

editor's note



ON THE WAY TO WORK TODAY, THE DISEMBODIED VOICES ON THE RADIO WERE DISCUSSING WHETHER IT WAS ETHICAL TO LEAVE YOUR CURRENT JOB FOR A BETTER ONE, EVEN THOUGH WHEN YOU TOOK THE POSITION YOU COMMITTED TO IT FOR TWO YEARS. The radio consensus was to go for it. As one caller popularly stated: "YOLO. You only live once."

While it was hard not to sympathize with the person being offered a better job, I also wanted to tell them it was important to live up to a commitment. I could understand if the job was horrible or the boss unbearable. But that wasn't the situation. This was just a bid for more money in a more attractive location.

I guess I wasn't really surprised by the consensus. We usually sympathize with the individual while vilifying a company. So no one who called in discussed what the cost was to the company in terms of recruiting, hiring a temp while they were filling the position and training the new employee.

Too often, the tipping point is "what's in it for me" when we're making a decision. But sometimes, people—and companies—can surpass their self-indulgence and work for the betterment of everyone.

I see such people when my son Jason is playing soccer and I look around at the volunteer referees and coaches. I see them when AISC staff members annually participate in Rebuilding Together (which provides critically needed renovations and repairs to low-income homeowners). And I see them when I see the thousands and thousands of hours from hundreds of volunteers who help develop the AISC steel specifications.

To a large extent, AISC and the steel industry's success relies on these volunteers—whether members of the Manual Committee, NASCC Planning Committee or one of the many task committees. To all of these individuals, I say thank you.

But I also want to thank the companies that allow their employees to take time away from their regular jobs to participate in these activities—and in many cases to fund them. And thanks to the companies who pay dues to AISC, dues that allow AISC to provide digital copies of all of our specifications and codes at no charge (yes, you can go to www.aisc.org/specifications and download all of the structural steel codes developed by AISC and referenced in the *International Building Code* FREE OF CHARGE).

As my colleague John Cross is wont to say: "A rising tide raises all ships." And truly, the companies and volunteers that make up AISC are contributing to the tide that raises up the U.S. design and construction industry.

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