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## **NIRI-Chicago Elects 2015-2016 Officers and Directors**

CHICAGO – June 22, 2015 – The Chicago Chapter of the National Investor Relations Institute (NIRI-Chicago) has elected 13 officers and directors to its board for the 2015-2016 term. The chapter also recognized a retiring board member at its annual meeting.

“As one of NIRI’s largest chapters, NIRI-Chicago is a great resource for professional development and networking,” said Victoria Sivrais, incoming chapter president. “We are committed to offering great programs, which will resume in August with our annual golf outing and on September 25 with our full-day IR Workshop featuring keynote speaker Mark Zandi, chief economist at Moody’s Analytics.”

The NIRI-Chicago Chapter board members for 2015-2016:

### **Officers**

**President: Victoria Sivrais**, founding partner, Clermont Partners. Sivrais previously was executive vice president, programs co-chair, treasurer, co-chair of the 2012 IR Workshop committee and chair of the 2011 IR Workshop committee.

**Executive Vice President: Larry Larsen**, senior vice president, Greentarget Global Group. Larsen has served as programs co-chair and chair of the 2013 IR Workshop committee.

**Vice President, Programs: Terri Anne Powers**, director of North American investor relations for Paris-based Veolia Environnement (Paris Euronext: VIE, U.S. OTC: VEOEY). This is Powers’ second year on the NIRI-Chicago board. She was co-chair of the 2014 IR Workshop committee and programs co-chair.

**Vice President, Communications: Maryellen T. Thielen**, senior manager, financial communications, Allstate (NYSE: ALL). Thielen previously was chairman, president, executive vice president, vice president of communications and IR Workshop committee member. The International Association of Business Communicators (IABC) has named her an accredited business communicator.

**Vice President, Membership: Janine Warell**, corporate communications and investor relations consultant. Warell earlier served as NIRI-Chicago programs co-chair and vice president of communications.

**Vice President, Treasurer: Ruth E. Venning**, director, investor relations, Hospira, Inc. (NYSE: HSP). Venning previously was chairman, president, executive vice president, vice president of programs, vice president of communications and vice president of membership. She also has

chaired five NIRI-Chicago IR Workshops and served as a member of the NIRI Annual Conference committee for three years.

**Vice President, Sponsorship: Christine J. Hanneman**, principal, Professional Communications Specialists. This is Hanneman's fourth year leading NIRI-Chicago's sponsorship program. Earlier, she served as vice president-treasurer for six years.

## **Directors**

**Chairman: Lisa Micou Meers**, CFA, vice president, investor relations for Anixter International (NYSE: AXE). Meers previously was president, executive vice president and programs co-chair. In addition, she has led NIRI-Chicago's sponsorship program and served on the IR Workshop committee.

**Director: Elizabeth Allen**, CFA, manager, investor relations, FedEx Corp. (NYSE: FDX). Allen most recently was the chapter's vice president of membership and served as a member of the NIRI Annual Conference committee for 2013 and 2014.

**Director: Shep Dunlap**, vice president of investor relations for Motorola Solutions (NYSE: MSI). This is Dunlap's second year on the NIRI-Chicago board. He has served on the IR Workshop committee and is co-chair of the 2015 NIRI Annual Conference committee.

**Director: Bill Franklin**, vice president, investor relations, Discover Financial Services (NYSE: DFS). This is Franklin's first year on the NIRI-Chicago board. He is a member of the chapter's membership committee.

**Director Elizabeth M. Higashi**, CFA, president, Higashi Advisors. Higashi has served as NIRI-Chicago president, executive vice president, vice president of programs and IR Workshop committee member. She also serves on the NIRI Subject Matter Expert Committee and is a member of the NIRI Senior Roundtable.

**Director: Dee Johnson**, vice president, investor relations, Rubicon Technology (NASDAQ: RBCN). Johnson is chair of the 2015 IR Workshop committee and was a member of the 2014 and 2013 IR Workshop committees. She earlier served as president and in other leadership roles with NIRI St. Louis.

## **Retired Board Member**

The chapter extends its gratitude to retiring director **Lisa I. Ciota**, director, investor and corporate relations, SunCoke Energy, Inc. (NYSE: SXC). Ciota has served as NIRI-Chicago chairman, president, executive vice president and vice president of programs. She earlier led the chapter's sponsorship program and co-chaired the IR Workshop committee.

Ciota joins the NIRI-Chicago Advisory Board, which consists of:

- **Steven D. Carr**, chief executive officer, Dresner Corporate Services, Inc.;
- **William D. Chapman**, senior director of investor relations, W.W. Grainger, Inc.;
- **Kevin P. Kelly**, managing director, Morrow & Co., LLC.
- **Thomas J. Laughran**, senior vice president, partner, and co-chair of the financial communications/investor relations practice group, Fleishman-Hillard, Inc.;

- **William H. Parke**, senior director, corporate marketing and financial communications, CME Group, Inc.; and
- **Patricia M. (Patty) Paul**, principal, ButtonWood Associates.
- **David A. Prichard**, vice president, investor relations and corporate communications, Spectrum Brands Holdings, Inc.

### **About NIRI-Chicago**

The Chicago chapter of the National Investor Relations Institute (NIRI-Chicago) works to advance the practice of investor relations and meet the professional development needs of those engaged in the field. The members of NIRI-Chicago include corporate officers, consultants, service providers, academics and others involved in the practice of investor relations a strategic management responsibility that integrates finance, communication, marketing and securities law compliance. NIRI-Chicago is one of the largest NIRI chapters in the United States and has received several NIRI awards for large chapters over the years, including Best Overall Large Chapter in 2012. More information is available at [www.niri-chicago.org](http://www.niri-chicago.org).

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