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# PROFESSIONAL PARTICIPATION

**S**OMETIMES, THE ONLY WAY TO FIND OUT WHAT TYPE OF JOB YOU'RE DOING IS TO ASK. I had the opportunity to attend a meeting last week where AISC brought together a dozen designers and asked them what AISC could do better and how it could improve AISC's professional membership program.

First, a little background. AISC has offered professional membership to structural engineers for a little more than two decades. The cost (currently) is \$165 for the first year and \$110 for renewals. The first year, membership includes one AISC publication for free; in addition, and in subsequent years, members receive *Engineering Journal*, a 25% discount on AISC publications, discounts on seminars and the NSCC and a variety of member publications. A while back, though, it occurred to someone that AISC was not working particularly closely with its professional members, so this year AISC scheduled a series of six meetings around the country to get feedback on what form professional membership should take in the future.

Some of the feedback included:

- creating opportunities for more interaction between fabricators and engineers;
- holding educational seminars in smaller cities or perhaps on college campuses;
- developing new and improved information on fireproofing steel;
- developing a speakers program emphasizing leading structural engineers;
- opening more committee positions to professional members; and
- creating more programs for students

I don't know on how many of these ideas AISC will act. But I do know that it's good to get feedback. So if you have any suggestions on improving AISC professional membership, drop a note to LeAnn Schmidt, AISC membership director, One East Wacker Dr., Suite 3100, Chicago, IL 60601-2001. Or, if you're interested in becoming a member—or in finding out more about AISC professional membership—give Libby Kop a call at 312/670-5409. **SM**