

SPRING 2023

SC PARKER LLC

A MESSAGE FROM JEFF HAHN

P L A N
I N V E S T
S U C C E E D



7 1 6 - 6 3 2 - 6 8 0 0



Jeffrey Hahn
President

We hope this newsletter finds you well and filled with the promise of Spring.

It is with great sadness that we announce the recent passing of our friend, colleague and past President of SC Parker, Richard Hilliker. Richard started with SC Parker in 1966 working with his father, Don Hilliker, who was then President of the firm. He had remained an integral part of the firm's long legacy. In fact, Richard worked right up until November 30th of last year. We miss his presence every day. He remains in our thoughts and prayers as we extend our sincere condolences to his wife Joan and extraordinary children.

For many years, we have written about our belief that investing in market and business trends rather than the events of the day will be a more successful strategy. After three years of up-trending stock and bond markets reaching record highs at the end of 2021, both markets turned down in 2022 becoming "Bear" markets. They continue to be volatile and remain not far from the recent bottoms. Bear markets are very difficult and leave us working with limited opportunities and little certainty or confidence. Much of these declines is the market's response to inflation and the increases in interest rates to fight inflation.

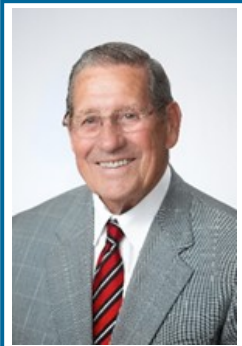
As an investment security is traded, bought and sold, its price changes. The price of any given stock or bond normally changes continuously throughout the day—often by the fraction of a second—when the market is open. This means that the value of our investments changes every day, all day long. This changing value creates both reward and risk simultaneously. It is what allows growth and decline of asset value to occur. It can be daunting and uncomfortable, but we must accept that fact if we are going to invest in these markets.

If you have any questions or if market fluctuations become too much for you, please call or come in to see us. There are always a variety of different approaches. For the first time since 2009, we have fixed interest products paying in excess of four percent. We are optimistic that they may provide a suitable alternative for some of our valued clients. The whole purpose of our firm is to help you succeed. We are honored to do our work for you, especially in such challenging times as these.

RICHARD HILLIKER

1934–2023

Our good friend, age 88, was born in Buffalo, New York, to Donald Burwell Hilliker and Mildred Angeline Hilliker. Is survived by his loving wife, children and grandchildren. The family is planning a Celebration of Life later this year. In the late 1960s



Richard Hilliker

Richard joined S.C. Parker & Co. in Buffalo, the oldest financial services firm in Western New York, founded in 1925. In 1982, he became President of SC Parker and had continued to work there until recently with his cherished SC Parker family. In his early life, Mr. Hilliker was the concertmaster in his local symphony orchestra and later served in the US Army. He was also an executive with a number of civic groups including the Epilepsy Association of Western New York, the Vinecroft Division of Heritage Ministries, Connohio, Inc., and Tonawanda Share Corporation. An accomplished pilot, he was the President and owner of Can Oui Fly, Inc. as well as a member of the Buffalo Chamber of Commerce and the Alcoholism Services of Erie County. In his free time, Richard enjoyed golfing, harvesting Christmas trees, gardening, riding his motorcycle and spending time with his family and beloved beagle, Holly Rose. Richard has had a remarkable personal and professional life by working hard to achieve his goals and leaving a legacy of which his family is very proud. He will be greatly missed.



SC PARKER LLC

5892 Main St.
Williamsville, New York 14221

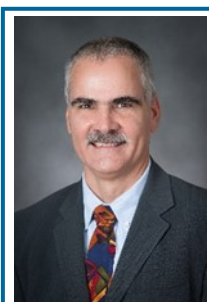
★ PLAN ★ INVEST ★ SUCCEED

RESOLUTION SOLUTION

As we are well into the New Year, many of us have made resolutions to become more organized in our lives. Whether it's our personal, professional or financial lives, taking a look at how we operate on a daily basis can determine our level of success. Putting a system in place and evaluating it on a regular basis has been shown to simplify and streamline our activities.

If you contribute to an Investment or Retirements Savings plan, it may be a good time to take a look at your contribution level. Depending on your specific plan or current age, your contribution level may have changed. If your budget allows, you should consider an increase. If you have an IRA and haven't yet made your 2022 contribution, there is still time.

