that policy is not theoretical—it has tangible consequences.

Another key aspect of advocacy is developing relationships early. Policymakers rely on trusted voices long before issues reach a crisis point, and those relationships help ensure your perspective is understood when it matters most.

To that end, advocacy is not a one-time effort. The most successful advocates are those that build sustained relationships and remain engaged over time. Establishing long-standing relationships takes time but ultimately builds trust and sustainability. At the end of the day, advocacy isn't about being the loudest in the room. It's about being the most trusted.

"Advocacy isn't about being the loudest in the room. It's about being the most trusted."



For some people, getting involved with advocacy can take some time. If you aren't ready to jump right in with meetings, calls, tours, etc., there are more ways to dip your toe in the world of advocacy.

Many legislators publish newsletters that you can sign up for through their official state website pages. Additionally, following legislators on social media can be an easy way to stay up-to-date with what they are working on. Finally, building a baseline understanding of how Ohio's legislative process works will help build confidence for when you're ready to get more involved.

Being trusted to represent NSPE-Ohio is something we truly value at GPG-RHR. While we live and breathe this work every day, it is your voices that ultimately drive impact.

Ohio's legislative and regulatory environment is dynamic, with decisions made in Columbus affecting everything from licensing and workforce standards to reimbursement rates and tax policy. If your association is not actively participating in the process, your members' interests are being defined by others—often by those with competing priorities.

One of the most important realities to understand is that advocacy at the state level is highly relationship-driven. Legislators and their staff are managing a wide array of issues, and they rely heavily on trusted stakeholders to provide credible, concise, and timely information.

That is where professional associations have a unique advantage: you represent organized expertise. When you show up prepared and consistent, you become a go-to resource.

Getting involved does not require a massive budget or a full-time lobbying team, but it does require intentionality. The first step is building a baseline understanding of how Ohio's legislative process works. Know the committee structure, understand when the legislature is in session, and track the bills that affect your industry. Many associations make the mistake of engaging too late—often when a bill is already moving quickly. Early engagement is far more effective.

Another key strategy is developing relationships before you need them. Don't wait for a crisis to introduce yourself to your state representative or senator. Schedule a simple meet-and-greet, invite them to tour your facilities, or include them in association events. When policymakers can see firsthand how your profession impacts their constituents, your advocacy becomes more tangible and persuasive.

Encourage your members to build their own relationships with legislators, write emails, and participate in advocacy days. Provide them with clear talking points and make the process as simple as possible. The more coordinated your grassroots efforts are, the more impact they will have.

Timing and messaging are also critical. In Ohio, committee hearings are where much of the real work happens. Submitting written testimony, providing expert witnesses, and following up with committee members can significantly influence a bill's trajectory.

When crafting your message, focus on clarity and relevance. Avoid jargon, emphasize local impact, and be prepared to offer solutions—not just opposition.

See "Political advocacy," page 17

136th Ohio General Assembly: Bills monitored by NSPE-Ohio

COMPUTER REGULATION, AI RISK MANAGEMENT, House Bill 392 (Fischer, Demetriou)	To limit further regulation of certain computational systems, require risk management policies for AI-controlled critical infrastructure, and to name this act the Ohio Right to Compute Act.	<u>Status:</u> 2/3/2026 - BILL AMENDED, House Technology and Innovation, (4th Hearing)
AMUSEMENT RIDE CLASSIFICATION CHANGES, House Bill 433 (Klopfenstein)	To alter the current amusement ride classification structure for purposes of the annual inspection and reinspection fees.	<u>Status:</u> 3/3/2026 - Senate Agriculture and Natural Resources, (2nd Hearing)
PUBLIC IMPROVEMENT CONTRACTS-LABOR AGREEMENTS, House Bill 512 (Claggett, Workman)	To modify the law regarding project labor agreements in public improvement contracts.	<u>Status:</u> 10/15/2025 - Referred to House Commerce and Labor
LIMIT RETAINAGE-PRIVATE CONSTRUCTION, House Bill 568 (Mathews, Santucci)	To limit retainage in certain private construction projects.	<u>Status:</u> 2/17/2026 - House Small Business, (3rd Hearing)
CODIFY SPEARIN DOCTRINE-PUBLIC CONSTRUCTION, House Bill 605 (Workman)	To codify the Spearin doctrine in public construction contracts.	<u>Status:</u> 3/18/2026 - House Commerce and Labor, (1st Hearing)
LICENSURE-AI RISK MITIGATION, House Bill 628 (Mathews)	To create an independent verification organization license for verifying artificial intelligence risk mitigation.	<u>Status:</u> 3/17/2026 - House Technology and Innovation, (3rd Hearing)
LAW CHANGES-SEWAGE TREATMENT SYSTEMS, House Bill 640 (Pizzulli)	To make changes to the law governing household sewage treatment systems.	<u>Status:</u> 2/18/2026 - Referred to House Health
CREATE DATA CENTER STUDY COMMISSION, House Bill 646 (Click, Deeter)	To create the Data Center Study Commission.	<u>Status:</u> 3/25/2026 - Referred to Senate Financial Institutions, Insurance and Technology
CREATE FRONTIER TECHNOLOGIES, QUANTUM COMMISSION, House Bill 650 (Workman)	To establish the Frontier Technologies and Quantum Commission.	<u>Status:</u> 4/14/2026 - Senate Financial Institutions, Insurance and Technology, (1st Hearing)
CREATE AI STUDY COMMISSION, House Bill 663 (Cockley, Fischer)	To create the Artificial Intelligence Study Commission to study and make recommendations regarding the use of artificial intelligence in state and local government.	<u>Status:</u> 2/4/2026 - Referred to House Technology and Innovation
CHANGE LAWS-OIL, GAS WELLS, Senate Bill 219 (Landis)	To make changes to the law governing oil and gas wells.	<u>Status:</u> 3/18/2026 - House Natural Resources, (2nd Hearing)
REQUIRE CONSTRUCTION CONTRACTS-VARIATION FROM STANDARD FORM, Senate Bill 262 (Blessing)	To require a public authority or other party to a construction contract to note variations from an industry standard form.	<u>Status:</u> 3/18/2026 - Referred to House Judiciary
REGARDING ADMINISTRATIVE RULES-NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS, Senate Bill 268 (Lang, Cutrona)	Regarding regulatory-focused nongovernmental organizations and model administrative rules adopted by state agencies.	<u>Status:</u> 3/24/2026 - Senate General Government, (3rd Hearing)

* As of April 22, 2026. This is a partial list of the bills that NSPE-Ohio is tracking in the 136th Ohio General Assembly.

From "Political advocacy," page 16

It's also worth noting that advocacy is not solely about legislation. State agencies and regulatory boards play a significant role in shaping policy through rulemaking. Monitoring these processes and submitting comments can be just as important as tracking bills in the General Assembly.

Finally, consistency is what separates effective advocates from occasional participants. Advocacy is not a one-time effort

tied to a single issue—it is an ongoing commitment. Establish a regular presence, communicate frequently, and follow through on your engagements. Over time, this builds credibility and influence.

In my experience, the associations that succeed in Ohio are those that view advocacy as an investment rather than an obligation. They understand that policy decisions have long-term implications for

their members and that staying engaged is essential to protecting and advancing their profession.

If there is one takeaway, it is this: your voice matters, but only if it is used. By being proactive, strategic, and collaborative, your association can play a meaningful role in shaping the policies that affect your industry and the communities you serve.



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