

# CHAPTER NEWS

## LAMS Newsletter October 2023

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**Please make sure all your club members get a copy of the Newsletter. If anyone needs help subscribing just email us at [contact@lams.betterinvesting.net](mailto:contact@lams.betterinvesting.net) We'll be glad to help.**

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## LAMS 2023 Roundup in New Orleans



**Ken Kavula and Mark Robertson**, two very popular educators in the BetterInvesting community, will be guests of the LAMS Chapter on Saturday, Nov. 4. They'll be providing us with a day of learning at our annual LAMS

Roundup. Topics that Ken and Mark are working on for us are:

- Screening for new stock ideas
- Follow up from the 2024 Best Small Company List
- Portfolio reviews
- My favorite things on the SSG+ webpage

- And more

**What:** LAMS Chapter 2023 Roundup

**When:** Saturday, Nov. 4, 2023

**Time:** 9:00 AM to 2:30 PM

**Where:** Monroe Hall, Ochsner Medical Center  
1514 Jefferson Hwy  
Jefferson/New Orleans, Louisiana 70121

**Directions to Monroe Hall**—see below

**Out of town attendees:** For those who would like to drive to New Orleans on Friday, Nov. 3 and spend the night, we have secured a group room rate at **Country Inns and Suites by Radisson, Metairie**. Located at **2713 N. Causeway Blvd.**, it's just 8 minutes to Ochsner Medical Center down Causeway Blvd. The hotel has graciously offered to extend the special rate for guests who would like to spend the week-end.

Reservations are available at:

<https://www.choicehotels.com/en-de/reservations/groups/g9656636?groupId=G9656636&ratePlan=undefined&ratePlanCode=BSLUTF&checkInDate=2023-11-03&checkOutDate=2023-11-04>

**Cost for the Roundup:** \$30 plus Eventbrite fee.  
The price **includes a light lunch**.

**Register at** <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/lams-betterinvesting-chapter-stock-round-up-2023-tickets-664986641947?aff=ebdssbdestsearch>

**Details** available at the LAMS Chapter webpage here: <https://www.betterinvesting.org/chapters/lams>

**Questions:** [contact@lams.betterinvesting.net](mailto:contact@lams.betterinvesting.net)

# Oct. 7 Learning Event in New Orleans

## Understanding Growth and Quality of Management for Better Judgement

**When:** Saturday, Oct. 7, 2023

**Time:** 9:00 AM to 12:00 noon

**Where:** Monroe Hall, Ochsner Medical Center  
1514 Jefferson Hwy  
Jefferson/New Orleans, Louisiana 70121

**Directions to Monroe Hall**—see below

### Topics:

- Growth relative to ROE
- Quality of ROE
- Intrinsic Value of the company
- Quality of Dividend
- PE and Relative Value

Instructor LAMS Associate Director Ghanashyam Patel

**Cost:** Free

**To register** please send an email to [lamsbetterinvesting@gmail.com](mailto:lamsbetterinvesting@gmail.com)

Please include:

- Your name
- Email address
- Phone number
- If you are a BI member
- Level of investment experience
- And please include any questions you'd like to ask

# Directions to Monroe Hall

Here is a map of the Ochsner Medical Center campus

<https://ochsner-craft.s3.amazonaws.com/www/static/OchsnerMainCampusMap.pdf>

Park in the large parking garage (shown in orange at the bottom left of the map) and enter the main building from the garage. Walk down the first floor main hallway past the coffee shop and past the escalators until you reach the red brick floor. (It might feel like you passed the red brick floor and missed it, but keep walking--you'll see it). Take a right and then the first left.

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## Meet the Bungee Jumpers Investment Club of Baton Rouge, LA

Club Visit by LAMS Director Eric Resweber



Seated left to right: Barbara Bradberry, Astrid Clements, Sharon Perez, Connie Abboud  
Standing left to right: Kathy Lovett, Renee Farrell, Gertrude Cramer, Tex Morris—guest speaker, Mary O'Rourke, Alice Phillips, Mamie Wen, LAMS Director Eric Resweber, Jo Ellen Prutz, Carole Sexton

Not pictured: Brogan Bowen, Lalitha Chalasani, Linda Fowler, Tracey McGoey, Rachel Pere', Lauren Rucinski

I attended the Bungee Jumpers Investment Club's July meeting to present the club with a 25 year anniversary certificate from BetterInvesting. The club has 18 members and they're all members of BetterInvesting. It was held at Rouj restaurant in

Baton Rouge. The presentation was followed by a talk by Tex Morris, a financial planner with Edward Jones.

