

INVESTMENT FORUM AGENDA FOR WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 15, 2018 10:30AM,

TALLWOOD, TA-1

We will meet as a “club” starting August 15, at 10:30AM, Tallwood TA-1, until the start of the Fall Term on September 19. No registration is needed for “club” meetings, and guests are welcome.

Registration for the Fall Term runs from August 14 to August 23 at 12 Noon.

Market Perspective. Despite much economic news coming out, markets did not move much during the past three weeks, since we last met. For the three weeks ending August 10, the DOW was up 1.03%; the S&P was up 1.12%; and the NASDAQ was up 0.25%. News that moved markets included:

Turkey’s currency plunged on Friday, August 10, raising concerns of “contagion,” and prompting a threat of new US tariffs on Turkish aluminum and steel.

Daily threats and posturing over tariffs and trade sanctions.

Bump-up in US inflation numbers and a strengthening US dollar.

Generally good corporate earnings for the second quarter and good US economic numbers.

Apple \$1 trillion (see below) and Elon Musk taking Tesla private???

Robo Investing. Brenda Bloch-Young will go over “The Robo Report, Second Quarter 2018,” posted on the Forum website. The report compares various portfolios offered and rates providers. Robo investing is a fast growing and evolving segment of the industry, which may be eventually be of interest to many of us.

Agriculture. John Woods, the Forum’s (only?) expert on farming, will update us on the current state of Ag. Farm product prices have been hurt by tariffs imposed by nations in retaliation to US trade policies, raising the possibility of government subsidies to help out farmers. John will ‘splain it all to us.

Apple \$1 Trillion. As we all know, Apple’s (AAPL) market value crossed One Trillion Dollars on Thursday, August 2. (That’s “\$1”, followed by 12 zeros.) Paying off on a promise he made several months ago, we will have an “Apple \$1 Trillion” sheet cake at the end of class, courtesy of Sy Sherman, our own knower of all things Apple and tech.

And we still have two sheet cakes upcoming for DOW 25,000 and 26,000, keeping the Forum on a sugar high for the rest of the year.

Buys and Sells

Buys (week ending 7/25/2018)

Ship Finance International (SFL)

Sells (week ending 7/25/2018)

MGM (MGM)

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

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