
RESETTING FINANCIAL GOALS



**ANTHONY T. NEWMAN,
PRESIDENT & CEO
LIFEGUARD FINANCIAL**

I. Assess Your Current Financial Situation And Objectives

- ❖ How aggressive or conservative do you now want to be?
- ❖ How much time until money is needed for income or purchase?
- ❖ Consider your age.
- ❖ Do you need tax favored investments?
- ❖ Understand or research how different investment vehicles work, their risk level and cost. (Stocks, Bonds, Mutual Funds, Annuities, REITS, etc.)

II. Develop A Strategy In Order To Reach Your Goals

- ❖ Diversify, don't duplicate.
- ❖ Monitor your progress regularly – at least monthly and keep a log.
- ❖ Create or adjust a savings or investment plan. (Save more, spend less)
- ❖ Plan for the unexpected. Reduction in S.S., loss of spousal income, loss of employment, critical illness)
- ❖ Revise your budget every December for the approaching year.
- ❖ Clear up debt – pay off highest interest rates first, pay mortgage bi-monthly, use charge card only if you can pay the bill in full when it comes.
- ❖ Maximize work Retirement plans and save more on your own – 10% to 15% of gross pay every paycheck without exception. If your gross income is too high, (Phase-out of Roth Contribution eligibility is \$169,000-\$179,000 for Joint and \$107,000-\$122,000 for Single) you cannot contribute to a ROTH IRA, but a traditional IRA is available. And be sure to adjust your 401(k) investments to current market conditions. Letting it ride until Retirement could have consequences, especially as you get closer to retiring.
- ❖ Set realistic expectations in these current financial and economic times. Cut losses sooner.

III. Select Or Changing Advisors

- ❖ You don't have to do it alone, seek out a reputable advisor who listens versus dictates, who can create a simpler plan, is 100% transparent on fees, and can

(See other side)

assist you with your financial, estate and tax concerns (either within his firm or with affiliates.) Before you commit, ask to see his/her plan for you in writing.

- ❖ Get a second opinion when you are unhappy with (lack of) service or results. Don't stay "*frozen*." With change comes improvement.
- ❖ If you are an "*orphaned*" investor, (have not heard from an agent or advisor) maybe your investments are not in line with your risk level/goals or your annuities are past maturity. Find an advisor for guidance.

IV. In Conclusion

- ❖ Both spouses should be involved in the investment plan. When one passes away, the transition is seamless and the widow/widower is less likely to be taken advantage of by an unethical Broker, Banker, Advisor, or insurance agent. Sit in on meetings – take notes.
- ❖ Be sure an executor (child?) knows where to find car and home titles, policies, statements, social security numbers, military records, etc. Dollar amounts aren't necessary if you want to keep it undisclosed. **Location** of documents **is** important.
- ❖ Don't underestimate the importance of a life insurance review for the benefit of your spouse, children or grandchildren. You'll pass more money **tax free** to them than you will through investments.
- ❖ Get organized –
 - Clip/file articles of interest
 - Read Kiplinger, Google topics
 - Setup a notebook with dividers for statements
 - Write down on your calendar consistent dates to check your investments (Last Friday of every week or month, first Monday of every week or month.)
- ❖ Strive for modest progress and stay pro-active (instead of passive) in monitoring your plan and make or insist changes when you feel it's needed.
- ❖ Identify and change your BAD HABITS, replace with good habits.
- ❖ Establish a plan that will pass the most money to your heirs and minimize or eliminate unnecessary taxation.
- ❖ Read, Read, Read. Visit our website at www.lifeguardfinancial.com for a list of valuable financial resources, books and websites. You need more than Suze Orman & Cramer (They're infomercials selling books, CD's, etc.) Bypass them to get objective advice.
- ❖ Lottery tickets are not the answer. Money management is a lifetime responsibility. It is a Journey; there are no quick fixes.
- ❖ The best time for a financial tune up and to get going is ... TODAY!

If it seems overwhelming or you need assistance, please call Lifeguard Financial. We will help you create a plan, keep you on track, and educate you along the way.

Best Wishes!