Tex pointed out how all the very negative news about the stock market that causes large drops in the indexes is always followed by recoveries. He also mentioned some of his and his firm's favorite stocks. One example that he used was about one of his favorite companies, Apple. He described Apple as a company that created a "perpetual market" because customers are constantly upgrading to the latest and greatest Apple products.

After Tex's presentation the club held its business meeting. Much of the discussion was about trying to find the best way to pay out a withdrawal to one of the members as companies were considered for possible sale to raise cash. The club amended its partnership agreement to allow a partner whose capital account value reached \$10,000 or more to request partial withdrawals. The club also wanted to have some extra cash on hand to take advantage of opportunities that may show up.

I was given a BJ Anniversary Recap that highlights the club's 25 years in business. It contains interesting information about the club's history including the "BJ System" that has been refined over the years. It also lists the club's highest gaining stocks, as well as the biggest losers. Gainers handily outpaced the losers. The Recap also contains an extensive list of "Lessons Learned in 25 Years of Stock Investing", which includes many of the principles that BetterInvesting teaches.

The Bungee Jumpers Investment Club was featured in "Repair Shop" in the 2012 June/July issue of BetterInvesting Magazine where Scott Horsburgh reviewed the club's portfolio. Bungee Jumpers was also one of four clubs featured in the 2014 June/July issue of the magazine in an article where clubs gauged the Repair Shop's impact on the club.

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# Meet the Fortune Cookies Investment Club of Hernando, MS

Club Visit by LAMS Director Joe Farrell



Left to Right: LAMS Director Joe Farrell, Pat Young, Jill Conkin, Sybil Crawford, Janie Norwood, Mary Lee Brown, Debby Rutledge, Nellita Young.

Not pictured: Laura Stevens

I traveled to Hernando to visit Fortune Cookies at their June 22, 2023 meeting and present a 25-year certificate commemorating the club's membership in BetterInvesting, and finally to answer questions about SSGPlus and other things.

At 11:30 a.m., we began with a lovely light lunch at the home of Pat Young, a most gracious hostess. The partners held their business meeting starting at about noon. One of the founding partners attended with her daughter. They have a diversified portfolio of stocks from five economic sectors and retain some cash for opportunities if presented. Four of their fourteen stocks represent more than 50% of their portfolio and may present available for cash opportunities. Three companies represent less than 3% of the portfolio each and should be re-evaluated for growth prospects or sale.

We spent the bulk of the meeting time working questions. Topics included sources of information and search engines to locate potential stocks to study. We talked about several sources including BetterInvesting's Online Tools and the Predefined Screen available. New additions to the tools such as Member

Sentiment, the new graphic lines available on SSGPlus, additions to the Ratios and Notes tabs were noted. We also spent some time with Price Earnings Ratio outliers on the SSGPlus. The local library does not have Morningstar or Value Line available, so other sources were suggested.

A large question that is always a problem was “how do we know what caused an unusual change in a company’s performance, i.e. sales, earnings, and stock price”. We discussed several sources and noted the most basic sources are the 10-K and 10-Q for the company. In particular, the Management’s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations is usually very informative. Two of the club’s partners are CPAs and have provided guidance to the other partners on this topic in the past.

The last big question was the perennial “How do we know when to sell?” This brought on a discussion of PERT in the Online tools and an explanation of the information on the left side of the form.

The partners closed the meeting by 2:30 p.m.

### **Support for Clubs**

Directors in the LAMS Chapter can use GoToMeeting to allow participants to discuss various investment topics. Email us at [conact@lams.betterinvesting.net](mailto:conact@lams.betterinvesting.net) to schedule a visit from one or more of our directors. Topics could range from club operations to issues related to stock studies. Club members decide.



