

INVESTMENT FORUM AGENDA FOR WEDNESDAY, MARCH 25, 2020, 10:30AM

We will meet this week on-line, using Zoom videoconferencing, until OLLI classes meet again in-person. On April 1, the start of the Spring Term, we expect to start meeting at 11:50, also using Zoom videoconferencing.

As you know, OLLI in-person classes and activities have been cancelled until further notice. OLLI has recently purchased an on-line videoconferencing program, Zoom, which will be available to conduct meetings and classes, and all Spring term OLLI classes, until in-person classes can begin again. (OLLI resuming in-person classes and activities will be decided by George Mason University and the OLLI Board of Directors.)

OLLI Spring term instructors have been asked whether they wish to conduct their classes on-line with Zoom. The Investment Forum, which is now meeting as a “club,” will meet on-line, and we have been working on setting this up for the past week. Paul Howard, Forum member and behind the the effort to use Zoom and videoconferencing, has been leading this effort. The Investment Forum met this past Wednesday using Zoom, with a selected group of 15 members. We concluded that we could meet this way, and conduct a meaningful Forum via Zoom. You will see speakers on your screen, be able to speak, and display electronic information (thumbdrives, Powerpoint, Word, Pages and PDF documents, internet - Morningstar, ValueLine, BigCharts). The technology is fairly easy to use, but there is a learning curve, and no doubt there will be glitches. But if we want to continue to have the Forum until this crisis is stabilized, TINA (there is no alternative!)

This is an outline of what to expect over the next few days.

To participate, you will need a PC or laptop with camera and sound.

I will be sending you, by email, two links. One will be the Zoom download, which you must download to your computer once. Then, before each meeting, I will send you another email with a link to the meeting to start shortly.

We will spend at least a half hour at the start of the meeting this Wednesday going over the important features of Zoom, how to use it, and troubleshooting.

Markets.

No need for me to recite or comment on what is happening. We all know. After we start the meeting and spend some time getting familiar with Zoom, we will have a general discussion of what is happening, and what, if anything, you are doing in response.

Buy and Sell List.

We will need to do something different to collect the Buy and Sell List, while we are in videoconferencing. Please email me (asmuzynski@verizon.net) the names or ticker symbols of your buys and sells each week, when you get the agenda. I will share them with Bob Baker, list them in the following week's agenda, and we can discuss them at our meetings, using Bob's presentation.

I welcome suggestions how we can collect the Buy and Sell list, that is workable and easy to use.

Upcoming Topics

We will be rescheduling the upcoming topics.

Industrial Automation. Ray Willson will talk about industrial robots and the leading companies in this industry.

Investment Allocations. Joe Benning, a new OLLI member, will talk about investment allocations, and how they react to "black swan" events.

Financial Advisors (continued.) Jerry Anderson, Marvin Singer, and Craig Zane will talk about how they use financial advisors. This is a continuation of the panel discussion from several months ago, with members sharing a wide range of how they select and use financial advisors.

SECURE Act. This legislation (Setting every Community Up for Retirement Enhancement) was passed as part of the budget agreement. It makes of number of positive changes to retirement accounts, mostly benefiting workers, but a big negative for investors expecting to pass on IRAs to heirs - elimination of the "stretch" provisions, and requiring inherited IRAs to be withdrawn within ten years. This will change some estate planning strategies, which we will look at over time.

Utility Sector. Brenda Bloch-Young will discuss the utility sector.

Buys and Sells

Buys (week ending 2/26/2020)

Meredith Corp (MDP)

Ares Capital Corp (ARCC)

General Electric (GE)

Ford (F)

Evercore (EVR)

CVR Energy (CVI)
NetEase, Inc, ADR (NTES) - China online services. MC: \$41B
Ally Financial (ALLY)
Microsoft (MSFT) - 2 buys
Vanguard Healthcare ETF (VHT) - add
Vanguard FTSE Pacific ETF (VPL) - add
ProShares S&P 500 Dividend Aristocrats (NOBL) - add
Nike (NKE)
Alibaba (BABA)

Sells (week ending 2/26//2020)

Westwood Holding Group (WHG)
Loews (L) - financial services, not hardware
Enbridge (ENB)
Royal Dutch Shell (RDSA) - trim 1/3
Steel Dynamics (STLD)

Thinking About . . .

Caterpillar (CAT)

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Introduction to Zoom

March 23, 2020 at 1:21 PM

From Alvin Smuzynski

To Alvin Smuzynski

The Investment Forum will meet on Wednesday, 3/25, at 10:30AM using Zoom videoconferencing, as previously announced in the agenda I sent out yesterday.

Several of us have spent considerable time preparing for this meeting, and we have decided to offer two Introductions to Zoom, using Zoom. They will be tomorrow (Tuesday) at 10AM, and again at 3PM. You are invited to attend one of these sessions.

By holding these introductions, we hope to use the Forum on Wednesday, to discuss the current market, rather than how to use Zoom. It is particularly important for Forum members who give presentations, or who comment frequently, to learn the Zoom commands and etiquette.

Desktop PCs with audio and camera will maximize the teleconferencing experience. It will still be worthwhile if you PC does not have a built in camera. You will not have to download the Zoom software on a PC. If you intend to use a tablet or handheld device, you will need to download Zoom.

I will be sending you an email with a link to join the Zoom meeting at 9:30AM and 2:30PM for the meetings tomorrow, and half hour before our regular Forum meetings using Zoom.

The Investment Forum is the first OLLI class using Zoom, and what we learn will facilitate its widespread use for the Spring term classes. We are on the steep part of the learning curve, and patience will be needed. I believe that you will be impressed with Zoom, and that using it, we can continue to have meaningful Investment Forums during these extraordinary times.

Investment Forum Zoom on-boarding session, 10:00AM

March 24, 2020 at 9:13 AM

From Alvin Smuzynski

To Alvin Smuzynski

Tuesday Morning 10 AM session

Test Zoom if you've never used it before: <https://zoom.us/test>

Leti Labell's instructions for devices and computers is attached.

See John Krout's how to article: https://www.patacs.org/pdf/jk_joinzoommtg-2.pdf

You are invited to a Zoom webinar.

When: Mar 24, 2020 10:00 AM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Topic: Investment Forum On-Boarding Training

Please click the link below to join the webinar:

<https://zoom.us/j/277329409>

Or iPhone one-tap :

US: +16468769923,,277329409# or +13126266799,,277329409#

Or Telephone:

Dial(for higher quality, dial a number based on your current location):

US: +1 646 876 9923 or +1 312 626 6799 or +1 669 900 6833 or +1 253 215 8782 or +1 301 715 8592 or +1 346 248 7799

Webinar ID: 277 329 409

International numbers available: <https://zoom.us/u/aebPz0GP6V>

Meeting ID: 277 329 409