

New Letter MARYLAND MONEY MATTERS

2025

happy
holidays

edition

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Edition...*

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President's Message



Dear BetterInvesting Maryland Members, Clubs, Volunteers, and Friends,

I'm honored to greet you as your newly elected Chapter President, and I would like to thank Ana McBayne and our dedicated board for a strong and impactful FY2024–2025. Their leadership laid the groundwork for a year of meaningful education programs, expanded club support, and deeper engagement across our Maryland investing community.

As we transition into FY2025–2026, my focus is on strengthening and growing our chapter—

- expanding volunteer participation
- supporting both new and established clubs
- streamlining the planning and delivery of events and education

From club visits and portfolio reviews to hands-on classes, Model Club development, and member appreciation events, we will continue creating opportunities that make learning both valuable and enjoyable.

Thank you for being part of this community. Your participation and curiosity fuel everything we do, and I look forward to not only serving you but serving alongside you in the year ahead as we build an even more active, informed, and connected BetterInvesting Maryland Chapter.

Warm regards,

Cynthia D. Bonhom

President, BetterInvesting Maryland Chapter

president@maryland.betterinvesting.net



"Money, Membership, and Mortality: Let's Talk About It"

By Cynthia Bonhom, President – InTheBlack Investment Club / BetterInvesting Maryland Chapter

Where Does the Money Go?

When a partner in an investment club passes away, it's a question that suddenly becomes real: what happens to their share of the portfolio?

Unlike a personal brokerage account, a club account is jointly held by all members, and it's governed by the Operating Agreement and Partner Agreement—not a will, trust, or beneficiary designation. So when a partner dies, the club typically issues a full withdrawal of that partner's account—paid directly to their estate, not to an individual listed as a beneficiary.

Beneficiary or Estate?

You might be tempted to ask, "Why don't we just let members list a beneficiary like a 401(k) or insurance policy?" Good question.

Here's why clubs don't usually go that route:

- The club is not a custodian of funds—it's a joint ownership entity.
- The estate has legal standing; beneficiaries don't.
- The club avoids disputes and delays by paying the estate (which will then distribute funds per the member's will or probate process).

This isn't just a preference—it's best practice. Even BetterInvesting and most legal advisors recommend this approach to protect the club and its members from liability.

Skip the Name. Go Estate.

If you've filled out a partner agreement and wondered why there's no line to list a beneficiary—now you know why! It's not that we're ignoring legacy planning. In fact, we strongly encourage members to ensure their personal estate documents are current, including:

- A will
- A named executor
- Documentation of investment club ownership in their estate records

By keeping the club's distribution policy simple (pay the estate), we reduce the chances of messy disputes or confusion during an emotional time.

Naming Names? Not Always Smart.

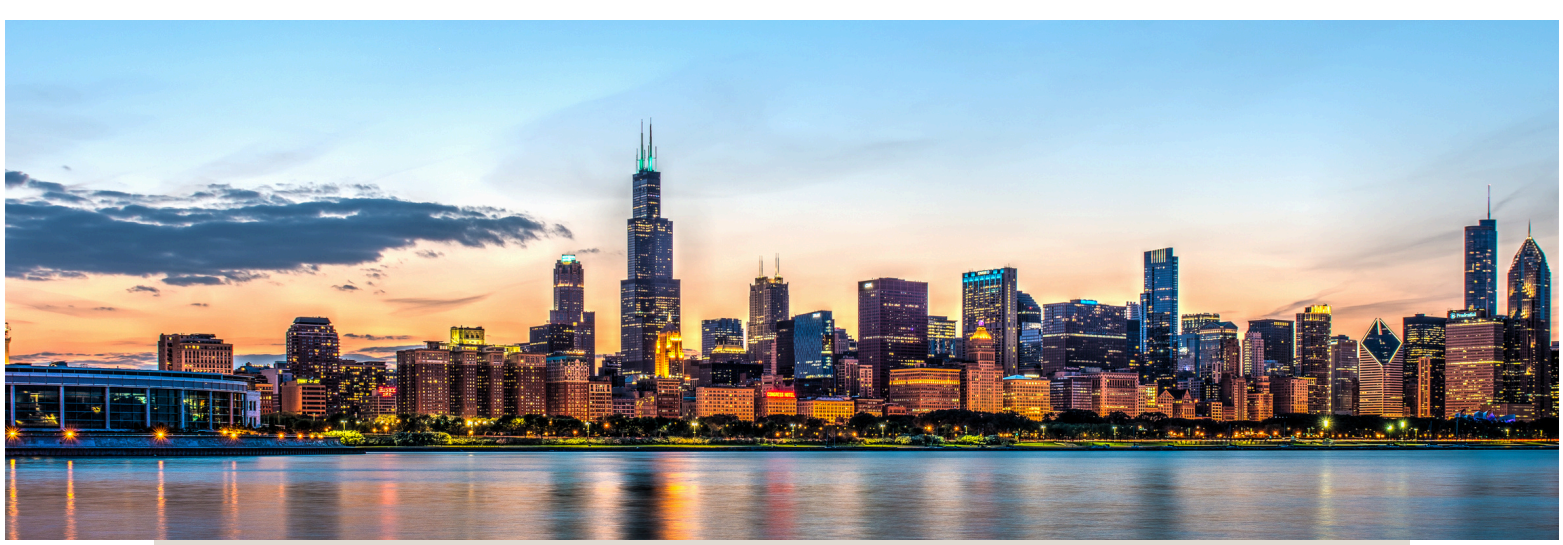
Imagine a scenario: a partner passes, and they listed a cousin as their beneficiary—but their will names someone else. Or worse, they didn't update anything after a major life change.

