



WEALTH ADVISORS GROUP

WEALTH ADVISOR QUARTERLY

YTD Returns Through December 31, 2017

Dow Jones Inds.	+25.08
S&P 500	+21.83
Barclays Aggregate Bond	+3.54
MSCI EAFE	+25.10
MSCI Emerging Mkts.	+37.28



WAG on the Move

New Year - New Logo



WAG is always looking for ways to stay ahead of the curve when it comes to financial planning and the client experience that we offer. We spend hours every week pouring into the processes that make us one of Fort Wayne’s leading advisory groups. Just like the experience we offer you, we also want to stay fresh with our public identity. Creating brand recognition with a logo that better represents who we are will hopefully help us to stay on top. We hope that you like the logo that we have created as a result of our commitment to excellence in all areas. ■

Welcome Rachael Burke

WAG would like to extend a formal welcome to our newest team member Rachael Burke! If you were in our office through the Schwab

transition, you’ve probably already met Rachael. Her bubbly personality and attention to detail were both appreciated and needed at our front desk during the move. Rachael is going to stay on full-time as a client services and operations associate. Rachael is a Fort Wayne native and graduate of Homestead High School. She has a Bachelor’s degree in Human Biology from Indiana University. Rachael and her fiancée Rob Veenstra are getting married this March in Fort Wayne. In her free time Rachael enjoys reading, traveling, spending time with family and friends and volunteering with the youth groups at her church. Please join us in officially welcoming Rachel Burke to the WAG family! ■



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Maranda Wellman – Completes the requirements for her CPA license!



We want to congratulate Maranda Wellman on passing all four sections of the Certified Public Accountant (CPA) exam. The requirements to become a CPA in Indiana include 150 semester hours of college credit and at least a Bachelor's degree, passing all four sections of the CPA exam, and 2 years of full time accounting experience. The exam covers Financial Accounting and Reporting, Auditing and Attestation, Business Environment and

Concepts, and Regulation (tax), and all four sections must be passed within an 18-month window. Now that she has passed all exams, she will begin the application process and soon be a licensed CPA for the state of Indiana. Once she is officially licensed, she will need to complete 120 hours of Continuing Professional Education every three years, to maintain her license and stay current in the profession. Congratulations Maranda on completing this feat. We are excited to have a licensed CPA on staff! ■

Tax Corner

Tax Cuts and Jobs Act Highlights on Individual and Estate Taxes

On December 22nd, 2017 the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act was signed into law. The newly enacted law went into effect on January 1st, 2018, and will be reflective on tax returns for the 2018 tax year (filed in 2019). Below is a short summary of the items that will affect most of our clients. If you would like a more thorough walk-thru of the law and how it might affect you, please give your advisor a call.

Highlights

Individual Rates: The top individual rate will be 37% for individuals earning \$500,000 and above and joint filers earning at least \$600,000. There will be seven

tax brackets - 10, 12, 22, 24, 32, 35 and 37%. Rates are indexed for inflation beginning after 2018.

Personal Exemptions: Suspended.

Standard Deduction: The standard deduction is nearly doubled to \$12,000 for single filers, \$18,000 for head of household filers and \$24,000 for couples filing jointly. The standard deduction will be indexed for inflation beginning after 2018.

Itemized Deductions:

- State and local tax deduction will be limited to \$10,000.
- Mortgage interest deduction on indebtedness incurred after December 15, 2017, will be limited to indebtedness of \$750,000. The interest deduction on home equity lines of credit is suspended.
- Medical expense deduction: Taxpayers can continue to deduct medical expenses exceeding 7.5% of adjusted gross income ("AGI") for 2017 and 2018. The "floor" was dropped from 10% of AGI.
- Charitable Deductions: The limits on the deductibility of cash charitable deductions are increased from 50% to 60% of AGI. Repeal of 80% charitable deduction for contributions for university athletic seating rights.

