Oklahoma Chapter
WINTER 2025

News!

From The Oklahoma Chapter

NON-PROFIT • VOLUNTEER BASED • MEMBER DRIVEN

President's Letter WINTER 2025

Happy New Year to everyone,

I hope everyone had a Happy Thanksgiving, and a Very Merry Christmas. The holidays are a time of year when the family gathers to enjoy delicious food, give thanks to God for all our blessings, and tell their favorite stories. Then, they talk about how good the food was and how much they ate and then either go for walks, play games or whatever their family tradition is.

Now, the holidays are behind us, a NEW YEAR is just ahead, are you ready for a New Year?

The Oklahoma chapter's story is that we are grateful to be doing well. I describe us as a successful, thriving chapter moving onward. But I like how someone else described it better. "The Oklahoma Chapter is clearly in the 5 STAR group of BetterInvesting chapters."

We are in the process of scheduling and planning our upcoming events. We want to hear from you:
1) Do you want to learn about First Cuts and how to do them?
2) Do you want someone to clarify, explain, or do an education session on a particular subject for your club?
3) Would you like a class on a particular topic such as how to find a quality stock?
4) A workshop on judgment and the SSG.
5) A class on the difference between Core SSG and SSG Plus.
6) The Portfolio Evaluation Report Technique (PERT).

Let us know your thoughts and ideas at contact@oklahoma.betterinvesting.net
EduFest is our current project, and we're making changes this year. We are holding it in a new location. It will be the Hilton Garden Inn Edmond, with a buffet lunch on Saturday, August 16, 2025.
This is just the beginning.

Stay tuned for more updates on the theme, presenters, and other exciting details as our plans develop.
The countdown is on. The Oklahoma Chapter wishes everyone a Happy New Year and Better Investing.

Beverly Wooley
President, Oklahoma Chapter of Betterinvesting
president@oklahoma.betterinvesting.net

What is Going On: In the Oklahoma Chapter?

		2025 - OC EVENTS SCHEDULE 
January	**1**	**NEW YEARS DAY**
	6	**Register @ Space Coast Model Stock Investment Club Meeting** North Florida Chapter, meets 1st Monday @7:30 PM ET
	7	**To Join Joe's Stock Study Group @ 6PM Click Here** Contact Joe: Joeinvest2011@yahoo.com 1ST Tuesday of the month
	11	**Register @ West Texas Model Investment Club:** West Texas Chapter, meets on 2nd Saturday, @ 12:00 PM CT
	**14**	**Register @ Lone Star Online Investment Club** North Texas Chapter, meets on 2nd Tuesday @7:00 PM CT
	20	**MARTIN LUTHER KING BIRTHDAY**
	28	**Oklahoma Chapter 2024 Board Meeting** Time 7:30 PM On-line For Information Contact: contact@Oklahoma.betterinvesting.net
February	**3**	**Register @ Space Coast Model Stock Investment Club Meeting** North Florida Chapter, meets 1st Monday @7:30 PM ET
	4	**To Join Joe's Stock Study Group @ 6PM Click Here** Contact Joe: Joeinvest2011@yahoo.com 1ST Tuesday of the month
	8	**Register @ West Texas Model Investment Club:** West Texas Chapter, meets on 2nd Saturday, @ 12:00 PM CT
	11	**Register @ Lone Star Online Investment Club** North Texas Chapter, meets on 2nd Tuesday @7:00 PM CT
	**14**	The Lawton Million Dollar Dames will present HOW TO DO A STOCK SELECTION GUIDE at The Lawton Public Library @ 2PM For Information Contact: contact@Oklahoma.betterinvesting.net
	14	**VALENTINES DAY**
	25	**Oklahoma Chapter 2024 Board Meeting** Time 7:30 PM On-line For Information Contact: contact@Oklahoma.betterinvesting.net
March	**3**	**Register @ Space Coast Model Stock Investment Club Meeting** North Florida Chapter, meets 1st Monday @7:30 PM ET
	4	**To Join Joe's Stock Study Group @ 6PM Click Here** Contact Joe: Joeinvest2011@yahoo.com 1ST Tuesday of the month
	**8**	**Register @ West Texas Model Investment Club:** West Texas Chapter, meets on 2nd Saturday, @ 12:00 PM CT
	11	**Register @ Lone Star Online Investment Club** North Texas Chapter, meets on 2nd Tuesday @7:00 PM CT
	17	**ST. PATRICKS DAY**
	25	**Oklahoma Chapter 2024 Board Meeting In Person @ Lawton Library** Time 6:00 PM For Information Contact: contact@Oklahoma.betterinvesting.net

