

INVESTMENT FORUM AGENDA FOR WEDNESDAY, May 21, 2014, 10:30AM, TA-1

The Forum will meet at **10:30AM** starting May 21, to June 11. We will begin meeting again at 11:50AM on June 18 for the Summer session.

Market Perspective. Stock markets reached all time highs during the week, then pulled back. For the week, the DOW was down 0.55%; the S&P down 0.03%; and the NASDAQ up 0.46%. Small caps are in correction territory, down nearly 10% from their all time highs.

But interest rates are down. The 10-year Treasury now yields 2.52%, its lowest of the year. Investors have moved into bonds recently, driving their prices higher and yields down. "New Normal" is out. "New Neutral" is in.

Energy. Continuing our discussion on energy, Tom Crooker will discuss energy topics and energy investments he favors. So far, our energy discussions have not looked at Big Oil, which many of us likely own. So I will look at some key comparisons on Big Oil: Exxon-Mobil (XOM;) Chevron (CVX;) Conoco Phillips (COP;) Shell (RDSB;) and BP (BP.)

Time to Sell? We are now over five years into the bull market, and all bulls eventually turn to bears. Is it time to take some risk off the table, realize gains, and lighten up on equities? If so, how and when?

If you want to lighten up on equities, what do you buy? It seems that both bonds stocks and bonds are expensive. Reasonably priced investments are elusive, in both fixed income and equities.

Future Forum Topics

Investing in Residential Real Estate. On June 11, Linda de Marlor, a real estate and tax advisor, will discuss residential real estate as an investment. Buying houses as investments, renting them out, and eventually selling them. We will track the process, numbers, benefits, risks and rewards.

If you own residential properties that you purchased as an investment, please share your experiences.

Buys and Sells

Buys

Pfizer (PFE)
DirecTV (DTV) - Timely, with sale to AT&T. Would this buyer care to comment?
InterContinental Exchange Group (ICE)
Utilities Select SPDR ETF (XLU)
iShares US Preferred Stock ETF (PFF)
Blue Nile (NILE)
Yandex NV (YNDX) - internet search engine.
Market Cap: \$9.6B
DXP Enterprises (DXPE)
Blackstone Group (BX)
Zulily (ZU)
Yahoo (YHOO)
Glaxo Smith Kline (GSK)
Enbridge Energy Management (EEQ)
Kinder Morgan Management (KMR)

Sells

Provident Financial Services (PFS) - New Jersey bank
Twitter (TWTR)
Apple (AAPL)
Abbott (ABT)
Western Energy Services Corp. (WEEEF) - oil-field drilling. Market Cap: \$760M

Thinking About . . .

Visa (V)
Allibaba
American Express (AXP)
Home Depot (HD)
AT&T (T)
Accenture (ACN)

Al Smuzynski
Investment Forum Moderator
asmuzynski@verizon.net