



Newsletter Fall/Winter 2025

The Philadelphia Area Chapter

Newsletter for the Philadelphia Area Chapter of BetterInvesting - Volume 5 Issue 2

President's Corner, Fall/Winter 2025:

Uncertainty over US trade tariffs dominated markets in the quarter. However, equities made gains as the initially announced tariffs were later suspended and recession fears receded. In fixed income markets, the focus began to turn from interest rate cuts to worries over debt sustainability.

In Quarter 2, 2025 US gains were led by the information technology and communication services sectors as investor appetite for some of the "Magnificent 7" stocks reignited. Stocks with exposure to artificial intelligence staged a strong recovery from some weakness earlier in the year. Underperforming sectors in the quarter included healthcare and energy. The Trump administration is seeking to lower drug prices in the US, pressuring the share prices of some healthcare companies.

US economic data generally remained resilient although Q1 GDP fell by 0.5% (according to the third estimate from the Bureau of Economic Analysis). This was due to higher imports in the quarter, which likely occurred as a result of concerns around future tariffs. Employment data largely remained resilient.

President Trump unveiled flagship tax and spending legislation which was passed by the House of Representatives in June. The bill extends tax cuts passed in 2017, increases defense spending, and cuts spending on programs such as Medicaid.

Jerome Smith, President
K-21 Chapter of BetterInvesting

Philadelphia Area Model Investment Club

PAMIC

The Philadelphia Area Model Investment Club is open to guest and opened to you becoming a member of the club. The meetings are held the second Saturday of each month from 9:30am-12:00pm. The meetings are held virtually and in October it will be held in person at the Giant Super Store at 315 York Rd, Willow Grove as well as Virtually. To join virtually the link is below.

Philadelphia Area Model Investment Club

Please join my meeting from your computer, tablet or smartphone.

<https://meet.goto.com/461688397>

You can also dial in using your phone.

Access Code: 461-688-397

United States: [+1 \(646\) 749-3122](tel:+16467493122)

Get the app now and be ready when your first meeting starts:

<https://meet.goto.com/install>

Free Fall/Winter Webinars

Webinar Title: Analyzing Berkshire Hathaway Stock

Date: October 15, 2025

Time: 7:30pm - 8:30pm

Instructor: John Diercks

Webinar description:

Berkshire Hathaway is a difficult stock to analyze. You will learn how to analyze the company's complex financial statements and data using tools readily available to investors. The webinar will also cover background information, a brief review of how to analyze a property/casualty insurance company, and a comparison of earnings per share on the Stock Selection Guide (SSG) and available from Value Line for Berkshire Hathaway. Several of Warren Buffett's quotes, his advice for investors, and interesting excerpts from his annual letters will be included in the webinar.

Instructor: John Diercks - Instructor & Director, Central PA Chapter of BetterInvesting.



John Diercks is a Director with BetterInvesting's Central Pennsylvania Chapter. John is a member of two investment clubs and serves as president for the Centre Region Model Investment Club. He teaches financial classes at local, regional, and national events. 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.

To Register: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/3012749171604966745>

Webinar Title:**“Advanced Acid Tests” Stock Study Deep Dive****Date: November 19, 2025****Time: 7:30pm - 8:30pm****Instructor: Kathleen Richards****Webinar description:**

Using the BetterInvesting Stock Selection Guide (SSG), learn how to read the graph’s “Golf Balls” and “Bubbles.” Understand the importance of the most recent four quarters. Learn how to identify if they are “out of trend.” See why a bowing graph is deadly.

Learn the power of the “Torpedo Graph,” as it shows the Pre-Tax Profit (PTP) trend. “Trend is our friend!” When the PTP declines, the EPS declines, and the Price declines!!

When PTP declines, see how share buy-back will increase the EPS and Price. Share buy-back may be camouflaging declining profits.

Learn the value of “Compare Peers.” Dive deeper into management by contrasting the most recent year to benchmarks. Learn how to read price volatility with the loooooong price bars and Beta!

Instructor: Kathleen Richards

Kathleen has been known to say, “Everything I have learned about investing, I have learned from BetterInvesting.” Kathleen has appeared on Spectrum News 1 Ohio on a variety of investing topics. She facilitated BI contributions to USA Today and MSN. For her national service, she has received the prestigious Tom O’Hara Award.

Kathleen’s passion is training youth. She is a co-author of “The Goose That Laid the Golden Egg” workshop for middle school students. Kathleen also has mentored the Visionary Young Professionals (VYP) young adults of CLIMB, founded by Bob Wynn.

Kathleen developed her unique teaching style as a chemistry teacher and IBM speaker. For over twenty years, Kathleen has been active in the Northeast Ohio BI Chapter.

