



ROTARY NOTARY

Birthdays:

Cody Robinson

3/15

Community Service— Laundry Supply Drive:

In observance of International Service Week, EWR is hosting a laundry supply drive to benefit Gerard House, a home for pregnant teenagers and young women. Please bring your donation of new laundry detergent, fabric softener, or dryer sheets to our NEXT meeting on March 29.

Quote of the Week:

One man can be a crucial ingredient on a team, but one man cannot make a team.

—Kareem Abdul-Jabbar

DON AND JUSTIN BAXTER PRESENT “STATE OF THE MARKETS FOR 2017”



Baxter & Associates has been serving customers since 1976. Both Justin and Don Baxter are members of EWR.

Financial planning expertise takes years to acquire—and you never stop learning. Fortunately for us, we have years of expertise in the form of Don and Justin Baxter. Today they shared market trends in 2016 and what they could mean for investments this year.

In 2016 the S&P 500 (a stock market index that tracks the 500 most widely held stocks on the NYSE or NASDAQ) outperformed the predictions of many industry experts, who forecast 7% growth. Actual growth was 9.5%. But within those industries performance varied widely from the first half of 2016 to the second. Lesson One is: diversification of one's

portfolio is good. Also, knee-jerk reactions are NOT good; don't go chasing after the best performers. The Baxters like to "rebound" their investment portfolios regularly to take advantage of these swings.

There are several factors that affect the markets. The labor market is one. Here in the U.S. we've had 75 straight months of growth. Unemployment has been dropping, and wages went up 2.9% last year.

The nation's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) represents the monetary value of all goods and services produced in that country over a specified period of time. Thus it is a measure of the size of a nation's economy. The United States is the world's largest economy,

followed by China. When the GDP declines for two consecutive quarters or more, by definition the economy is in a recession.

Another factor influencing the markets is energy independence. Not having to purchase oil and gas from politically unstable regions would lead to improved economic stability and increased national security.

There is a direct correlation between consumer confidence and the stock market. Higher consumer confidence leads to increased consumer spending, which helps increase the GDP.

And when is consumer confidence at a low? "When everything looks like crap," said Don.

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Dates for Your Calendar:

Wednesday, March 22—NO MEETING

Thursday, March 30—Mixer at P.F. Chang's, 5:15. Bring a friend!

Saturday, April 8—School map painting project at Buckner

Saturday, May 6—Kentucky Derby Party at the Lux

Wednesday, May 17—Lord's Diner Service Project

More At Rotary Today:

Greeter: Cathy McClain

Invocation, Flag Salute, and Four-way test:
Bill McConnell

Next Week's Speaker:

NO MEETING! HAPPY SPRING BREAK!

DON AND JUSTIN BAXTER (CONT'D)

There are two ways to imagine the future, he said. One is a positive view—industries return to the U.S., the economy takes off, and the U.S. reaches energy independence. The negative view is that the president will start a trade war, the European Union is over, and loose lending standards trigger hyper-inflation. The media experts may have a vested interest in presenting either a very positive or very negative view, so keep your perspective. The truth is, the markets are as unpredictable as the weather, but you *can* be prepared.

SAVE THE DATE FOR A "RUN FOR THE ROSES" KENTUCKY DERBY PARTY



How can you enjoy the pageantry and spectacle of the Kentucky Derby without leaving town? By coming to EWR's Kentucky Derby "Run for the Roses" party/fundraiser to benefit local not-for-profit organizations.

We'll enjoy appetizers, adult beverages (including mint juleps) and live coverage of the event. There will also be a silent and live auction of some fabulous stuff.

This one-of-a-kind event will take place at The Lux in downtown Wichita on Saturday, May 6. A formal invitation will be coming your way soon. Meanwhile, start brushing up on your Derby Day traditions for this fun, new EWR event.

LET'S MAKE A MAP!

Next month EWR will create a map of the United States on the grounds of Buckner Elementary School. This is the school where several Rotarians have read to students during the past two years. Both the students and their teachers greatly appreciate our involvement and support of their school. They've already selected the area where the map will go and are looking forward to its completion this spring.

Our club participated in a map-making event last fall at Jackson Elementary and those who were there agreed that it was both a worthwhile and enjoyable project, plus a great excuse to consume coffee and donuts on a cool morning.

Get to know some fellow Rotarians by working together with them. And make an entire school smarter as they get to know the United States by having a large visual representation of it just outside their windows.

The scheduled date is Saturday, April 8 beginning at 9:00 a.m. We should finish by lunchtime. If we're rained out, we'll reschedule for Saturday, April 22. Please sign up with Kim. Special thanks to Lynn Jeane and Eileen Kludt for organizing this project.

