



**100 women in  
hedge funds®**

### **A How-To Manual on Effective Board Membership**

September 18, 2008 at 5:30 PM  
Edina, MN

Please join 100 Women in Hedge Funds for a panel discussion on what it takes to earn a board seat, how to be an effective member, and duties as a director. Our panel consists of business leaders currently seated or having served on for-profit and not-for-profit boards.

#### **Participants**

Bonnie Sipkins, SIP-NET  
Linda Henderson, RBC and U of MN Carlson Growth Fund  
Leslie Frecon, LFE Capital  
Lori Wiese-Parks, Gray Plant Mooty  
Susan E. Engel, Lenox Group Inc.  
KC Connors, *Moderator*, Jeffrey Slocum & Associates

#### **Event Details**

**Date:** September 18, 2008

**Time:** 5 PM Registration.

We will begin *promptly* at 5:30 PM; please arrive early.

Networking and canapés before and after session

**Host:** Co-Sponsored by CarVal Investors and PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP

**Location:** Interlachen Country Club

6200 Interlachen Boulevard, Edina, MN 55436 - [Directions](#)

**RSVP:** [http://www.100womeninhedgefunds.org/pages/event\\_registration.php](http://www.100womeninhedgefunds.org/pages/event_registration.php)

This event is NOT FOR ATTRIBUTION.

Admission is free, but there is a \$25 charge if you register and do not attend, even if you cancel in advance. No-show proceeds will be donated to our 2008 beneficiary, The Harold P. Freeman Patient Navigation Institute at the Ralph Lauren Center for Cancer Care and Prevention.

If you have no-show fees in arrears, the system cannot register you for an event. Fees can be paid online at: [https://www.100womeninhedgefunds.org/pages/noshow\\_payment.php](https://www.100womeninhedgefunds.org/pages/noshow_payment.php)

Space is limited. No walk-ins will be permitted.

## Biographies

### **Bonnie Sipkins**, Founder, SIP-NET

Sip-Net is a community involvement business which connects business professionals to nonprofit organizations, including corporations, major law firms, accounting/financial consulting firms and senior management/executive-level individuals.

Bonnie served as a Consultant to PRI (formerly American Public Radio) and its national producers, 1990-1992. She also served as the Director of Membership Relations for the Citizens League, 1980-1985, where she connected corporate members to this nonprofit's volunteer committee opportunities and was involved in Local and national fundraising projects for Minnesota Public Radio, including Garrison Keillor's national production, 1985-92. Worked closely with a wide range of professional service firms and Fortune 500 companies seeking community visibility with this nationally recognized nonprofit station.

Bonnie has extensive experience on boards and has leadership / community involvement such as; League of Women Voters Advisory Committee, Strategic Planning Committee, Volunteer Resource Center, Board Member, Achieve!Minneapolis, merger of Youth Trust and Minneapolis Public School Foundation, Board Member, Washburn Child Guidance Center (provides mental health services and day treatment programs to children),

Bonnie holds a Bachelor's degree, Political Science, University of Minnesota, 1967 and Masters of Business Communications, University of Saint Thomas, 1996.

### **Linda Henderson**, CFA, Semi-retired, SVP RBC Fixed Income Research and former professional advisor, RBC and U of MN Carlson Growth Fund

Linda Henderson, CFA, earned her BS degree in Business Administration and Economics from the University of Wisconsin-River Falls and MBA in Finance from the University of Minnesota. She has now almost completely retired from a career in the investment business. After 19 years in various roles at what is now RBC Wealth Management, she retired as a Senior Vice President and Director of the Fixed Income Research and Strategies Group.

In her semi-retirement, she spent three years in a half-time position as Professional Advisor to the U of M's Carlson Growth Fund, the internally managed MBA equity investment fund. Her remaining endeavor in the investment business is serving as a director for the Advantus Series Funds, the internally managed funds for Securian. Continuing a long professional and personal interest in diversity and equity issues, she is active on the board and various committees of Nibakure Children's Village, which will be opening an orphan village for children in Rwanda. She also sits on the Pro Bono Committee of the Minnesota Financial Planning Association.

### **Leslie Frecon**, Founder and CEO, LFE Capital

Leslie Frécon is the CEO of LFE Capital, a business she founded in 1999. In 2002, she completed the capitalization of LFE Capital Fund I, a private equity fund providing growth capital to smaller middle market Midwest businesses, with a focus on businesses owned or led by women, and businesses targeting the female market. She launched Fund II in 2006, with a \$20 million commitment from Wells Fargo Bank, an investor in her first fund.

Prior to founding LFE Capital, Leslie was senior vice president, corporate finance, for General Mills. In that position she was responsible for over \$5 billion in pension fund asset and financial liability management, including \$200 million in private equity investments. She managed the corporate growth and treasury functions and, as a member of the senior management team, was active in setting the strategic direction of the company. In her over 16 years at General Mills, she held management positions in operations and corporate finance, and completed numerous acquisitions, joint ventures, divestitures and spinoffs, establishing a global business network. Prior to joining General Mills, Leslie was an officer at Bank of America in Los Angeles, where she managed the banking relationships for companies in manufacturing and agribusiness.

