

RITUALS OF PI TAU SIGMA

Last Amended on November 8, 2017

NOTE

Historically, certain formalities and traditions were included in the initiation proceedings. In earlier years, the proceedings were considered secret and only members and new initiates attended. For example, one part was the sharing of a secret handshake. However, the proceedings have been open to guests in recent years. The mechanics of the initiation ceremony can be individualized by a local chapter, provided these rituals are used and no form of student hazing is involved. It is important, however, that an atmosphere of formality, professionalism, and distinction be maintained during any initiation ceremony. One tradition which is still meaningful follows:

(One of the active members shall lead the initiates into the dimly lighted room. The President and Vice President are stationed behind a desk or table. The Crest and Insignia of Pi Tau Sigma shall be displayed and illuminated such that all initiates can clearly view them. The initiates shall be assembled before the officers. The President shall call the initiation ceremony to order. During the ceremony, the Pi Tau Sigma handshake is shared individually with each initiate.)

RITUALS OF PI TAU SIGMA

President

Let me welcome you to the (*DATE*) initiation proceedings of the (*CHAPTER NAME*) of Pi Tau Sigma. The purpose, ideals, and chapter name goals of Pi Tau Sigma will now be given by the Vice President.

Vice President

Pi Tau Sigma was founded to foster high ideals in the engineering profession, to stimulate and coordinate departmental activities, and to promote the mutual professional welfare of its members. Those who organized Pi Tau Sigma believed that these ideals were best instilled through the bonds of fraternal association.

Pi Tau Sigma recognizes certain qualities in individuals which are to be cultivated in order to attain true success in life, and true success embodies usefulness to one's self and to society in general. Pi Tau Sigma aims to foster a development of these qualities by the mutual association of its members.

The first requisite that is necessary for real usefulness as an engineer is theoretical knowledge, for it furnishes a criterion toward which to direct your efforts. But theory alone is of little value. Coupled with it must be the ability to apply it to some useful and practical purpose. Engineers must not only know, they must be able to do, and by their examples prompt others to know and to do. The importance of sociability, the ability to meet people on an equal basis without hesitation or embarrassment cannot be overestimated.

Many individuals of otherwise good qualities have been injured by lack of modesty in regard to their own accomplishments. It should be borne in mind that ability which is worthy of notice will in time get its just recognition without personal advertisement of merits. Finally, an attitude of broadmindedness should be cultivated if one is to become really useful. Do not become prejudiced without thorough investigation, for prejudice usually arises out of ignorance. It should be the aim of engineers to become proficient, not only in their own field, but also in others which may be somewhat beyond the immediate scope of their particular specialty.

President

Initiates, you have shown by your attitude toward your chosen work that you are guided by high ideals, practical ambitions, and strict ideas of personal integrity. I will now recite the ASME Code of Ethics, which as a member of Pi Tau Sigma you are expected to uphold.

(President reads ASME Code of Ethics)

THE FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES

Engineers uphold and advance the integrity, honor, and dignity of the Engineering profession by:

- i. using their knowledge and skill for the enhancement of human welfare;
- ii. being honest and impartial, and serving with fidelity the public, their employers and clients, and
- iii. striving to increase the competence and prestige of the engineering profession

THE FUNDAMENTAL CANONS

1. Engineers shall hold paramount the safety, health, and welfare of the public in the performance of their professional duties.
2. Engineers shall perform services only in the areas of their competence.

3. Engineers shall continue their professional development throughout their careers and shall provide opportunities for the professional development of those engineers under their supervision.

4. Engineers shall act in professional matters for each employer or client as faithful agents or trustees, and shall avoid conflicts of interest.

5. Engineers shall build their professional reputation on the merit of their services and shall not compete unfairly with others.

6. Engineers shall associate only with reputable persons or organizations.

7. Engineers shall issue public statements only in an objective and truthful manner.

If you pledge to uphold this code of ethics, respond by stating "I will."

(Initiates respond)

These qualities give promise of your future success in the profession of Mechanical

Engineering and warrant your election to membership into Pi Tau Sigma. You have now been informed of the criteria upon which you were chosen. Remember that the future welfare of Pi Tau Sigma is dependent not only upon the cooperation of the members among themselves, but also upon the efforts of each individual to realize his or her ideals and to sustain high levels of competence and integrity throughout his or her personal and professional life.

Initiates, are you sincere in your desire for membership in this fraternal order? If so, answer "I am sincere."

(Initiates respond)

Now in order that you may be received into membership, I must require of you a pledge. As a member, will you pledge to uphold continually the ideals of the engineering profession, as fostered by Pi Tau Sigma. If so, each initiate will individually state:

"I (your name) do so pledge."

(Initiates respond in sequence.)

Vice President

As members of Pi Tau Sigma, we have certain traditions which we would like to pass on to you.

This is our coat of arms. Above the shield is the crest, which consists of a golden hand holding a black lozenge, representing, according to heraldic lore, the maintenance of one's acts in accordance with honesty. In the center of the shield is a scroll, in white, symbolic of learning. Across the scroll are the letters PI TAU SIGMA, expressing our hope that the good name and reputation of every member will remain unblemished throughout his or her career.

Here on a background of azure which signifies loyalty and truth, is a castle, symbolic of reliability. The lightning represents the ability to conduct business quickly and successfully. A crowned hammer on a background of murrey represents the respect with which our profession is regarded. Murrey is the color of warm friendship. The figures are in gold, signifying generosity and elevation of mind. The colors of Pi Tau Sigma are azure and murrey. The flower is the white rose.

Here is the emblem of Pi Tau Sigma. The Greek characters are the initials of the words PAR-A-STA'-TA TECH-NEE-KOO' SCO-POO', the literal translation being: Stand by Technical Reasoning. These words are the symbols of the ideals for which we strive. On each emblem, there are also representations of a flaming torch, signifying intelligence, a steel H-section, signifying dependability, and a Carnot cycle, signifying efficiency.

President

(For Active members only)

Because of your respected character as an individual and in recognition of your academic achievements thus far at (SCHOOL) you have been chosen to become members of Pi Tau Sigma.

As President of the (CHAPTER NAME) chapter, I now confer upon you full membership into Pi Tau Sigma, trusting that you will uphold all the ideals set forth this day.

(For active and honorary members together)

Because of your respected character as an individual and in recognition of your academic and noteworthy achievements in upholding the high ideals of the engineering profession, you have been chosen to become members of Pi Tau Sigma.

As President of the *(CHAPTER NAME)* chapter, I now confer upon you full membership into Pi Tau Sigma, trusting that you will uphold all the ideals set forth this day.

(For honorary members only)

Because of your respected character as an individual and in recognition of your noteworthy achievements in upholding the high ideals of the engineering profession, you have been chosen to become members of Pi Tau Sigma.

As President of the *(CHAPTER NAME)* chapter, I now confer upon you full membership into Pi Tau Sigma, trusting that you will uphold all the ideals set forth this day.