

Winter Newsletter

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West Texas Chapter of BetterInvesting

Volume I, Issue I

Get to Know your President

Hello, my name is Mark Mechenbier and I am the current president of the West Texas Chapter of BetterInvesting. As a native New Mexican, I grew up in Albuquerque and attended NMSU and received a degree in mechanical engineering. Unable to find employment in New Mexico, I ended up in Amarillo, Texas. I have been working over 38 years with the same company.

I have been married for 37 years. Our two daughters are married and live in Amarillo, as well. I have been blessed with a grandson who knows how to capture his Papa Charlie's attention.

When did I become interested in investing? I became interested in investing when I turned 18. The technology at the time had me reviewing

stocks from small condensed books that I received from my broker. I would evaluate the trends to find investments that tended to grow over time. I still remember my first stock which was Crested Butte (mining company of molybdenum).

This new adventure was shorted lived once I started college but in 1996 my boss introduced me to BetterInvesting. Once again this was shorted lived while my daughters were attending high school and then off to college.

In 2013, my niece was asking me what should she be investing in and I told her about BetterInvesting. I wanted her to learn about investing and how to make those educated decisions on her own instead of me giving her a list of stocks. That's when I decid-

ed that I needed to get back into BetterInvesting. BetterInvesting magazine listed the West Texas Chapter as being the closest to me. I reached out to the Chapter and asked about an investment club and they mentioned the Model Club but I had to be a chapter member to be in the club. In January 2014, I became a member of the chapter and today I am the chapter president.

I am grateful for my opportunities and involvement in BetterInvesting with the West Texas Chapter. I am hoping others will consider being a volunteer with the West Texas Chapter but most importantly, continue on with your BetterInvesting membership and share with others what BetterInvesting has to offer to new and returning members such as me.

BetterInvesting National Convention (BINC) 2019-President's Experience

This is my fifth BetterInvesting National Convention (BINC) and I always look forward to attending. This is a great opportunity to expand your learning curve. More important is the networking that comes with attending BINC. As a volunteer director, my training started off early on Thursday afternoon. The training focused on strengthening different areas to

help volunteers' better support BetterInvesting's initiatives and provided resourceful advice for enabling our members within the chapter.

Thursday evening was the big event! This was when BINC officially opened and "Let's Talk Stock" was an attendee favorite. Longtime investors, (names you

should recognize from webinars) discussed their favorite stocks to give members ideas for further research. Then from Friday morning to Sunday noon, it was difficult to choose just one class out of five/six concurrent offerings over 12 educational sessions. Fortunately we had more than one volunteer from our Chapter and could split up the options and

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BetterInvesting National Convention (BINC) - President's Experience



Mark Mechenbier

share later! Outside of the 12 sessions there was also one session designated for Corporate Presentations where you were given the choice of attending one of the four.

On Saturday afternoon our keynote speaker Ralph Acampora presented "The Stock Market Between Now and Year-End". Mr. Acampora showed us how to interpret basic technical charts to better understand market indicators, and how to incorporate this knowledge into our analyses to

better inform our fundamental investing decisions. Another attraction was the Corporate Expo where you could visit directly with company representatives, and as a bonus many door prizes were given out.

If you are thinking about attending the next BINC, you are in luck! In 2020 (May 14-17), BINC will be coming to Dallas, Texas. This is a great opportunity to experience this fantastic event from our own backyard. More information can

be found for the upcoming event at [2020 BINC](#). I look forward to meeting many of you at BINC in 2020!

West Texas Chapter of BetterInvesting

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West Texas Chapter

We are:

- All volunteers
- Not-for-profit organization
- Educating about investing

We provide:

- Support to individuals, investment clubs, and the public
- Investment workshops and educational events
- A working Model Club for those interested in starting their own club

Our principles are:

- Invest Regularly – regardless of market conditions
- Re-invest all Earnings – dividends and capital gains
- Invest in Quality Growth Companies
- Diversify to Optimize Risk

We are on the Web!

www.betterinvesting.org/chapters/west-texas