

## INVESTMENT FORUM AGENDA FOR WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2017 11:50AM,

### LORD OF LIFE, SANCTUARY

The Fall Term runs through November 15, 2017. The Forum will meet as a “club” on November 22 and December 6, 13, and 20, at 10:30AM at Tallwood.

**Market Perspective.** Another week, more gains and all-time highs. For the week, the DOW was up 0.5%; the S&P up 0.2%; and the NASDAQ up 1.1%. Strong earnings from tech and increased optimism for tax cuts drove the markets.

**Buying What You Know.** Hugh Conway will discuss CSX Corporation (CSX) and RCI Hospitality Holdings (RICK.)

**Morningstar Investment Outlook.** On October 21, I attended the AAll program, which featured Christine Benz, the Morningstar writer and talking head. I will share some of her comments on where the market is, and its outlook.

**Morningstar Ratings.** The Thursday, 10/26/2017, The Wall Street Journal featured an article (first page, above the fold,) “Mutual-Fund Ratings are Not What They Seem,” which is posted on the Forum website. The article was about Morningstar and its stars (one star to five stars) assigned to mutual funds, and many investors and financial advisors use the Morningstar ratings to select mutual funds. The take-away is that the ratings are backward looking, and are poor predictors of future performance, and that most highly rated funds are not highly rated three years later. The article unleashed a torrent of rebuttals from Morningstar, counter rebuttals, and controversy.

I will open the class to discussion of the article and Morningstar’s ratings. (Morningstar also gives gold, silver, bronze, neutral, and negative ratings, which differ from the stars.) I do not use the Morningstar ratings, so those of you who do use them, or have opinions, are invited to comment.

### Upcoming

In future weeks, we will continue to have discussions from several members on useful sources of information. What services, websites, newsletters do you use and how do you use them? And lessons learned.

On November 8, Garrett Cochran will discuss using the Vanguard website. Also on November 8, Bob Baker will discuss dividend growth investing and sources of information. Finally, Tom Crooker will share his observations.

Before the end of the Fall term, John Woods will comment on strategies for taking RMDs (Required Minimum Distributions) from IRAs. John, who is also our own (and only) farmer, will update us on the current state of agriculture and crop prices.

### ***Buys and Sells (week ending 10/25/2017)***

#### Buys

Apple (AAPL)

ABB Ltd ADR (ABB) - Energy and power grids. MC: \$54B

National Retail Properties (NNN) - add to

Realty Income (O) - add to

#### Sells

Fidelity Select Biotechnology Fund (FBIOX)

Under Armour (UA)

AbbVie (ABBV) - reduced position

CoreSite Realty (COR) - reduced position

#### Thinking About . . .

Equinix (EQIX) - data center REIT. MC: \$36B

***Investment Forum Website.*** The Investment Forum has its own website, [www.olligmu.org/~finforum](http://www.olligmu.org/~finforum). Or from the OLLI website, [www.olligmu.edu](http://www.olligmu.edu), 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.

Al Smuzynski  
Investment Forum Moderator  
asmuzynski@verizon.net

