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**Upcoming Events**

**January 11**  
**Put a Spin on the New Year at a Ping-Pong Social Club**  
[Register](#)

**January 13**  
**Webcast:**  
**What's New in the Capital Markets and How Does it Affect You?**  
[Register](#)



The annual conference early bird registration deadline is February 27

**Photo of the Month**



Speaker Blu Putnam and Sam Gibbons at our December meeting

**From the President**



Happy New Year!

As everyone steams ahead into 2017, NIRI-Chicago is keeping pace with two programs this month -- one social, one educational.

We're putting a slight spin on our second annual January social gathering. Join us on January 11 at Chicago's newest "ping-pong social club" -- [SPiN](#). This Susan Sarandon-backed bar opened in Chicago this March as "the kind of place where you sip bottled craft cocktails between rounds of ping-pong tournaments with friends" (says [Chicago Magazine](#)). Whether you enjoy a spirited game of ping-pong or prefer to watch from the sidelines, there will be good drinks, good food, good friends and good times to be had. I hope you'll join us. Please register [here](#).

Our second program this month is a webcast on January 13 to discuss two recent developments: the newest stock exchange, IEX, and the SEC's recently launched tick-size pilot program. How are those two topics related? Lucky for us, Tim Quast from ModernIR is leading the session and will answer that question and many more! Please [register here](#).

To help combat the winter doldrums (and take advantage of any post-earnings lull in the action), our chapter will offer NIRI in Your Neighborhood networking events in February. Stay tuned for the details.

Lastly, some of you may have heard that we have a new President of the United States taking office later this month. He seems to prefer conveying his directives and sentiments in 140 characters or less. A recent [article](#) in *The New York Times* brought to light a very real issue that companies and their IROs may face when making strategic announcements. For years now, smart companies have scenario-planned for activist investors, predictable crises and operational snafus. However, they may not have planned to have developments -- positive or otherwise -

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- scrutinized in the blink of an eye in the Twitterverse. (As the article said, "Slow kills companies fast in a Twitter conversation.") I recommend that you make it a priority to revisit that crisis plan collecting dust on your shelf. In addition, NIRI has many members with vast knowledge that you can tap in updating your plans. Send me a note at [llarsen@greentarget.com](mailto:llarsen@greentarget.com) if you'd like a referral.

I look forward to seeing everyone at our January social event.

Regards,

*Larry Larsen*  
*NIRI-Chicago President*

### December Event Highlights



If you weren't able to join us for **Shifting Gears to the New Year: Outlook 2017** -- our December meeting and holiday networking reception -- here is a [summary](#) of comments from CME Group Chief Economist Bluford Putnam. To receive Blu's research updates, email [info@niri-chicago.org](mailto:info@niri-chicago.org). (While there are no do-overs on the holiday

reception, you'll have another networking opportunity on January 11.)

### In the News

- **Sell-side analysts:** Don't just be right -- be quotable.
- Last year was the biggest to date for [block trading](#).
- Ernst & Young expects [M&A to surge](#) in 2017, but deal size to drop.
- **Survey:** Directors lament managements' short-term focus.
- **Study:** Companies with a joint chairman and CEO allocate more capital to projects with lower growth opportunities.
- **Opinion:** Prevalent institutional investing is anti-competitive.
- Enforcement of [insider trading](#) has been a moving target over the years.

### NIRI-Chicago Member News

Welcome to NIRI-Chicago's newest members: **Shawn Alcaraz**, senior analyst, investor relations, Zebra Technologies Corporation; **Mike Cieplak**, senior director -- investor relations, McDonald's Corporation; **Scott Einberger**, director, investor relations, US Foods; **Mike Flores**, SVP,



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investor relations, McDonald's Corporation; **Samuel Gibbons**, assistant vice president, Alpha IR Group; **Ray Iardella**, VP, investor relations, Arthur J. Gallagher & Co.; **Veronika Jungels**, manager, McDonald's Corporation; **Adam Stolz**, enterprise sales director, Nasdaq Corporate Solutions; **Bryan Sullivan**, managing director, Q4 Inc.

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

*Maryellen Thielen*  
Vice President, Communications  
NIRI-Chicago