



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF INVESTORS

BETTERINVESTING™

Educating Investors Since 1951

Summer/Fall 2025

Central PA Chapter of BetterInvesting
c/o Liz Rodda, Editor
PO Box 651
Dauphin, PA 17018
www.betterinvesting.org/centpenn

Chapter Director Dennis Low (standing, right) and Chapter President Kate Grenke (taking photo) visit Up, Up & Away Investment Club in Carlisle to celebrate the club's 35th anniversary.

IN THIS ISSUE:

- **Keystone Strategies Portfolios**
Bulls or Bears?
- **CRMIC Stock Monitors**
- **Vipers Investment Club**
- **LEMIC President Shares**
Methods for Analysis
- **Education Event Aug. 2**



NON-PROFIT • VOLUNTEER BASED • MEMBER DRIVEN

Educational Event

<https://www.betterinvesting.org/chapters/central-pennsylvania/local-events>

Saturday, August 2, 2025

8:30 AM

**Keystone Strategies Education Event and
Annual Meeting**

**Giant Food Store Community Room
3301 Trindle Road, Camp Hill, PA 17011**

Free to attend. Details page 3.

Visit Central PA Chapter's Two Model Investment Clubs

Learn and Earn Model Investment Club

Meets second Saturday of each month at Giant Food Store Community Room, Camp Hill, 9 AM to 11 AM.

Free and open to the public.

Centre Region Model Investment Club

Meets second Monday of each month at South Hills School of Business and Technology, State College, 6:30 PM to 8:30 PM.

Free and open to the public.

www.crmic.org

President's Column

By Kate Grenke

It is hard to believe we are halfway through 2025! In the blink of an eye, January through June are history. Looking back, it is easy to see that the Central PA Chapter (CPAC) of Better Investing was busy. From a successful SSG class in April, to presenting anniversary certificates to investment clubs, to planning for Keystone Strategies Educational Event in August, chapter directors have been busy! Thank you to everyone who volunteered to help accomplish these activities! You are the lifeblood of CPAC.

Anniversary certificates were presented to a few investment clubs. Two clubs, Dough Kneaders Investment Club and Vipers Investment Club, celebrated 25 years of investing, while two clubs, Up, Up and Away Investment Club and Investhers, celebrated 35 years of investing! Congratulations to all four clubs for successful years of investing together.

Do not forget the August 2 Keystone Strategies Educational Event, details on page 3. Those individuals and clubs who participated in the portfolio contest will learn who the winners are!

The first half of the year was also marked by the loss of a dedicated chapter director and LEMIC partner, Steve Wisegarver. Steve passed on June 14, 2025, after a battle with cancer. He was valued for his dedication to encouraging others to improve their investment knowledge. Even while he was recovering, he did not let that stop him from volunteering to visit clubs with his wife, Liz Rodda, whom he loved dearly, or from giving presentations during LEMIC meetings. We offer our condolences to Liz and family members. Steve will be missed.

As we look forward to the remaining six months of 2025, my hope is that CPAC will continue to be a strong support to investment clubs that need help. We are here to help others grow as investors. \$\$\$



Kate Grenke is the president of CPAC. She earned her Business Administration degree in 2011 from University of Phoenix. She retired from the Administrative Office of PA Courts/Minor Judiciary Education Board in 2018 so she could assume the position of grandmother to her grandson. She resides west of Chambersburg in Franklin County.

This newsletter is a publication of the Central PA Chapter of BetterInvesting (CPAC), a non-profit, volunteer organization dedicated to investment education. The BetterInvesting (BI) mission is to provide a program of sound investment information, education and support that helps create successful lifetime investors. The Central PA Chapter website is: www.betterinvesting.org/centpenn

Investments mentioned in this publication are meant for educational purposes only and are not to be considered an endorsement.