Oklahoma Chapter

How to Beat Investing FOMO: The Power of Patient Wealth Building

Can you relate to any of the following?

- *"I should have bought that stock before the company went public!"*
- *"What a shame — I wish I had invested in that new tech before it went mainstream!"*
- *What's the next "unicorn" that will make a fortune?"*

It's common to feel this way. Many of us experience "fear of missing out" — or FOMO — in our financial lives.[1]
When we do, it can cloud our judgment and cause us to make short-sighted, fear-driven decisions that could result in more losses and interfere with our longer-term financial goals.[2]

How to Spot the FOMO Trap: Understanding the Pitfalls
FOMO in finance is an investing bias closely linked to herd mentality and a scarcity mindset.

FOMO gets us thinking:
Popular ideas must be "good" because everyone's embracing them: This is the herd mentality at work, and it usually has us skipping the due diligence and ignoring anything that challenges the herd.[1]
Rare opportunities are super valuable: With scarcity, we focus on how fleeting or limited an opportunity is, regardless of its inherent potential value. That can mean we overestimate the benefits at stake, simply due to rarity or a closing window to take action.[1]

When financial FOMO starts creeping in, we are far more likely to:

- Base our choices on limited information, taking little to no time to double-check our intel and confirm whether it's valid.[2]
- Make more impulsive decisions, including when it comes to impulse spending.[3]
- Buy high and sell low, chasing some trend and rushing to get in on the perceived "action."[2]
- Make riskier moves than we typically would, putting more on the line.[2]
- Lean into the survivorship bias, zeroing in on success stories of "easy" wealth without accounting for the risks, the "losers," and the bigger picture.[4]

All of that can be a trap, with FOMO pushing us to dive off the deep end with big hopes and expectations and minimal information. That combination of factors can be a recipe for disaster, resulting in more losses, spiraling anxiety, and even damage to our most important relationships.[2]

A recent example of widespread FOMO in finance was the cryptocurrency boom of 2021 to 2022. Dogecoin was among the big-name cryptocurrencies at the time, with Elon Musk backing it. That sparked a ton of FOMO among investors, with *wild* hikes and fast free falls, especially around Musk's 2021 appearance on "Saturday Night Live."[5]

The Power of Patient Investing

FOMO can be gripping, but it doesn't have to get in the way of prudent choices. Given how FOMO and trend-chasing can lead to losses, a better alternative can come in the form of patient investing.

That means:

- Building wealth slowly and surely over time
- Leveraging index fund investing, compound interest, and long-term market growth

With index fund investing, you invest in a broad slice of the market (a "fund") that follows a set index, like the S&P 500. Naturally diversified, index funds tend to have a good track record over time, with fund performance tied to several companies, not just one.[6]

Compound interest means interest on interest, as well as the principle. Effectively, compound interest lets you earn at a much faster rate, setting the stage for exponential growth. Keep in mind that compound interest can work for you with retirement savings accounts and other investments. It'll work against you with credit and loans.[7]

Those are just some of the strategies that can fuel success in patient investing, and there are several real-world examples of this in action.

