



# *Tau Alpha Pi*

*Fostering Excellence in the Engineering Technology Education*  
Engineering Technology's Highly Respected Undergraduate Honors Organization  
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## PROCEDURE FOR INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS AND FOR A CHARTERING CEREMONY WITH THE RITUAL FOR INDUCTION OF MEMBERS

### **Chartering Ceremony**

After the Board of Directors has approved a group for affiliation with the Tau Alpha Pi National Honor Society and granted the group a charter, the new chapter should conduct Chartering Ceremonies consisting of two parts, as outlined on the following pages: namely, (a) the installation of the officers of the local chapter, and (b) the induction of the charter members.

### **Installation of Officers**

Officers of a new chapter shall be installed in their offices prior to the induction of the charter members of the chapter. This necessitates that the chapter have held at least one meeting before the date set for chartering ceremonies so that officers may be elected.

Officers of an already established chapter shall be installed at any convenient time after their election.

The installation of the officers of a new chapter may be held at the same meeting at which the remainder of the chartering ceremony is to occur; if this is to be the case, installation of the officers should be the first order of business. The installation may be scheduled, however, for a separate time and date at the discretion of the installing officer and the local chapter.

Officers of an affiliate chapter shall be installed by a member of the Board of Directors of the Society, an officer of some already established Chapter, or by an agent specially designated by the Board of Directors.

At the time of their installation, the new officers of a local chapter shall stand before the installing officer, raise their right hands, and in unison swear (or affirm) the following:

“I, \_\_\_(name)\_\_\_, do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I willingly accept the responsibilities of my office of \_\_\_(name of the office)\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_(chapter designation)\_\_\_ Chapter of Tau

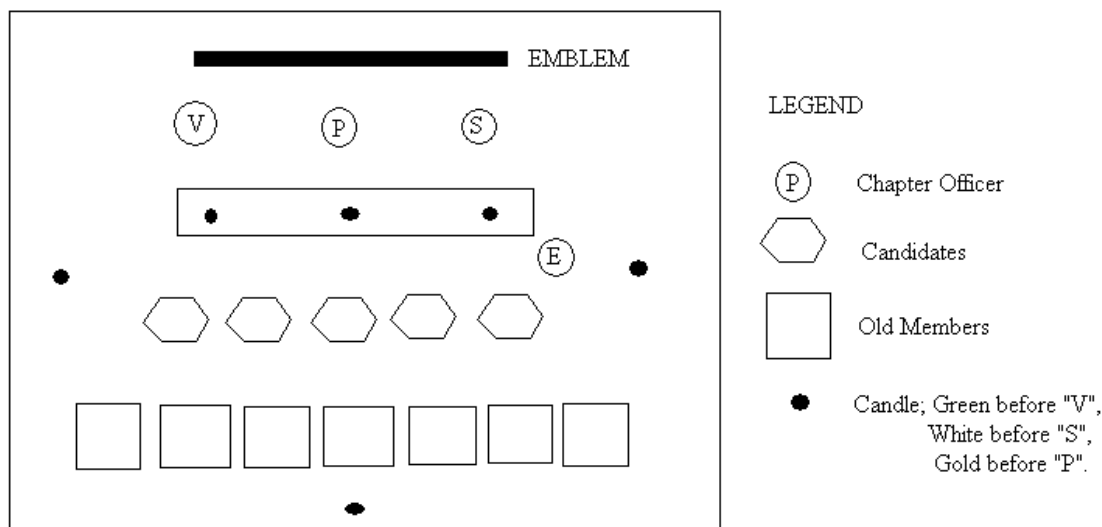
Alpha Pi; that I shall earnestly strive to discharge the responsibilities of my office in an honorable manner; that I shall diligently perform the duties of my office in such a way that I reflect credit on the \_\_\_(chapter designation)\_\_\_ Chapter of Tau Alpha Pi and on the National Society; that I shall faithfully instruct all members inducted into the Society in its solemn purpose and in the responsibilities they assumed by becoming members; that shall never reveal any of the elements of secrecy of the Society entrusted to me, except to the extent that I may assist to instruct other members of the Society in these matters.”

### Induction of Members

Previous to the induction of members (either charter members of a chapter or any subsequent new members), the following paraphernalia should be assembled:

- Candles, with holders (including one green, one gold, and one white candle)
- Table, with white cloth (long enough for three persons to be seated behind table)
- Large reproduction of official emblem of Tau Alpha Pi
- Matches

A room and anteroom should be prepared. The anteroom is to be used by the prospective members in awaiting their escort to the main chamber. The room selected for the initiation should be arranged approximately as follows (see figure):



A table should be placed near the front of the room and covered with a white cloth. Three unlighted candles – one white, one green, one gold – are placed on the table. Chairs for the president (“P”), the vice-president (“V”), and the secretary (“S”) are provided behind the table. Except for the ceremonies inducting charter members of the chapter, seats for the members of the chapter are placed about the room. On the wall behind the table hangs a large reproduction of the official emblem. General low-level illumination is obtained with lighted candles placed about the room. Any windows should have blinds, drapes or shades so that the ceremonies may not be witnessed by outsiders.

When the hour appointed for the induction ceremonies arrives, the chapter officers and old members shall assemble in the candlelit main chamber, with new members waiting in the anteroom. The chapter president shall appoint an escort (probably the public relations officer) for the new members. The escort (“E”) brings the new members into the room and has them line up in front of the table.

