



Chapter Newsletter

Spring Issue

Message From Our President

Market Forecast For 2023 Are Worthless

Don't bank on the guessing game of yearly predictions to make investment decisions.

The Federal Reserve have been increasingly raising the interest rates, but by less than in previous sessions this year than last year. If you want to know what these and other economic development mean for the stock market in 2023, there are plenty of forecasts coming out of Wall Street. This is the time of year when investment strategists gear up and produce earnest, specific forecasts for where the S&P 500 will be at the end of the next calendar year.

With inflation soaring, the Fed raising interest rates, Russia's war in Ukraine and China's decision to drop its Covid policy, a recession is all but certain in Europe and possibly increasing in the United States, clear directions of the future would be particularly welcome now. But that's not what the one-year forecasts from Wall Street are providing. These attempts at forecasting the future are stymied by a fundamental problem: It's simply impossible to forecast the path of the markets six months or a year ahead with accuracy and consistency.

Read these things if you find them interesting, but don't rely on them – or those who produce them – to guide your investing. Instead, embrace uncertainty. Accept that you need to invest without knowing what will happen to your money over the short term. First, be sure, put aside enough money in a safe place (a bank account or money-market fund) to pay the bills in the months ahead. Don't base your investments on specific predictions of where the stock market is heading over the short term, because no one knows. Making bets on the basis of these forecasts is gambling, not investing.

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President's Message (continued)

Instead, diversify. Place your bets so you are prepared whether the market goes up or down, and be ready to ride out extended losses, like those in 2022. Stock market projections of longer duration have much greater accuracy than those for the next six months or a year. It's possible to be intelligently optimistic about financial markets over the next few decades, without knowing where the markets are heading over the next year. I wouldn't bet on any single financial asset just because a Wall Street expert says it is about to rise.

Using your money that way – whether you are buying stocks, bonds or far less solid assets like cryptocurrency – is gambling, not investing. But if you stay humble, invest in the total stock and bond markets and manage to hang for decades, your chances of prospering are much greater. That prediction is reliable!

Article contributed by Cynthia McCrary

2023 Portfolio Contest Update

The 2023 Georgia Chapter Portfolio Contest is well underway. We only had three individuals to enter the contest and no clubs entered. This was disappointing but we hope more of you will decide to enter next year. A copy of the portfolio tracking sheet has been posted to the News & Articles section of our chapter website. The tracking sheet will be updated at the end of each month and posted to the website soon after that. At the end of the first month, **K. Pillette is in first place, J. Baker is in second place and T. Howell is in third place.** You can look at the portfolio tracker to see the dollar value of their virtual portfolios.

Remember no investment recommendation is implied by the posting of these companies.

Thanks.

Howard Johnson



Are All Investment Clubs the Same?

What Club is Right for Me?

Jim Vandersall



So you've heard about investment clubs and are interested in joining one. Prior to attending, you've done your research and think you know what to expect. You locate a club in your area or attend a meeting online only to find out it is not what you thought it was. Now what do you do?

This is a common experience for individuals who are searching out a club where they can take advantage of the BetterInvesting tools, learn the principles of investing, and make sound investment decisions. Excitement builds--and then the letdown.

As an original member of two separate investment clubs, I will tell you that they are **not** all alike. They can differ based upon membership type, investment goals, investing experience of the members or other factors. They also differ based upon how they operate. They may meet online, in-person, at a home, in a restaurant or a library. Meetings may revolve around dinner, and in some cases wine and cheese. I have experienced all of these settings through membership and club visits. Admittedly I prefer some more so than others (Although I do like the wine!).

The two clubs I am a member of are totally different. The first club was originally a formation of engineers from Robins Air Force Base. I'm not an engineer, and wasn't even at the base when it started. But I am an initial member (I blame this on my brother!). The club has been in existence for almost 27 years, has very little turnover and most of the original members still remain. This is an established club. We have a standard agenda—minutes, financial report, portfolio review, buy/sell. Sometimes there is education, sometimes not. We feel it's not required due to our longevity. But we are successful and enjoy the camaraderie. And we have been featured on CNBC. We meet online and enjoy a nice in-person gathering prior to the Christmas holiday. This type of club would more than likely not be suitable for someone just beginning their investing journey.

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The other club is a Model Investment Club. This club operates within a very tight construct. Its focus is on education and contains several members relatively new to investing. Each meeting brings a different investment education topic, is very constructive and runs within a standard format. We have many visitors and actively solicit for new members through social media. The sole intent of this club is to provide investment education utilizing all of the tools and resources of BetterInvesting. Mentors are assigned to new members. There are some “older” members—but that is solely to provide guidance, education and assistance as members gain investment knowledge. The Georgia Chapter maintains two model clubs which meet entirely on line—Central Georgia Model Club and the ACME Model Club. You can find more information about both clubs at <https://www.betterinvesting.org/chapters/georgia/model-investment-club> .

As you can see, no two clubs are alike—but the goal is the same—learn to invest in quality companies at a fair value and watch your investments grow.

Perhaps you may want to start a club on your own? The Georgia Chapter of BetterInvesting will be presenting a series during the Monthly Mentoring Sessions on the Basics of An Investment Club and How to Start a Club. Check out our website at <https://www.betterinvesting.org/chapters/georgia/local-events> for dates and times (2nd Thursday of each month at 7PM).