Take the legendary Warren Buffet for one. At age 21, Buffet was only worth ~$20k. He didn't earn 99% of his wealth until after the age of 50, and he didn't become a billionaire until 56. As such, he's the ultimate symbol of patient investing, representing how much it can pay off to mute FOMO in your financial life.[8]

How to Build a FOMO-Resistant Investment Strategy: 7 Tips

To make patient investing a practice that overrides any sense of FOMO, you can:

1. Develop a solid plan: Create an investment plan based on your long-term goals, risk tolerance, and time horizon. Look at this plan as your north star, guiding your decisions, regardless of market hype and the latest trends.
2. Embrace diversification: Spread your investments across different asset classes and sectors to manage, balance, and offset the risks. Resist the urge to go "all in" with any single investment.
3. Automate your investments: Set up regular, automatic contributions to your cornerstone investments, like your retirement accounts. This can take the emotion out of the equation while providing consistency and regular contributions that keep you on track.
4. Focus on the long term: When market volatility hits (and it will), remind yourself of your long-term goals. Also, remember that the markets are cyclical and regularly changing. Any phase they're in now won't last forever, and short-term fluctuations can be part of "healthy" markets.[9]
5. Educate yourself: The more we know about finance, the easier it can be to mute our FOMO. With a better understanding of basic investment principles and why we make certain choices with our money, we can get much better at ignoring FOMO and avoiding the siren's call of the latest "get-rich-quick" schemes.[10]
6. Resist the urge to monitor the minutiae: Limit how often you look at your portfolio. Constant monitoring can make it easier to overreact to short-term market shifts.

7. Give yourself a “cool-off” period before major moves: Make it a rule that you won’t dive into any new investment opportunity without waiting a certain period of time, doing some due diligence, and (ideally) talking to someone you trust. FOMO relies on the heat of the moment, and even a 24-hour cool-off period can be enough to provide key perspective and more rational decisions.

Goodbye FOMO. Hello Strategy and Patience.

FOMO is natural, and it can sneak up on any of us. The newest craze can promise instant wealth, and that illusion can be extremely tempting, especially if we’re feeling lost or less than confident in our current plans.
Staying connected with our big-picture goals and what it takes to get there can help sideline FOMO whenever it arises. So can discussing your choices and concerns with an experienced financial professional.
Sources:

1. https://money.usnews.com/investing/articles/behavioral-finance-fomo-loss-aversion-and-other-investing-biases#fomo
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Congratulations!!

To the following Oklahoma BetterInvesting Clubs on their anniversaries.
Keep a lookout in our future issues and celebrate each of these clubs with us.

* Yukon Investment Club
* Emeriti Investment Club (Stillwater)
* Tulsa Town Investment Club
* Day Breaker's Investment Club (Okarche, Kingfisher)
* Tulsa Women's Investment Club
* Sooner 95 Investment Club (Tulsa)
* Stocks R Us (Bartlesville)
* Sweet Success Investment Club (OKC)

10 Ways to Fund Retirement

By: **Danielle Schultz, CFP**

July 29, 2019

In developing your plan to meet retirement funding, you'll need to draw together your sources. This primer will get you started on many of the main sources of funding when you retire.

The longer the runway you create for retirement savings, the smoother the landing. If you still have runway left before you plan to retire, you'll have an easier time building powerful retirement funds from several sources of income, such as traditional IRAs and other retirement accounts. But even if you're closer to departure, savings can still fund the voyage. After all, you may have a pretty long flight in retirement — some of the money can be left to grow and used as cash flow down the road. Some of them might not be practical considering where you are relative to your retirement age — read **How to Catch Up With Retirement Planning** if you're starting late — but here are 10 ideas to consider.

Pensions

Have you ever worked for an employer that offered one? Especially if you've ever worked for a government entity, school, or park district, you may have left something behind. Alternatively, if you still have time to make career changes, consider jobs that offer a pension. It's very hard to get that certainty of income from your own savings.

401(k) Plans

Unquestionably, start saving here for retirement. You'll have two issues to resolve: how much to contribute, and should it be pretax (reduces your taxable income — the traditional way) or after-tax (a Roth 401[k]).

Contribute enough to 401(k)s to get the full employer match. It's free money, and no other investment gives you such instant return on your money.

You're probably better off with the Roth IRA version, if your employer offers it. You can contribute more — $19,000 + $6,000 more over 50 — than to an individual Roth and still have that individual Roth if your income is under the cut-off. When you withdraw the money, there's no tax. Since for most people the retirement account can grow to be their largest source of retirement income, aim to collect that income tax-free.

