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### Upcoming Events

**June 8**

**Reception at NIRI Annual Conference**

[Register](#)

**June 19**

**NIRI-Chicago Annual Meeting and Social**

**Vertigo Sky Lounge**

[Register](#)

### Save the Date

**August 27**

**NIRI-Chicago Golf Outing**

**September 19**

**NIRI-Chicago IR Workshop  
The Art & Science of IR**

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### From the President



Summer is upon us -- even as we recall that it was snowing in Chicago just two weeks ago! The unusual weather is just one of the reasons that this was a memorable year for me as your chapter president.

Our members get busier and busier. Just reading the news each day, we know our colleagues at Zebra Technologies, Hillshire Brands, Office Depot and McDonald's are up to their eyeballs -- just to name a few! Despite that fact, our speakers and participants this year included Doug Fox, VP-IR and treasurer of Zebra; Melissa Napier, SVP of IR, treasurer and interim controller of Hillshire Brands; and Mike Steele, VP-IR with Office Depot, now relocated to Florida. And how would you like to handle demonstrators at your annual meeting? We have the benefit of the experience of McDonald's director of investor relations, Liz Kluge, as she is one of the members of the 2014 IR Workshop Committee.

Sometimes, the busier you are, the more likely you are to volunteer for NIRI-Chicago. I'd like to see each and every one of our members involved in some type of chapter activity. Each of us has much to offer -- our experiences and our successes have been different -- and by sharing them, we all grow. I know that my experiences on the board and as your president have deeply enriched me.

Our goal this year was to enhance our chapter's value proposition by personally reaching out to our members more frequently and by hosting a content-rich program year. By the end of this year, we will have held 21 events, including our fall IR Workshop, monthly programs, NIRI in Your Neighborhood breakfasts and networking events, such as our summer golf outing. The majority of our members have attended at least one event so far this year.

We tried to diversify the content, format and locations of events

## Photo of the Month



Janine Warell and Beth Saunders at last month's crisis communications mini-workshop

## Our Sponsors



and scheduled more neighborhood breakfast and social events. We may have overdone it a bit, since we canceled a few events for lack of interest. However, we also successfully expanded our outreach, with 100 guests from outside our chapter and a dozen students from DePaul and Northwestern attending our meetings. To read about one of our recent events, see the featured article in the [June issue](#) of *IR Update*, page 26.

This month, we have two more events. We invite you to join your NIRI-Chicago colleagues and members of the Virtual, New York City, Philadelphia and Twin Cities chapters for the [afterglow party](#) at this year's NIRI conference in Las Vegas on Sunday night, from 9:30 p.m. to 1:30 a.m. [Register for drink tickets](#).

We wrap up the year at our [annual meeting](#) on Thursday, June 19 starting at 5:30 p.m. at the Vertigo Sky Lounge, the rooftop terrace above the Dana Hotel on Erie at Michigan Avenue. In addition to enjoying drinks with our colleagues, we will honor our volunteers, directors and advisory board as well as introduce our new board members. We also will present our Chapter Volunteer of the Year award. Please join us on the 19th.

As we draw this program year to a close, we are in the midst of planning our upcoming program year. Our spring survey of membership is helping us design programs that fit our members' needs and reflect their suggestions. We have already scheduled our [summer golf outing](#) for August 27, at Highland Park Country Club and our 2014 IR Workshop: [The Art and Science of IR](#) on Friday, September 19, at the Willis Tower's Metropolitan Club in Chicago. Save the dates! Contact [Christine Hanneman](#) if you are interested in being a sponsor.

On a personal note, it's been my honor and pleasure to be your president, and I look forward to serving as chair this coming year. I'm pleased to hand the president's gavel over to Lisa Micou Meers, VP-IR of Anixter International. I urge you to contact her or any member of the board with your ideas and thoughts about our chapter.

As for me, I just signed up for golf lessons and a beginning French class starting this week. One can never be too busy, right?

See you on the 19th!

Best regards,

[Elizabeth Higashi](#)  
President, NIRI-Chicago

Special thanks to  
[Paragraphs Design](#)  
for the creation of our Member  
Connection masthead and program  
year banner

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## In the News

- Improve shareholder value by balancing "hard" and "soft" [information](#).
  - Big public companies earn poor grades in [sustainability](#).
  - Avoid a [risk management](#) "oops" -- and maybe, boost your [valuation](#) by up to 25%.
  - Telling off the CEO once a year: the joys of [annual meetings](#).
  - [Shareholder letters](#) that tell it like it is.
  - Are investors getting tired of buybacks? The S&P 500 [Buyback Index](#) of 100 companies with the largest buyback ratios declined for the first time in six quarters.
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## NIRI-Chicago Member News

Welcome to NIRI-Chicago's newest members: **Christopher Conley**, senior director of investor relations, Whirlpool Corporation; and **Jeanette O'Loughlin**, associate managing director, investor relations, PrivateBancorp, Inc.

Congratulations to **Bill Pfund**, now VP, investor relations at Scientific Games, and **Lisa Ciota**, promoted to director of investor and corporate relations at SunCoke Energy.

[Share](#) your news (job changes, awards, interesting articles) -- and thanks for reading the MEMBER CONNECTION.

Maryellen Thielen  
Vice President, Communications  
NIRI-Chicago