



Experience You Want, Answers You NeedSM Since 1993

9035 Sweet Valley Drive, Valley View, OH 44125
1-888-313-4009

THE WealthWATCHSM

A Quarterly Publication

Volume 2, Issue 2

April 2010

Education is a Powerful Tool by James S. Lineweaver

People are feeling a little better with Spring around the corner--the weather is starting to break, and there's a sense that the economy seems to be headed in the right direction, although a lot slower than many would like. With all the information at your fingertips through the TV, Internet, radio and newspapers it is important to sift through all the clutter and understand how this information can help you and your family. Some people feel comfortable trying to do this on their own, and others want help as they concentrate on other areas of their life. This is exactly why we created and built the WealthWatch Center. Not only have we gathered some of the best independent advisors in Northeast Ohio with services including tax, legal, insur-

ance and finance, but we have also brought many great speakers to our Education Series programs.

One program that we are excited to share with you features a specialist from the Social Security Administration who will be speaking at our WealthWatch Center in Valley View on April 13th and 15th. If you are close to retirement or already retired and you have any concerns or questions about Social Security, I would encourage you to reserve your spot quickly. Social Security can be a very complicated and difficult subject since it seems to be a challenge to obtain a straight and consistent answer from the SS Administration and because everyone's situation is different.

To help you understand some of the important changes in the financial arena in 2010, we have created some short, concise informational pieces for our clients. Examples are: 2010 Tax Tips, Traditional IRA to Roth IRA Conversion Checklist, and the Ohio Real Estate Transfer on Death Checklist (see article on page 2). If you would like any or all of these, please contact Karen at 216-520-1711 or karen@lineweaver.net.

I hope you find this information helpful. I feel it is our job at Lineweaver Financial Group to "quarterback" all of your financial affairs. This way you can concentrate on what you do best, and we can handle the rest!



Jim Lineweaver
President and Founder

Inside this issue:

Education is a Powerful Tool	1
Who is Your Family Co-Pilot?	1
CPR Training	2
Market & Economic Commentary	2
Upcoming Programs	2
Ohio Finally Fixes T.O.D. for Real Estate	2

Who is your Family Co-Pilot?

I was recently talking with a client that had some very serious health issues last year, and it dawned on him that he isn't going to live forever. While he is and has been intimately involved in all of his family's financial decisions, he realizes he has not taken the steps to make sure there is a continuity plan in place in his family. If he were to die, as he almost did last year, who would be the families co-pilot and would they be ready to sit in the pilot's chair? Would the lack of other family

member's involvement make his passing that much more of a concern for his wife? He is now working on bringing his family up to speed with the plans he has already put into place, so that when the day comes, his co-pilot will be ready to take the controls and ensure his wife a safe landing.

We all face the inevitable; we will not be here to make decisions, we will not have the mental capacity to make decisions, or we may simply choose to delegate our de-

isions for whatever reason. When the time comes, who will step up and take our place? It is going to happen to all of us, and with the recent near loss of a client, it brings to the forefront the need to start planning today.

We at Lineweaver Financial Group are here to help you with this next stage of your financial plan. We can meet with you, and in advance of sitting with other family members decide how much information you want

shared. We can then have a meeting, with as many family members as you wish, to bring them up to date with your affairs, at your prescribed degree of detail.

When you are gone, you won't have to worry about the details you left behind. But think of the family members that will now be responsible for the details. Give you family continuity plan some thought, and then give us a call so we can help you proceed.

Market & Economic Commentary

March 9th marked the one year anniversary of the market bottoming out. Since then we have seen the best twelve month returns since the 1930s, with the DJIA up over 64%, the S&P 500 up over 69%, and the tech-heavy NASDAQ index up over an astounding 84%. *

Market gains can be attributed to several factors including a global economic recovery and improved corporate profits. From an economic standpoint, consumers are spending more, incomes are rising, and unemployment is finally starting to decrease, albeit slowly as the unemployment rate is still historically high at 10.4%. Most economists expect unemployment to continue to trickle downward, though it will likely be several years before we see pre-recession employment levels. Concerns persist regarding corporate profits, as most company's bottom line improvements were the result

of cost cutting measures (such as employee layoffs), not increased revenues.

As 2010 progresses, many experts continue have positive outlooks on the markets and the overall economy. Many analysts think we are in the early stages of an economic recovery that will last several years. Significant issues to look out for include how the Federal Reserve makes a move with interest rates and its resulting impact on inflation, the impact the stimulus efforts of the past several years will have on the overall economy, and whether the housing market and employment rates will continue their slow improvements.

**Yahoo Finance
Past market performance is no guarantee of future investment performance or success. It is not possible to invest directly in an index.*

Ohio Finally Fixes T.O.D. for Real Estate

We have had transfer on death (T.O.D.) deeds in Ohio for several years now. It is a great way to attach beneficiaries to your real estate who will inherit the asset when you die while allowing the property to avoid probate court. Those beneficiaries have no interest during your lifetime and you can make changes at any time. However, there were limitations. Joint tenants in survivorship could not have a transfer on death deed to transfer the property upon the death of the survivor and the owner could only transfer the real estate to beneficiaries in equal shares.

On December 28, 2009, Ohio Senate Bill 124 took effect

and has greatly improved transfer on death for real estate. First, owners under joint tenancy with survivorship can now designate beneficiaries to inherit the real estate after the death of the surviving joint owner. So a married couple owning real estate under a survivorship deed can name their children as beneficiaries now and not worry about doing it later.

Next, the beneficiaries can inherit unequal fractional shares. For instance, if you have three (3) children, you can leave one-half or fifty percent to one, and one-fourth or twenty-five percent to the other two.

Finally, you can designate two or more beneficiaries to inherit the property with or without survivorship right between them. And, just like we could in the past, you may also designate contingent beneficiaries.

Under the new law you no longer create the transfer on death beneficiary designations with a deed. Instead, the transfer on death designation is created by recording an affidavit upon which the owner(s) lists the beneficiaries, the percentage of ownership each receives, and the type of tenancy to be transferred. The affidavit is then recorded with the County Recorder in which the real estate is located.



Upcoming Programs

Sorting Through Social Security

Learn when to apply and how to maximize your benefits with a Public Affairs Specialist from the Social Security Administration.

Tuesday, April 13, 7:00 pm & Thursday, April 15, 1:00 pm

The Truth About Annuities

Exposing the myths and mysteries about annuities.

Tuesday, May 4, 1:00 pm & Thursday, May 6, 7:00 pm

Experience the Cuyahoga Valley National Park

The Cuyahoga Valley National Park is truly a unique experience. Join our guest speaker as she helps us appreciate the natural beauty, cultural history and recreational opportunities found in the CVNP.

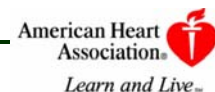
Tuesday, May 18, 1:00 pm & Tuesday, May 25, 7:00 pm

"I would recommend the WealthWatch programs to all. The diverse topics selected cut across many areas of life. The presentations are professional, organized, and presented by instructors, expert in that field. I always come away learning something new."

- Robert M.

CPR Training

The entire staff of Lineweaver Financial Group recently became CPR certified. The knowledge of this lifesaving technique is very valuable, and it is important to us to continue to improve our community service efforts.



Once again, Ohio proves itself to be a consumer friendly state by fixing and improving the laws related to the transfer on death for real estate.

Information provided by Attorney Jack Koscianski who is a member of the team of professionals at the Lineweaver WealthWatch Center. Jack Koscianski can be reached through our office at (216) 867-3770