Letter from the Chair

The Order of the Engineer had a good year in 2013. We increased our number of Links, made a number of policy changes, initiated the Outstanding Link Coordinator Award and the Link Coordinator Recognition, and added a few items that will hopefully enhance our presence in the engineering world of today.

We also initiated a process where each member of the Board of Governors contacts the Deans of Engineering in their districts who do not have Links and asks them to join the Order of the Engineer. There are many ABET-accredited engineering programs in the U.S. who are not members and who would make excellent additions to our organization. We are also discussing the developments of a video that could be used to present the Order of the Engineer to potential members.

We initiated two new programs which recognize our Link Coordinators. One is simply a nameplate for their desk that indicates that they are the Link Coordinator for their Link; the other is the selection of those Link Coordinators who have done an outstanding job as their Coordinator for their Link. We established the criteria for the selection process, and we mailed a letter to each Dean/Director of every Link asking for nominations for this recognition. We then selected four Coordinators this year to be recognized at their Spring Ceremonies as Outstanding Link Coordinators. They were Gina O’Brien McLelland, Northeastern University; Robert Babeck, Jr., University of Hawaii at Manoa; Nancy Barr, Michigan Technological University; and Tom Roberts, Kansas State University. The four recipients of the award were most deserving of the recognition.

We continue to utilize our book, “The Obligation,” and our Ceremony Ring, our banner and our Link plaques to help recognize and develop an awareness of the Order of the Engineer.

We need to continue to strengthen our presence at the Links and we need to continue to enhance our image on the national level.

Two personal items: Kenny McDonald has resigned from the Board due to health issues. We appreciate his many contributions to the Order. Dr. Lawrence Ehlers, Link Coordinator for the University of Nebraska, Lincoln, has passed away. He was one of our loyal Link Coordinators and will be greatly missed.

Again, please let me know if you would like to be more involved with the Order’s program. We would appreciate the help.

Sincerely,

Don Rathbone, Ph.D., P.E.
Chair Board of Governors

2014 OUTSTANDING LINK COORDINATORS NAMED

In January, 2014, the Order’s Recognition Committee selected the very first recipients of our newly established Outstanding Link Coordinator Award. These selections were made from a group of distinguished nominees each deserving of this prestigious recognition. This award was developed by the Order 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 Ring Ceremonies. Beginning with this inaugural selection, every year, four individual awards are to be presented representing one in each of the four US Regions including the Northeast (Region I), Southeast (Region II), Midwest (Region III), and the West (Region VI).

We are proud to present the following individuals as the Outstanding Link Coordinator recipients in 2014:
Ms. Gina O’Brien-McLelland, Academic Operation Manager, Northeastern University College of Engineering, Link #108 (Region I)

Ms. O’Brien-McLelland has served as the University’s Academic Operations Manager since 1995 during which time she has coordinated all Link activities for the Order as well as providing support of student groups and other special University events. Their annual ring ceremonies include participation from each of the six (6) separate engineering programs, typically about 150 inductees, from the Chemical, Civil, Computer, Electrical, Industrial and Mechanical Engineering programs. Gina also welcomes graduating seniors from neighboring universities that do not yet have a link and as a “student-centered person” she sees this outreach as part of her responsibilities to the greater engineering student community and a rite of passage, honor and celebration for graduating seniors.

Ms. Nancy B. Barr, Senior Design and Technical Communications Advisor, Michigan Technological University, Link #104 (Region II)

Ms. Barr has been the coordinator at Michigan Tech since 2007 and during this time has been responsible for the induction of over 1,200 graduating seniors from the Mechanical Engineering program with two annual commencement ceremonies. These ceremonies are held during the Department’s annual Senior Recognition Banquet and Senior Design Day which Nancy oversees. The success of these events stems from Nancy’s dedication to the students and enthusiasm for the mission of the Order. This event has become so popular among the Engineering Students that students from other engineering departments regularly ask to take part in the ceremony which has resulted in a current effort to expand the program to the other Engineering schools.

Dr. Robert Babcock, JR, Associate Professor, University of Hawaii at Manoa, Link #51 (Region IV)

Mr. Babcock has been the Link Coordinator since 2006 and spearheaded the organization of ‘commencement-ceremony’ Inductions for the University. Since that time, the University has held two ring ceremonies per year for the Civil, Electrical and Mechanical Engineering programs and as of this past December ‘13 have now inducted over 1,000 engineers to the Order with Mr. Babcock officiating each event. This event includes participation from the graduates, hundreds of their student friends, family members, faculty members, administrators and college staff. Through this traditional event, the message of the Obligation has been spread throughout the engineering profession in the great State of Hawaii.

Congratulations to this esteemed group of individuals who each play a significant role in the success of the Order and in developing our future engineers. We thank you for your years of dedicated service to the Order and to the Engineering Profession.

Thomas C. Roberts, PE, Assistant Dean-College of Engineering, Kansas State University, Link #158 (Region III)

Mr. Roberts has coordinated link activities at KSU since 1997 conducting two ring ceremonies annually at commencement. He also actively promotes link activities to parents of grads, alumni and practicing professionals and has inducted over 800 to the Order during this time. Since 2005 he has also been instrumental in conducting ceremonies with their sister link (#106) - the Kansas Society of Professional Engineers (KSPE) while also serving on that board of directors through 2010. He has also actively promoted the Order through his involvement with the American Society of Engineering Education (ASEE) while serving on that board from 1999 to 2004.

Nominations of qualifying candidates can be made by any individuals with nomination applications being accepted until December 15 of each year. The nomination application can be found at www.order-of-the-engineer.org so please consider those individuals in your region that may be deserving of this prestigious award. You may email any questions on this award or the nomination process to orderofeng@gmail.com.

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