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Upcoming Events

February 7
North Suburban Breakfast
Roundtable
Register



The annual conference early bird registration deadline is February 27

Photo of the Month



Kevin Kelly tries his hand at ping-pong during our January social event.

Check Out NIRI-Chicago's Mobile App
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From the President



I hope everyone is off to a prosperous start to the year.

NIRI-Chicago takes a bit of a breather in February given the fourth quarter reporting season and members' breadth of other commitments this time of year. Instead, we offer our members the chance to gather and discuss current issues. This month, a **NIRI in Your Neighborhood** breakfast will take place in the northern suburbs at W.W. Grainger on February 7. Interested members can register [here](#).

Our formal programs will return in March with **Rock Star IR: How Top IR Programs Measure Their Effectiveness**. Further details to come.

As one of my numerous New Year's resolutions, I pledged to get out from behind my computer/phone and have face-to-face conversations with as many NIRI-Chicago members as our schedules allow. I have met with nearly a dozen members so far this year. I hope to meet with many more of you, while at the same time eating more salads instead of the French fries that always call out to me at lunchtime.

During my conversations, I've been asked consistently how the Chicago chapter is doing. Here's an update:

- We had 167 members as of the end of December. Membership remained relatively steady throughout 2016. I am encouraged by all the new faces joining the chapter in recent months.
- Financially, we're in great shape -- thanks in no small part to the talent and dedication of our board. We have a strong cash reserve and solid P&L given our wonderful sponsors and disciplined spending.
- From a programming standpoint, we are trying to balance a mix of educational and social events. Feedback has been positive, but we are always striving to improve and are open to suggestions.

Those are the facts. If anyone has questions, comments or "alternative facts," please contact me at llarsen@greentarget.com or 312-497-0655.

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Another of my New Year's resolutions is to acknowledge and thank those around me more often. Today, I want to thank Kathy Short, our chapter administrator. Without her efforts and institutional knowledge, our chapter simply would not be as successful as it is. She is meticulous, dedicated and most of all, patient. This last virtue comes in very handy when dealing with an all-volunteer board!

I look forward to seeing all of you soon.

Regards,

Larry Larsen
NIRI-Chicago President

In the News

- [McKinsey](#): "Collaboration" between activists and traditional asset managers is changing the boardroom.
- NACD 2017 proxy season [preview](#).
- Blackrock's [Larry Fink](#): If U.S. companies repatriate cash under tax reforms, don't use it all on buybacks... plus other [buyback thoughts](#) from two EY authors.
- Expect [volatility](#) in 2017.
- The [JOBS Act](#) is a "qualified success."
- Old (but relevant) news: [Proxy access](#) concerns and the "de-equitization" of America.

NIRI-Chicago Member News

Welcome to NIRI-Chicago's newest members: **Amanda Bryant**, director, investor relations, Hyatt Hotels Corporation; **Sarah Byrnes**, VP of investor relations, Equity Commonwealth; **Anne Garrigus**, director, IR, TransUnion; **Jeff Scripta**, director of financial planning and analysis, JBT Corporation.

Congratulations to NIRI-Chicago members who had milestone NIRI anniversaries in December, January and February:

25 years

Lisa Ciota, Lead-IR Advisors, Inc.

15 years

Marsha Akin, Arthur J. Gallagher & Co.

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

Maryellen Thielen
Vice President, Communications
NIRI-Chicago



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