If you have few other tax deductions or can't afford to contribute otherwise, however, go with the traditional 401(k). All employer match will go into the pretax version, and you'll pay tax on

withdrawal.
Should you contribute more than the minimum match? If you're eligible for an individual Roth (or traditional IRA), fund that first. If you can save more, go back and increase contributions to the workplace account.

403(b) Plans

These are similar to 401(k)s. If you work for a nonprofit, you may have one. Investment choices may be limited, and an employer may put the match into an annuity account. When you leave an employer, you can rollover the account into an IRA, but you'll have to liquidate the investments. You can't transfer them in-kind, unless it's to another 403(b).

Deferred Compensation Accounts

Your employer may offer these to shelter more of your savings. These act much like a 401(k), usually without an employer match. When you leave employment, however, you may be forced to withdraw the entire account and pay taxes on it in that same year. The account won't be quite as substantial as you might think because of the serious tax hit in one year. Before you contribute, be certain you understand exactly what the distribution requirements and taxability will be.

Traditional IRAs

These do offer a tax deduction. Unfortunately, the income limits are low; if income is low enough to contribute, you might not benefit much from the tax deduction (and might struggle to find the money). All money will be taxable at retirement, and you can roll over your retirement accounts from former employers to consolidate funds. You have a range of investments—individual stocks, bonds, and mutual funds.

Roth IRAs

These have a higher income limit for contribution, but no tax deduction. But you pay no tax on it when you withdraw during retirement, and you can withdraw your contribution (but not the earnings) at any time. You're also permitted to withdraw for education, serious medical issues, or $10,000 for a first home, but the rules are complex, so do your research.

Even small or late-started Roths are worthwhile — they're a lump sum you can withdraw if necessary. Need $20,000 of dental work? With a Roth, you can withdraw that money with no tax; from an IRA or 401(k), you'd need to withdraw that amount plus the amount to pay taxes on it.

Health Savings Accounts

Consider funding an HSA but not using it — pay out of pocket. Let the money grow tax-free until retirement, when it can be withdrawn tax-free to pay for medical costs (including long-term care insurance premiums). There's no obligation to reimburse yourself for bills when incurred — save documentation and submit them once you're retired. Scrutinize investment options and try to house most of your HSA at a brokerage that offers stocks or mutual funds; bank interest doesn't offer much growth.

Social Security Benefits

Take it as late as possible, up to age 70, as long as your health is reasonably good. There's no completely safe investment that will pay off at the rate that Social Security increases per year of delay.

Brokerage Accounts for Stocks, Bonds and Other Equities

It's difficult to build significant wealth contributing to retirement accounts alone. These accounts give you the maximum choice of investments and can give you a war chest for funding an annuity, real estate, travel and medical care. You can **sample BetterInvesting's resources for free** to help you understand the best types of long-term investments for building these accounts.

If you plan early retirement (before 55 or 59½), you won't incur any penalties for withdrawal from these accounts. Choose investments with some regard for taxes — capital gains rates are usually less than income rates, but a huge gain will be taxable. Nice problem to have.

Annuities for Steady Cash Flow

These are fraught with pitfalls, but in the simplest form (a single premium income annuity) you give an insurance company a lump sum to buy yourself a pension — usually higher income than you can safely withdraw from a portfolio.

CAROL'S FUN FACTS

💰 Forty years ago, APPLE went public.
APPLE has split its shares five times since then, creating massive shareholder's wealth.

💰 The DUTCH EAST INDIA COMPANY is the first company to offer equity shares of its business to the public (IPO).

💰 INTEL, founded in Mountain View, California was once the biggest and most valuable U.S. chip company but has been surpassed by rivals (NVDIA, AMD, QUALCOM, ASML to name a few).

💰 The largest natural gas company in the U.S. is EQT CORPORATION, based in Pennsylvania. The world's largest natural gas producing company is EXXON MOBIL, based on market cap and production volume.

💰 In 2013, Elon Musk reached out to GOOGLE CEO Larry Page about selling Tesla to him for $6 Bln. but it never came to be. As CEO. Musk takes no salary from Tesla.

We will have more for you in our Spring edition.