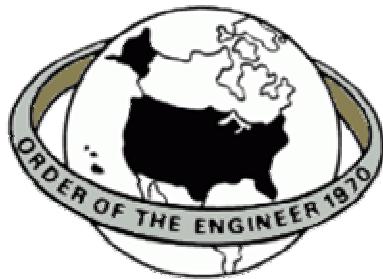


The Engineer's Ring and the Obligation of an Engineer

Uniting the Engineering Profession



What is an Engineer's Ring?

The Engineer's Ring in the United States is a stainless steel ring, worn on the fifth finger of the working hand by engineers who have accepted the Obligation of an Engineer in a Ring Ceremony. In Canada, the Engineer's Ring is a faceted ring accepted by engineers inducted into the Ritual of the Calling of an Engineer in a private ceremony.

Who can participate in an Engineer's Ring Ceremony?

Any engineer is eligible for induction if he or she has graduated from an ABET-accredited engineering program or holds a license as a Professional Engineer. Students enrolled in ABET-accredited engineering degree programs are eligible if they are within two academic terms. Other candidates may be considered eligible because of equivalent credentials, subject to the approval of the National Board of Governors.

Anyone may witness the induction ceremony. Families are often invited as guests.

How is the Order of the Engineer governed?

The Order is governed at the national level by a National Board of Governors, composed of no fewer than eight and no more than 21 engineers who serve three-year terms. The officers are a chair, a vice-chair, a secretary, and a treasurer. The National Board establishes policy, directs the national office, and charters local "Links" governed by local boards of governors. Such "Links" are granted the right to conduct Ring Ceremonies.

What is a Link?

A Link is a local board of governors chartered by the National Board of governors for the purpose of holding Engineer's Ring Ceremonies. Links have been established by universities, engineering societies and government engineering organizations.

What is the connection between the Order of the Engineer and other American engineering organizations?

There is no formal connection between the Order of the Engineer and other organizations; it is independent. However, the Order recognizes ABET's accreditation of engineering programs as a primary measurement of educational credentials for an engineer in the United States. In addition, Links of the Order have been chartered to various local components of Tau Beta Pi, NSPE, ASCE, and many other engineering societies.

Where was the Order of the Engineer founded?

During the 1960s, Ohio engineers attempted without success to extend the Canadian Ring Ceremony into American engineering schools. The first Engineer's Ring Ceremony in the United States was conducted in 1970 by students at Cleveland State University's Fenn College of Engineering. In 1972, the Order of the Engineer was incorporated in Ohio, and tacit approval was obtained from the Canadian Wardens. The Order's national office remained in Ohio until 1987 when it was relocated to the United Engineering Center in New York City.

What are the membership activities of the Order of the Engineer after induction through a Ring Ceremony?

There are no dues and no meetings of the Order of the Engineer. Inductees are encouraged to wear the ring and to display the signed Obligation certificate as visible reminders of the publicly accepted Obligation as a contract with themselves.

Is the Ring Ceremony program aimed at engineering students or at practicing engineers?

Both. The impact of the formal program is likely to be greatest if inductees are engineering students about to enter the profession. However, until there is a preponderance of practicing engineers in the U.S. who have participated, as there is now in Canada, there will be a place for Ring Ceremonies at engineering functions. Although older practicing engineers may not be as impressionable as graduating seniors, the reminder of the common purpose of all engineers is a message which cannot be too often repeated.

Who should be contacted for further information about the Order of the Engineer?

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