



Letter from Our President

It's official! Based on the affirmative vote of Orange County chapter members and ratified by NIRI National's Board of Directors at their recent meeting, we have the green light to merge the Orange County Chapter into the Los Angeles Chapter. This exciting step was initiated by your Board of Directors earlier this year for the purposes of strengthening our local IR community and enhancing the value of your NIRI membership. Current members of the Orange County chapter will automatically become Los Angeles chapter members on the merger effective date of June 30, 2026.

Why Merge?

As the professional landscape in Orange County has evolved, including a declining number of public companies and greater hybrid and remote work, continuing as a standalone chapter was becoming increasingly challenging. By combining resources with the Los Angeles Chapter, we can provide Orange County members with access to more high-quality programming, events, and networking opportunities in the Greater Los Angeles area.

What This Means for You!

Chapter members **will continue to enjoy regular, local in-person events and networking activities**, plus **access to NIRI Virtual Chapter's programming**. In addition, members will gain **access to all Los Angeles Chapter events**, a **larger network** of IR professionals and peers, **improved event quality and frequency** ensuring more opportunities to connect and learn, and **ongoing local representation** within the merged chapter's leadership.

What's Next?

Two things. First up is our usual year-end networking social on **Thursday, June 25** (see below for more information), but this one will be special as it will be our final meeting as a standalone chapter. Come join us to celebrate the end of an era, reconnect with old friends and toast the future. Secondly, look for the formal launch of the combined chapters in the fall. More details will be shared as they become available.

In closing, and I know I speak for your chapter board, it has been an honor to represent such an exceptional group of IR professionals here in Orange County. As I think back to all that our chapter has accomplished since being spun out of the Los Angeles chapter 36 years ago (and yes, I was around back then!), we should be immensely proud. Not only have we advanced the practice of investor relations and raised our profession's visibility locally, this chapter has shared its collective knowledge and experience with IR practitioners across the country, contributed greatly to IR's standards of practice globally, and helped influence the regulations that govern how IR professionals do their jobs. That's pretty impressive!

Now, it's on to the next chapter (pun intended)!

David Erickson
NIRI Orange County Chapter President

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