This is why most clubs do not accept personal beneficiary designations. It's not personal—it's policy. Stick with "pay the estate." It's clean, consistent, and keeps the club out of family drama.

Final Thought

Investment clubs are built on trust, transparency, and smart investing—not just in stocks, but in how we handle life events too. As your club matures, revisiting policies like this ensures that every partner—current or future—is protected.

Cynthia Bonhom, President/Chair
president@maryland.betterinvesting.net



BINC 2026

April 23 - April 26, 2026

Registration to BINC 2026 includes:

- Opening Bell Welcome Reception
- “Let’s Talk Stock” Panel
- Exhibitor Reception
- Corporate Expo
- Renowned Keynote Speakers
- Convention Meals
- 60+ Educational Sessions
- Door Prizes
- Closing Bell Ceremony

[REGISTER HERE](#)

Support for Local Chapters: Proceeds from the event will benefit local chapters and volunteers, supporting the mission of BetterInvesting. This conference presents an excellent opportunity for individuals interested in enhancing their investment skills and connecting with like-minded professionals in the financial community. For more information, including registration details and session topics, you can visit the official [BetterInvesting website](#).

CELEBRATING 75 YEARS OF INVESTOR EDUCATION

CONTACT
[BI MD CHAPTER](#)
FOR DETAILS

END OF YEAR CELEBRATION!

BI MD Chapter 1st Ever Game Day!



The BI Maryland Chapter is excited to host our first-ever Game Day this December! Get ready for a fun-filled event designed to build investing knowledge through play, friendly competition, and community.

Featured Games:

- Market Mayhem (Game Buster Highlight!)
- Cash Flow
- Monopoly Deal
- Bulls & Bears

Event Details:

- Date: December 13, 2025
- Time: 10:30 AM – 2:00 PM
- Location: South Bowie Library,
[15301 Hall Rd, Bowie, MD 20721](#)



Bring your curiosity, your competitive spirit, and maybe even a teammate or two! Whether you're new to investing or a seasoned pro, these games will offer a fun way to test your financial skills, sharpen your strategies, and connect with fellow members.

We look forward to seeing you there!

Calendar

of Events



Date	Event	Location
4/23/2026 - 4/26/2026	BetterInvesting National Convention BINC 2026	Marriott Chicago O'Hare
12/11/2025 8:00 pm - 9:15 pm ET	StockUp: Bridging the GAAP - Make Sense of Conflicting Earnings Data	Online event
12/13/2025 10:00 am - 2:00 pm ET	1st Ever Game Day!	South Bowie Library (proposed) 15301 Hall Rd Bowie, MD 20772

MD CHAPTER SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

DECEMBER 2025

MD Chapter 1st-Ever Game Day

Saturday, December 13, 2025

10:30 AM – 2:00 PM

South Bowie Library, Bowie, MD

Join us for our first-ever Game Day featuring...