Officers are:

Kate Grenke, President

president@centpenn.betterinvesting.net

Vacant, Vice President

John Varner, Treasurer

treasurer@centpenn.betterinvesting.net

John deGroot, Secretary

Correspondence may be directed to newsletter editor:

Elizabeth O. Rodda

PO Box 651

Dauphin, PA 17018

Central PA Chapter Mourns the Passing of Steven Wisegarver



Photo by Liz Rodda

Steven C. Wisegarver, 79, passed away on June 14, 2025 from complications due to metastatic cancer. He served as president of Central PA Chapter and long-time treasurer of Learn and Earn Model Investment Club.

Steve and his wife, Elizabeth Rodda, enjoyed visiting clubs in Central PA Chapter. He and his wife are founding members of Capital Investment Club. Steve passed away on the couple's 37th wedding anniversary. \$\$\$



Keystone Strategies Education Event and CPAC Annual Meeting

Saturday, August 2, 2025

Giant Community Center, 3301 Trindle Rd, Camp Hill, PA 17011

FREE! Advance Registration Required. Email: brucelkennedy816@outlook.com

Agenda (subject to change)

- 8:30 AM to 9:00 AM** Registration and Continental Breakfast.
- 9:00 AM to 9:20 AM** Opening remarks and business matters.
Kate Grenke, President Central PA Chapter of BetterInvesting.
- 9:20 AM to 9:50 AM** Keystone Strategies Portfolio Contest Awards,
and NEW 2025-2026 Contest Kickoff – Richard Lindsay
- 9:50 AM to 10:40 AM** How to analyze Berkshire Hathaway – J. Diercks
- 10:40 AM to 11:20 AM** Model Investment Club Presentations
Dennis Low, Learn & Earn Model Investment Club
John Diercks, Centre Region Model Investment Club
- 11:20AM to 12:00 PM** Break and lite lunch snack
- 12:00 PM to 12:30 PM** Portfolio Management – John deGroot
- 12:30 PM to 1:10 PM** Artificial Intelligence – Mark James
- 1:10 PM to 1:50 PM** Let's Talk Stocks – 3 or 4 Volunteers TBD
- 1:50 PM** Closing Remarks – Kate Grenke, CPAC President

"The Keystone Strategies Education Event is a once-a-year opportunity for the BI members of Central Pennsylvania to gather together, meet and greet, and share investing ideas and strategies. It is also a rare opportunity for BI members and their guests to expand their investing skills by learning from our experienced, professional instructors." --- Bruce Kennedy, Keystone Strategies Coordinator

CRMIC Stock Monitors

By John Diercks, CRMIC President

CRMIC assigns a monitor for each stock in its portfolio. The responsibilities of the monitor include providing partners with monthly updates and recommendations to buy, hold, or sell the stock they monitor.

After each quarterly earnings report is released, the monitor also provides an updated Stock Selection Guide (SSG) based on the financial data released by the company.

An appointed partner for the club completes an Excel Spreadsheet which reflects the SSG zoning, the monitor's buy, hold, sell recommendation, the monthly percentage change in stock price, compounded annualized return in price, and the next earnings report date for each stock.

The compounded annualized return is provided by the accounting software used by the club and is based on the price and date of purchase plus any dividends paid since stock purchase.

The table below illustrates information for each stock in the club's portfolio for partners to review at our monthly meetings. At this point in the meeting, partners can mention any significant news about the company which may be important about buying or selling shares of a stock in our portfolio. They can also see the performance of stocks on a monthly and annualized basis.

The table is a snapshot in time on the club's valuation date of April 30, 2025. Three stocks and an ETF were down in April, and the best performing stock on an annualized basis since purchase was United States Lime and Mineral (USLM) up 70.2%.

Article continues on page 5

CRMIC Portfolio

11 partners

10 holdings

Alphabet Inc. (GOOGL)

Apple Inc. (AAPL)

Amazon.com Inc. (AMZN)

Berkshire Hathaway Inc. (BRK.B)

Costco Wholesale Corp. (COST)

Kinsale Capital Group (KNSL)

Microsoft Corp. (MSFT)

Ulta Beauty (ULTA)

United States Lime and Mineral (USLM)

Vanguard Small-Cap ETF (VB)

CRMIC 2025 Officers:

John Diercks, President

Pratibha Vakharia, VP

Secretary Open

John Varner, Treasurer

CRMIC

Stock Monitors, continued from page 4

Five stocks have an annualized percentage gain above 15% which is the cutoff for doubling the value of an investment in five years. Berkshire Hathaway Class B (BRK.B) and Ulta Beauty (ULTA) were just below 15%.