529 Plans: The Act allows tax-favored 529 distributions to defray the cost of elementary and secondary school expenses up to \$10,000 per student, annually.

Child Tax Credit: The child tax credit is increased to \$2,000 per child, with up to \$1,400 of it being refundable.

Estate, Gift and Generation-Skipping Tax: The exemption is doubled for estates worth about \$11 million for individuals and \$22 million for couples. The exemptions would revert to current levels after 2025. Review your estate plan to see how your plan is affected by these increased exemptions, particularly if your plan uses formulas for funding trusts or gifts. ■

Did You Know

Still have your outside Christmas decorations up? Be glad you don't live in the state of Maine. In Maine it is illegal to keep Christmas decorations up after January 14th. If you live there, don't worry about getting your decorations down on a "warmer" day, just get them down to avoid a fine.

Tech Corner

WWW.WEALTHAG.COM IS HERE!

If you haven't seen the new WAG website, please look for yourself. Our new website was created with our clients in mind. www.wealthag.com highlights our lifelong commitment to continuous financial guidance and support by reiterating our comprehensive and complex financial planning process as well as by making it easier for our clients to access the platforms we utilize. The new login page will link you directly to any of our technology partners; WealthTrek (formerly Wealth1080), Schwab Alliance, and Orion, as well as keep you connected through tax season to LPL Account View for end of year and tax related information. On the communication page of our new website, you will find easier navigation and better ways to view all of our communications pieces, including our quarterly newsletters, market reviews and blogs.

We would love to hear what you think about the changes we have made. ■

Client Spotlight

Bill Griffin

We thought it would be fun to highlight one of our clients each quarter. We found that many of our clients have interesting hobbies, careers, or stories to tell. This quarter the spotlight is on a name some of you know well, retired WAG advisor Bill Griffin whose professional career spanned several different industries.

Bill grew up in Edenton, a small town in eastern North Carolina. He graduated from Catawba College in Salisbury, NC where he was a talented athlete on the football team. After college, Bill was drafted in the 7th round as an offensive lineman for the Dallas Cowboys in 1971. After being cut, he was picked up by the Miami Dolphins. At the end of the season in 1972, the Cowboys beat the Dolphins in Super Bowl VI. He was then traded to the New England Patriots for a

better chance at playing. After another cut, Bill was looked at by the Steelers, but his football career ended there. He was a part of the best teams of his time in an era with numerous football legends. Bill was recently honored by his alma mater with

an induction into the Catawba College Sports Hall of Fame.



Following football, Bill went back home to the farm where he and his brother worked hard and built up an extensive farming operation with several thousand acres. He farmed for 7 years until 1980 when he saw it wasn't going in the right direction. Bill then began to fish commercially on the outer-banks of North Carolina. He fished for 5 years until a hurricane came up the east coast of the state and went right over his place of business, filling his office with 3 feet of seawater and ruining everything. An injury also led him to decide that he needed to use his brain and not his back to make a living.

Financial services couldn't have come at a better time. Bill ran into a gentleman on vacation, David Moore, who happened to attend services at his church. They struck up a conversation and Bill asked if he had any career opportunities in the Midwest. A long talk in the parking lot ultimately led Bill to seize an opportunity in Lima, OH with what is now Ameriprise Financial in 1985. He worked there until the fall of 1991, when he and Mark VanderHagen started Wealth Advisors Group.

Today, Bill is 4 years into retirement and enjoying every bit of doing what he loves - spending half of the year in his beloved North Carolina, hunting all over the country, fishing, playing golf, cooking and experimenting with new recipes, and building up his church in Edenton. Bill says God has been good to him. In retirement, he does miss the wonderful relationships and friendships he made with his clients over his 28-year career as a financial advisor. To all Bill's former clients, he says hello and wishes you well! ■

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There is no guarantee that a diversified portfolio will enhance overall returns or outperform a non-diversified portfolio. Diversification does not protect against market risk. No strategy assures success or protects against loss.