

Financial FOCUS

The Porath Howard White Group

QUARTERLY COMMENTARY

≡ Providing focus and clarity to your financial picture.

Advanced Planning

≡ Bond Positioning

Recently we have seen an about-face in interest rate futures. While these futures and rates themselves can divert quickly and forcefully at times, it bears mentioning where large institutional investors are hedging, or placing "future bets" on direction. Across the treasury offerings expectations are for higher treasury prices and lower treasury yields going forward. With the recent tragedy in Israel and the subsequent Israel-Hamas war, and a current pause from the Federal Reserve we believe that a portion of this move can be related to a flight to safety, and a portion to the expectations of the end of this rate-hike cycle. As a result, we will continue to edge out a bit on maturity dates and add intermediate and longer maturity fixed income to portfolios, where appropriate.

- Sam

INVESTMENT CONSULTING

≡ The market has made a couple of rally attempts throughout this year. The S&P has been better at preserving gains while the Dow Jones index has generally traded in a narrower range and, as of this writing, is only slightly ahead for the year.

Due to substantial world conflicts, we have seen increased volatility in the short-term, although it may not affect the long-term trajectory of the market as much as it sometimes seems it would.

Longer-term, I believe the fundamental challenges to the market remain an expensive and unreliable energy supply, low labor participation rates and high levels of government spending. All of which are leading contributors to our current inflationary environment. Without improvements in these areas, inflation is unlikely to lessen in a meaningful way, which is necessary to allow the Fed to begin lowering interest rates. The longer the issues remain, the longer it will take the market to digest and move higher.

This time of year, we typically look for increased levels of volatility, as selling pressure increases while portfolios are being adjusted for tax strategies and/or repositioning of holdings. Historically, we would expect to see attempts at a year-end rally and also to see if it is sustained.

- Dave

RELATIONSHIP MANAGEMENT

≡ Tax Strategies

The last quarter of the year is well underway. Equities have been resilient thus far, but bonds have struggled as rates continue to march higher. This has left many portfolios with investments that are currently at a loss. One way to capitalize on the volatility would be to sell that asset and realize the loss. Those losses can be used to offset current or future gains. It can be a good opportunity to re-balance an account or to add additional diversification. For more information, please follow this link.

[CLICK HERE!](#)

- Brian

≡ Next-Generation Planning

As you go through life, you have many roles that may come and go. If you are a parent, you know that to be a role which you never retire from during your time here. As children grow, they become more independent and knowledgeable, however, your position as an example and guide to them remains. Your children are likely dealing with a multitude of life events which require financial advice (i.e., college savings, paying student loans, making the most of employee benefits, long-term investments and planning). We acknowledge the importance of leaving your children financially secure, with a plan in place, and we want to help.

Over the next few months, we will be reaching out to you to ensure that the beneficiary information on your accounts is still accurate. We do this from time to time in order to keep your wishes clear and up to date. With this as a backdrop, it may make sense for you to have us be in contact with your beneficiaries regarding any questions or concerns that they have in their financial lives. If this is the case, then please let us know and we would be more than happy to engage with the next generation and see that they are on track.

- Greg

ON THE HOME FRONT

≡ The Midland Branch is proud to welcome Hunter Keim to our ranks. Hunter currently works part-time assisting with reception and administrative duties. He will graduate this winter with his degree in Business from SVSU. He resides in Midland with his wife, Malia, and their dog Theodore.



≡ Sam recently checked one off the bucket-list when he fly fished the Florida Keys for juvenile Tarpon and bonefish. Tarpon, barracuda, and Jack Crevalle were the different species caught on his trip.

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Private Wealth
Management

Robert W. Baird & Co. Incorporated

JG2023-1020

Each quarter our team strives to provide timely updates and actionable ideas in the areas of; **Advanced Planning, Investment Consulting, and Relationship Management** with the goal of helping clients grow their wealth.