The following dialogue and action shall then proceed:

CAUTION: The remainder of the procedure is the Ritual of Tau Alpha Pi. Only duly elected officers of the Society shall have access to this material.

### **Initiation Ritual**

(Escort and candidates enter)

**Escort:** Greetings! I present \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, (etc., introducing candidates), who have fulfilled all conditions and requirements for eligibility for membership in the \_\_\_(chapter designation)\_\_\_ Chapter of Tau Alpha Pi National Honor Society, and who have expressed a desire to become members of the Society. They are ready to be instructed.

**President:** Lift your right hands, please, and repeat after me:

(Candidates raise hands, repeat in unison)

**President & Candidates:** “I, \_\_\_(candidate’s name)\_\_\_, do solemnly swear (affirm) that I desire to join Tau Alpha Pi National Honor Society and that I shall maintain strict secrecy concerning all parts of this initiation ceremony, to which I willingly submit.”

(Escort now seats him or herself)

**President:** Will the Vice-President please instruct the candidates in the purpose of this society?

**Vice-President:** (Lights candle) “The purpose of this Society is to provide recognition for a high standard among students in technical institutes; to promote and encourage scholastic achievement by offering membership in the Society to outstanding students; and to engender other desirable qualities of personality, intellect and character among its members.” *This statement opens the Constitution of the Society, and states the reason for its founding.*

**President:** Candidates, you have heard the purpose of the Society. Do you understand it?

**Candidates:** (Make affirmative indication.)

**President:** Then, will the Secretary please instruct the candidates in their responsibilities if they become members of the Society?

**Secretary:** (Lights candle.) Candidates for membership in Tau Alpha Pi are selected on the basis of outstanding scholarship, and thus membership in the Society is to be regarded as an honor accorded to only a few. Induction into the Society represents the passing of one milestone along the road to those ultimate and ideal goals – the acquisition of knowledge and the achievement of wisdom. However, induction into the Society not only represents a reward for past accomplishments but also implies a promise for the future growth by the new member. It shall be the duty and responsibility of each member of the Society to dedicate him or herself to the relentless pursuit of knowledge, to faithful and eternal seeking for wisdom, to maintenance of personal integrity – a virtue which is corollary to intelligence, and to continued observance of the standards which he or she had to meet in order to become a member of Tau Alpha Pi.

**President:** Candidates, you have heard the responsibilities of membership in the Society. Are you willing to accept them and do you promise to fulfill them to the best of abilities?

**Candidates:** (Make affirmative indication.)

**President:** Then, Candidates, are you ready to proceed with your initiation?

**Candidates:** (Make affirmative indication.)

**President:** Members of the Society: you have seen the candidates, you have witnessed, their instruction and you have heard them state that they are willing to accept the responsibilities of membership in Tau Alpha Pi. Are you willing to accept these candidates into the Society? If, any member has objections to any candidate and feels a candidate should be rejected, let them speak now, or forever hold their peace!

**Members:** Proceed!

**President:** With the approval of the membership of this chapter, I shall therefore, now instruct you in the meanings of the symbols of the Society. (Lights candle.)

The motto of the Society is symbolized in the Greek letter, “Tau”, “Alpha”, and “Pi” and is not to be made public, but is to be handed down traditionally. The motto lists the qualities – personal and intellectual – which the Society was founded to recognize, engender, and foster.

Tau stands for “transcendancy”, that quality of going beyond the normal and ordinary limits in reaching a goal, and of setting a goal for oneself which is itself transcendent.

Alpha stands for “assiduity”, the quality of diligence and earnest striving.

Pi stands for “perseverance”, the quality of continuing in spite of difficulties, frustrations or temporary failures.

Trascendancy, Assiduity, Perseverance: this is the motto of the Society and should be made a personal motto of every member. Candidates, repeat the motto with me.

**President & Candidates:** Trascendancy, Assiduity, Perseverance.

**President:** I shall now explain the meaning of the symbols on the official emblem of the Society.

The colors are green and gold. Green, the color of the evergreen tree, which – regardless of season – remains alive, is the symbol indicating the mind of an individual should ever remain alive. Gold, the color of the noblest metal and the color of grain ready for harvest, symbolizes the nobility of intellect and the ripeness of personality necessary for success and happiness.

A gear represents motive power. The gear on the emblem should suggest to you the power of a dynamic intellect and personality.

A shield is armor. The shield represents the mind itself; as a shield protects warriors in combat, the mind can protect an individual. Using the intellect as a shield, one can press a fight for any noble victory; valor and armor will insure success.

The plumes, which surround the design and help to complete and balance it represents those certain extra qualities of character, personality, honor, soul and mind without which an individual is incomplete or unbalanced.

Thus, the emblem in its entirety represents the individual: one possessed of a sound and well-developed mind, of dynamic personal motive power, of additional balancing and completing qualities; and one whose achievements measure up to the highest standards.

Candidates, raise your right hands and repeat after me:

**President & Candidates:** I, \_\_\_(name of candidate)\_\_\_, do solemnly swear (affirm) that I will uphold the principles of Tau Alpha Pi and will do my utmost to further its ideals and interests.

**President:** I now welcome you as full-fledged members into the \_\_\_chapter designation\_\_\_ Chapter of Tau Alpha Pi, with all the rights, privileges and responsibilities thereunto appertaining.

(President congratulates and shakes hands with each new member in turn; Vice-President follows, presenting Key; Secretary follows, presenting membership certificates. Then, old members congratulate and shake hands with each new member.)