One aspect of qualified retirement plans is the RMD (required minimum distribution). If you are currently taking them perhaps you should consider establishing a systematic withdrawal program to remove the worry of missing the year-end deadline. If you haven't started them yet, the age to begin taking them has been increased so that may factor into your planning.



David Ivancic

If you'd like more information on the current levels for tax planning, feel free to contact the office and we'll send one to you. Or stop in and we can discuss your current situation and how you can take steps to help you reach your individual goals more efficiently. We take pride in *your* success.

INTRODUCING

Timothy McMahon

A WELCOMED ADDITION TO OUR FIRM

Tim is an accomplished individual who is the Registered Principal for the SC Parker Branch Office. He holds the following FINRA Series Licenses:

- ◆ **Series 66** (Uniform Combined State Law)
- ◆ **Series 63** (Uniform Securities Agent Exam)
- ◆ **SIE** (Securities Industry Essentials Exam)
- ◆ **Series 7** (General Securities Exam)
- ◆ **Series 6** (Mutual Fund/Variable Contracts Exam)
- ◆ **Series 24** (General Principal Exam)
- ◆ **Agent & Broker** Life/Accident/Health Insurance Licenses



Timothy McMahon

Tim graduated from two well-known local Universities – **Buffalo State University** with a major in Business Administration and the **University at Buffalo** with a major in Corporate Finance. He also holds an "Executive JD" from the West Coast School of Law.

Tim enjoys working in the financial markets, applying his knowledge and helping clients at SC Parker LLC. Tim is also an active participant on the SC Parker Radio Show on WECK 1250 AM or 102.90 FM each Saturday. In his leisure time, Tim is a Buffalo sports fan, enjoys working out, walking on the UB bike trails and reading.

OUR RESEARCH COMMITTEE



MARKET UPDATE

Thank you for your patience and understanding – 2022 was a tough year. In fact, 2022 was one of the worst "market" years on record. Investment in a stock is the buying of ownership of a piece of a corporation. These pieces, called shares, are bought and sold at the "stock market." It is mainly online now. One does this with the desire to see the values increase, knowing they fluctuate continually. On the other hand, a bond is a loan made by the investor to a government or corporation. The loan is for a certain amount, a certain period of time and at a certain interest rate. Bonds do not grow. They mature and get paid off. They are traded at the "bond market." With bonds, our desire is to get paid back and receive the interest income.

To help keep track of these ever-changing markets, various "indexes" have been developed over time. (Investors cannot directly invest in an index.) As a firm, we track a substantial number of them. The S&P 500 Index is based on the stock value of 500 of the largest corporations in America. It was down approximately 18% in 2022. The NASDAQ Index is based on the stock value of 100 corporations, mainly technology related companies. The NASDAQ Index went down about 33%. These represent the largest stock market declines since 2008. The Aggregate Bond Market Index which is based on multiple sectors of the bond market showed a loss of more than 13%. This represents one of the deepest declines in the bond market in history and the worst since the Civil War.

Much of these declines in the markets have been caused by the ongoing inflation and the increases in interest rates that have been put in place to combat inflation. Inflation is an economic phenomenon. It is caused by increasing the amount of money in circulation and, in the present case, also a reduction in supply of goods. Put simply, the supply of goods has been reduced while the demand has been increased. The result is higher costs for almost everything = inflation. In 2020, the inflation rate was around 1.2%, in 2021 around 4.7% and in 2022 it was around 8%. Currently, inflation seems to be moderating and starting to decline slowly.

Through this first quarter of the year, we have seen continued market fluctuation resulting in modest increases in overall value. It's a trend that hopefully continues. We also have available fixed interest accounts paying in excess of four percent interest. Our focus remains on investment quality and long-term planning to help you succeed.



STAY IN TOUCH

- ◆ Listen to us live on WECK Radio, Saturday at 7:30am

Follow us on: Facebook Twitter

YouTube LinkedIn

REMINDER:

Those age 73 and over as well as those who were taking RMDs prior to this year that have an IRA or a retirement savings plan must take an annual Required Minimum Distribution by December 31st. Please call our office for further details & assistance.



SC PARKER LLC

5892 Main St.

Williamsville, NY 14221

Phone: 716-632-6800

Fax: 716-632-6596

SCPARKER.COM

Securities and Advisory Services offered through Cadaret, Grant & Co., Inc., a Registered Investment Advisor and Member FINRA/SIPC. SC Parker and Cadaret, Grant & Co., Inc. are separate entities.