



From the President



What?!! We're still here? Wasn't the world supposed to end? Weren't we supposed to fall off a cliff into dark oblivion? Well, it turns out we're all still here. The world didn't end and that cliff turned out to be a steep ledge. Still, who knows if we'll find a way off that ledge!

Good thing we at Niri-Chicago believed in the future and scheduled meetings through June, when our program year ends. Next up is our January 8 [North Suburban networking mixer](#) at the Hyatt Deerfield. Then, on January 10, come hear Chris Jakubik, IR VP at Kraft Foods, and Mike Bacal, IR manager at Hexcal Corp., talk about their real-life [strategies for dealing with activist investors](#). On the topic of activist investors, be sure to read about one company's experience in "[Defanging a Shareholder Activist](#)."

[eGroups](#)



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Upcoming Events

- January 8**
North Suburban
Networking Reception
[Register](#)

In February and March, we'll host programs on deal IR and crisis communications in addition to another round of breakfast roundtables and networking receptions, both downtown and in the western suburbs. Check out www.niri-chicago.org for further details.

Monthly programs are one way we educate, engage and energize our members. Another way we do this is through our website, which is great resource for monthly meeting summaries, IR Cliffhanger stories, a job bank, photo gallery and more. We also leverage our networks to provide you with special access. Last month, Capital Alpha Partners offered December meeting attendees a free trial subscription to its political insights newsletter (contact Tom Butler, Director, Business Development, Capital Alpha Partners, LLC, tom.butler@capalphadc.com). This month, the University of Dayton's [R.I.S.E Forum](#) has extended a special invitation and \$25 discount to Niri-Chicago members for its April 4 program, which features several Chicago-area leaders including Charles Evans, CEO of the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago, Melody Hopson, president of Ariel Investments, and Diane Swonk, senior managing director at Mesirow. To receive your discount, type "NIRI" in the promo code field.

On a final note, a new year brings new beginnings. As you think about your 2013 plans, consider becoming more involved with Niri-Chicago. Whether it's serving on our annual IR Workshop committee, helping to coordinate a monthly program or participating on the chapter board, you'll gain leadership experience, new knowledge and connections. If you're interested in serving, reach

January 10
Strategies for Dealing with Activists
[Register](#)

February 13
Merge & Purge IR Deal Strategies
[Register](#)

Special Offer to Niri Members
\$25 off registration for the April 4 [RISE 13 Forum](#).
(enter the promo code NIRI)

Save the Date
September 9
Niri-Chicago IR Workshop

Photo of the Month



Kathy MacDonald and

connections. If you're interested in serving, reach out to me or any [board member](#).

Until next month,

Lisa Ciota
President
NIRI-Chicago

In the News

- 2013: More [sophisticated](#) activists -- and [younger](#) ones.
- Four [crises](#) that can damage your share price.
- [Social media](#) opportunities and risks.
- Make [decisions](#) based on what investors do, not what they say.
- [Reg FD](#) revisited.
- [Research](#) expenditures versus EPS.

NIRI-Chicago Member News

Welcome to NIRI-Chicago's newest member: **Kristen Proos**, Finance Director, Investor Relations & Financial Communications, Whirlpool Corporation.

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

Maryellen Thielen
Vice President, Communications
NIRI-Chicago

Elizabeth Higashi share stories at the December holiday reception.

IR Cliffhangers

As a bonus to our January 10 presentation, read one company's experience with "Defanging a Shareholder Activist."

Someone You Should Know

How history and education can lead to IR, according to Ingredion's Aaron Hoffman.

Job Bank

Check out our job listings. If you have a job to list, send it to info@niri-chicago.org.

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