The only negative performing stock was Kinsale Capital Group (KNSL). As primarily an insurance company, the stock price was reacting to the cost of the recent Los Angeles fires.

COMPANY	SSG	MONITOR	MONTHLY	ANNUALIZED RETURN, %	NEXT EARNINGS REPORT
AAPL	B	H	-4.3%	23.1%	7/31/2025
AMZN	B	H	-3.1%	19.7%	8/7/2025
BRK.B	H	H	0.1%	14.6%	8/1/2025
COST	H	H	5.2%	25.7%	5/29/2025
GOOGL	B	H	2.7%	16.6%	7/22/2025
KNSL	B	H	-10.6%	-9.3%	7/24/2025
MSFT	H	H	5.3%	11.9%	7/29/2025
ULTA	B	H	7.9%	13.3%	5/29/2025
USLM	B	H	5.8%	70.2%	7/30/2025
VB	N/A	H	-2.5%	6.4%	N/A

The club meets once a month for two hours. To save limited time, it's important to consolidate information for visual review. The monitor's report shows information from the latest SSG, stock monitor recommendations, stock performance data, and the date of the next earnings report. \$\$\$



John Diercks is a Director with BetterInvesting's Central Pennsylvania Chapter. John is a member of two investment clubs and serves as president for Centre Region Model Investment Club. With three degrees in meteorology, John spent 26 years in the Air Force and 16 years as an instructor of meteorology at The Pennsylvania State University before retirement.

2026 Save the Dates

Saturday, March 21, 2026
Stock Selection Guide
Training
Giant Food Store
Community Room,
Camp Hill

Saturday, August 15, 2026
Keystone Strategies
Eduaton Event and Annual
Meeting,
Giant Food Store
Community Room,
Camp Hill

Stay Informed

The Chapter maintains an email list to notify members of upcoming events, including workshops, webinars, education days, and other investing opportunities.

Contact John Diercks at contact@centpenn.betterinvesting.net if you would like to receive timely notification of these events via email.

In general, you will only receive one or two emails a month from the Chapter.

Encourage other members in your investment club who are not receiving our emails to request joining the Chapter list.



Richard Lindsay, pictured above, manages the Keystone Strategies Portfolio Contest.

Richard consistently credits Central PA entrants as being “excellent stock pickers.”

2024 Portfolio Contest Winners

1st Place,
Kermit Bell

2nd Place,
Bruce Kennedy

3rd Place,
Donna Diercks

4th Place,
Tim Kreider

Investment Club
Contest Winner,
Learn & Earn Model
Investment Club

Bulls and Bears

Local Stock Pickers Make Surprising Choices



The 15th Annual Keystone Strategies (KS) Portfolio Contest has been a rollercoaster ride since August 2024.

As of press time, the investment club leading the pack is Centre Region

Model Investment Club (CRMIC). The club turned its \$5,000 paper portfolio up to \$6,485 since August 2024.

The outstanding “zoom ahead” stock is Sezzle (SEZL), a financing institution that offers a technology-driven payment platform.

CRMIC’s second highest holding in KS portfolio contest is CrowdStrike Holdings (CRWD), which is a cybersecurity company.

Leading the individual portfolios at press time is John Varner, at a whopping value of \$8,055.16. Varner’s portfolio, too, has SEZL as its leader.

Second highest personal portfolio is John Gaydos. He boldly chose only two holdings for his entries: Palantir Technology (PLTR) and Wal-Mart (WMT).

Abel Beish is in third place at \$7,021. He is the youngest contest entrant, the grandson of contest coordinator, Richard Lindsay.

Abel has attended several LEMIC meetings and obviously is a good stock picker. Three of his five stocks are what drove his portfolio to third place: Palantir (PLTR), NRG Energy (NRG) and Tapestry (TPR).

Hear about the winning portfolios on Saturday, August 2 during the Keystone Strategies Education Event. Details in this newsletter.

