

INVESTMENT FORUM AGENDA FOR WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2019 10:30AM

TALLWOOD, TA-1

This is the last session in 2019.

OLLI will be closed from December 16 to January 3, 2020. The Forum will meet as a club (10:30AM, Tallwood TA-1) the following dates: 12/11, 1/8, 1/15, and 1/22.

Brenda Bloch-Young will be the Forum Moderator this week.

Registration for the Winter term runs through Tuesday, December 10, at 12 Noon.

Market Perspective. Markets were little changed for the week, dipping Monday and Tuesday on trade and tariff uncertainty, but recovering Friday on strong jobs' numbers. For the Week, the DOW and NASDAQ were each down 0.1%; while the S&P was up 0.2%. Markets are on pace for 2019 to be the best year since 2013.

Sheet Cake! What better way to end a strong year in the markets, than with a sheet cake celebration, courtesy of Ed Swoboda. Toward the end of the session, we will cut the cake and toast DOW 27,000 and 28,000. For those of you planning lunch afterwards, remember, "Life is uncertain. Eat dessert first!"

Discussion Topics

For the last 40 years, the prevailing tax policy discussions have supported the philosophy of "broaden the base and lower the rates." The tax policy experts are now shifting to new ideas to address the extreme inequality in our country. We have heard about a wealth tax, a financial transactions tax, mark-to-market or "pay as you profit" on investments, and surtaxes on high net worth taxpayers. Brenda Bloch-Young will provide an update on the various tax proposals being discussed with the opinions of the pros and cons by tax policy experts.

Garrett Ruhl will discuss recent trends.

Bob Baker will look at the buys and sells from last week, listed in this Agenda.

Forum 2020 Market Forecast. Our tally from last week.

Upcoming Topics

Financial Advisors (continued.) We have three volunteers (Jerry Anderson, Marvin Singer, and Garrett Cochran) to discuss their experience with financial advisors on a second panel on this topic. We will schedule the panel sometime during the winter. We have room for additional panelists.

Change in the S&P 500 for calendar year 2020

| | |
|----------------------|----|
| Down over 20% | 0 |
| Down 15% to down 20% | 0 |
| Down 10% to down 15% | 1 |
| Down 5% to down 10% | 7 |
| Even to down 5% | 2 |
| Even to up 5% | 20 |
| Up 5% to up 10% | 13 |
| Up 10% to up 15% | 2 |
| Up 15% to up 20% | 0 |
| Up over 20% | 0 |

Absent a bad December this year, our votes last December (2018) predicting the S&P for 2019 were pessimistic compared to actual performance, so far. Nobody voted for over 20%; 8 voted up 10% to up 20%; 27 voted even to up 10%; 16 voted even to down 10%; and 1 voted down over 20%.

Buys and Sells

Buys (2 weeks ending 12/4/2019)

Apple (AAPL)

Target (TGT)

AT&T (T)

Vanguard Short-Term Investment Grade Fund (VFSUX)

Tanger (SKT)

New Residential Investment Corp (NRZ) - REIT - mortgage servicing

Iron Mountain (IRM)

Altria (MO)

Cracker Barrel (CBRL)

Simon Property Group (SPG)

Meredith Corp (MDP) - media. MC: \$1.6B

Sells (2 weeks ending 12/4/2019)

Home Depot (HD) - trim, take profits

Fastenal (FAST)

Fidelity Advisor Strategic Income Fund (FADMX)

Corning (GLW)

America Movie (AMX) - partial. Tax loss. Latin America telecom. MC: \$50B

Gamestop (GME) - trim

3M (MMM) - trim

Target (TGT) - trim

First American Financial (FAF) - trim

Thinking About . . .

Investment Forum Website. The Investment Forum has its own website. From the OLLI website, select “Clubs/Groups” at the top right of the home page. Select “Inve\$tment Forum” from the menu. The current and and previous agendas are posted, as well as articles in the financial press that members recommend.

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