

Investment Forum Program for Wednesday, June 2 at 10:00

Meeting Schedule

The forum will not meet for the next two weeks. Meetings will resume on June 23 at 11:45.

Asset Allocation: Recently, a Wall Street executive opined on *Bloomberg Television* that with each successive setback for stocks, fewer investors, both professional and individual, will want to own them. That begs the question, if not stocks then what? The wealthy, hedge funds, pension funds and endowments have many asset classes available to them. But, if individuals shun stocks, what alternatives are attractive for the long term?

Of Note: The country has just come through the sharpest recession since the Great Depression. *Dow Theory Forecasts* reports that among the stocks included in the S&P 500 Index, only 28 managed to grow earnings without interruption throughout the recession. Some that have earned this distinction include Abbott Laboratories (ABT), American Tower (AMT), Apple (AAPL), Aqua America (WTR), Baxter International (BAX), Becton Dickinson (BDX), Bristol-Myers Squibb (BMY), British American Tobacco (BTI), CVS Caremark (CVS), Clorox (CLX), Colgate-Palmolive (CL), Comcast (CMCS), Cracker Barrel (CBRL), Family Dollar (FDO), Laboratory Corporation of America (LH), McDonald's (MCD), Medtronic (MDT), Novartis (NVS), Oracle (ORCL), Owens & Minor (OMI), Petsmart (PETM), Raytheon (RTN), Research in Motion (RIMM), Ross Stores (ROST), St. Jude Medical (STJ), Sigma-Aldrich (SIAL), J.M. Smucker (SJM), Strayer Education (STRA), Teva Pharmaceutical (TEVA), Wal-Mart (WMT) and Waters Corporation (WAT).

Conventional Wisdom: Conventional wisdom informs us that U.S. multinational corporations are well positioned to benefit from strong growth in developing nations. But, economic nationalism is a growing threat to such a strategy. This is a potential headwind that U.S. corporations will face in these markets in the years ahead. The topic is discussed in the May 22 edition of *The Wall Street Journal*.

Member Contribution: Bill has been collecting information on several topics to share with the group.