

INVESTMENT FORUM AGENDA FOR WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2013, 11:50AM

The Forum will meet at 11:50AM through November 6.

Market Perspective. The markets were mostly down last wee, with the DOW down 1.25%; the S&P down 1.06%, and the NASDAQ up 0.18%. All eyes are, of course, on the pointless shenanigans in Congress over the budget. If we get through this, then we get to do it again in a few weeks with even more at stake - the debt ceiling. Is everybody as disgusted with this circus as I am? It is costing investors real money with our portfolios, and could get much worse. But then, I suppose there is opportunity for the risk-takers, positioning a portfolio to buy should the markets tank.

Interest rates, on the other hand, have dropped in the past three weeks, with the 10-year Treasury bond declining about 3/10th of 1%. Both bond and equity prices seem to be reacting to the budget and debt ceiling talks, which are overshadowing economic news.

Panel on Stock Buying. Sy Sherman, Bob Bohall, Alan Glenn, and Burgess Levin will talk about picking stocks: what stocks get on their "radar screen," how they follow and analyze them, how they decide to buy, how much they buy, and whatever else comes to mind on the decision to buy stocks. Sy Sherman is a regular speaker, but Bob and Alan are newcomers to the front of the class. And Burgess is new to OLLI, with a red dot on his name tag! Welcome to the deep end of the pool, Burgess.

This panel discussion should be of particular interest to those of you who invest mainly in funds, but are thinking about investing directly in stocks. Interaction with the panelists (asking questions) is invited.

Next Panel. On October 30, we will have our next panel, and the topic will be, "**when to sell a winning stock.**" Stock investors all know the experience of a stock going south, and selling it at a loss. What we will talk about are stocks that have performed well, but you have decided that the run is over, and it is time to take your winnings off the table. How do you decide that the stock is "fully priced" and now is the time to sell? I am looking for panelists.

Member Questionnaire. In the next two weeks, I will distribute a questionnaire, asking for information on what kind of investor you are, and soliciting input on what you want from the Forum. I hope to use your input to guide future Forum agendas.

Buys and Sells. We did not collect buys and sells last week, so this week we will list our buys and sells for two weeks.

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