

Now is the Time to Join an ACEC Ohio Committee



Joining an ACEC Ohio committee offers numerous benefits. You'll have the opportunity to contribute to the industry, share best practices, discuss challenges and solutions, and gain valuable insights into industry trends, all while networking with peers. Our committees provide essential professional development as you advance in your career, enhance client relations, and help shape our industry's voice.

See below our most current committee updates:

Communications: The Committee met virtually on October 11th for the second time this year. Our Committee Chair, Nick Hoffman introduced our new Vice Chair, Rachel Headings to begin the meeting. The success of last May's Marketing Forum and planning for timing of next year's forum was discussed. Members of the Committee are working to create ideas for a 30-minute ACEC Research Institute podcast. The committee discussed social media engagement throughout the last year and the date and location of our 2025 EEAs. The Communications Committee will meet virtually on November 26, 2024.

Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion: The committee remains committed to promoting inclusivity within our organization. Last year, we successfully launched ACEC Ohio Young Professional and Early Career Happy Hour Events across all four regional chapters, and we continued those initiatives this year. Notably, our Southwest Chapter hosted a partnering event with WTS, while the Central Chapter collaborated with the Ohio Department of Transportation District 6 and the City of Columbus. In October, members of our committee hosted a session at OTEC. Our presentation explored the crucial role of **Employee Resource**

Groups (ERGs) in enhancing recruitment, retention, and fostering an inclusive culture within our organizations.

Environment & Energy: The committee met virtually on October 16 with new Co Chairs Mike Keller, and Kevin White. The agenda included a grant funds discussion and a surface water, drinking water, and DEFA updates all by OEPA Offices. The committee discussed the potential for an environmental conference in the spring, partnering with ODOT. The committee is soliciting volunteers for a subcommittee to brainstorm breakout topics for the environmental conference. The E&E Committee will meet virtually on January 22, 2025.

Government Affairs: The committee had their first meeting on October 18th, discussing the committee work plan and receiving a legislative update from Kevin Futryk of Government Advantage Group. The legislature does not plan to be in session until after the election and only has a few priorities to address including the resolution to put the OPWC reauthorization on the May 2025 ballot.

Member Services: The Member Services committee plays a crucial role in ensuring the retention and growth of ACEC Ohio member firms. The committee meets for the first time this fiscal year on October 31st at 9:00 AM. Goals for 2024-2025 include continuing to host virtual new member orientations biannually and develop ACEC Ohio's plan for gaining and retaining Ohio membership.

PAC Trustees: The ACEC Ohio PAC runs on the calendar year versus the fiscal year. The PAC Trustees are actively reaching out to member companies who have not met their PAC goal for 2024. The Trustees will be planning PAC appreciation event and Kick-Off in early 2025 and assisting with regional fly-ins at the chapter level.

Planning: The next strategic plan is underway; a survey was sent out to all members with the findings used at the basis of a strategic planning retreat on October 17th. (see Beth's message)

Scholarship: The committee is partnering with the [ACEC Research Institute](#) to enhance our scholarship applications. ACEC Ohio annually awards four scholarships totaling \$2,500 each! The deadline to submit scholarships is **Monday, January 13, 2025**.

Small Firms: The Small Firms Committee will meet in person next Tuesday, October 29 at the ACEC Ohio Office. The agenda includes the ODOT Prequalification Manual, the DBE legal decision and the status of the program moving forward, managing remote employees from multiple offices, and more.

Transportation: The committee met virtually on October 3rd discussion included new pre-qualifications, and LOI/GES streamlining. The committee will meet in person on November 7th at 1pm. The new ODOT Director, Pam Vest-Boratyn, will be in attendance.

Vertical Development: The committee represents the interests of companies that provide services as either prime designers or subconsultants to architects in the vertical construction market. In June, committee chairs Mike Mazzoli and Rick Allen presented virtually at OSPE's conference on the importance of Special Inspections. We are hosting our fall Private Sector Forum on November 14, featuring special guests Thomas Grogan, Senior Director of Economics and Market Intelligence, and Diana O'Lare, Director of Market Intelligence at ACEC National. Recently, committee members have been collaborating with the Ohio Facilities Construction Commission to provide industry feedback on CMR Redlines.

Workforce Development: The Workforce Development Committee meets virtually monthly. This year, the committee has focused efforts on seeking volunteers to serve as mentors and judges at STEM organizations, adjunct professors, speakers at schools and universities, and other volunteer opportunities. The committee wore buttons and handed out cards at OTEC this year to raise awareness of the [ACEC Ohio Workforce Development webpage](#), which mentions these volunteer opportunities and features a sign-up sheet for those interested in volunteer opportunities. The committee also set up a Virtual Workforce Development Roadshow for all four ACEC Ohio Chapters to attend. The roadshow will host representatives from four STEM organizations to inform our members of the work they do and how our members can get involved. The Virtual Roadshow will take place on November 13 and is free to attend.