Leslie serves on corporate and community non-profit boards. She is a director and audit committee chair for The Ryland Group, NYSE, one of the nation's largest homebuilders. She is a director of Avant Healthcare and M.A. Gedney Company, investments of LFE Capital, and of Associated Packaging Technologies, a Castle Harlan fund investment. LFE Capital has a strategic alliance with Castle Harlan. Leslie's non-profit board positions include serving as treasurer and audit committee chair of the Greater Twin Cities United Way and previously as a trustee of Breck School and the Minnesota Opera. She is a member of the advisory council for the Center for Women's Business Research in Washington D.C. and for WomenVenture in Minneapolis.

She is a member of the Minnesota Women's Economic Roundtable and of the Women Presidents' Organization. Leslie has been profiled in numerous business magazines and newspapers, including the New York Times, where she was featured in an article about women chairing the audit committees of corporate boards. In 2006 she received the Twin Cities Business Outstanding Director's award. The Business Journal selected her to receive the "Most Innovative Women" award and Finance and Commerce recognized her with the "Top Women in Finance" award. Leslie holds an MBA in Finance from UCLA and a BA with Distinction from Stanford University. She is married and has two children.

**Lori Wiese-Parks, Principal, Gray Plant Mooty**

Lori is a principal at Gray Plant Mooty practicing in the areas of intellectual property and business law. She focuses in the areas of trademark and copyright law, software and technology development and licensing, and e-commerce. She counsels clients on the identification, protection and management of intellectual property assets including all aspects of trademark usage, clearance, prosecution, protection, enforcement, portfolio management and branding strategy, development and licensing arrangements, and strategic alliances. Lori has a broad background in business law and also acts as general counsel to several businesses, addressing for them the many issues that arise in their day-to-day operations.

Lori represents designers, developers, manufacturers and distributors of products and services in such diverse industries as software, medical devices, healthcare, agribusiness, food and beverage, publishing, clothing/textiles, crafts and gifts, hospitality, entertainment, education and communication.

Lori is a frequent lecturer with student and business groups on intellectual property and business issues.

Since 2001, Lori has consecutively been named a "Super Lawyer" in intellectual property law by Minnesota Law & Politics. She has also been voted one of Minnesota's Top 40 Intellectual Property Super Lawyers since

**Susan E. Engel, Retired Chairwoman, CEO, Lenox Group Inc.**

Ms. Engel served as chairwoman and chief executive officer of Lenox Group Inc., the successor to Department 56, Inc. (Lenox Group) headquartered in Eden Prairie, Minnesota from November 1996 until she retired in 2007. Lenox Group is a leading designer and marketer of tabletop, giftware and collectibles. Ms. Engel joined the company as President and Chief Operating Officer in September of 1994, one year after the company's initial public offering. She was elected to the Board of Directors in February 1996 and was named CEO that same year.

Ms. Engel earned her undergraduate degree in Industrial and Labor Relations from Cornell University in 1968, and her Master of Business Administration from Harvard Business School in 1976. She is a member of the board of directors for Wells Fargo & Company, SUPERVALU INC., and Board of Overseers at the Carlson School of Management.

**KC Connors, CFA, Vice President, Jeffrey Slocum & Associates**

KC is a Vice President at Jeffrey Slocum & Associates, Inc. Prior to joining Slocum eleven years ago, she worked at Wyatt Investment Consulting and at Ennis Knupp Associates in Chicago. KC received her Bachelor's degree in Decision Sciences from Indiana University, holds an MBA (with Honors) from the University of Chicago, is a

Chartered Financial Analyst charterholder and Chartered Alternatives Investment Analyst (CAIA) charterholder.

KC is a member of the Twin Cities Society of Security Analysts and a frequent presenter on the topics of institutional investing and financial strategies. She is the Vice Chair of the Convent of the Visitation Board of Directors, has chaired the Investment Committee, and currently serves on the Finance and Strategic Planning Committees. KC is the Second Vice President of the Ripley Memorial Foundation and chairs the Finance Committee. KC is also a Board member of the Courage Center and serves on the Finance Committee. She is a member of the Citizen's League and has served on the Finance Committee of the Girl Scout Council of Greater Minneapolis. She is also a member of the Minneapolis Chapter of 100 Women in Hedge Funds. KC has worked in the investment industry for nineteen years, fifteen of these in investment consulting.

**About 100 Women in Hedge Funds ([www.100womeninhedgefunds.org](http://www.100womeninhedgefunds.org))**

100 Women in Hedge Funds serves over 8,000 alternative investment management investors and practitioners through unique educational, professional leverage and philanthropic initiatives. Since its first session in 2002, 100 Women in Hedge Funds has hosted more than 150 events globally, connected more than 150 senior women through Peer Advisory Councils and raised in excess of \$13 million for philanthropic causes in the areas of women's health, education and mentoring.