



Chicagoland Chapter Spring Newsletter

Serving Chicago and Suburban Counties

March 2026

President's Message

2025 was a testament to market adaptability: despite geopolitical shocks, tariff-induced volatility, and economic uncertainty, equities continued to climb. The U.S. stock market delivered solid gains in 2025.

Major indexes finished the year substantially higher, led by the technology-heavy Nasdaq and buoyed by sustained optimism around artificial intelligence (AI) and strong corporate earnings.

We will celebrate 75 years of BINC in 2026! We have a star studded lineup of speakers, and the convention schedule is available for viewing.

Wayne Thorpe is the new CEO of Better Investing (BI). Mr. Thorp has over 25 years of experience in investment education, research, analysis, and product development, with a focus on educating and empowering individual investors.

BI Introduced a new AI tool - NotebookLM, a free tool from Google. More details in the newsletter below.

Our chapter had its annual retreat in September 2025 for our yearly planning session. As always, we visited multiple clubs (in person as well as online) and conducted education sessions during the year.

Please feel free to reach out to us for any help or guidance in education.

Interested in joining us? We are always looking for volunteers. If you have any ideas, please share them by emailing at contact@chicagoland.betterinvesting.net.

*Akari Muhsani
President*

Recent Club News

Here are some recent club visits conducted over the last few months:

- **July 27, 2025:** Director, Ray Giese visited “The Jabez Club” to assist with questions and concerns about disbanding / closure of the club. This is a complicated process and may have an impact on the taxes of the individual members.
- **September 09, 2025:** Chapter President, Akari Muhsani, visited the “Wealth Warriors”, to discuss BetterInvesting education topics and understanding of the Stock Selection Guide.
- **December 15, 2025:** Director Paul Rom visited “The Genesis Club”, an eleven member club, to perform a portfolio review. In addition, he also offered suggestions, as well as examples of how to enhance their stock picking / selling capabilities.

As a BetterInvesting investment club, you are *entitled to have your club visited by a Chicagoland chapter director*.

Club visits may be conducted either in person or online and can cover a variety of investment topics. For example, your club may wish to better understand the Stock Study Guide or have your club portfolio reviewed. New clubs and established clubs can all benefit from a club visit.

These are just some of the ways in which the Chicagoland chapter can assist your club. Interested in a club visit for your investment club? Contact us for more information at **contact@chicagoland.betterinvesting.net**.

Stock Discussion Group (SDG) Meeting

We hosted three SDG meetings from July to October 2025. Chicago Director Paul Rom leads the SDG sessions, along with several fellow directors and guest presenters. The SDG is a great way to learn how to better understand the online tools. The sessions discuss a variety of stocks and how to recognize growth companies. Attendees are encouraged to bring their own stock ideas and actively participate. The Stock Discussion Group is interesting for new as well as experienced members.

Going forward we will move the SDG sessions from the second Saturday of each month to either the second or third weekday evenings. SDG meetings, as well as other chapter events are listed on the Chicagoland chapter website. Explore our chapter’s upcoming local events today by visiting betterinvesting.org/chapters/chicagoland/local-events.

Outreach Opportunities

Chapter President, Akari Muhsani, teaches ‘Stock Market 101’ classes at Malcolm X College (City Colleges of Chicago). It is an eight week course where students can learn why and how to invest in stocks. It is very helpful for beginners as well as a great refresher course for seasoned

professionals. The classes also cover BetterInvesting and its investing principles. Participants also learn how the Stock Selection Guide assists investors in building long-term financial independence.

BINC Event

This year the 75th BetterInvesting National Convention (BINC) is in Chicago, April 23–26, 2026, held at the Marriott Chicago O'Hare. The keynote speakers are David Gardner, co-founder of The Motley Fool, Bob Wynn, founder of CLIMB USA, Craig Johnson, Managing Director at Piper Sandler, etc. There are 60+ educational sessions spanning beginner to advanced stock investing. The event provides an opportunity to participate in outstanding investment education and have fun in the process.

There are also six sessions which require attendees to pre-register. The classes are:

1. Beginning SSG Series,
2. Beyond Beginner Workshop
3. Investing for High-Net-Worth Individuals
4. Enhancing Investment Tracking Capabilities with Google Sheets
5. Hands-on with the Stock Comparison Guide
6. Advanced Portfolio Evaluation Review Technique (PERT) Workshop

Here's how pre-registration works -- for all who have **registered for BINC**, you will receive an email from Eventbrite (our registration platform) outlining the steps to pre-register for these classes.

WAIT! We want to be sure you read that you will get an email from Eventbrite first. You can't do anything until you get that email. Once you get it, follow the instructions for how and when to pre-register. Class size is limited. Good luck. Again, wait for that email from Eventbrite. Any questions about pre-registration or other event details, contact Member Services department by email at service@betterinvesting.org, or by phone, Toll-Free at 877-275-6242.

AI tool – NotebookLM

We can now use **NotebookLM**, a **free tool from Google** that acts like a private research assistant who has read only documents you give it. This makes its answers relevant and aligned with the BetterInvesting methods. To access the tool, go to [NotebookLM.google.com](https://notebooklm.google.com).