

INVESTMENT FORUM AGENDA FOR WEDNESDAY, MARCH 22, 2017 11:50AM,

Lord of Life Lutheran Church, Fellowship Hall

Welcome to the Tom Crooker Investment Forum. The Spring Term will meet 11:50AM to 1:15PM, on Wednesdays from March 22 to May 17, 2017, at Lord of Life Lutheran Church, 5114 Twinbrook Road, Fairfax. Park in back of the church and enter through the back entrance. We normally meet in the Fellowship Hall, or in the Sanctuary if the Fellowship Hall is unavailable.

I prepare the agenda each weekend and distribute it by e-mail, usually by Sunday evenings. Information or commentary in the agenda is based on market data as of Friday.

We have 100 registered for the Winter term. The Lord of Life Fellowship Hall and Sanctuary accommodates this number. While most members of the Investment Forum have been coming for years, we have 6 registered who are new to the Forum this term, some of whom are also new OLLI members. We will spend some time on what the Forum is about, how it is conducted, with some observations from long-time members. I will ask each of the new members to briefly introduce yourself, and what you hope to learn at the Forum. (All comments and participation is voluntary.)

Market Perspective. Markets moved little for the week. The DOW and NASDAQ were each up less than 0.1%, and the S&P was up 0.2%. The big news was that the Fed, as widely expected, raised its Federal Funds rate by 0.25%, but but was somewhat “dovish” on further rate increases in 2017.

Corporate Tax Reform and the BAT (Border Adjustment Tax.) Thank you, Brenda Bloch-Young, for “splainin” the BAT to us last week. This incomprehensible subject and its impact on investors will be much discussed in coming months. Barron’s echoed many of the same concerns about the BAT’s unknown impacts in its lead story on Saturday.

Value Investing. Tom Crooker will offer observations on value investing, and some funds that do it well.

Future Topics

On March 29 (tentatively), Ludwig Benner and Ed Swoboda will discuss “When to Sell.” If you have metrics or thresholds that trigger sell decisions, please share those.

We will have our “DOW 21,000” sheet cake on March 29, at the end of the session.

Forum Moderator Needed. We need a Forum Moderator for April 26. Is there a topic or investment that you want to discuss? This is your chance. I will help with agenda preparation and distribution.

Buys and Sells. We did not collect the Buys and Sells last week, so this week please list your trades since March 8, or the last time the list was passed to you.

Forum Resources

Investment Forum Website. The Investment Forum has its own website, www.olligmu.org/~finforum. Or the OLLI website, www.olligmu.org, and from the Main Menu, click on “Clubs, Group Blogs, and Ongoing Activities,” and then “Investment Forum.” The current agenda and previous agendas are posted, as well as articles in the financial press that members recommend.

Morningstar Dividend Investor. This newsletter comes out monthly, has a model portfolio of dividend-paying stocks and extensive current analyses of dividend stocks and perspectives on the market. A number of Forum members are avid readers of the newsletter. I will advise how you can receive copies of the newsletter. You can also access all Morningstar newsletter via the Fairfax County Library website, using your Fairfax County Library card number.

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