



**October 17, 2017**

## **Legacy of Leadership**

I've now had the pleasure of visiting more than half of NIRI's chapters and have met dozens of chapter leaders. They, along with the members of NIRI's national Board and committees, and the Investor Relations Charter (IRC®) committees, have impressed me with their passion for NIRI and their commitment to serving members. These dedicated volunteers give their time and talent to advance the IR profession. They all deserve our thanks.

This commitment continues with the next group of NIRI [national leaders](#). Incoming board chair Lee M. Ahlstrom, IRC, chief financial officer at Paragon Offshore in Houston, will succeed Valerie Haertel, IRC, global head of IR for BNY Mellon, at NIRI's Annual Meeting on November 29 in Laguna Beach, California. Lee, who served as chair of the 2016 NIRI Annual Conference, was part of the second class of IRC holders.

The NIRI Board also named Ronald A. Parham, senior director, IR and corporate communications, Columbia Sportswear, to a newly created position of Chair-Elect. In this role, Ron will serve as the liaison to the Annual Conference Committee and succeed Lee as Chair in 2019. I look forward to working closely with Lee, Ron, Valerie, and the rest of the Board over the next year to advance the IR profession and help NIRI grow and develop to better serve members.

Members will also soon hear about the new directors recommended for election to the board. The new directors will join the distinguished line of members who have stepped up and stepped into leadership roles. They will continue a powerful legacy started nearly 50 years ago of members serving members. I thank them, and all of those who serve throughout NIRI. Your service makes NIRI possible. Thank you.

All the best,  
Gary

P.S. Finally, a reminder to sign up for the two NIRI [finance seminars](#) in New York during the week of November 6.



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