If you are interested in visiting a club in Georgia to see if its right for you, please check out our Visit-A-Club Listing at <https://www.betterinvesting.org/chapters/georgia/visit-a-club>

In the meantime, please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or would like assistance finding a club that works for you. You can email me at jlvaardersall.bigachapter@gmail.com or contact@georgia.betterinvesting.net

**BUILDING WEALTH
IS A MARATHON,
NOT A SPRINT.
DISCIPLINE IS THE
KEY INGREDIENT.**

9TH ANNUAL INVESTORS EDUCATION FAIR



SAVE THE DATE

Saturday, August 19, 2023

Morrow Center Special Events Venue

1180 Southlake Cir, Suite 100
Morrow, GA 30260

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

SEE YOU THERE!!!

Preparation for 2022 Club Taxes

Written by Director, Clair Redmond



In Georgia we must prepare taxes for the IRS and the State Department of Revenue.. BetterInvesting makes it easier on the treasurer with the purchase of Tax Printer Software which interfaces with club data for the year in question. Cost for both software programs are \$179.98.

I will briefly discuss the federal printer software. First, the club needs to have all their 1099s associated with the club account. The treasurer should make sure that purchases, sales, and dividends, correspond with what has been entered into Club Accounting or myICLUB.com. The treasurer also should make sure all dues are entered correctly in the accounting program for each month. An audit of the brokerage statement monthly will make the tax filing easier at tax time. The tax printer has a series of questions for the treasurer to answer—most of which will be “NO” answers unless the club has an unusually high value or there is a trust involved by one of the members. There will be a series of pages for cost basis of securities sold, which should be checked against the 1099. There is a column to correct any discrepancies between the broker and the club. There is an additional page for the treasurer to complete with name, address and where the 1065 partnership return will be filed. K-1s will be generated and provided to each member. This year taxes are filed online enabling confirmation that the return will be received. For the Georgia state tax return, the club treasurer enters the club name, mailing address (which is the treasurer's), Employer Identification Number, telephone number, check final partnership return, and check off partners to in the club. Now the tax printer will generate all the state Form 700 return. Partners will not get any part of the state return. The tax printer will tell the treasurer where to send the .PDF file to the Georgia Department of Revenue.

What's Up With ACME?

ACME currently has 13 active members overseeing 12 stocks in our current portfolio. We are averaging around 4 to 5 guests per meeting and welcome anyone interested in attending our meetings. Since the onset of the Covid pandemic, we have been meeting online via the new and improved GoToMeeting. This process has worked out very well as everyone uses their own computer screens to view all documentation including Stock Study Guide's (SSG's) and Power Point presentations.

All guests are provided the GoToMeeting log-in information so that they can participate in the monthly ACME Club meetings. ACME's stock portfolio is housed at Fidelity which offers so many wonderful tools for members to use to analyze the stock that they are following and reporting on each month. ACME continues to purchase new stocks and add to existing stock purchases to boost our stock portfolio performance after analyzing our investments.

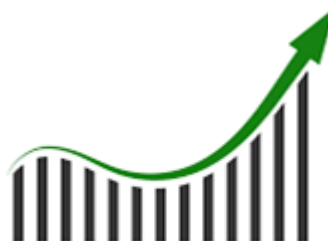
The ACME Investment Club portfolio is currently performing at 10.4% versus the Vanguard Total Stock Market Index of 9.2% for the same period as of February 12, 2023. Our goal is to try and reach a 15% overall return. We continue to welcome all guests to our monthly meetings. All are welcome to attend our virtual monthly meetings to learn more about investing the BetterInvesting way to secure your financial future.

Want to come to an upcoming meeting? Meetings are held online via GoToMeeting the second Saturday of each month from 12-2 PM. Use the link below to join.



ACME PRESIDENT, Zuwena Johnson

<https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/594493789>





**Have you read
the latest issue
of
Betterinvesting?**

Meet A Georgia Chapter Director



Kyra Slack, GA Chapter Director

Newsletter co-editor

My investing story started when my family starting an investment club. We were so excited to learn about stocks and educate ourselves. We joined NAIC and started studying stocks before there was the software we know today. As our club attended classes, my interest in stocks grew. Unfortunately our family club disbanded but I wanted to continue my education of stock analysis but did not know how. One day, I saw in the BI magazine the need for volunteer directors and the rest is history.

Schedule a Club Visit

As Directors, one of our many responsibilities is to partner with investments clubs and individuals to make them as successful as possible. We are able to visit clubs in person or virtually. We can train on BI tools, provide portfolio analysis and even provide treasurer assistance.

We currently have approximately 1000 active members, including 125 BI clubs plus approximately 225 individual investors.

In our efforts to reach out to our members, our role is to make sure you have a positive BI experience and to offer any training or educational program you feel you need. Another part of our support is to celebrate club anniversaries. We typically recognize clubs at various milestones.

To schedule your club visit, email contact@georgia.betterinvesting.net



Connect with us!

WEBSITE

Betterinvesting.org/chapters/Georgia

EMAIL

contact@georgia.betterinvesting.net

Facebook

Facebook.com/betterinvestinggachapter

Instagram

Instagram.com/betterinvesting_gachapter

YouTube

[Search "BI Directors of Georgia"](#)

Meetup

Meetup.com/Central-Georgia-Stock-Investment-Club/



The Georgia Chapter is run entirely by volunteer Directors, who give freely of their time and knowledge. The more volunteers we have, the more people we can reach and teach. If you are one of those people who want to learn more and like to help out, we want you as a Director!

We are always looking for individuals with administrative skills, organizational abilities, teaching skills or computer skills. This is a great opportunity to learn more about investing while spending time with a great group of folks.

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