



Upcoming Events

March 17
March Madness Trivia Competition

[Register](#)

April 9
ESG and IR Best Practices Roundtables: Not Your Typical Webinar

[Register](#)

Event Recaps and Webcasts

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

February 2021
[IR Trends to Watch in 2021](#)

December 2020
[Reg S-K and Principles-Based Disclosures: What Do You Need to Know?](#)

November 2020
[Developing Your ESG Program and Disclosure](#)

September 2020
[IR Workshop Session Summaries](#)

March 2020
[A Primer on Virtual Annual Meetings for Unusual Times](#)

From the President



With most Q4 and 2020 year-end books closed out, the IR community is now turning its focus to Q1 earnings announcements and preparing for upcoming virtual meetings.

We expect virtual meetings to predominate during 2021 due to the lingering effects of COVID-19. Last year, companies may have experienced technical issues or scheduling difficulties due to the influx of companies relying on the same technology to hold virtual meetings. To prevent similar issues this year, companies should engage early with virtual meeting service providers to learn how platforms have evolved in response to company and investor feedback, discuss how best to handle technical difficulties – and schedule their meetings.

Issuers continue to expand their ESG disclosures, although some companies say they still do not get calls about their ESG programs. In addition, it can be hard for IROs to determine which ESG ratings they should pay attention to when many raters have differing views and there is little regulatory certainty. I've also heard from some IROs that their companies aren't always recognized for their ESG efforts. That's one reason for our April 9 event, [ESG and IR Best Practices Roundtables](#). Please [register](#) for our program – and [take our survey](#) in return for a \$5 Starbucks gift card – so you can participate in two consecutive virtual roundtable discussions that will be informed by our survey results.

Now, for something that's literally more trivial: the Niri [March Madness trivia competition](#). We are looking for savvy individuals with a strong knowledge of IR and general trivia to help us "take down" competing Niri chapters. [Register](#) now to join our team(s) and show off your skills to earn bragging rights and a charitable contribution to be made on our behalf by Niri national.

I hope everyone has a great March and enjoys the warmer temperatures ahead in Chicago.

Victor Jendras
Niri-Chicago President

In the News

- Why face-to-face meetings can be better than virtual [meetings](#) for institutional investors; [IROs expect the pace](#)

- to increase in whatever format.
- Expectations for 2021 capex and M&A.
- The number of publicly traded companies is rising after a two-decade slump.
- The SEC considers more short-selling transparency and potential pitfalls of COVID-19 disclosures.
- How seriously should investors take company statements? (Scroll down to read varying opinions about a Supreme Court case to be heard this month and/or read this Bloomberg article.)
- Sustainability is an increasingly prevalent topic on earnings calls to “attract new investors, reduce costs;” climate change (e.g., carbon emissions) is the most-often cited Biden policy on S&P 500 earnings calls; and large asset owners still want to know more, says an MCSI survey.
- Corporate sustainability metrics are as susceptible as other financial measures to short-term pressure to massage the numbers.
- Examine ESG risks in AI systems.

Join the 2021 IR Workshop Committee!

Our IR Workshop Committee plans our annual event, from identifying topics for panel and interactive discussions to recruiting insightful speakers who bring those topics to life. Committee participation also is a great way to get to know other IR officers and give back to your profession. Build your network of thought leaders and fellow IR officers! Contact info@nirichicago.org.

Virtual Learning

NIRI Chicago and its fellow NIRI chapters continue to come together to support members with timely and relevant virtual programs during the COVID-19 pandemic. Here are a few of the complimentary webinars that are available to NIRI Chicago members:

Regulatory Developments: What's Happened & What's Next?

NIRI Houston
Thursday, March 11

NIRI Chicago Member News

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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