- Market Mayhem
- Cash Flow
- Bulls & Bears
- Monopoly Deal

Light fare and door prizes included!

FEBRUARY 2026

Reginald F. Lewis Museum Visit & Book Discussion

Reginald F. Lewis Museum, Baltimore, MD

Featured Book: Why Should White Guys Have All the Fun?

An engaging cultural and financial discussion where history, wealth-building, and personal empowerment intersect for a meaningful member experience

Full date and registration details will be announced in the next newsletter

APRIL 2026

“Talk-It-Up Tuesdays” with BI Maryland (Virtual Series)

Where: Tuesday evenings via GoToMeeting

What: A structured month-long educational series featuring MD Chapter instructors and BetterInvesting (BI) tools.

ONGOING CHAPTER ACTIVITIES - All Are Invited

- Monthly MD Chapter Board Meetings (3rd Fridays Virtual)
- Quarterly Maryland Money Matters Newsletter
- Club Support & Coaching Sessions
- Volunteer Recruitment Opportunities

For additional details on all events contact

contact@maryland.betterinvesting.net

**BE IN THE
KNOW**

NEWS YOU CAN USE



INTRODUCING A NEW ERA OF CAMARADERIE: INVESTMENT CLUB CONNECT!

Join Investment Club Connect!
Bridging the gap between investment clubs and individual members, this free program facilitates connections that benefit both the clubs & individuals.

It's the ultimate matchmaker for BetterInvesting members interested in joining an existing investment club.

[LEARN MORE](#)

Ready to Test Your Stock-Picking Skills?

Think you've got what it takes to beat the S&P 500? Join the 2026 Maryland Chapter Stock Pickers' Contest and prove it! Whether you're a club or an individual, here's your chance to manage a \$50,000 virtual portfolio and compete for cash prizes—or at the very least, bragging rights!

It's simple:

- Pick 5–10 stocks (minimum \$1/share) using your investing know-how
- Submit your portfolio by Saturday, January 31, 2026
- Two trading days: April 11 and June 20
- Stay ahead with biweekly updates and get rewarded if you outperform the S&P!

Prizes up to \$100 awarded at the Maryland Chapter Annual Meeting in September (based on entries). All outperformers get certificates!

[Click here](#) for full contest rules, forms, and how to enter:

Got questions? Email: StockPickers@maryland.betterinvesting.net
Let's grow together—one smart pick at a time!

contact@maryland.betterinvesting.net

TECHNICAL ANALYSIS

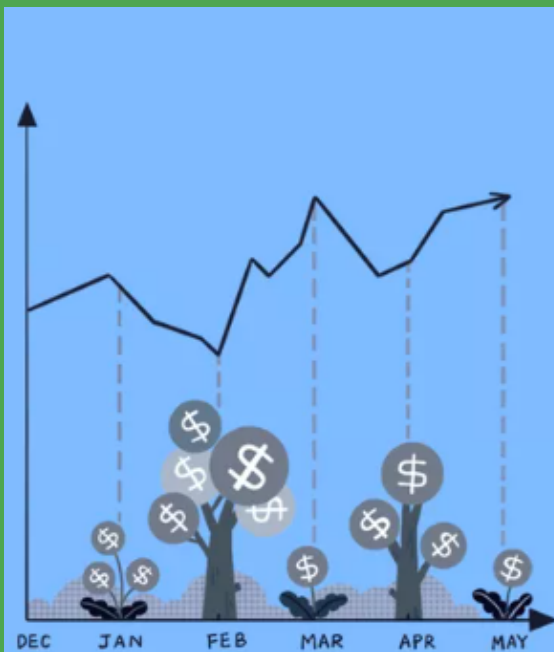


Technical Analysis

['tek-ni-kəl ə-'nɑ-lə-səs]

A method of analyzing and predicting stock movements based on past market data, primarily price and volume.

TERMS TO GROW BY...



Dollar-Cost Averaging (DCA)

['dä-lər 'kōst 'ɑ-v(ə-)ri-jɪŋ]

An approach to purchasing an investment in which the buyer spreads out their purchases so that the total price paid is less affected by market timing.

DOLLAR-COST AVERAGING (DCA)

SOURCE: INVESTOPEDIA