For more information and to see all the portfolios go to www.bivio.com/keystonestrategies. \$\$\$

BetterInvesting

We are all about education.

August 2, 2025 – Keystone Strategies Education Event and Annual Meeting, 8:30 AM to 1:50 PM at the Giant Food Stores, 3301 Trindle Road, Camp Hill, Pennsylvania 17011. Details page 3.

BetterInvesting e-Learning

Classes: In this new section of the Learn About Investing channel on the BetterInvesting (BI) website, BI will be providing self-paced, interactive e-Learning courses to help you build the base of knowledge needed to prepare you to invest in the stock market. As BI builds out this section of subjects, you will find course topics ranging from stock market basics to the fundamentals of stock investing and much more.

Registration:

<https://www.betterinvesting.org/learn-about-investing/elearning-courses>

BetterInvesting Open House

This is a website where perspective new BI members may go to discover some of the tools and resources available to BI members. To see what the Open House offers go to www.betterinvesting.org/openhouse/

First Cut Stock Studies

First Cut has been designed to provide members with a list of good quality companies and, more importantly, to provide a library of stock studies completed by BI members, including several Central PA Chapter members. Compare your judgments to what others are thinking. The studies are found at <https://www.betterinvesting.org/members/find-great-stocks/first-cut-stock-reports>

Central PA Chapter of BetterInvesting

We are all about education.

Investment Club Visit

Vipers Investment Club
CPAC Director Liz Rodda (center) presents
25-Year Anniversary Certificate



Photo by Steven C. Wisegarver

Stock Selection Guide Training Class April 2025

CPAC Director Bruce Kennedy
Welcomes the Class
and Thanks Instructors Kate Grenke and
John deGroot



Photo by Steven C. Wisegarver

LEMIC Portfolio

19 partners
14 holdings

Adobe Systems (ADBE)

Alphabet (GOOG)

Corpay Inc. (CPAY)

Costco (COST)

Globus Medical (GMED)

Intuit (INTU)

Microsoft (MSFT)

Nice Ltd ADR (NICE)

Novo Nordisk (NVO)

Nvidia Corp (NVDA)

Rollins (ROL)

Schlumberger Ltd (SLB)

VISA Inc.(V)

Veeva Systems (VEEV)

LEMIC 2024 Officers:

Dennis Low, President

Ken Heil, Vice
President

Kate Mobley, Secretary

Dave Moore, Treasurer

Researching, Reading, Analyzing

By Dennis Low

I spend many hours a week researching stocks and following, to a minor degree, the stock market.

My wife commonly says I spend too much time on the topic. I try to keep my response mute, but look at what is offered as alternative entertainment or education on various forms of media. I think of the classic ‘brain rot’, which not surprisingly has recently been confirmed by a study to actually occur.

In a recent ‘Humble Dollar’ article, Adam Grossman discussed two Nobel Prize winners who received the coveted award the same year and with opposing theories regarding stocks and the stock market. Eugene Fama, who developed key ideas in finance that are known as Modern Portfolio Theory (MPT), essentially concluded that stock prices are always rational because they reflect all available information. Robert Shiller, who developed the cyclically adjusted price-earnings (CAPE) ratio, argued precisely the opposite.

In *Irrational Exuberance*, Shiller demonstrated that markets aren’t always rational and that asset bubbles can and do occur—with the run-up in the late 1990s being a prime example. Shiller noted also that investors should never look at any one metric in a vacuum. Investments need to be considered in comparison to other available investment options.

For my part I do not limit myself to one or two sources. I utilize Morningstar, Reuters, Value Line, Seeking Alpha, Motley Fool, AAI etc. I do this in part because there is no ‘magical’ analysis or back test that can give one an accurate value of a stock today or tomorrow but only in the ‘long run’.

Also, despite my best efforts, I am always biased “Oh, this stock is overpriced, or this stock is a buy”. Fortunately, my decisions are balanced out by my fellow investors in LEMIC and at Better Investing.



Dennis Low is a Chapter Director, president of Learn & Earn Model Investment Club and a Lifetime Member of BetterInvesting.