



## Upcoming Events

**September 24 & 25**  
**2020 IR Workshop**  
**IR for Business as Unusual**  
**Register**

## Photo of the Month



Terri Anne Powers was recognized for service to our chapter, most recently as its president.

## Event Recaps and Webcasts

Unable to attend a recent event? [Event recaps and webcasts](#) can be found by clicking the links below.

### March 2020

[A Primer on Virtual Annual Meetings for Unusual Times](#)

### January 2020

[It's Your Hour – Do You Use It Wisely?](#)

### December 2019

[Investor Relations in Special Situations](#)

### September 2019

[IR Workshop Session Summaries](#)

## From the President



As we are in the midst of the busiest weeks of earnings season, we continue to see COVID-19 dominate the headlines. Last quarter alone, more than 88% of S&P 500 earnings calls mentioned the pandemic, and the number of companies that withdrew guidance because of its impact on business operations soared more than 20 times. That trend has continued during Q2. While IROs continue to juggle work-life balance while

working from home, the Niri Chicago chapter is busy putting out as much useful content as possible on how to navigate during these unusual times. We hope you found our recent virtual events to be helpful. In addition, we are happy to announce a fresh, new [Niri Chicago website](#). Special thanks to everyone on the [Communications Committee](#) who helped create it.

At the start of Niri Chicago's 2020-2021 program year, I welcome two new directors to our board: Morningstar's Barbara Noverini, CFA, who will be our chapter's very first [advocacy ambassador](#), and Edelman's Jeremy Cohen. I'd also like to personally thank Terri Anne Powers, who did a fantastic job as president and will remain on the board as chairman. A special thanks to advisory board member Lisa Ciota, who spent countless hours planning programs, writing website content, networking with members in transition and serving our chapter in a variety of other roles over the years. This year's board is rounded out by returning [officers and directors](#): Mike Steele, Elizabeth Allen, Shep Dunlap, Maryellen Thielen, Christine Hanneman, Martin Jarosick, Ruth Venning, Heather Kos, Victoria Sivrais and Heather Wietzel. Be sure to reach out to anyone on the board with any suggestions and feedback on how to improve our chapter.

Our IR Workshop Committee, co-chaired by Zebra Technologies' Shawn Alcaraz and CNO Financial's Jennifer Childe, has been hard at work planning the chapter's marquee annual event. This has always been a full-day in-person event before. However, due to restrictions on the size of group gatherings, we are taking this event virtual – and we'll break it up into two shorter sessions, since many of us are experiencing "Zoom fatigue." The [IR Workshop Committee](#) is rounded out by Debbie Koopman, Jeremy Cohen, Julie Mathews, Katie Whitmore, Kendra Chiprich, Rainey Wagner, Sam Swerdlin, Joe Boutross, Kevin Kim, Kevin White and Maryellen Thielen. This year's IR Workshop is designed to provide actionable and thought-provoking insights in how to manage *IR for Business as Unusual*. Save the dates, register soon and encourage your colleagues to attend.

September 24-25, 2020

IR for Business as **UNUSUAL**

The Niri Chicago Investor Relations Workshop

I am honored to take on the chapter president's role this year. NIRI has rewarded me with some great friendships and working relationships over the years, and I always enjoy talking IR with practitioners. It's my goal to lead our chapter in providing useful content and career development insights. I look forward to connecting with you at an upcoming NIRI Chicago event, whether virtually or in person when we can do so. In the meantime, best wishes for a smooth earnings season and let us know if NIRI Chicago can be of any assistance to you.

Victor Jendras  
NIRI Chicago President

## Highlights of the New NIRI Chicago Website

We have something great to show for our coronavirus "summer vacation" – a completely redesigned NIRI Chicago website. Among the features we hope you will enjoy:

- An easier-to-navigate News & Events section with information about upcoming and past [events](#), including NIRI Chicago [IR Workshops](#) over the past decade.
- Summaries of past events and links to webcasts. Most recently, these included programs on [artificial intelligence](#) and [virtual annual meetings](#).
- [Case studies](#) on real-life challenges faced by our chapter's investor relations officers.
- Contact information to help you [get involved](#) in our chapter's volunteer opportunities.
- [Career development](#) information, including a summary of NIRI's [Investor Relations Body of Knowledge](#).
- An updated NIRI Chicago [mission statement](#) and [bylaws](#).

We welcome your [opinions](#) about our new website and ideas for additional content and enhancements.

## In the News

- Investing is about [storytelling](#), but beware of tall tales
- Why [earnings guidance](#) matters.
- Improve [virtual annual meetings](#) but keep on keeping on with [virtual IR outreach](#).
- [MSCI ESG insights](#): the "ES" is more relevant over a longer-term investment horizon.
- [SASB and GRI](#) to provide guidance on joint implementation.
- The European Commission proposed that research on bonds and certain stocks be [exempted from MiFID II](#) trading rules as part of a COVID-19 recovery package.

## NIRI-Chicago Member News

Welcome to NIRI Chicago's newest members: **Karen Keller**, sales director, Lambert & Co. and **Rainey Wagner**, investor relations specialist, Caterpillar Inc.

[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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