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## **LAMS Stock Picking Contest Results** (7/31/23) by Joe Farrell, Director

Well, at least the weather is about right for the end of July, whew!

The contest ends today (7/31/23), by decision of the LaMs Chapter. Several directors are losing contestants and they felt it was unfair to the leaders to put their opportunity to win at risk with

last minutes changes to the rules.

We have seen positive activity in the market this month but it has been choppy. Looking at the results below you will note that every contestant's portfolio improved in July; just as they had performed in June.

The contest ran for 11 months. Connie Lambuth was in the lead for 10 of those months and finished with an overall gain of 52.2%. Second place was locked up by Dollars & Sense Investment club; it came on strong in the last three months with an overall gain of 37.6%. Gretchen Blondeau, although she increased profits over the last 3 months, her 33.4% just could not eke out a win due to the strength of the other two portfolios.

Ms. Lambuth's portfolio started out with AAPL 20%, NVDA 20%, PEP 10%, RTX 20%, SBUX 10%, TSCO 10% and ULTA 10%. Only RTX finished in the red down 2%, NVDA was up 209.6%; AAPL, SBUX and TSCO were up 15%-20% while PEP and ULTA were up less than 10%.

Meanwhile, Dollars & Sense Investment Club chose only 4 entries: GOOG up 22%, LAD up 17%, META up 96% and SWKS up 16%.

Finally, Ms. Blondeau chose four entries also: CCL up 99%, GOOG up 22%, LUV down 7% and V up 20%.

What I find interesting is that only GOOG and SBUX were chosen by more than one top performer.

Out of curiosity, I looked at an equal weighted portfolio of the 10 best performers from all contestants, starting with a \$100,000 portfolio value and it finished at \$184,460. Most contestants had solid performers in their portfolios but one or two stocks with problems were the difference between a middle of the pack contestant and the winners.

If we run the contest for a third consecutive year, we will start it at the LaMs Chapter Roundup in New Orleans. Watch your email and your BetterInvesting magazine for more information about the Roundup. Ken Kavula and Mark Robertson will be our guest



speakers and we can accommodate about 100 participants in the audience.

Ms. Lambuth and the Dollars & Sense Investment Club will each receive a check in the mail for their winning participation. Thank all of you for participating and good analysis in preparation for the fall contest is important.

Joe

**Disclaimer: Stocks mentioned are for educational purposes only. No investment recommendation is intended.**

**Black** names are individuals. **Blue** names are investment clubs. **Green** names are benchmarks. **Red** names are other information.

Portfolio	7/31/23	6/30/23	5/31/23	4/28/23
Connie Lambuth	152,157.08	148,233.77	136,491.94	131,300.01
Dollars & Sense I.C. (DeRidder)	137,633.80	128,467.96	117,104.97	109,330.40
Gretchen Blondeau	133,455.36	131,983.90	106,090.10	99,039.94
Individual in Slidell, LA	131,989.80	127,450.01	117,688.94	109,815.83
Individual in Jackson, MS	131,330.41	122,794.01	107,320.30	108,381.20
LAMS Model Club	130,383.34	122,783.00	116,066.74	117,047.76
Investment Club in Jackson, MS	130,035.55	125,105.75	114,955.24	114,232.90
Individual in Slidell, LA	123,737.37	117,629.18	109,071.31	106,796.01
Favorites--Top 10 Choices	120,266.57	115,003.51	107,900.99	102,168.70
Individual in Lafayette, LA	119,512.99	110,658.06	99,768.06	102,656.23
Investment Club in Jackson, MS	119,437.70	116,081.62	107,356.10	106,303.68
Individual in Slidell, LA	119,219.38	114,143.87	107,551.93	105,863.61
Individual in DeRidder, LA	116,602.53	110,615.26	107,284.88	101,633.83
Individual in Slidell, LA	116,484.94	113,315.64	104,105.30	102,555.04
Benchmark Index	116,029.33	112,545.41	105,684.70	105,423.01
Benchmark ETF	115,843.42	112,166.61	105,736.63	105,250.77
Individual in Ridgeland, MS	111,891.54	107,665.77	99,652.20	102,686.25
Least Favorite by \$	107,394.76	103,582.77	97,194.19	101,576.65
Individual in Jackson, MS	101,220.95	96,566.22	89,552.40	87,308.75
Investment Club in Slidell, LA	93,912.08	93,748.05	83,425.26	82,230.03
Individual in Branch, LA	92,646.18	84,057.41	80,005.74	78,584.06

## 2024 Stock Picking Contest

Start planning your stock picks for the next LAMS contest. The next contest will begin on Nov. 30, 2023 and run until Halloween of 2024. Watch your email for instructions and how to enter.



