

In the Good Old Summer Time

Technically the first part of June is the end of spring, however to most of us it often feels more like summer. Likewise, the days after Labor Day often feel like the beginning of fall more so than the last days of summer. Though the days are longer here in the Northern Hemisphere, our pace often slows, we spend fewer days in the office and perhaps enjoy the luxury of time away. It is also when some things tend to heat up.

Poll-arity or Polarity

We are also entering the period in a presidential election year when the parties have their conventions. When they do, it will not be just the 4th of July fireworks that will be “bursting in air”. In one sense, it is good that the nation’s attention is drawn to selecting its leaders. We listen, we observe, and we try our best to nominate people we feel will do the right things when they take on the responsibility of governing the rest of us. We are often riveted to polls that suggest what the ultimate outcome might be and we anxiously await November.

Pronounced the same way, but spelled differently, a pole is often a point used to describe something at an extreme opposite to a given position. One characteristic that I hear from economists and political commentators alike is that politics and political leaders are more polarized than we have seen in many decades. While it may make voting easier, as the distinctions between candidates are clearer, it results in little of the compromise necessary to tackle tough problems like the historically high deficits and mind numbing proportions of the national debt.

Live Life

It is easy to let the weight of such matters overwhelm us. One of the very best approaches to life that I’ve discovered can be found in the Serenity Prayer. While I have absolutely no control over many things in life, I do have the ability to make a profound difference on other things and I pray God’s wisdom to discern which I am facing in a given moment.

Once you narrow this down to situations that you have the ability to influence, you have choice. As citizens, we owe it to one another and our society to build a stronger nation and to be sure to vote and to ask our leaders to do better. We also owe it to ourselves and our loved ones to choose to make life worth living for one another. Summer is often a great opportunity to do the things that make life worth living. What choices will enrich your life this summer?

Love Is In the Air

My wife and I are celebrating our 3rd anniversary at the time of the writing of this issue. Years ago when I asked her what the money she had saved was for, her answer was to be able to share time and experiences with the people she loved. It turns out that she is very good at that.

Book ending our "summer" this year are a wedding in Annapolis of one of my closest friends and classmates from the Naval Academy and a 50th wedding anniversary of some dear friends of my wife's that will be celebrated in Inverness, Scotland. While it would be easier and less costly to send gifts and cards, part of living life for us is being with people we cherish when they are celebrating important moments in life. We scrimp and budget in most areas in order to live life with those dear to us.

Bottom Line

This issue is just my encouragement to you to find the people you love and enjoy some "Good Old Summer Time" with them. To smile, to laugh, to make some memories and to create some stories that can be embellished in the years to come. It is also to let folks know that I'll be out of the country August 23rd through September 15th. If we have things to accomplish for you we'll want to do that sometime before or after. Happy trails to you this summer!

Your Feedback

I would love feedback on this newsletter. Future issues may include a host of good ideas, insights, specific steps to take financially, life insights and of course "Wit and Wisdom". Most importantly, I'd like it to be of value to you and to encourage an exchange of great ideas and insights. Please send your feedback to:

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