

ORDER OF THE ENGINEER

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Letter from the Chair

First, I would like to sincerely thank our immediate Past Chair, the esteemed Paul Hale, Jr. Ph.D, P.E. (Professor Emeritus Louisiana Tech) for his continued guidance, leadership and friendship these past years. Through his “quiet” leadership our organization has continued to grow in ways we would not have imagined ten years ago.

When I first joined The Board in 2008 it was quite evident to me that this organization was differentiated not only by its overarching purpose, but by the completely altruistic and ego-less motives of those that have served in its leadership over the last 50-years. I would listen to our leadership speak of needing to reach further into our institutions and the general engineering population to spread the word about the significance of The Order and the importance of the ethical practice of engineering. I heard of the need for self-awareness of each individual engineer and the awesome responsibility that we (Engineers) have to the public which we serve. I heard that that our service to the public in whatever discipline we focus on, is an earned trust and respect that we must continually and steadfastly work to renew in the execution of our work in this ever-changing engineering landscape. What a powerful message this was for me to hear as I began my journey with The Order!

Since that time in 2008, I have seen our Board refocus with renewed energy and passion. I have seen our new Board members bring new ideas and refreshing perspectives that have continued to challenge us all to “do more” and be more present in the greater engineering and academic community. Throughout this time, I have come to know and respect some of our nations key academic and industry leaders, each extraordinarily passionate about the value of our profession and of this Organization’s mission.

Most important to me personally has been the everyday interaction with the academic community through each induction ceremony, not only through the connection to the student inductees but also through the Deans, supporting faculty and also the local link coordinators that work so hard to organize these events. To see and experience that sense of pride and devotion that each inductee expresses as they take their oath and receive their ring has been truly enriching. Each time reminds me about what is important to me as a professional, to protect the health, safety and

welfare of the public that we serve within the built environment.

What has been amazing to witness since my start in 2008 is the continued growth of the organization. Since 2009 we have added 65 Links and have inducted 155,000 engineers into The Order with 22,000 new members in the last year alone! This to me speaks to the continual and renewed recognition of the need for ethics-based practice considering the ever-evolving technologies that, more than ever before, challenges how we think, learn, operate and do business.

All this as we are now readying for a major celebration of our 50th year of existence. Yes, it was in 1970 in a small event at Cleveland State University, then the Washkewicz “Fenn” College of Engineering, that The Order of the Engineer was born and 2020 will mark our Golden Anniversary. It is hard to imagine that since that time, The Order has inducted an estimated half-million engineers into its ranks! To celebrate this historical point in time for The Order, our Planning Committee has been working feverishly over the last 12 months, in collaboration with Cleveland State University (CSU), to plan a special event and banquet that will take place at CSU in April 2020. This event will include a traditional Link Induction Ceremony, an ethics forum that will be moderated by Mr. Arthur “Art” Schwartz, Deputy Executive Director and General Counsel for the National Society of Professional Engineers (NSPE), followed by a celebration and awards banquet all to be held on campus at CSU. We are very excited about this event and have been equally excited at how much this event means to the faculty and staff at CSU and their collective engineering heritage. Watch for more on this event in the coming months!

Speaking of celebrations, I am very pleased to recognize this year’s recipient of the Link Coordinator Award, **Dr. “Sue” Niezgoda, PhD, P.E.**, Civil Engineering Professor at Gonzaga University. See article inset later in the newsletter. This individual exemplifies link coordinators that have a special impact on young engineers before they begin their practicing careers. Congratulations Sue!

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Finally, I would also like to thank retiring long-time Governors Scott Grainger, P.E., F.NSPE, Dr. Bruce Westermo, PhD, Dr. Debra Larson, PhD, P.E., and Larry Feeser, P.E. for their collective contributions to OE over the years. Best of luck to each of you. At the same time, we welcome new Board members Ms. Sarah Straub Jakse (Texas) and Mr. Gregory Brands, P.E., F.NSPE (Idaho) who came aboard this past October. Congratulations all! One more shout out I must offer is for our own Executive Director, **Ms. Paula Ostaff**, who has been serving The Order since 1999 and this year is celebrating her 20th year with The Order. I can say with confidence that she continues to be the lifeblood of this organization and we would not be as successful without her (and her husband John!) continued efforts and hard work these years. We are forever grateful!

In closing, I am deeply grateful to have served this organization at any level as I have always felt it is very important that we, as engineers, give back to the greater engineering community. To have this opportunity is certainly an honor but also tremendously humbling when considering the collective accomplishments of my predecessors and current fellow board members. I am looking forward to working with current Vice-Chair Dr. Steven Schreiner, PhD, P.E. and the rest of our Board to continue with our initiatives as we move this wonderful organization forward for the next 50-years!

Sincerely,

Roch D. Larochelle, P.E., F.NSPE
Chair, Board of Governors

2018 Outstanding Link Coordinator



In 2018 the Order’s *Recognition Committee* selected a single individual for our *Outstanding Link Coordinator Award*. This award was developed by the Order in 2013 to recognize the outstanding efforts of Link Coordinators throughout the Nation who have provided exemplary service to the Order in the development, organization, and administration of a Regional Link and their Ceremonies. Each year, up to four individual awards are available for presentation to eligible candidates representing each of the four US Regions.

According to Stephen Silliman, Dean of the School of Engineering and Applied Science at Gonzaga University, Dr. Sue Niezgoda (2nd left) is a truly exceptional faculty member in so many ways that it is difficult to summarize in a simple letter of recommendation. Dean Silliman stated that Dr. Niezgoda (Dr. “Sue” based on love and respect of her students) is one of the most talented and dedicated teachers that he has known in his 30+ years of university teaching. “Her talent and love for teaching are reflected in her dedication to self-examination and improvement, and her students both in the classroom and in the field.”