## LAMS Model Investment Club

You're invited to sit in on any of our meetings to see our Chapter Model Club in action. Meetings are normally held on the first Monday of the month (second Monday if there's a holiday conflict). The Model Club is a real investment club that uses real money and has a real portfolio. We're currently at 12 members from across Louisiana and Mississippi, and one member in Texas. And we average about 4 guests per meeting.

You're also invited to forward the contact information to your club members and friends who might be interested in learning about investment clubs or investing the BI way. BetterInvesting members and non-members are welcome. Our next meeting dates are Oct. 2, Nov. 6, and Dec 4.

We use GoToWebinar for meetings. To attend please register ahead of time at:

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/161942160331244314>

[9](https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/161942160331244314) You can also dial in using your phone: 1 (646) 749-3131. Enter Access Code: 944-996-925.

If you'd like more information about the Model Club or about attending a meeting you can contact Eric Resweber, Secretary, at [eresweber@gmail.com](mailto:eresweber@gmail.com).



## Useful Links

If you're not currently a member of BetterInvesting you can visit the BetterInvesting website to learn more about the organization--<https://www.betterinvesting.org/>

LAMS Chapter web page

<https://www.betterinvesting.org/chapters/lams>

Register to attend LAMS Model Club meetings as a guest

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/1619421603312443149>

If this newsletter was forwarded to you and you would like to subscribe to the newsletter click:

<https://www.betterinvesting.org/chapters/lams>

and fill out the form. We'd love to have you join us!

Video Learning Library—BetterInvesting members can access the very many archived webinar recordings here:

<https://lists.betterinvesting.org/link.php?M=3389991&N=25554&L=12063&F=H>

Guests and non-members can also access a sampling of BetterInvesting webinars to learn more about BetterInvesting, investing the BI way, investment clubs, and more:

<https://www.betterinvesting.org/learn-about-investing/free-videos>



**New Chapter Members:** LAMS Chapter gained six new members this last quarter. A club in Lafayette, LA and a club in Slidell, LA each have a new member. And our Chapter has new individual members from Lake Charles, LA, Lafayette, LA, Lucedale, MS, and Pearl, MS. We welcome all our new Chapter members.

Congratulations to the **ProfitSeekers Investment Club of Lafayette, LA**. This 35 year old club was profiled in the October issue of *BetterInvesting Magazine*. Read all about this impressive club on page 47 of the magazine.

**Club Connect:** Are you an individual member who is eager to join an investment club? Or are you part of an established club that would like to increase its ranks? BetterInvesting has announced a new program designed to connect individual BI members with clubs and connect clubs with possible new members who are already members of BetterInvesting. Details are on page 44 of the October issue of *BetterInvesting Magazine*.

**These are your volunteer Louisiana/Mississippi Chapter directors.**

Angela Lannen, DeRidder, LA  
Kaye Clingan, Jackson, MS  
Eric Resweber, Zachary, LA  
Joe Farrell, Jackson, MS  
Dennis Malcolm, Lafayette, LA  
David Arnold, Hattiesburg, MS  
Jimmy Stewart, Jackson, MS  
Ghanashyam Patel, New Orleans, LA

If you have a question about BetterInvesting, investment clubs, or investing in general, contact a director near you at [contact@lams.betterinvesting.net](mailto:contact@lams.betterinvesting.net)  
We're here to help.

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**Please make sure all your club members get a copy of the Newsletter. If anyone needs help subscribing just email us at [contact@lams.betterinvesting.net](mailto:contact@lams.betterinvesting.net) We'll be glad to help.**