As we head into a new year and new decade, it is time to ask if retirement planning on your firm’s “resolutions” list. If so, the ACEC Retirement Trust oversees a program that provides retirement plans for participating ACEC member firms. The Trustees have selected nationally known consulting firms in the areas of ERISA compliance, investment selection and monitoring, participant education, and recordkeeping to assist them in the operation of their program. For program members, the Trustees assume a significant portion of the required fiduciary protection of each member’s plan, thus allowing firm personnel to spend more time on their engineering expertise and less on the retirement readiness of their employees.

Trust participant education is provided through webinars, newsletters and flyers and is available to participants 24/7 through websites and major social media channels. Call centers are provided where Plan Sponsors and participants can talk to live experts to assist with their questions and needs. Local representatives are assigned to each plan to assist with face-to-face questions and on-site education where desired. For more information, contact Lydia R. Zabrycki at Lydia.Zabrycki@acecrteducation.com or visit the ACEC Retirement Trust Website https://acecrt.com/

Top priority bills of ACEC Indiana in the upcoming legislative session

Storm Water Infrastructure: Following on the success of comprehensive reform of drinking and wastewater laws passed in 2019, ACEC Indiana supports the recommendations of the Storm Water Task Force, which called for a designated lead state agency to address issues, collect data including Asset Management Plans, determine funding needs and more. We urge that the recommendations be part of legislative priorities for 2020.

Pipe Materials and the Role of the Professional Engineer: SB 55 filed by Sen. Doriot mandates consideration of PVC/plastic pipe materials in an attempt to force communities to use this specific material regardless of Professional Engineer’s expertise and judgement, and community’s decisions about what is most suitable for the long term life of the project, not just the upfront cost of construction. Proponents of this state government mandate have tried to pass this same legislation without success almost every year since 2014. Mostly impacting water-related infrastructure, Proponents want to eliminate competition, override the experts, and only look at the “short term” through legislative mandate. Studies show that in Indiana, PVC already represents approximately 46% of the material used in INDOT projects (concrete pipe at 49% and ductile iron at 5%). ACEC Indiana opposes this concept.

Licensure of Professional Engineers: Closely tied with the pipe materials issue and engineer’s expertise, several attempts have been made over the years to eliminate “barriers to entry” in the workforce, including eliminating licensing of Professional Engineers or lowering licensing standards under “Universal Reciprocity.” Rep. Carbaugh filed HB 1008 to expand licensure reciprocity. The work of P.E.‘s has a direct, and potentially serious impact on the public health, safety and welfare in mass numbers. The soundbite of “cutting regulation” sounds appealing, but in this case, carries life-threatening consequences and disrupts the assurance to the marketplace about the safety of public infrastructure.