

INVESTMENT FORUM AGENDA FOR WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2020 10:30AM

TALLWOOD, TA-1

We will meet as a “club starting February 26, 10:30AM at Tallwood TA-1, to the start of the Spring Term, on April 1, 2020.

Market Perspective. Beanstalks don’t grow to the sky! A down week, with the DOW down 1.4%; the S&P down 1.3%; and the NASDAQ down 1.6%. Nothing of note that did not exist in previous weeks (Coronavirus) seems to be an obvious culprit for the drop. Perhaps the market just wanted to take a breather? Or are there ominous signs of a correction?

Discussion Topics This Week.

Seeking Alpha. David Toms will talk about how he uses the popular website, “Seeking Alpha.” I invite other users of Seeking Alpha to share how they use it, in future sessions.

General Electric (GE) - continued. Sy Sherman will continue our discussion of GE, doing a “deep dive” into the company, its stock, and business strategy for a turnaround. This discussion should be particularly useful to those of you who do not invest in individual stocks, and do not know what to look for, or who want to get better at it, or . . . are “Thinking About” GE.

Buy/Sell List. Bob Baker will look at it. Please consider providing oral comments on your trades. Comments by the buyers or sellers always provides insights and better understanding of the companies and funds traded.

Garrett Ruhl will talk about recent economic events and sectors.

Upcoming Topics

Financial Advisors (continued.) Jerry Anderson, Marvin Singer, and Craig Zane will talk about how they use financial advisors on March 25. This is a continuation of the panel discussion from several months ago, with members sharing a wide range of how they select and use financial advisors.

SECURE Act. This legislation (Setting every Community Up for Retirement Enhancement) was passed as part of the budget agreement. It makes of number of positive changes to retirement accounts, mostly benefiting workers, but a big negative for investors expecting to pass on IRAs to heirs - elimination of the “stretch” provisions,

and requiring inherited IRAs to be withdrawn within ten years. This will change some estate planning strategies, which we will look at over time.

Garrett Cochran will lead discussions of Roth IRAs and the Virginia 529.

Utility Sector. Brenda Bloch-Young will be the Forum Moderator on March 18, and she will discuss the utility sector.

Moderator for March 11. If any of you would like to try your hand at being the Moderator (you get to choose the topics) March 11 is available to give it a try. I will prepare and distribute the agenda.

Closed End Funds (CEFs). CEFs are a relatively small niche in the funds' industry that can provide high yields and buying at a discount, but also have unique risks that need to be understood. I am looking for CEF investors who are willing to discuss how they buy them and what they look for.

Buys and Sells

Buys (week ending 2/19/2020)

Meredith Corp (MDP)
Ares Capital Corp (ARCC)
Dominion Energy (D)
General Electric (GE)
ProShares S&P 500 Dividend Aristocrats (NOBL)
Vanguard FTSE Pacific ETF (VPL)
Exxon Mobil (XOM)
SPDR Gold Shares (GLD)
CVS (CVS)

Sells (week ending 2/19//2020)

Westwood Holding Group (WHG)
Oracle (ORCL)

Investment Forum “Club” Registration. OLLI asks that Club members register once a year, so OLLI can schedule needed space for Club meetings, and support the Clubs. The Forum meets as a Club between regular sessions, so all of you are Investment Forum Club members. To register:

Go to the OLLI website (olli.gmu.edu) and log in, using your password, like you do to register for classes.

In the “Search for a Class” box, (top right of page) type in “Investment Forum.”
In the list of Classes, third grey box from the top “2020 Tom Crooker Investment Forum,” click on “Add to Cart.”

From the Pop Up, click submit.

From the “cart” (top right of page) click on “checkout.”

Al Smuzynski
Investment Forum Moderator
asmuzynski@verizon.net