To Register: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/5823507711503731804>

Introduction of Investing with Fundamentals of the BetterInvesting

Stock Analysis Methodology



Saturday, November 1, 2025, from 9am-3pm at the Community Center at Giant in Willow Grove, 315 York Rd. Willow Grove

This Class is an introduction to investing and the BetterInvesting Stock Analysis methodology. You will learn to complete a Stock Selection Guide (SSG) while increasing your knowledge of investment and financial terminology. You will learn to analyze a company to determine whether to buy, sell, or hold, and how to use data produced by independent analysts such as Morning Star and Value Line. You will obtain a basic knowledge of stock analysis using the on-line SSG Core and the SSG Plus.

Fee: \$20 To register by Eventbrite, go to [Register here](#)

OR Make check payable to: **(NAIC - BetterInvesting Philadelphia Chapter)** and mail to Gloria Mankonen at 1106 Cowpath Rd. Hatfield, PA 19440

Investor Day with Doug Gerlach

Saturday, December 6, 2025, from 9am-4pm at the Community Center at Giant in Willow Grove, 315 York Rd. Willow Grove

Presentation Topics

New Rules of Dividend Investing

Many investors turn to dividends as income vehicles as they approach or enter retirement. But yield alone isn't the route to likely investing success. It's far better to focus on stocks that can both generate income and offer long-term appreciation potential, which in the process helps to reduce overall portfolio risk. Learn how to improve returns by focusing on reasonably-valued companies with solid balance sheets and significant free cash flow generation, thus allowing for the payment of consistent and growing dividends. One final "secret ingredient" narrows down the list and will enable you to invest in the best stocks providing capital returns for shareholders.

Investing in ADRs and Foreign Stocks

Many investors and investment clubs look to diversify their portfolios internationally by holding shares of foreign companies or American Depositary Receipts (ADRs). Learn the benefits and pitfalls of holding foreign stocks in your portfolio. Understand the tax issues that are involved in holding non-U.S. companies (especially for investment clubs) and how to identify if a company is "foreign" or not (hint: it's not always where a company operates!).

Understanding Company Debt and Leverage

Successful companies can borrow money to help them grow their businesses, but many investors shy away from investing in companies that carry debt. But how much debt is "too much" on a company's balance sheet? Learn to move beyond a simple "debt is bad" mindset and critically evaluate how a company's capital structure impacts its risk, profitability, and long-term viability. Understand how debt

is deployed by companies in different industries and learn to distinguish between prudent, growth-fueling leverage and excessive debt that threatens shareholder value.

Investment Club Portfolio Tune-Up

Doug will review portfolios of investment clubs that have been submitted, making suggestions about potential pitfalls and avenues towards improvement.

Closing of 2025 Club Taxes

Open to the Public

Cost \$35 - Lunch Included Event to be at the Giant Community Room at 315 York Rd, Willow Grove, PA

To register by Eventbrite: [Register here](#)

To register by Mail use information below:

Make check payable to: NAIC - BetterInvesting Philadelphia Chapter - Mail check to: Gloria Mankonen, 1106 Cowpath Rd, Hatfield, PA. 19440
For More Information contact - Gloria Mankonen (contact@philly.betterinvesting.net) or call 215-796-1214

Article

Irina Clements

People Can Invest in Private Investments Like the Ultrawealthy—Should You?

There is major move is wider access to private investments. As platforms like Equity Zen and Forge Global make it easier to invest in these vehicles, providers of traditional exchange-traded funds (ETF) are offering retail investors additional and indirect ways to access them. Many professionals advised caution if you're considering any of these. One advisor's comment, "It is very difficult even for us professionals who vet opportunities constantly."

What Are Private Investments?

When you put money into companies or assets not traded on public exchanges like the New York Stock Exchange, you're engaging in private investments—just as you're making a private investment when you buy some real estate. But unlike mutual funds or stocks and bonds that you can buy on public exchanges with a few clicks, private investments traditionally required large minimum commitments and were available only to institutional investors and high-net-worth individuals. There are reasons why investors might wish to go the private investment route. "The private market returns are not correlated and can be higher and less risky than even the traditional market," however, these investments typically lock up your money for five to 10 years.

They also come with significantly less regulatory oversight and transparency than publicly traded investments.

The SEC limits many private investments to "accredited investors" who meet specific financial or professional criteria, including annual income exceeding \$200,000 (\$300,000 for joint income), net worth over \$1 million (excluding your primary residence), or certain investment professionals.

While the barriers to entry in private investments have come down, experts emphasize the average investor needs help. "If you are attempting to do it alone, don't," Hall said. "Have a financial planner to guide you through this situation."

- **Build your foundation first:** "Investors should first establish a solid portfolio that is made up of 'traditional' investments!"
- **Set allocation limits:** "Every portfolio should have 5% to 20% allocated to 'alternative investments'."
- **Only invest what you can afford to lose:**
- **Perform due diligence:**
- **Understand the fee structure:**
- **Plan to be without your funds:** Most private investments lock up your capital for five to 10 years.

Private markets offer potential benefits but require significantly more research, professional guidance, and patience than public investments. While platforms advertise lower minimum investments, many still require accreditation status and substantial commitments that should only be made as part of a comprehensive financial plan.