

Investment Forum Program for Wednesday, November 12 at 10:00

Future Meeting Schedule

The forum will meet on November 19, and December 3, 10 and 17. All meetings are at 10:00.

Perspective: For investors seeking affirmation, one does not have to look far for support. The November 10 issue of *Fortune* carries an article entitled "Is Buy And Hold Dead?" The subtitle reads "Short answer: No." *Morningstar.com* published an article entitled "Stocks and Inflation: Who's Winning the Race?" The article includes the following statement: "The opportunity to buy a cheap inflation hedge is now." Finally, the December issue of *Kiplinger's Personal Finance* includes an article entitled "High Quality Stocks on Sale." It specifically mentions eBay (EBAY), AT&T (T), 3M (MMM), Microsoft (MSFT), and Illinois Tool Works (ITW).

Sectors: The November 6 edition of *The Wall Street Journal* warns that electric utilities face many challenges and may not prove to be a safe port in the current storm. This year the sector has fallen less than the S&P 500 Index, but still has suffered a loss of about 30%. However, the November 7 edition of same publication notes that among the 31 utilities included in the S&P 500 Index, 20 have raised their dividends this year and none have reduced or suspended dividends. These 31 stocks are traded in an ETF with the ticker symbol XLU. The XLU yields over 4%.

Strategies: At the risk of being trite, this is a time that tries men's (and women's) souls; at least the souls of investors. Several members are wrestling with major decisions regarding the placement of retirement assets. A group discussion on experience with various sources of investment advice and financial services providers would be timely. All are invited to participate.

Of Note: The Federal Reserve estimates that as of June (before a historic massive liquidation of stocks began) U.S. households held nearly \$8 trillion in Treasury securities, bank deposits or money market funds. The November 17 issue of *Forbes* carries an article entitled "What Are They Waiting For?" The subtitle reads "One reason stocks are crashing: Investors are sitting on wads of cash."

On the Website: New articles which may be of interest to retired investors are posted regularly at www.olligmu.org/~finforum/.