

NEWS RELEASE



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NIRI-Chicago Elects 2016-2017 Officers and Directors, Recognizes its Newest NIRI Fellow

CHICAGO – June 22, 2016 – The Chicago Chapter of the National Investor Relations Institute (NIRI-Chicago) has elected 11 officers and directors to its board for the 2016-2017 term. The chapter also recognized retiring board members and a NIRI Fellow at its annual meeting.

“My passion is to make a difference, which is why I believe so strongly in NIRI-Chicago,” said Larry Larsen, incoming chapter president. “Our chapter’s size and location enable us to offer strong investor relations professional development programs – but our hidden value is to connect members who share their expertise and experiences. Our chapter’s formal and informal events include an annual IR Workshop, to be held on September 23 this year, which draws more than 100 attendees from throughout the Midwest.”

The NIRI-Chicago Chapter board members for 2016-2017:

Officers

President: Larry Larsen, senior vice president, Greentarget Global Group. Larsen joined the chapter board in 2012 and previously served as executive vice president, programs co-chair and chair of the 2013 IR Workshop committee.

Executive Vice President: Dee Johnson, vice president, investor relations, Rubicon Technology (NASDAQ: RBCN). Johnson serves on the membership and IR Workshop committees and chaired the 2015 IR Workshop. She earlier served as president and in other leadership roles with NIRI St. Louis.

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 as programs head. She co-chaired the 2014 IR Workshop committee, continues to advise the committee planning the 2016 event and previously served on the chapter’s membership committee.

Vice President, Communications: Maryellen T. Thielen, senior manager, financial communications, Allstate (NYSE: ALL). Thielen previously was NIRI-Chicago 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 (ABC).

Vice President, Membership: Bill Franklin, vice president, investor relations, Discover Financial Services (NYSE: DFS). This is Franklin's second year on the NIRI-Chicago board. He previously served on the chapter's membership committee.

Vice President, Treasurer: Ruth E. Venning, principal, Rockhill Associates. Venning previously was NIRI-Chicago chairman, president, executive vice president, vice president of programs, vice president of communications and vice president of membership. She has chaired five NIRI-Chicago IR Workshops, served as a member of the NIRI Annual Conference committee for three years, and belongs to the chapter's communication committee.

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

Directors

Chairman: Victoria Sivrais, founding partner, Clermont Partners. Sivrais previously was NIRI-Chicago president, executive vice president, programs co-chair, treasurer, co-chair of the 2012 IR Workshop committee and chair of the 2011 IR Workshop committee. She also served on the 2015 and 2016 NIRI Annual Conference committees.

Director: Elizabeth Allen, CFA, staff director, investor relations, FedEx Corp. (NYSE: FDX). Allen earlier served as the chapter's vice president of membership and a member of the NIRI Annual Conference committee for three years.

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 was co-chair of the 2015 NIRI Annual Conference committee and has served on the NIRI-Chicago IR Workshop committee.

Director: 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 is an IR Workshop committee advisor and has led NIRI-Chicago's sponsorship program.

Departing Board Member

The chapter extends its gratitude to **Elizabeth M. Higashi**, CFA, vice president, investor relations, Hertz Equipment Rental Corporation – soon to be known as Herc Holdings Inc., Bonita Springs, Fla. (NYSE: HRI). Higashi is stepping off the board after serving as NIRI-Chicago president, executive vice president, vice president of programs and IR Workshop committee member. She is a member of the NIRI Senior Roundtable and served on the NIRI Subject Matter Expert Committee and 2015 NIRI Annual Conference committee.

NIRI Fellow Named in 2016

Earlier this month, NIRI announced its 2016 NIRI Fellows – including chapter member **Nancy A. Hobor**, retired senior vice president of investor relations at W.W. Grainger, Inc. and current lecturer in the Northwestern University Integrated Marketing Communications program. The NIRI Fellows recognition program honors NIRI members who have distinguished themselves through their NIRI leadership and their career-long professional standards, involvement and

contributions to the IR profession. NIRI Fellows are highly engaged individuals whose commitment has led to continued service as subject matter experts and leaders in education, selection committee participants, authors and thought leaders within NIRI and the field of investor relations. NIRI-Chicago congratulates Hobor on her recognition as a NIRI Fellow.

The Chicago chapter of the National Investor Relations Institute (NIRI-Chicago) provides professional development and networking opportunities to practitioners of investor relations, a strategic management responsibility that integrates finance, communication, marketing and securities law compliance. For more information, visit www.niri-chicago.org.

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