



Grainger Consulting, Inc.

*Fire Protection / Forensic Engineering * Code Consulting*

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ORDER OF THE ENGINEER

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The OE provides public and personal recognition of your dedication, as an engineer, to the pursuit of a learned profession in the spirit of public service in the United States. The identifier is a stainless steel ring on the little finger of the working hand.

Are you eligible? You are if you are a practicing engineer or an engineering student in the last semester of an ABET accredited curriculum. Licensure as a Professional Engineer (PE) is not required.

The induction ceremony includes signing The Obligation which states:

“I am an Engineer. In my profession I take deep pride. To it I owe solemn obligations. Since the Stone Age, human progress has been spurred by the engineering genius. Engineers have made usable Nature’s vast resources of material and energy for Humanity’s benefit. Engineers have vitalized and turned to practical use the principles of science and the means of technology. Were it not for this heritage of accumulated experience, my efforts would be feeble.

I, your name, pledge to practice integrity and fair dealing, tolerance and respect; and to uphold devotion to the standards and the dignity of my profession, conscious always that my skill carries with it the obligation to serve humanity by making the best us of the Earth’s precious wealth.

As an Engineer, I shall participate in none but honest enterprises. When needed, my skill and knowledge shall be given without reservation for the public good. In the performance of duty and in fidelity to my profession, I shall give the utmost.”

There are no further meetings that members are expected to attend and no dues beyond the initial induction fee which is essentially the cost of the ring and the certificate. The Order exists for the sole purpose of inducting members, having them take The Obligation, thereby reminding participating Engineers of their responsibility to the public, similar to the Hippocratic Oath taken by medical doctors.

The first ceremony in the US was June 4th, 1970 at the Cleveland Engineering and Scientific Center auditorium, Cleveland State University. The first joint ceremony of a university and professional engineering society was held in Akron, Ohio in 1971. The concept for the OE in the US stems from a Canadian Engineering practice that began in 1926. The Canadian ritual included the Rudyard Kipling Oath and presentation of an iron ring to be worn on the little finger of the working hand. The early Canadian iron rings may have represented the structural members of a major railroad bridge that failed, in about 1906, causing many fatalities.

The OE is a simple organization with an important but simple purpose. If you are interested, contact Scott Grainger, PE, at scott@graingerconsulting.com . Scott is the contact point for SFPE members that are interested in taking The Obligation. An induction ceremony for you and fellow members of your Chapter will be organized through your Chapter President or in conjunction with other Engineers in your area. Additional information is also available at <http://www.order-of-the-engineer.org> .