Dr. Niezgoda was responsible for establishing the Gonzaga University Link of the Order of the Engineer which is an important part of the activities for Gonzaga seniors as they move towards graduation. Dr. Niezgoda has made significant contributions through her professional efforts. These efforts have led to outcomes both within technical literature and as reflected in her students becoming deeply involved in applied research projects. She is the lead author on the 2014 “Body of Knowledge on Stream Restoration”. She has involved a number of students both in collaborative work with the City of Spokane, WA regarding permeable pavements, and in ongoing studies related to hydrologic and geomorphic influences of beaver dams and their analogs.

Finally, Dr. Niezgoda is a member of the Executive Committee of the Board of Directors for River Restoration Northwest (a nonprofit scientific and educational organization).

Kenneth L. McGowan, Awards Committee

Assistance with Order Induction Ceremonies

If your link needs any kind of assistance in putting on an induction ceremony at your institution, please contact OE Executive Director Paula Ostaff. The Order has Governors in each region of the US that are assigned to each of the OE’s links. These Governors are available to participate in ceremonies. Paula’s email is orderofeng@gmail.com and her office phone no. is 480-513-3640 or 866-ENG-RING (866-364-7464).

Ethics Corner

Graduating engineering students should not only be thinking about landing their first permanent engineering position following graduation, but also about what their longer term responsibilities are relative to ethics, ethical conduct and professionalism.

Inasmuch as ethics is at the core of the way business is conducted, every engineering company should have a code of ethics and principles in place.

According to Merriam-Webster, ethics is defined as a set of moral principles; a theory or system of moral values.

- Ethics refers to principles that define behavior as right, good, and proper. Such principles do not always dictate a “moral” course of action, but provide a means of evaluating and deciding among competing options.
- The terms “ethics” and “values” are not interchangeable. Ethics is concerned with how a moral person should behave, whereas values are the inner judgments that determine how a person actually behaves.

Here are some business/ethics considerations:

- What do I need to do, to do business?
- What is the right thing to do, to do business?
- What will influence me, while doing business?
- What will I compromise, to do business?
- What are my personal moral requirements?

All engineers should own their work and prioritize serving the public good. Graduating engineering students should strongly consider licensure that emphasizes ethics, law and responsible professional practice. Engineering should be viewed the same as medicine and law - as a profession rather than simply an occupation.

Being a licensed professional engineer means more than just holding a certificate and possessing technical competence. It is a commitment to hold the public health, safety and welfare above all other considerations. A mechanical engineering professor,

Steven Collins, P.E., uses the following quote attributed to Winston Churchill as his guiding philosophy:

“The duty of a university is to teach wisdom, not a trade; character, not technicalities. We want a lot of engineers in the modern world, but we do not want a world of engineers.”

Another quote by Alexander Solzhenitsyn (a Russian novelist, historian, and outspoken critic of the Soviet Union and Communism): “Even the most rational approach to ethics is defenseless if there isn’t will to do what is right.”

Kenneth L. McGowan, P.E., F.NSPE
Past OE Chair

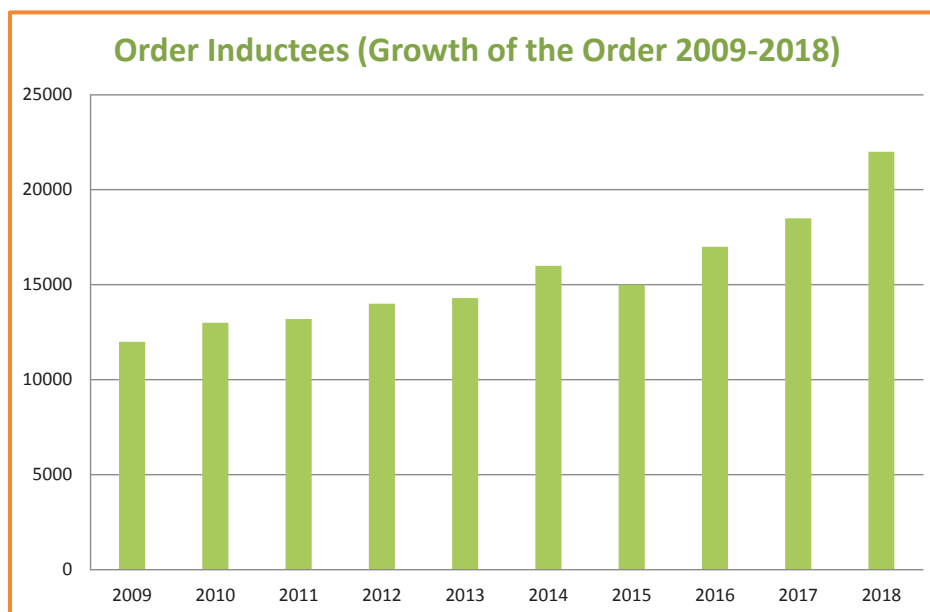
Communications Update

The Order of the Engineer Communications Committee is working on some exciting initiatives in 2019. Our main efforts will be focused on evaluating and improving our website (<http://www.order-of-the-engineer.org/>) and establishing social media to connect with links across the country. Our goal is to get more photos and content to better promote the Order of the Engineer and support planning and execution of induction ceremonies.

As we work on these initiatives, we recommend that links continue to document and share induction ceremony photos. One great way to preserve these memories is identifying a volunteer photographer to be responsible for capturing the whole event including the audience, inductees, and presenters. If you share your photos on social media, consider using the tag “#OrderoftheEngineer”.

We look forward to continuing to advance our connection with all 230 links. If you have anything to share such as photos, comments, or questions on our communications strategy, don’t hesitate to contact Sarah Straub Jakse (SarEliStraub@gmail.com).

Sarah Straub Jakse
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